

Chief Executive Introduction

Thank you for your interest in applying for the post of Director of Education at Plymouth CAST. We are a multi academy trust of 35 Catholic schools and one nursery, formed in 2014, which includes all the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Plymouth, except the two joint faith schools. In geographical terms, the Trust extends from Penzance in Cornwall to Poole in Dorset. We have 1500 staff and educate 7,200 children and young people. Our head office is located at St. Boniface's College in Plymouth.

Plymouth CAST is recovering strongly from a series of Ofsted inspections in 2016/17 which left five of our schools in special measures and twelve requiring improvement. In September 2017, 27 of our schools were 'not good' according to our own or Ofsted's evaluation. From then until she left the Trust in August 2019, our Director of Education, Louise Adams, a former Headteacher and HMI, worked tirelessly to improve the quality of education in our schools. Our current estimate is that we have 10 schools which are 'not good' but moving well towards being good. Four of the five schools in special measures are now out of that category.

We are looking to our next Director of Education to build on Louise's outstanding legacy and bring the rest of our schools to good and keep them there. Our mission statement, which we developed last year with all our stakeholders, is clear in its purpose: "Our mission is to be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy and stimulating environments and leave us with the knowledge and skills, personal qualities and aspirations, to make the world a better place, inspired by the Gospel."

We are passionately committed to the core aspiration of Catholic education which is the flourishing of the human person for the common good. To that end, we have developed collaborative working to ensure that local expertise and best practice in our schools is shared and developed. Each of our heads is line managed by an Education and Standards Manager who will lead the work of the cluster. Our new Director of Education will line manage the ESM team and ensure that our school improvement work is resulting in improved outcomes for our young people, especially the disadvantaged.

The Director of Education is accountable to me and I am accountable to the Board, which is made up of experienced directors from the world of business, education and the Church. The successful candidate will not have to be a practising Catholic, however will be able to support and promote the Catholic ethos and vision of the Trust.

If you would like more information about any aspect of your application or for an informal conversation, please contact me directly at Raymond.friel@plymouthcast.org.uk. The deadline for all applications to be received by email to careers@plymouthcast.org.uk or post to Plymouth CAST, Human Resources, Edmund Rice Building, St. Boniface's College, 21 Boniface Lane, Plymouth PL5 3AG, is by midday on Monday 30 September. The interview process is a two-day event, taking place on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 October 2019. We will contact shortlisted candidates with further details of the selection process soon after the deadline.

I wish you well in the application process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Friel'.

Raymond Friel
CEO, Plymouth CAST