

SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER



SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST

HEAD OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Preferred start date: February 2022

HEAD OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS RECRUITMENT INFORMATION PACK

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Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the post of Head of Business Operations. This is an exciting new position and the successful candidate will join the SAST Executive team in shaping the organisation as we continually strive to deliver our vision and values throughout our family of schools.

SAST is a strong and ambitious Trust of both primary and secondary schools seeking to ensure an excellent and sustainable 0-19 education for children within our community across West and North Dorset as well as South Somerset.

The Sherborne Area Schools' Trust was established in June 2017 with seven schools serving the West and North Dorset area as well as students from South Somerset. Currently there are 17 schools with over 5000 students and we employ over 850 staff. There is real strength in coming together with a collective responsibility for all of the children's development and progress between 0-19 years. SAST has both large town primary schools with over 300 children, smaller village primary schools and nursery provision. There are several secondaries; two large 11-18 secondary schools with Sixth Forms, a smaller 11-16 secondary with 400 students and a pupil referral unit. There is a mix of formerly maintained and Church of England schools - both voluntary controlled and voluntary-aided in the Dioceses of Salisbury and Bath and Wells. We believe in preserving schools in their local community.

This is an exciting period in the growth of the Trust's and its development. We are looking to appoint an exceptional colleague to lead on our business operations as we consolidate our recent growth and prepare for the future. The postholder will provide effective strategic and operational management to support the sustainable growth of the trust through the development of operational infrastructure and provision of business services to the organisation. You will bring extensive experience of leading in multi-sited and complex organisations, ideally within the education sector.

The successful candidate will:

- Promote and support the vision, values and aims of the Trust
- Be committed to partnership, collaboration and excellent teamwork
- Have proven experience and expertise in most of the knowledge, skills and understanding detailed in the job description
- Be customer-focused and understand how schools and MATs operate
- Be highly resilient, with relentless determination to succeed and drive change
- Have excellent communication skills
- Use resources, intellect, creativity and innovation to be successful
- Have high expectations, an interest in education and want to make a difference

This role will be challenging, yet immensely rewarding. The successful postholder will be able to communicate and develop relationships effectively and connect with all stakeholder groups. You need to be a team player, you will go the extra mile to support schools, staff and students. In return, you will join a Trust that is full of activity, opportunity and optimism.

In summary, there is a great sense of pride in what we collectively already achieve, and we want to enhance the existing and new schools. Education is more than just test and exam results – we place great value on the personal development of each child. We aim for them to ultimately leave school as well-rounded young people with a strong sense of what is socially, morally and culturally acceptable, and to feel that they have a contribution to make to the greater community. You can make an important contribution to this strategic ambition.

There is further information on the SAST website. If you would like to visit the Trust or discuss any aspect of the post, please contact Catherine Watson, Head of HR in the first instance.

On behalf of the Trustees of SAST, the leaders, staff and students we look forward to seeing your application and meeting you.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "CSinclair". The "C" is large and stylized, followed by "Sinclair" in a cursive script.

Colin Sinclair
CEO

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

We look forward to receiving your application by **9am, Tuesday 7th December 2021**. If invited for interview, these will take place during the week commencing the **13th December 2021**. You are asked to provide the following:

- A completed application form
- A letter of application of no more than 2 sides of A4 detailing your experience and expertise

Completed applications should be returned either by post, marked 'Confidential' Catherine Watson, Sherborne Area School's Trust, St Aldhelm's House, Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4EQ or preferably by email to:

catherine.watson@sast.org.uk

You are warmly encouraged to get in touch prior to application to discuss the position. Our Head of HR, Catherine Watson is available to have an informal discussion with interested applicants about the role. Please contact her on 07805959044 or at catherine.watson@sast.org.uk.

Sherborne Area Schools' Trust has an absolute commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Trust follows the national and relevant local authority policies and procedures for child protection and security. Current and/or previous employers will be contacted through references as part of the verification process pre-appointment checks if the applicant is short listed. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check with the Disclosure and Barring Service and the post is subject to a Barred Lists check.

Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) recognises the benefit of having a diverse workforce and is committed to building a workforce which reflects diversity from the communities it serves. SAST values the contributions from all staff from a wide range of different backgrounds and actively seeks to promote an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and at the same time supports fair promotion and cultural acceptance. Under the provision of the Equality Act 2010 SAST welcomes applications from everyone and operates a recruitment process which is fair and does not discriminate against or disadvantage anyone because of their age, disability, gender reassignment status, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race or nationality, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Head of Business Operations

Grade: 14 (Pending evaluation)

Job family: Executive Team

Reporting to: CEO

Hours per week: 37 (Post can be a job-share)

Weeks per year: 52 weeks

Main Job Purpose

To be a highly visible and credible leader within the SAST Executive team and work to support the Trust Board and CEO in delivering the vision and values of the trust. You will lead on the development of an over-arching procurement strategy and implementation of effective and compliant procurement procedures to ensure the trust optimises financial and supply benefits to support its strategic objectives.

With an entrepreneurial and innovative approach, you will formulate and deliver a commercial strategy to increase income generation by securing external grant funding and maximising year-round returns from SAST's physical assets and its commercially traded services.

Provide strategic and operational management to support the sustainable growth of the trust through the development of operational infrastructure, robust due diligence and a high-quality on-boarding experience for new schools.

Main responsibilities and duties

Procurement and Contract Management

- Develop an over-arching procurement strategy to maximise the benefits of economies of scale, ensure value for money and manage risk when buying supplies and services.
- In conjunction with the CEO, Head of Finance and Service leads, prepare and implement policies and procedures concerning the procurement and ordering of all SAST supplies and services
- Provide expert advice and guidance (and develop resources) to senior leaders and trustees on best practice procurement processes.
- Working with Service Leads, oversee the formulation of contract specifications and tender processes and contracts/service level agreements, ensuring clear quality standards are established, maintained and monitored.
- In line with agreed procurement procedures, establish and oversee the trust's preferred contractors database
- Ensure all contracting and procurement activities are fully compliant with all public sector legislation and regulatory requirements.
- Monitor and evaluate procurement activity to ensure best practice and operational needs are met.
- Act as the contact point for all pre-qualification and tender queries, liaising with internal services leads and external suppliers and contractors.
- Provide project management support for the implementation of new contracts and grant funded activity
- Provide clear information, advice and recommendations to the CEO, senior leaders and the Trust Board regarding strategic development of procurement, the use of SAST assets and the development of commercial activities to drive income generation.

Income generation and business development

- Through leadership and management, develop a commercial orientation across the trust focused on ensuring that trust activities are considered through a commercial lens and that commercial opportunities are identified.
- Develop and share an evidence-based process to identify and quantify new revenue streams and grow existing commercial services.
- Work across the trust to build support for commercial activity and harness the knowledge and relationships that exist across the trust for commercial benefit.
- Support the CEO and the Trust board to identify and pursue commercial opportunities and business development in its operations.
- To lead on business development through income generation, commercial partnerships and improving operational efficiencies.

- Engage with stakeholders to reach a shared understanding of the developing context for commercial services and the opportunities to deliver a significant increase in commercial revenue.
- Work with the Trust's Communications Manager to develop relevant marketing programmes to support commercial initiatives.
- Develop new and innovative delivery vehicles for commercial activities, including the establishment of mutually beneficial agreements with partner organisations, including corporate sponsorship.
- In partnership with the CEO and senior leaders, identify and develop bids and proposals including; bid writing, providing supporting information and financial scenario modelling, supply chain development and associated due diligence.
- Lead on the co-ordination of capital bid applications, in conjunction with the Head of Finance, Head of Estates and Headteachers
- Ensure all commercial activities and partnerships are compliant with legal requirements and risk is identified and managed effectively.
- Ensure a culture of continuous improvement and service excellence is embedded across all commercially oriented departments and services.

