



Principal Byron Wood Academy

Recruitment Pack



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Welcome Letter

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this role within the Astrea Academy Trust.

This is a hugely exciting time for our family of academies. The Trust has been recognised by the Department for Education as being well placed to raise standards and achieve excellence for pupils in a growing number of academies. We are presented with a rare opportunity to make a real difference to the lives and life chances of so many primary and secondary school children – many of whom haven't previously received the educational opportunities they deserve.

The Trust currently has academies based across South Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire, including academies at various stages of development. As a Trust, we are clear about the importance of achieving long term sustainability for our academies. Our vision is to enable individual academies to flourish with real autonomy, whilst also ensuring a strong ethos of support and collaboration across our Academies.

Employees within Astrea belong to a community of professionals, and benefit from a wide range of networks and development opportunities across the Trust. The Trust provides a strong culture of collaboration and support, together with high expectations for staff and pupils alike.

Those we recruit can demonstrate that they share our values, are highly motivated to work with colleagues within and beyond their academy to continuously develop their skills and pursue professional excellence, and are committed to providing the highest standards of teaching for all children. If that is you then we would be delighted to receive your application.

Libby Nicholas

Chief Executive, Astrea Academy Trust





Astrea Academy Trust

We value all-round development of the individual, through arts, sports, leadership opportunities, enrichment and community. This is encapsulated in the skills, qualities and personalities we foster in our pupils.

The Astrea Academy Trust logo communicates the values collaboration, development and aspiration. The three figures are coming together in the shape of a tree, which represents growth, whilst the tallest figure reaches upwards, towards a star, which is above and beyond the highest branch of the tree.

Academies, staff and children within the Trust benefit from a strong ethos of support and collaboration across the Astrea family. Teachers within Astrea belong to a national community of professionals, and benefit from a wide range of networks and development opportunities across the Trust.

Astrea benefits from the involvement of leading educationalists, including our Professional Adviser Professor John West-Burnham, and strong links to prestigious institutions such as the Institute of Education.





Astrea Academy Trust Ethos

The work of the Astrea Academy Trust is underpinned by five core Value Partners, which are equally applicable to pupils, staff and the work of the Trust itself.

Each pair of Value Partners is accompanied by a call for action in the form of a hashtag, which is used in verbal, digital and hard copy communications.

The Value Partners can be used as a measure of individual, Academy and Trust progress and as a guide to inform the direction of change.

Responsibility and Leadership

Individuals in the Astrea community are accountable for their own decisions and actions and are supported by strong leaders, while trailblazers are encouraged to develop skills and talents in others. The Trust has a strong commitment to developing and nurturing our own leaders. **#4equity**

Enjoyment and Innovation

We know that everyone learns best when they enjoy what they do and can follow their innate desire to achieve. Astrea pushes boundaries so that pioneering ideas are tried and tested so that our academies remain leaders in the advancement of teaching and learning methods. **#go4it**

Aspiration and Development

Every member of the Astrea community, from the youngest pupil to the oldest member of staff, is encouraged to cultivate opportunities to grow. We achieve excellence by being inspired to become the best we can be. The progress and well-being of pupils is our top priority, at the centre of every decision. **#Reach4thestars**

Collaboration and Inclusion

Astrea honours and applauds the differences that make us unique whilst actively seeking and celebrating the common ground that binds us together as a strong community. We work together in a productive environment where dynamic ideas are shared in partnership, so that every member of the community may thrive **#all4one**

Honesty and Integrity

We are honest and open. Astrea decisions and responses are grounded in time-honoured moral principles that remain constant in the face of challenges and change **#4good**

You can learn more about the Values, and hear from staff and pupils across Astrea Academies, at our website: <https://astreaacademytrust.org/>



Byron Wood Academy

Dear Candidate,

I shall be leaving Byron Wood after 13 years; first as the Deputy Head and subsequently as the Principal.

During the time I have been at Byron Wood the academy has improved year after year due to the emphasis we have placed on high aspiration and consistently high quality teaching. Our children behave well and work hard: parents have high expectations for their children and support the work of the academy. Teachers are committed to providing the very best for all their pupils and we have created a stimulating and well-resourced learning environment.

