



Over Hall Community School Headteacher Recruitment Pack January 2025





Welcome from the CEO

Dear Prospective Candidate,

Thank you for expressing your interest in the position of Headteacher at Over Hall Community School. On behalf of Cheshire Academies Trust and the Over Hall community, I am delighted to share more about this exciting opportunity and invite you to consider joining us in leading this exceptional school.

Over Hall Community School is at the heart of the Winsford community. It is a place where care, aspiration, and belonging are woven into everything they do. Children are nurtured in a safe and supportive environment where they are encouraged to thrive both academically and personally. At Over Hall, they take pride in fostering curiosity, kindness, and resilience, preparing children to flourish in an ever-evolving world.

The school team is highly dedicated and understands their pupils and the community they serve. Together, they work tirelessly to ensure that every child feels valued and supported on their learning journey. They are at the core of the school's success, and we are proud of the strong relationships they have built with children, families, and the wider Winsford community.

We are now seeking an exceptional leader to join us and build upon that foundation of care and excellence. As Headteacher, you will have the opportunity to inspire and guide a passionate team of professionals, ensuring that every child at Over Hall achieves their fullest potential. This role is about more than delivering outstanding education—it is about shaping the lives of our children, strengthening the bonds of our community, and leading a school that is a beacon of opportunity.

If you share our values of care, collaboration, and creativity, we warmly encourage you to apply. This role offers a unique chance to make a profound impact, not just within the school but within our thriving Trust.

Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity. We look forward to receiving your application and learning about how your vision and expertise can support Over Hall Community School as it continues to make a difference.

Warm regards,
Steve Ellis

CEO
Cheshire Academies Trust





Welcome from the Chair of Governors.

Dear Prospective Candidate

As a visitor walking through the door of Over Hall Community School, you are immediately struck by the atmosphere and ethos of our school community. Children and adults smile and greet you. Children's work invites you to look and explore rather than glance and walk past. That indescribable feeling tells you this is a special place to learn.

As the Chair of the Local Governing Board, I speak for the whole board in thanking you for considering being our next Headteacher. We are looking for someone who truly feels and understands what we are all about at Over Hall. Our school is ready to write a new chapter with someone who is full of ideas, energy and enthusiasm. The school's success to date is built on explicit values and a clear vision which, like our world, is continually being expanded and developed in response to the changing internal and external societal needs and pressures.

Therefore, as strategic partners in the school's future, we need a Headteacher who can inspire us and the whole school community, someone with the endeavour and passion to develop and expand our vision and someone who is excited by this fabulous opportunity.

So please walk through the Over Hall front door, experience that 'indescribable feeling', engage with our children and pupils and in doing so, recognise what an amazing opportunity the Headship at Over Hall really is.

Over Hall's vision is encapsulated in our motto 'Be supported, feel supported – make a difference!'. I hope that you too can join our journey of making a difference to our whole school community.

Regards,

Ian Percival
Chair of Governors





Headteacher Vacancy at Over Hall Community School

Cheshire Academies Trust is delighted to announce an exciting opportunity for an inspirational Headteacher to join our team at Over Hall Community School. Over Hall prides itself on upholding the highest standards of academic excellence, with a strong team culture that promotes character, care, and the highest standards for its pupils. We are in search of a strategic, confident leader who is committed to continuing the school's excellent progress and development. With the retirement of our current Headteacher, we are seeking someone to begin in September 2025. We consider this vacancy to be suitable for candidates seeking their first headship and encourage applications from qualified applicants in this position.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Spearhead the development and implementation of innovative educational strategies that align with the school's vision and the broader objectives of the Cheshire Academies Trust.
- **Academic Excellence:** Uphold and enhance the academic standards at Over Hall, ensuring that all pupils achieve their fullest potential.
- **Wider School Outcomes:** Foster a holistic and creative approach to education that encapsulates not only academic success but also the personal, social, and emotional development of our pupils.
- **Culture and Values:** Embody and promote the school's ethos of 'crew' - a commitment to community, resilience, empathy, and working together to achieve common goals.
- **Innovative Learning Approaches:** Employ creative and innovative approaches to learning and teaching, encouraging staff and students to explore new ideas and methodologies.