Business Operations

- Be the designated lead member of the SAST Executive team for Health and Safety and chair the SAST Health and Safety Committee to raise profile and share best practice.
- Liaise with chosen Health and Safety external provider for expert guidance as required
- Ensure external Health and Safety provider delivers against service level agreement specifications to provide excellent support and service for SAST.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation. Review and analyse trust-wide health and safety data to drive continuous improvement in this area and report to Trust Board as required.
- Ensure effective liaison with brokers/insurance companies regarding policy cover and claims for SAST
- Lead on school transport arrangements across SAST to ensure value for money and quality assurance with providers.
- Be the designated leader member of the SAST Executive team for Sustainability. Working with external partners and senior leaders, develop and implement a costed strategy and operational plan for sustainability, including decarbonisation.
- Identify and secure grant funding available to support sustainability projects including building modifications, energy etc.
- Co-ordinate the on-boarding process for new schools to ensure a high-quality experience and seamless transition into the trust. With CEO and service leads, undertake robust due diligence, liaise with legal advisors to manage risk and work with representatives from new schools to manage process and timeframes.

Other Duties

- To adhere to the Trust's safeguarding procedures and share the commitment to promoting the welfare of children and young people within SAST.
- Undertaking such other duties as reasonably correspond to the general character of the post and commensurate with being a member of the Trust leadership team
- Contribute and exemplify the values of the trust. The post-holder will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from the CEO and Board to undertake work of a similar nature that is not specified in this job description. Whilst every effort has been made to explain the main responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified.

Knowledge and Skills

Essential

- Significant experience of a leadership role in procurement and the ability to develop procurement capability within the organisation and lead this change.
- Substantial technical knowledge and experience of procurement including public sector experience and knowledge of public procurement regulations.
- Experience of strategic business or service planning and the development of business opportunities
- Substantial experience of budgetary and risk management
- Successful track record of managing complex projects from inception to completion
- IOSH Qualified or equivalent (or qualification underway/commitment to achieve this within the probationary period)
- Have excellent customer focus and a commitment to delivering high quality services
- Excellent people and influencing skills enabling strong working relationships to be built.

Desirable:

- Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (MCIPS) qualified or equivalent of level of experience.
- NEBOSH Qualified or equivalent
- Experience of interpreting Government education policy and legislation
- Track record of successful bid/grant applications and fund-raising activities
- Full Driving License/Access to own vehicle

Supervision and management

The post holder will often be required to work without direct supervision. The postholder will be required to direct and utilise resource within the organisation, subject to operational need.

Line management responsibilities may be added as the role develops.

Problem Solving and Creativity

Innovation and creativity are a critical element of the post. The responsibilities linked to the role requires development and evaluation of income generating opportunities, developing new approaches to existing services, developing strategy and introducing new procedures and working practices in several critical strategic and operational areas with total autonomy and has implications to affect the whole organisation.

Key Contacts and Relationships

Contacts and relationships have substantial implications to the overall shape, size and direction of the trust and/or acting on behalf of SAST. Actions will have significant implications on budgets, staffing and physical resources.

Daily contact by telephone/face to face with senior leaders/Staff/and external providers, suppliers and corporate partners such as Dorset CC, legal advisors, government agencies etc.

Decision Making

A regular and ongoing part of the job. Postholder will have discretion and responsibility for making recommendations for change and for managing their implementation. The post will involve making strategic level decisions rather than operational ones. Important policies and procedures will cover issues of long-term strategic importance. Will require trustees' approval and decisions may affect the whole trust.

Resources

General Office equipment

Working Environment:**Demands:**

Normal office environment. Conflicting demands and regular re-prioritisation of workload.

There will be the expectation to travel to SAST schools, facilities or external providers on occasions.

Safeguarding Responsibilities for this post

Safeguarding responsibilities associated with this role will not include engagement in regulatory activity. It will have minimal contact with young people on a day-to day basis. SAST is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will have to meet the person specification and the post is subject to safeguarding checks, including an enhanced DBS check and Children's Barred List check. The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.