As a result there is consistent rising trend of pupil attainment and pupil progress which ranks the academy in the top tenth percentile overall nationally and in the top one percentile for maths.

Byron Wood is a primary academy based in the Burngreave area of Sheffield and serves students between the ages of 4 and 11.

Both teaching and non-teaching staff have a crucial role to play in the success of the Academy, and all are committed to creating an excellent learning environment for students. Byron Wood also wants to establish a strong partnership with parents/carers in order to help build an environment where students can thrive and reach their full potential.

Astrea Academies Trust is an inspirational academies network that aims to give children and young people from all backgrounds an education that 'inspires beyond measure'. Being part of the Astrea family provides enhanced CPD opportunities for staff, and, as new Principal joining us, you can expect a tailored induction programme that will support, reward and challenge you.

Byron Wood Academy offers a wonderful opportunity for any current or aspiring Principal to create an academy that is more than just an academy but a hub of innovation and creativity that inspires tomorrow's generation.

The academy will shortly benefit from a completely new building to be constructed on the existing site which will provide new, purpose built, modern facilities for children and staff to work in.

The Principal post at Byron Wood offers an exciting opportunity for an experienced and talented individual to further develop the potential of the academy and the achievements of its pupils.

I have really enjoyed working with the pupils, staff and Byron Wood community during this period and I am sure you will also.

I wish you all the best.

Satadru Ashton

Executive Principal





Astrea Academy Trust Family

Academies currently within Astrea Academy Trust:

- ★ Atlas Primary Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Byron Wood Academy, Sheffield
- ★ Carrfield Primary Academy, Rotherham
- ★ Castle Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Cottenham Village College, Cambridgeshire
- ★ Denaby Main Primary Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Edenthorpe Hall Academy, Edenthorpe
- ★ Gooseacre Primary Academy, Rotherham
- ★ Greengate Lane Academy, Sheffield
- ★ Hartley Brook Primary Academy, Sheffield
- ★ Hatfield Primary Academy, Sheffield
- ★ Hexthorpe Primary Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Highgate Primary Academy, Rotherham
- ★ Hillside Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Intake Primary Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Kingfisher Primary Academy, Doncaster
- ★ Lower Meadow Primary Academy, Sheffield
- ★ Netherwood Academy, Barnsley
- ★ The Centre School, Cambridgeshire
- ★ The Hill Primary Academy, Rotherham



Job Description

Position: Principal

Salary Range: Competitive

Contract Type: Permanent

Reporting to: CEO and Executive Director of Education

Location of this position: Byron Wood Academy, Sheffield

Purpose of this role:

The Principal is accountable to the CEO and Executive Director of Education for ensuring the educational success of their academy within the framework of their individual academies' strategic plans. They provide professional leadership and management of their individual academy and must establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations of all pupils, whilst contributing to the success of all students within the Astrea family.

The Principal shall carry out the professional duties as described in the Academy Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and would be expected to have considered these in relation to Byron Wood Academy.

Responsibilities

- The effective implementation and embedding of the agreed Astrea vision, principles and policies within the academy;
- Providing leadership across all aspects of the internal organisation, professional leadership, management and control of their academy;
- Creating a culture of constant improvement and being an inspirational leader, committed to the highest achievement for all in all areas of academy work;
- The Principal will have line management responsibilities for the Deputy Principal in the academy.

Strategic Leadership

- Work under the guidance of the Executive Director of Education and CEO to develop the shared vision and strategic plan for the academy, which is responsive to the community it serves. At the core of this should be the educational and personal development of the pupils;
- Work with the CEO and Executive Director of Education, Astrea Executive Board, colleagues and other stakeholders to define and implement the academy's vision and strategic direction so that it is understood and acted upon by all stakeholders;
- Work within the academy community to translate the vision into agreed objectives and operational plans, which will drive forward and sustain academy improvement;
- Ensure the sustained raising of aspiration, achievement and attainment, is met through an inclusive, sustainable and innovative lifelong education environment;



- Ensure the academy achieves its performance targets;
- Demonstrate the vision and values of Astrea in everyday work and practice. Motivate and work with others to create a shared culture and positive climate;
- Promote the academy, and the Trust and develop effective and productive relationships with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Secure the commitment of parents and the wider community to the vision and direction of the academy and the Trust;
- Challenge, motivate and empower others to attain ambitious outcomes.