The Ideal Candidate Will Possess:

- A proven track record of effective, strategic leadership within an educational setting.
- A robust understanding and experience of raising educational standards and school improvement.
- The ability to engage, inspire, and motivate pupils, staff, and the wider school community.
- A commitment to inclusive education and the ability to foster a supportive, empowering environment for all.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the capacity to build and maintain positive relationships with students, staff, parents, and the wider community.
- A creative and innovative mindset, with the ability to implement forward-thinking educational practices.

We Offer:

- The opportunity to lead a vibrant, high-achieving school
- A supportive, committed school community
- An opportunity to be a key part of Cheshire Academies Trust's ambitious senior leadership team
- A culture that values and nurtures leadership and professional growth
- A permanent contract
- Annual salary progression within a national pay scale (performance-related)
- Membership of the Teacher Pension Scheme
- Access to Blue Light scheme
- Access to our 'green schemes' including cycle to work, electric cars and white goods

Application Process: Interested candidates are invited to submit an application through MyNewTerm website our online portal, outlining your suitability for the role and how you would contribute to the vision and values of Over Hall. Further details of deadlines and other information can be found on the School and Cheshire Academies Trust websites.

Join us in shaping a bright, innovative future for Over Hall Community School and its pupils. Become a part of a school where every member of our community is valued and supported to achieve their best.

Cheshire Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointments will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

For more information please contact CEO, Steve Ellis, on ceo@cheshireacademiestrust.co.uk who can answer any questions and provide further information.



Job Description

Abridged Job Purpose

Post:
Headteacher

Salary:
L13-L19
Starting point
negotiable
depending on
experience

Location:
Over Hall Community
School

Reports to:
School
Improvement
Director

- Collaborate effectively as a driving member of the school's senior leadership team, ensuring the smooth and safe daily operations of the school.
- Lead and guide the school's educational and strategic objectives, ensuring the efficient and effective management of teaching and learning activities.
- As the educational leader, work within our academic framework to provide strategic educational advice to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Local Governing Body. This involves developing and implementing educational strategies, monitoring and reviewing the school's performance, and reporting to the School Improvement Director and Local Governing Body on the school's strategic educational position, progress, and development plans.
- Oversee the school's human resources functions, including staffing, professional development, and welfare, to ensure that all staff are effectively supported and managed.
- Act as the lead for GDPR & Cyber Security within the school, ensuring compliance with the Trust's data protection and cybersecurity policies.
- Lead, inspire, develop, and train the teaching and non-teaching staff, ensuring their effective contribution to the school's success.
- Engage with external organisations, contractors, and suppliers to facilitate the provision of resources and services to the school, ensuring the best use of resources and value for money.
- Oversee the care, maintenance, and development of the school's facilities, technology, equipment, and grounds, in collaboration with the Health and Safety Representative, to safeguard the well-being of the school community.
- Work with the local community including parents and wider community partners to build a beacon school which serves a wider civic purpose.
- Engage in continuous professional development to maintain and enhance skills and knowledge relevant to the role and actively participate in the Trust's wider educational network.
- Participate in relevant local governing body and professional meetings, reporting on the school's educational performance and initiatives, and supporting the senior leadership team in strategic matter.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Your qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified teacher status. • Right to work in the UK. • Qualified to degree level. • Evidence of recent, relevant professional development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPQH or equivalent or desire to complete • Master's degree level or equivalent. • SEND qualification at graduate/postgraduate level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Interview.
Your experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of successful strategic leadership and management experience as Head or Deputy Head of a school. • Significant experience and knowledge of working with pupils with special educational needs. • Experience of working with higher levels of Pupil Premium children. • Knowledge and experience of school self-evaluation, development, implementation and evaluation in line with the OFSTED framework. • Ability to manage change successfully within a collaborative and developmental journey. • Evidence of experience in the development and implementation of an area of school improvement. • Knowledge and experience of line management and staff development. • Ability to build effective relationships with governors and parents/carers. • Ability to enhance the value of the school to the wider community (including parents and carers and other schools) and involve that community in enriching the learning experiences of pupils • Experience of successful multi-agency working with educational, health and social care teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have worked in more than one school. • Experience of providing school to school support through outreach and training. • Clear understanding of SEND provision • Experience of leading and formulating a Pupil Premium Strategy that has led to improved outcomes • Understanding of the local context of the school and the local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Interview.