Head of Business Operations: Person Specification

| Criteria | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE | EVIDENCE |
|--|--|---|---|
| Education and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of GCSE Maths and English grade 4 or equivalent. • Degree level or equivalent • IOSH Qualified or equivalent (or working toward qualification) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (MCIPS) qualified or equivalent of level of experience. • NEBOSH Qualified or equivalent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • Interview |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant experience of a leadership role in procurement and the ability to develop procurement capability within the organisation and lead this change. • Substantial experience of procurement within the public sector. • Experience of strategic business or service planning and the development of business opportunities • Substantial experience of budgetary and risk management • Successful bid writing and income generation across a group of schools or within complex public-sector organisations • Substantial experience of establishing and managing contracts across a range of goods, works and services • Working in partnership with senior leaders to improve efficiencies and end-user services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful track record of managing complex projects from inception to completion • Leading business operations for a multi-sited and complex organisation • Experience of providing advice and support to key stakeholders on good practice in contracting and purchasing. • Experience of designing and delivering training in procurement areas • Experience of using financial management systems. • Successfully managing others • Working within a MAT and able to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of how schools within a MAT function. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Form • Interview • Assessment |
| Professional Skills and knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial technical knowledge of public procurement regulations. • Ability to interpret and apply procurement procedures at a strategic and operational level to promote good practice and secure savings. • Effective and developed interpersonal skills that will support working with colleagues across the Trust and externally. • Strong organisational skills with an attention to detail • Ability to prioritise, plan and organise own workload • Ability to interpret, analyse and disseminate information and data • Excellent IT and written communication skills for compilation of reports, resources and presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth working knowledge and experience of procurement and income generation specifically in the education sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • Interview • Assessment |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work efficiently and effectively to meet deadlines and deliver successfully • Customer-oriented to deliver service excellence • Ability to keep abreast of developments relating to Procurement, good practice and legislation • Awareness and interest in education • Commitment to professional development | | |
| Relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive, enthusiastic and approachable • Ability to listen and provide advice and support • Proactive and confident, yet humble and considered • Contribute as a great team player • Persuasive and influencing • Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of staff • Strongly support the ethos and culture of the trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to hold colleagues to account whilst building effective working relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • interview |
| Character and personality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliability • Resourceful; able to think creatively and solve problems • Logical and analytical • Tenacious and versatile- • Enquiring-find, propose and deliver solutions • Committed and hard-working • Have patience and endless energy to persevere through challenges • Committed to continuous self-improvement | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • interview |
| Work-related | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to work outside of normal working hours as required. • Full Driving License; access to personal transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values Driven | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview |

THE ADVERT

Head of Business Operations



Start Date: As soon as possible

Closing Date: 9am, Tuesday 7th December 2021

Interviews: w/b 13th December 2021

Salary: Grade 14 (Pending evaluation)

Contract: Permanent (subject to successful probation period)

Thank you for your interest in the post of Head of Business Operations. This is an exciting new position, and the successful candidate will join the SAST Executive team in shaping the organisation as we continually strive to deliver our vision and values throughout our family schools. SAST is a strong and ambitious Trust of both primary and secondary schools seeking to ensure an excellent and sustainable 0-19 education for children within our community across West and North Dorset as well as South Somerset. The Trust now consists of 5000 children and over 850 staff working in our 17 schools and shared services teams.

This is an exciting period in the growth of the Trust's and its development. We are looking to appoint an exceptional colleague to lead on our business operations as we consolidate our recent growth and prepare for the future.

The successful candidate will:

- Promote and support the vision, values and aims of the Trust
- Be committed to partnership, collaboration and excellent teamwork
- Have proven experience and expertise in most of the knowledge, skills and understanding detailed in the job description
- Be customer-focused and understand how schools and MATs operate
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- Use resources, intellect, creativity and innovation to be successful
- Have high expectations, an interest in education and want to make a difference

Our values and ethos focus on developing a love of learning, high achievement both personally and academically which comes from the tremendous work of all our staff and the great achievements of our children.

The Sherborne Area Schools' Trust includes schools across Dorset and South Somerset from Sherborne to Shaftesbury and Wincanton. Our area is one of the best areas to live in Britain offering something for everyone. Sherborne is a centre of excellence for education and has been described as 'one of the most drop-dead-gorgeous towns in the country' and having the feel of 'a small cathedral city'. There are easy road and direct rail links to London, Bath, Bristol, Exeter and the glorious Dorset coast and countryside.

