



THE **Leys**
CAMBRIDGE

St Faith's
CAMBRIDGE



SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

candidate information

Heads'

introduction

At The Leys, we believe that school is not simply a preparation for life – it is life. This philosophy is at the heart of our Foundation with St Faith's, a preparatory school for ages 4–13, where learning, curiosity, kindness and confidence are nurtured. Both schools offer a values-led educational journey tailored to each stage of childhood.

The Leys, established in 1875, is Cambridge's only co-educational boarding and day school. We uphold kindness, courtesy, respect and integrity, which are reflected in both schools: The Leys' vibrant senior community and St Faith's nurturing environment help pupils develop confidence, independence and a strong moral compass.

We are forward-thinking, preparing pupils for a changing world. Cambridge's dynamic setting fuels intellectual curiosity and offers diverse opportunities, from St Faith's creative exploration to The Leys' academic ambition.

With approximately 570 pupils at The Leys and 540 at St Faith's, we offer wide opportunities and personal attention. The close connection between the schools ensures continuity, helping many pupils move confidently from St Faith's to The Leys, grounded in our shared ethos.

Community is central to both schools, fostering confidence in academics, relationships and character. For the Chaplain, this means nurturing spiritual life throughout a pupil's journey, from early questions at St Faith's to deeper reflection at The Leys.

Our Foundation fosters a Christian ethos that is open and inclusive, welcoming all faiths and encouraging pupils to explore meaning and service thoughtfully. The Chaplain is vital in sustaining compassion, reflection and service across both communities.

We hope this introduction highlights what makes The Leys and St Faith's unique and look forward to your application.

Clare Ives and Crispin Hyde-Dunn

Heads



C. Ives



C. Hyde-Dunn

School Chaplain



Worship at The Leys and St Faith's

Having Christian foundations, worship has an important role to play within the life of both The Leys and St. Faith's schools. This is generally based upon a Methodist ethos, but is also sensitive to the needs of pupils and staff from other Christian denominations, other faiths, and other worldviews.

At The Leys this is centred upon our beautiful Neo-Gothic chapel, which was built as a memorial to Rev William Fiddian Moulton, the School's founder. Here all pupils attend a short weekly morning service, and fuller termly Sunday services. The Sunday services are intended as Leys Community events, where parents are also encouraged to attend, hospitality is offered, and the worship is enriched by our wonderful Chapel Choir. Highlights include: our moving Remembrance Service; Harvest Festival, Christmas Carols, Confirmations and our poignant Leavers' Service at the end of the Summer term.

Holy Communion is offered at one of the Sunday services each term.

At St. Faith's worship is offered in collaboration with the music and humanities staff, and uses the Ashburton Hall. Again, these are wonderful occasions of celebration and reflection, and generally follow similar highlights in the Christian liturgical calendar. The worship in both schools sees the Chaplain working collaboratively with other staff and pupils, and encourages creativity and inclusion alongside a clear Christian foundation.

The Chaplain is also often called upon to support Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals/ Memorials for the wider Leys' and St Faith's communities. This is a profoundly rewarding part of their role.





Welcome to *The Leys*



Life at The Leys

The Leys is a co-educational boarding and day school for pupils aged between 11 and 18. Set in the heart of the beautiful and stimulating city of Cambridge, one of the world's leading cultural and academic centres, The Leys' unique location allows pupils unrivalled access to the vast array of cultural and educational opportunities that Cambridge has to offer.

Established in 1875, The Leys values its history, yet it blends traditional values – courtesy, tolerance, respect, decency – with a forward and outward-looking approach to education. Dedicated staff and superb facilities combine powerfully to prepare young people for the challenges which lie ahead at university and beyond.

The Leys is a close-knit, engaged, friendly community of around 550 pupils in which pastoral care is seen as the top priority. Indeed, our [2025 ISI report](#) identified our school culture and the strength of our community as a **significant strength**. Academic value-added is impressive and the breadth of the wider curriculum is renowned. The School caters for Boarding, Home Boarding and Day pupils but, with 70% of pupils accommodated in boarding houses, boarding is absolutely central to the ethos of the School and all pupils benefit from the vibrancy and structure which this provides.

Purpose

The Purpose of The Leys is to play our part in changing the world for the better.

We do this by making a positive difference to the lives, values and prospects of Leysians, by being professional, caring and rewarding in developing and managing our staff, by being a responsive and trusted partner to our parents, and by making a beneficial and sustainable contribution to the wider community

By foundation and structure, The Leys is a boarding community. We also place great value on being a “big, small school” embedded in the heart of Cambridge, and on giving Leysians a rich and rewarding academic and wider school experience – one they find valuable both intrinsically and in preparing for their futures. We seek, in the spirit of our Methodist founders and our Christian values, to send Leysians out into the world ready – academically, culturally, morally, physically, spiritually and socially – to live fulfilling lives which will make a positive contribution to society.