Leading Learning and Teaching

- Drive and inspire a passion for learning in every member of the academy community;
- Provide a model of outstanding practice to all staff in teaching and academy leadership;
- Secure and sustain effective teaching and learning throughout the academy by ensuring sound strategies are in place for monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching and standards of pupils' achievement, using benchmarks and setting targets for rapid improvement of all children including those in vulnerable groups;
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning, ensuring a continuous and consistent focus on pupils' achievement and development (whole-person as well as academic);
- Ensure that a high quality educational experience (as expressed through the Astrea mission statement, principles and innovations) is available for all children and young people;
- Create a positive culture of challenge, support and high expectations, in order to achieve the academy Strategic Academy Development Plan, raise standards and improve the quality of teaching;
- Ensure that teaching in all year groups is improving to outstanding;
- Ensure that all children make good progress including where there are barriers to learning, through clear, consistent and excellent systems and provision for all, actively promoting inclusion;
- Provide effective and appropriate pastoral support is available to children in the academy;
- Through robust and effective monitoring and evaluation, identify and act on areas of improvement in relation to the curriculum and assessment;
- Keep informed of developments within the National Curriculum and other relevant curriculum development sources, to ensure that the curriculum is rich, relevant and inspirational and contributes to outstanding educational and whole-person outcomes;
- Ensure creativity, innovation and the use of appropriate new technologies to achieve excellence;
- Develop an inclusive and supportive approach so that each academy is a place where all young people and the wider academy community feel welcome.

Developing Self and Working with Others

- Treat everyone within the academy fairly and equitably;
- Develop a culture of personal responsibility that recognises both excellence and supports appropriate strategies to deal with under performance in accordance with Trust Appraisal and Capability policies and procedures;



- Ensure a high standard of professional development for all staff and for self, including attending all mandatory training events;
- To build a collaborative learning culture within the academy and actively engage with other academies within the Trust and the wider Astrea family to build effective learning communities;
- Work with all staff to build effective teams;
- Sustain their own enthusiasm and motivation and develop and sustain that of other staff;
- To ensure effective planning, allocation, support and evaluation of work undertaken by teams and individuals, ensuring clear delegation of tasks and devolution of responsibilities;
- Develop and maintain effective strategies and procedures for staff induction, professional development and appraisal as below;
- Effective and consistent implementation of the Astrea Appraisal Policy and other systems of quality assurance and professional development of teachers;
- Motivate and enable all staff to carry out their respective roles to the highest standard, through high quality continuing professional development based on assessment of needs and identified through the appraisal process;
- Develop and maintain respect across all stakeholders, inspiring individuals to contribute positively to shared ideas and plans for the academy, the Trust and the wider Astrea family;
- Under the direction of the CEO and Executive Director of Education to develop capacity, through coaching and mentoring members of the SLT;
- Keep abreast of educational developments and best management practice in order to introduce appropriate innovation and contribute to joint practice development across the Trust.

Managing the Organisation

- Produce and implement clear, evidence-based improvement plans and policies for the development of the academy and its facilities;
- Advise Astrea on the formulation of the annual budget in order that the academy secures its objectives;
- Receive and approve the academy budget in order to ensure that each academy meets its objectives;
- Manage the academy's financial and human resources effectively and efficiently to achieve the academy's educational goals and priorities;
- Work with the SLT and Trust to recruit and retain staff of the highest quality, in line with trust policy and safer recruitment procedures;
- Work with the Trust and senior colleagues to deploy all staff effectively in order to improve the quality of education provided;
- Regularly monitor the budget for the academy and the use of resources;
- Manage and organise the academy environment efficiently and effectively to ensure that it meets the needs of the curriculum and health and safety regulations;
- Ensure that the allocation and use of accommodation within the academy provides a positive learning environment that promotes the highest achievement for all;
- Work with Astrea, SLT and Academy Business Manager/Office Manager to maximise the level of external funding that is attracted to support each academy's development;



- Promote, embed, secure and monitor all agreed Astrea policies.