Person Specification

<p>Your skills & knowledge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to communicate a clear vision and inspire others, accompanied with strong interpersonal skills and emotional resilience - including the ability to persuade and influence. • An understanding of what high-quality teaching and learning looks like, and the ability to support improvements in teaching and learning. • Experience of effective monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance in order to raise achievement for all groups of pupils. • Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing with a wide range of audiences. • Capacity to build effective working relationships. • Knowledge of Safeguarding legislation / practice and the SEND Code of Practice. • An understanding of how to promote a love of learning across all abilities. • Ability to self-manage your own workload and able to support staff so they can achieve an appropriate work-life balance. • To have well established information technology skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of Human Resource legislation and best practice. • An understanding and knowledge of school financial management. • Experience of working with a Local Governing Body to ensure the effective leadership of the school; including constructive challenge and support. • Experience of appraisal processes, to set targets and to hold staff accountable where necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Interview. • Tasks. • Presentation.
<p>Your Personal qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear passion and enthusiasm for teaching and learning, engaging with pupils and having an active interest and involved with their learning. • An investment in the school community and to be an ambassador for this community and what it represents. • A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils. • Have strong interpersonal skills and emotional resilience, able to work under pressure, and prioritise tasks effectively. • Have integrity and a professional manner, with a commitment to the challenges of a school improvement journey. • Hard working, caring, fair-minded and with a sense of humour. • Have a flexible and solution orientated approach to problem solving • Willingness to engage in own personal development and being a champion for the personal development of staff. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview. • Tasks. • Presentation.

Person Specification

<p>Shaping the Future:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to think strategically and develop the school vision in collaboration with the Governing Body and coherently articulate it to stakeholders so that it is understood and acted upon. • Skills to adapt the vision for the school based on the needs of the community. • Knowledge of strategies to adapt SEND provision in response to the changing needs of children and young people. • Capacity to demonstrate a collaborative and inclusive way of working. • Willingness to build on the existing ethos of the school, celebrating the school's strengths and using this to plan for future developments. • Ability to develop community links and the ability to maintain the school's position within the local community. • Experience and evidence of effective data collection and analytical processes to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the school, and to identify next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of building effective relationships and projects with the wider community. • Experience of working with a governing body, providing information and accurate accounts of the school's performance to a range of audiences including governors, parents and carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Interview. • Tasks. • Presentation.
<p>Leading Teaching & Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to instill a culture of high expectation and challenge for all. • Capacity to monitor, evaluate and develop the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school. • Strategies to raise attainment and improve progress across all pupil groups. • To understand the needs of children and young people with complex special educational needs. • Have strategies to maintain high levels of attendance and behaviour and ensure an ethos of challenge and support where pupils can achieve success. • To work collaboratively to develop a rich, innovative curriculum which will motivate and inspire all learners. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Interview. • Tasks. • Presentation.

Candidates will be expected to outline their suitability for the role, aligned to both the job description and person specification via their letter of application. The interview process will be designed to offer candidates further opportunities to share and expand on their skills and experience. Shortlisted candidates will be required to provide evidence of their qualifications at interview and any offer of employment will be on receipt of acceptable references. The school may choose to make social media checks on shortlisted candidates, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSiE 24) guidance.

How to apply



If you believe you are the ideal candidate for our Headteacher position and would like more information or to have an informal discussion, please reach out to Steve Ellis, CEO, ceo@cheshireacademiestrust.co.uk

We encourage all interested candidates to visit our school to gain a deeper understanding of the role. Prospective candidates are welcome to attend either of our planned tours on:

Tuesday 21st January at 10.30am

Monday 3rd February at 5pm

To attend either of these dates, please contact the school at 01606 663650 and ask for Nicola Large to arrange a visit.

Visits to the school can be booked on an individual basis if these dates are not suitable.

To apply, kindly complete the application form via the MyNewTerm website and submit it highlighting your skills, qualifications, and experience relevant to the job description and person specification. All applications will be dealt with via the online applicant tracking system.

Note that we do not accept CVs and applications that include a CV will not be considered.

Cheshire Academies Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff, volunteers, and third parties to share this commitment. The recruitment process will involve safer recruitment practices, pre-employment background checks, and is subject to the receipt of satisfactory references prior to interview. Shortlisted candidates must provide proof of qualifications at the interview. An enhanced DBS check is also required and will be conducted before final confirmation of appointment.

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates. Please be advised that we are unable to provide feedback on the shortlisting process.

Closing Date: Monday 24th February 2025 5pm

Shortlisting: Thursday 27th February 2025

Interviews: Thursday 6th March 2025