We will also offer an excellent package:

- A competitive salary; (Grade 14 £46-52k per annum subject to experience)
- 30 days annual leave + Bank Holidays
- Access to an excellent contributory Pension Scheme
- Access to continuous professional development opportunities
- On-site nursery provision at some of our academies
- A strong MAT with a clear sense of shared moral purpose and a real opportunity to transform the lives of young people

You are warmly encouraged to get in touch prior to application to discuss the position. Our Head of HR, Catherine Watson is available to have an informal discussion with interested applicants about the role. Please contact her on 07805959044 or at catherine.watson@sast.org.uk. You are also most welcome to visit the Trust.

For a recruitment pack and online application form, please visit the trust website: www.sast.org.uk

Safeguarding responsibilities associated with this role will not include engagement in regulatory activity. It will have minimal contact with young people on a day-to day basis. SAST is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will have to meet the person specification and the post is subject to safeguarding checks, including an enhanced DBS check and Children's Barred List check. The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.

Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST) recognises the benefit of having a diverse workforce and is committed to building a workforce which reflects diversity from the communities it serves. SAST values the contributions from all staff from a wide range of different backgrounds and actively seeks to promote an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and at the same time supports fair promotion and cultural acceptance. Under the provision of the Equality Act 2010 SAST welcomes applications from everyone and operates a recruitment process which is fair and does not discriminate against or disadvantage anyone because of their age, disability, gender reassignment status, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race or nationality, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

SHERBORNE AREA SCHOOLS' TRUST (SAST) INFORMATION

SAST is a multi-academy trust, formed in June 2017, of seven schools serving the West and North Dorset area as well as students from South Somerset. Currently, there are 17 schools with more than 5,000 students and over 850 members of staff. SAST has large town primary schools with over 300 children, smaller village primary schools and nursery provision. SAST also has 4 secondary schools including a state boarding school and Sixth Form and a large 11-18 secondary school with a Sixth Form of over 400 students. There is a mix of formerly maintained and Church of England schools - both voluntary controlled and voluntary-aided in the Diocese of Salisbury. We believe in preserving Schools in their local community.

Our Schools:

A key principle of the SAST is that member schools maintain their own character, such as church and community status. All schools in the multi-academy trust are equal partners and are committed to the principles of collaboration, sharing expertise and resources to enable all partner schools to deliver excellent education for all young people in their care.

At the heart of SAST is the desire to work in partnership, to collaborate with others and to be outward facing for the benefit of children and staff. The schools have extensive links beyond the immediate area and are keen to extend these further.

SAST works by providing opportunities to share and improve - to develop further our provision as well as supporting the quality of leadership and management. This includes sharing best practice, being creative in maintaining a broad and diverse curriculum, ensuring the care and support is in place for children and families and enabling further staff and teacher development. We also work together on meeting the challenges of funding and the opportunities for financial efficiency, determining for ourselves which services and providers we will use to provide outstanding provision for our children. There is real strength in coming together with a collective responsibility for all of the children's development and progress between 0-19 years.

What we value – our ethos:

Partnership and Collaboration

Our schools support each other, by sharing expertise and resources, to ensure improvement.

Excellence

We provide a high-quality education to enable all students and staff to aspire, thrive and succeed.

Holistic Lifelong Learning

We promote the personal development of every child and a love of lifelong learning for our students and staff.

Equality and Distinctiveness

We celebrate the individuality of each school and all in it. We are proud to be at the heart of our local communities.

Organisation - How we work:

All our schools are successful. Of course, we recognise that we need to continually improve and evolve. The priority is to enable every School to continue to provide an excellent education for all our students while protecting the school's role at the heart of its community, along with our unique qualities and strengths.

There is a balance as to the responsibilities delegated to Schools and those that are the responsibility of SAST. The focus is to continually evaluate, improve and develop through strong, effective and accountable leadership at all levels. The aim is to establish clear, simple and effective accountability including slim and streamlined governance.

Partnerships:

Partnership and collaboration is a core feature of all our Schools – a genuine desire to be outward-facing, to use the best ideas from across the world. The Schools have always worked closely together and across Dorset and Somerset.