Securing Accountability

- Ensure that individual staff accountabilities are clearly defined, understood and agreed and are subject to rigorous review and evaluation;
- To develop an academy ethos which will enable everyone to work collaboratively, share knowledge and understanding, celebrate success and accept responsibility for outcomes;
- Develop and present a coherent, understandable and accurate account of the academy's performance to a range of audiences including parents and carers;
- Reflect on personal contribution to academy achievements and take account of feedback from others.

Strengthening Community

- Build an academy culture and curriculum which takes account of the richness and diversity of the academy's communities;
- Ensure learning experiences for pupils are linked into and integrated with the wider community both within the Trust and also within the Astrea community of academies;
- Create and maintain an effective partnership with parents and carers to support and improve pupils' achievement and personal development;
- To seek opportunities to invite parents and carers, community figures, and those from the wider Astrea family, business or other organisations into the academy to enhance and enrich the academy and its value to the wider community.

Equal opportunities

- To take responsibility, appropriate to the post for tackling unlawful discrimination amongst all groups in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Safeguarding children and Safer Recruitment

- To have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow all associated child protection and safeguarding policies as adopted by the Astrea;
- Ensure that all policies and procedures adopted by the Trust are fully implemented and followed by all staff;
- Ensure that sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated person and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children;
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle blowing practices.

Health and Safety

- To work in compliance with the academy's Health and Safety policies and under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), ensuring the safety of all parties with whom contact is made, such as members of the public, in premises or sites controlled by the academy;



- To ensure compliance with procedures is observed at all times under the provision of safe systems of work through a safe and healthy environment and including such information, training, instruction and supervision as necessary to accomplish those goals.

Data Protection

- To ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act (1974) and the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

General

- Attend training as required
- Respect confidentiality
- Work within the Academy and Trust policies and procedures
- Comply with the Academy and Trust no smoking policy
- Participate and contribute to team meetings
- Co-operate and liaise with departmental colleagues
- Demonstrate a commitment to their own development, to take advantage of education and training opportunities and develop their own competence
- Support and encourage harmonious internal and external working relationships

The Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

The above duties are not exhaustive and the post holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Principal.



Person Specification

This part will allow you to understand who we are looking for within this role and the skills knowledge or experience that we would expect.

Knowledge, Qualifications and Experience	Essential	Desirable
Relevant Experience		
Experience of developing a differentiated and creative curriculum to pupils with a diverse range of social, emotional, cultural, intellectual and physical needs	*	
Experience of monitoring and improving the quality of teaching and learning	*	
Experience at Principal or Deputy Principal level	*	
Experience of having led, or made a significant contribution to, the success of an Academy, through its leadership, pupil outcomes and ethos	*	
Experience of supporting staff to optimise attainment and progress of pupils	*	
Evidence of an ability to plan strategically, build and communicate a coherent vision in a range of compelling ways	*	
Extensive experience of working with students with significant barriers to learning	*	
Experience of working across more than one academy		*
Experience of effectively managing the impact of change on organisations and individuals	*	
Education and Training		
Graduate with Qualified Teacher Status	*	
NPQH (or equivalent) achieved or underway		*
Evidence of recent professional development that prepares for this post	*	
Knowledge		
Knowledge of legislation relating to managing an Academy including Equalities legislation	*	