In order to achieve our Purpose, we aim to deliver an education which is built on three foundation stones: pastoral, academic and wider curricular. Whilst interconnected, ‘pastoral’ is accepted as pre-eminent, because pupils who feel supported and confident are able to flourish in all areas of the life of the school. Our teaching staff body all contribute to all three pillars of Leys School life, thus we all work together to ensure our pupils develop into happy, confident and well-rounded individuals ready to leave school and find their place in the world.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is at the heart of what we do. We know that wellbeing is crucial to success in wider school life, and we all work together as a community to ensure that each pupil flourishes in school, feeling nurtured, supported and happy. Our House structure is central to this: all pupils are a member of a House throughout their time in school. Year 7 and 8 pupils are members of our junior house, Moulton, and then pupils in Year 9 and above join one of the eight boarding or three day houses. The vertical arrangement in the senior houses creates opportunity for pupils to support each other, and the houses are staffed with a Housemaster or Housemistress (HSM), an Assistant HSM, a Matron and a team of teaching staff. Pupils also have a tutor, who supports them with their wellbeing, academic progress and wider curricular involvement as they progress through the school. All staff are expected to contribute to our pastoral support of pupils, through tutoring, supporting the teaching of PHSE and undertaking weekly house duties.



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Pupils contribute in a myriad of ways to school life and the local community. They are exceptionally respectful, kind and courteous to others.



Teaching and Learning

Education is about so much more than passing exams, and at The Leys pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of their own learning, find their passions, curiosity, and develop a lifelong appetite for knowledge.

Pupils are supported in their learning by excellent teaching both inside and outside of the classroom, with academic enrichment and extension embedded into the culture of the school. We understand that teachers are individuals and that they will have their own ways of expressing their passion and interest in their subjects. The 2022 ISI comment that “Inspirational and creative teaching is a significant contributory factor to pupils’ positive attitudes to learning” sums up the impact of that individuality. That said, we know that aspects change within education, and we just completed an exciting transition from Google Classroom to Microsoft Teams and OneNote. Pupils and staff all have a digital device, and pupils are used to working digitally as well as on paper.

Academic Attainment at The Leys is outstanding. This summer, the school achieved its best academic results on record at GCSE and close to best at A Level, placing us 67th in the Times Parent Power Rankings for independent schools nationally, and 84th for all schools. At GCSE 86% of all grades awarded were 9, 8 or 7, and 38% were graded 9, and at A Level 85% of results were grade A*-B. The School uses value added as an important measure of success and we are delighted that all our 2025 public examination results demonstrate that we added significant value to our pupils’ academic attainment compared to similar schools: a testament to the hard work and dedication of both staff and pupils.

Wider Curriculum

The Wider Curriculum is an integral part of the school week for all pupils and staff, with a significant amount of time in the afternoons and early evenings devoted to it. In their time at The Leys, pupils are actively encouraged to experience a broad range of activities that will bring them a wide range of benefits; activities in which they find enjoyment and fun whilst developing skills, personal qualities and attitudes that are transferable to other areas of their life at school and beyond.

The Leys’ Personal Development and Leadership programme (PDL) for pupils in Year 10 and above ensures that all pupils develop leadership, broaden their horizons and collaborate with their peers on projects, often trying to solve contemporary problems. Through our outstanding sporting, music and drama provision, pupils develop as confident and well-rounded young men and women, ready for life beyond school. Our broad and varied after school activities programme enables pupils to develop their interests, skills and strengths. Through this we aim to complement the pastoral and academic pillars of an all-round Leysian education alongside boosting the physical and mental well-being of all involved in the wider curriculum. All staff contribute to our extensive wider curriculum programme through involvement in games, PDL, outdoor education, and a wide range of clubs and activities.

“ A thoughtfully planned extra-curricular programme, that is responsive to the interests and talents of pupils.



The Role

Chaplain

The Leys & St Faith's Foundation welcomes applications for the role of Chaplain, to join our school community in September 2027.

The Chaplain has overall responsibility, under the Head, for the spiritual life, wellbeing and development of The Leys School and St Faith's School communities. Rooted in our Methodist foundation, the Chaplain plays a central role in nurturing a school culture characterised by reflection, compassion, justice and hope.

The appointment is made to an ordained minister for an initial period of five years. The Chaplain is directly responsible to the Head of The Leys School and works closely with the Head of St Faith's School. In respect of ministerial duties, the chaplain works under the overall direction and guidance of the Chair of the Methodist District.