SAST Benefits:

As part of the Sherborne Area Schools Trust, we can offer you a range of benefits including:

- High- quality CPD opportunities
- Access to an excellent contributory pension scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- On-site nursery provision at some of our academies
- Cycle to work scheme

INFORMATION ABOUT SHERBORNE, WINCANTON, SHAFTESBURY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Sherborne

Sherborne is one of the most beautiful towns in England. It has an abundance of medieval buildings, a majestic Abbey, world famous schools, a picturesque alms-house and two castles. In March 2014, The Sunday Times described it as 'one of the most drop-dead gorgeous towns in the country and having the feel of 'a small cathedral city'. This is boosted, it says, by the quality of its schools, both private and public. It is ideally located on the Dorset and Somerset border and has excellent transport links enabling the town to flourish. Later that month, The Times listed it as one of the best places to live in the countryside.

There is a direct rail line to London, and Bath, Salisbury and Exeter and the spectacular Dorset coastline are within easy reach. It is a wonderful area in which to live and it has attracted many newcomers and families from across the country to settle in and around the area.

Sherborne is renowned as a town which is a centre of educational excellence. The links with the other schools in Sherborne are good - there is a genuine partnership and desire to share expertise and opportunities.

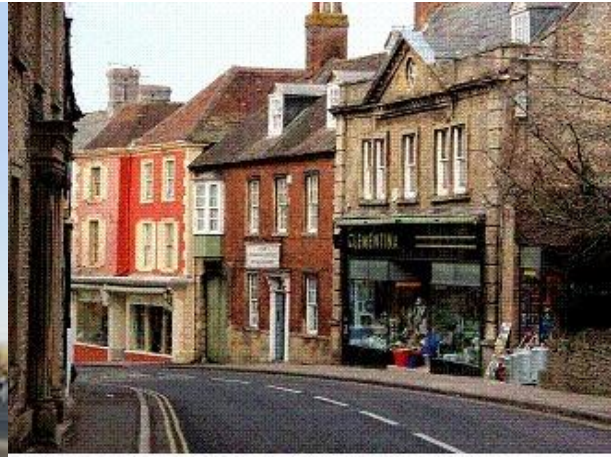


Wincanton

Wincanton is a small market town situated on the extreme southeast of Somerset almost on the borders of Dorset and Wiltshire. This part of Somerset is a countryside of diversified and unspoilt scenery which ranges from the lush pastures of the Blackmore Vale, through orchards and richly wooded combes to the hills with panoramic views over Somerset and adjacent counties.

Wincanton lies 15 miles northeast of Yeovil, 12 miles north-west of Shaftesbury, 17 miles south west of Warminster and 34 miles east of the county town of Taunton. London is 111 miles by road. Situated on the main A303 London to Penzance trunk road, Wincanton enjoys excellent road links and is in an enviable position for exploring this attractive corner of rural England.

For the active, the countryside around Wincanton is perfect for exploring on foot, bicycle or horseback. Within easy reach of Wincanton are numerous places of interest easily and quickly accessible including an Iron Age hill fort at South Cadbury - reputedly King Arthur's Camelot, Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford, the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton and Longleat. Sherborne and Glastonbury are half an hour away. Wincanton's famous racecourse stages numerous race meetings - including a full National Hunt programme.



High Street, Wincanton

Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury is perched on a hill high above Dorset's Blackmore Vale and has one of the most beautiful and commanding settings of any market town in England, with a charm and history that is unrivalled. Founded over 1100 years ago as the site of King Alfred's citadel Benedictine Abbey, and today largely unchanged since the 18th century, the town is a treasure trove for all.

Located on ancient trade routes, Shaftesbury has been a market centre for centuries, and today there is still a charter market on Thursdays. Regular Farmers' Markets, book fairs, flea markets, plus monthly Sunday Markets all add to the wonderful bustling atmosphere of the town.

The town is served by many small independent shops and has many lovely pubs, restaurants and cafes. There is also a supermarket and an open-air swimming pool. Shaftesbury is located close to Gillingham and Tisbury where there are direct train lines to London. The town is surrounded by picturesque villages and is an attractive part of the world to live in and work.



Support in Relocating

Every year we have new staff joining the trust. Many staff live in Sherborne or the surrounding villages. House prices are a little lower in Yeovil and other Dorset towns like Dorchester, Shaftesbury and Gillingham. Some staff comfortably travel from Somerset or Devon and we are easily accessible from Bath, Taunton and Bournemouth. We would be very happy to provide informal guidance about available accommodation; some new staff like to share, and staff often share transport.