An understanding of and competent use of ICT including emerging technologies to aid and promote the quality of teaching, learning and administration	*	
Clear understanding of the ethos and strategies required to establish consistently high standards in outcomes, progress, attitudes and behaviour	*	
Skills and Ability		
Ability to use a range of evidence, including performance data, to support, monitor, evaluate and improve aspects of Academy life, including challenging poor performance	*	
Ability to engage the Academy community in the systematic and rigorous self-evaluation of the work of the Academy	*	
Proven ability to inspire, lead and participate actively in building and sustaining a learning community and network with others within and beyond the academy	*	
Understanding and ability to communicate and successfully implement strategies across all aspects of the academy including accountability, learning, curriculum, administration and communication	*	
Outstanding classroom practitioner	*	
The ability to deliver effective strategic financial planning, financial management including budgetary control and value for money	*	
Excellent organisational skills	*	
Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills and ability to use new and emerging technologies to secure impact	*	
Able to meet national standards for Principals	*	
Additional		
Demonstrate a personal enthusiasm and commitment to leadership aimed at making a positive difference to children and young people and raising standards	*	
Demonstrate personal and professional integrity, including modelling values and vision	*	
Evidence of a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people	*	



Commitment to promote and support the aims of Astrea	*	
The post holder will require an enhanced DBS	*	



Child Safeguarding Policy

The Trust is committed to Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of all its students. Each student's welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that some children *may* be especially vulnerable to abuse e.g. those with Special Educational Needs, those living in adverse circumstances.

We recognise that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. Whilst at the Academies, their behaviour may be challenging. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our students.

The Trust's Child Safeguarding Policy applies to all adults, including volunteers, working in or on behalf of the Trust.

Everyone in the education service shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe by contributing to:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn in education settings; and
- Identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in the education setting'

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016

The Trust pays full regard to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance 2016. We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works for the Trust who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult including e.g. volunteers and staff employed by contractors. Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and an Enhanced DBS check.

Please visit <https://astreaacademytrust.org/about-us/statutory-documents/> for the full policy.



Explanatory Notes

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the Trust's Application Form. Please complete ALL sections of the Application Form which are relevant to you as clearly and fully as possible. CVs will **not** be accepted in place of a completed Application Form.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks, including an enhanced check.

- Candidates should be aware that all posts in Astrea Academy Trust involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children and young people, although the extent of that responsibility will vary depending on the nature of the post. Please see the job description enclosed in this Application Pack for further details.
- Accordingly, this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as "spent" must be declared.
- If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offence, including those related to children or young people (whether disciplinary sanction is current or time-expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any investigation or disciplinary proceedings. If you are not currently working with children, but have done in the past, that previous employer will be asked about these issues.
- Where neither your current or previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will be asked about your suitability to work with children, although it may be answered not applicable where it is appropriate; if your duties have not brought you into contact with children or young people for instance.

Interview Process

After the closing date, short listing will be conducted by a Panel. You will be selected for interview entirely on the contents of your application form, so please read the Job Description and Person Specification carefully before you complete your form.

All candidates invited to interview must bring the following documents:

- Documentary evidence of right to work in the UK
- Documentary evidence of identity that will satisfy DBS requirements
- Documentary proof of current name and address



- Where appropriate any documentation evidencing change of name
- Documents confirming any educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Please note that originals of the above are necessary, photocopies or certified copies are **not** sufficient.

We will seek references on shortlisted candidates for Trust based positions and may approach previous employers for information to verify experience or qualifications before interview. Any relevant issues arising from references will be taken up at interview.

In addition to candidate's ability to perform the duties of the post, the interview will also explore issues relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including:

- Motivation to work with children and young people
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people
- Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours
- Attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline

Conditional Offer: Pre-Employment Checks

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

- Verification of right to work in the UK
- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received)
- Verification of identity checks and qualifications
- Satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check
- Verification of professional status such as QTS Status, NPQH (where required)
- Satisfactory completion of a Health Assessment
- Satisfactory completion of the probationary period (where relevant)
- Where the successful candidate has worked, or been resident overseas in the previous five years, such checks and confirmations as may be required in accordance with statutory guidance



How can I Apply?

This is an exciting and very rewarding role and we look forward to receiving your application.

Please complete and send the Application Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form which are available together with this document to the below contact;

Name: Vicki Russell

Position: Recruitment Officer

Contact: recruitment@astreaacademytrust.org

The Application Process

The candidates selected for interview will be informed after shortlisting and full details of the interview programme will be provided. If you do not hear from us within 14 days of the closing date of this position, unfortunately you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.