



Co-op Academy  
Stoke-on-Trent

## Lead Practitioner: English



Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent  
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**Closing date: 12 pm Wednesday 29th January**

**Interview dates: week beginning 2/2/2020**

**Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 or earlier by arrangement**

# APPLICATION PACK

Dear Applicant,

## **Lead Practitioner: English**

Thank you for your interest in this post.

I hope you will enjoy reading through our recruitment pack and I look forward to receiving your application. Please apply via a letter of application (no more than two sides of A4) and the completed application form. We do not accept CVs.

English has been one of our strongest subjects at the academy and the successful candidate will join a strong team. The purpose of the role is to improve teaching and learning in the department; take curriculum responsibility for Key Stage 3 and to lead on whole academy literacy. Visits are encouraged and welcomed. If you wish to visit in advance of an application please email the Principal's PA Kym Hollinshead on [khollinshead@cas.coop](mailto:khollinshead@cas.coop).

Your completed application should be received by 12pm Wednesday 29th January 2020. Applications should be emailed to [recruitment@cas.coop](mailto:recruitment@cas.coop).

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Lowry

Principal

## **Mission, Vision and Values and Strategic Drivers**

**Mission:** Empowering everyone to reach their potential and be the best.

**Vision:** In order to achieve our mission, we aim to become a great academy by delivering:-

- Great learning
- Great support
- Great experience

**Values:** All of this is based upon the values of Co-op Group which will inform our behaviours.

- Self-help;
- Self-responsibility;
- Democracy;
- Equality;
- Equity;
- Solidarity.

Our values are demonstrated daily by our behaviours which are captured in the **Co-op ways of being:**

- **Do what matters most;**
- **be yourself, always;**
- **succeed together;**
- **show you care.**

For more information on [Co-op values](#) and the [Co-op ways of being](#) see the Co-op group website via these links.

### **Strategic Drivers:**

Our operational plan to deliver all the above is based around eight strategic drivers:

1. Leadership
2. Quality learning
3. Curriculum opportunities
4. Monitoring and support
5. Academy environment, systems and processes.
6. Targeted professional development
7. Praise and reward culture for staff and students.
8. Collaboration and partnerships

## About the Academy

Co-op Academy Stoke-on-Trent was established in 2010 and we moved into our state of the art £23 million building in 2012. The academy serves the areas of Tunstall, Burslem and Hanley but is increasingly drawing students from all parts of Stoke-on-Trent. The academy is oversubscribed on first choices for September 2020.

Our vision is “Empowering everyone to reach their potential and be the best”. The focus on being the best that you can be in every lesson of every day permeates the Academy at every level and there are high expectations of both the students and staff. We are sponsored by the Co-op Group and we use the co-op values and ways of being to structure our academy culture.

Co-op Academy of Stoke-on-Trent is an urban complex academy just below half of our students classified as disadvantaged and a third of students receiving free school meals. There is a diverse student community with 36 languages spoken, although the main ethnic groups are white British and Pakistani. The academy is praised locally and regionally for the fully inclusive and supportive culture which enables us to be successful.

Many of our students come to us with ability on entry far below the national average. Our recent leavers and our present Year 11 are in the lowest 10% of Key Stage 2 APS nationally. However, the present Key Stage Three students have rising ability on entry and the new Year 7 come to us as slightly above national average. There has been considerable projected growth in student numbers over the last five years and our academy is projected to grow to over 1050 students by Sept 2020 from a starting point of 560 in 2012. There are currently just under 1000 students on roll.

There has been a significant improvement in Key Stage 4 outcomes over the period the academy has been open. 2018 and 2019 were record years for GCSE results and our website has full details. Our English and maths attainment is at historically high levels at the moment and in 2018 we had the highest progress scores of any non-selective school in the city, despite having the lowest ability intake on entry to the academy. We are also very pleased that far more students now go on to Level 3 courses at college and then onto university and higher level apprenticeships.

Ofsted visited us in November 2017 and agreed that we were still a “good school with some outstanding features”. Our personal development, behaviour and welfare is cited as outstanding. We had a Section 8 visit in 2015 on behaviour and safeguarding and this report was also very positive. Both reports are also available on our website.

We were also proud to be regional winners of the DfE’s Character Awards in 2016. This was in recognition of the work that we have done over a number of years in the area of personal development. The award was built around our student voice and leadership; our enrichment programme known as “The Edge”; and our character education programme.

We are part of the Co-op Academies Trust which currently comprises 25 academies in Stoke-on-Trent, the Wirral, West Yorkshire and Manchester. The Trust provides an extensive CPD programme focused on school improvement as part of their sponsorship.

## **Post Information**

### **Senior Leadership Team**

Principal – Nick Lowry

Senior Vice Principal – Standards – Jenny Crowther-Green

Vice Principal -Curriculum and Teaching and Learning - Shane Richardson

Vice Principal – Great Experience – Chris Hall

Senior Assistant Vice Principal – Behaviour, Inclusion and Safeguarding –  
Marianne Goodwin

Assistant Vice Principal – Progress – Jenny Davies (Maternity Leave Jan 2020 - Dec 2020)

Senior Leader SENDCo – Diane Drew

Assistant Vice Principal (maternity cover) - Katy Woodward

Assistant Vice Principal (maternity cover) - Lee Ford

Head of English: Jo Clifton

In total there are six Heads of Faculty who are part of the Extended Leadership Team.

### **Post Information for the Lead Practitioner: English**

The English Faculty consists of ten English specialists including two Vice Principals and one Assistant Vice Principal. The leadership of the English Faculty is the Head of Faculty and two other TLR holders including the Lead Practitioner: English.

### **Key Stage 3**

Students follow an engaging, accessible, inclusive curriculum, incorporating a wide range of texts to prepare them for the requirements of the new GCSE specification. Reading and writing skills are assessed each half term. Alongside English lessons, students also receive a weekly literacy lesson, designed to support the writing skills of students across the

curriculum. Students also participate in a weekly Accelerated Reader lesson to promote independent reading for pleasure.

#### **Key Stage 4**

All students are studying two GCSEs – one in AQA English Language and the other in AQA English Literature. The literature texts studied are:

Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Macbeth by William Shakespeare and Relationships poetry from AQA anthology.