The Chaplain serves the whole community as a listener, encourager, guide and minister. The Chaplain is expected to play a full and active part in the wider curricular life of the school, potentially through some classroom teaching. However, applications are welcome from candidates either with or without teaching experience.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Job Description

Pastoral

The Chaplain serves the whole school community as listener, encourager, guide and minister. They have a distinctive role in supporting others, particularly staff with pastoral responsibilities, in their work with pupils.

Key responsibilities include:

- Acting as Chaplain to the whole school community.
- Offering pastoral care and support to pupils and staff.
- Establishing a visible and approachable presence within the communities, making informal contact with pupils.
- Serving as a pastoral resource for colleagues with specific responsibilities, including Heads of Year, House staff, Tutors and the Head.
- Being a member of the school's safeguarding team.

Teaching and Co-curricular Life

Where appropriately qualified, there may be opportunities to teach within one or both schools. The extent of teaching will depend on the skills and experience of the individual. The Chaplain is expected to play a full and active part in the wider curricular life of the school.

The Post

Ideally, the successful candidate will:

- Teach a light timetable, subject to qualifications and experience.
- Support the community, including acting as a tutor.
- Contribute positively to the co-curricular life of the school.

Service and Partnership Work

The Chaplain plays an important role in connecting The Leys with the wider Methodist Church and the local community.

This includes:

- Preaching, leading worship and speaking at events within circuits of the District.
- Liaising with and supporting other Methodist schools and chaplains.
- Developing meaningful links with local community action and service projects.
- Keeping the school informed of developments within the wider Church (for example, 3Generate, All We Can, Action for Children).
- Communicating the school's ethos beyond the school and working in partnership with local churches from other Christian traditions.
- Liaising with Wesley's Chapel to organise the Festive Celebration there each December

Accountability

- The Chaplain is accountable to the Head and will take part in an annual appraisal.
- In matters of Methodist doctrine, discipline and District life (including attendance at District Synods), the Chaplain is accountable to the Chair of District.

Support for the Chaplain

- The Chaplain is required to receive regular supervision from a qualified Methodist supervisor.
- Attendance at the annual Methodist Independent Schools Chaplains' Conference is expected.
- Pastoral support for chaplaincy-related matters will be available through the Pastoral visitor.

The Post

Person Specification

Essential criteria

The successful candidate will:

- Be ordained in a mainstream Christian denomination (or have equivalent training), and demonstrate a mature, reflective faith and a thoughtful and progressive approach to ministry.
- Be qualified to degree level, with strong pastoral instincts and proven leadership experience.
- Command the confidence and respect of both teaching and support staff, and offer wise, compassionate pastoral care.
- Relate easily and authentically to children, young people and adults.
- Be sensitive to the needs, interests and concerns of others, with a clear commitment to safeguarding and to working fully in line with statutory child protection requirements.
- Offer pastoral ministry to the whole school community, including pupils, staff, families and alumni.
- Plan and lead thoughtful, engaging and inspiring assemblies and acts of worship that are relevant and inclusive. They will be grounded in the Methodist tradition but attend to all faiths, and none.
- Lead worship and facilitate Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals in accordance with Methodist practice.
- As a practising Christian, be willing to speak with clarity and integrity on religious and moral questions, modelling high personal and professional standards.
- Show a genuine interest in the wellbeing of the whole school.
- Exercise discretion and sound judgement in all confidential matters.
- Be able to maintain good discipline, exercised in a way that preserves trust and the integrity of pastoral relationships.
- Work collaboratively as a member of staff, adhere to the staff code of conduct, and offer pastoral support to the Head.
- Demonstrate good organisational and administrative skills, including confidence in the use of technology, particularly in worship and communication.

The Post

Person Specification

Desirable criteria

- Ordination as a Methodist presbyter or deacon, normally with experience of circuit ministry.
- Previous experience of youth work, including school chaplaincy.
- Teaching experience and qualifications.

How to *Apply*

How to apply:

If you are interested in applying, please submit a completed application form including covering letter addressed to the Dr Clare Ives (Head, The Leys School), to the Recruitment Team (recruitment@theleys.net), The Leys School, Cambridge, CB2 7AD by 09.00 on 03 June 2026. We anticipate initial interviews will be held w/c 8 June 2026.

This role has the opportunity for regular contact with pupils and therefore is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

We will review applications as they arrive and reserve the right to withdraw this advert if a suitable candidate is appointed, an early application is therefore encouraged.

By applying for this role, you are consenting to The Leys School storing your personal data. Please read our 'Privacy Notice for Job Applicants' for further details.





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