



King Arthur's School



ANSFORD ACADEMY

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

School Chaplain

Sexeys School, Bruton, Ansford Academy &
King Arthur's School, Wincanton

Job Description

Introduction

Sexey's School, Bruton: Sexey's School is an 11-18 Church of England State Boarding School with a commitment to providing young people with the knowledge, skills, experiences and confidence that prepares them for life beyond school. We are excited about having a Chaplaincy post working across the three schools and leading this very important piece of work. You can discover more at <http://www.sexseys.somerset.sch.uk/>

Ansford Academy, Ansford, Castle Cary: At Ansford Academy education is about everyone achieving his or her best, while developing individual character and personality. Our motto, *learning together to lead our lives*, reflects our passionate belief in equipping individuals with the skills to make a success of their lives - to secure useful and rewarding work, make and sustain good relationships and contribute positively to local and global communities. You can discover more at <http://www.ansford.org.uk/>

King Arthur's, School, Wincanton: King Arthur's is a 11-16 school in the historic Somerset town of Wincanton. We serve the local community across the area including surrounding villages in Dorset and Somerset. The school is working in close partnership with the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust, the North Dorset Teaching School Alliance and the Tower Learning to provide an excellent education for all. You can discover more at <http://www.kingarthurs.org.uk/>

Bruton and Cary Deanery: One of 19 Deaneries within the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Bruton and Cary Deanery is made up of small towns and villages in the beautiful countryside of south east Somerset. The churches of the deanery and their ecumenical partners are committed to supporting school chaplaincy and are excited about its' potential.

Diocese of Bath and Wells: There are 300+ chaplains serving within the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The chaplain appointed will join a vibrant, supportive and growing network. Within this network there are opportunities for initial and on-going training, mentoring, prayer and fellowship. You can discover more at www.bathandwells.org.uk/chaplaincy





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Our vision

The vision of this chaplaincy role is to live and tell the Story of God within the school communities, offering spiritual and pastoral care for all and being the 'public face of God' for the schools.

Key purpose of the post:

To develop chaplaincy to the three schools and to develop and lead chaplaincy teams offering pastoral and spiritual care to the school communities.

Location:

Sexeys School, Bruton, Ansford Academy, King Arthur's School, Wincanton. There will be office space and IT provided.

Reporting to:

The Line Manager, who will chair the local Management and Support Group which will include representatives of the local churches and senior leaders from each school.

Hours of work:

Three days a week, term time only.

Salary:

£9,051 for 3 days a week term time only. [£22,627 full time equivalent].

Key relationships:

Students and Staff at Sexey's School, Ansford Academy and King Arthur's School. Local Church Leaders in Bruton and Cary Deanery and its ecumenical partners. Bath and Wells Chaplaincy Advisor.

Main Responsibilities *[with deliberate flexibility to be developed in each school]*

A chaplain is 'the public face of God' within a school community. The role of the chaplain, is key in developing the ethos and values of the school and offering pastoral and spiritual care to all. Chaplaincy is a missional and pioneering ministry. The number of hours a chaplain serves within a school will inform the range of roles and responsibilities. Some of these roles and responsibilities are outlined below, but not all things are possible, especially within tight time constraints. It should also be remembered that the role is about being as much as it is about doing. Perhaps the most important part of a chaplain's ministry is to be seen and to meet people and listen to them where they are.



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- **Living and telling the Story of God:** Chaplaincy is a key part of the Bath and Wells Diocesan vision and strategy. The chaplain is there to be distinctive and inclusive, to communicate God's presence by words and actions.
- **Distinctive and Inclusive:** A Christian chaplain should be clear and distinctive about what s/he believes. Following the example of Jesus, a chaplain also needs to meet and welcome people where they are, accepting them unconditionally and without judgement. A chaplain can prompt and respond to questions of faith, and there are many wonderful opportunities for teaching, discussion and discipleship, but a chaplain does not proselytize.



- **Developing a team:** The chaplain will call, train and support a team of honorary associate chaplains from local churches. This team will fulfil a variety of the roles outlined below with some specialising [for instance in mentoring or leading a CU] and others having a more general role. All will be safely recruited.
- **Working with local churches:** The chaplain will work with all of the local churches, reporting regularly and seeking partnerships for prayer and other forms of Christian ministry and especially enabling links between existing youth and children's ministry projects and the schools.
- **Listening:** A chaplain goes into schools and colleges to listen. Assemblies, Bible Clubs, CU's, prayer meetings and worship are all hugely important part of chaplaincy ministry, but the chaplain is there, first and foremost, to meet people where there are, to listen and to develop trusting relationships. It is out of these relationships that arise the opportunities to share faith and teach and tell the Story of God.
- **Prayer and Worship:** The chaplain is there to pray for and with a school, and, in liaison with SLT, to lead worship, collectively and corporately and to enable prayer, worship and reflection through projects such as prayer boxes or trees, Easter Crosses, Christmas Stars or other creative and reflective activities.
- **Celebrations, Charities and Crises:** In liaison with SLT a chaplain will enable some of the great celebrations, faith festivals, anniversaries, jubilees and parties. Jesus was good at parties and a chaplain can follow that example in a wonderful diversity of ways. A chaplain can be the charity coordinator, working with groups of students and enabling an outward focus. A chaplain can have a key support and leadership role amidst crises, whether caused by bereavement, redundancy, illness, major emergency or Ofsted! In such contexts the chaplain can signpost to specialist support, listen to and support everyone and lead or enable any appropriate services.
- **Mentoring:** Chaplaincy can also involve one to one or small group mentoring for students. It is important not to mistake this with counselling and have clear referral processes.
- **On the edge and in the centre:** A chaplain is at the centre of the school with a direct link person within the senior leadership [the Pastoral Deputy Head or equivalent]. A chaplain is also one step removed from the organisation that s/he serves; able to take a wider view and reflect back pastorally and prophetically. A chaplain also has support from the local churches.
- **Clubs:** Alongside Christian Clubs, the chaplain can also be involved in a wide diversity of activities, sport, performing arts, projects such as Duke of Edinburgh, Home Work Clubs, Breakfast Club, Chess Club... The list is endless and will depend on the skills and interests of the chaplain and the time available.

The possibilities for chaplaincy are endless [some are outlined above] and the time is limited. Each school is distinct, as is each chaplain, and there is a continual cycle of educational change. Therefore it is important for the chaplain to meet at least three times a year with their SLT and Church leaders to reflect on the past term and discuss, discern and agree the priorities for the term ahead.

Person Specification

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience and training in leading in youth & children's ministry ▪ Experience of working in a school ▪ Awareness of issues facing children/young people and how to engage pastorally with these issues ▪ Good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding in school and church contexts and appropriate training ▪ Some understanding of how the rural church works and its culture
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Skills, Competencies and Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An excellent listener ▪ Unconditionally welcoming of all, at ease with working with students and staff within an educational context ▪ A prayerful and reflective leader ▪ Able to communicate faith in vibrant, creative and relevant ways to children/young people ▪ Able to use Christian resources effectively when working with children/young people ▪ Be collaborative and strategic able to create, lead and be part of teams, balance priorities and grow projects ▪ Have good organisational skills and some administrative skills ▪ Have good written and verbal communication skills ▪ ICT and social media literate ▪ Have a valid driving licence with primary use of a vehicle
Work Related Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be approachable and friendly ▪ Be self-motivated and able to get on with the job without too much prompting ▪ Willing to work flexible and sometimes unsocial hours ▪ Have energy and enthusiasm for sharing the Christian faith. ▪ Be able to lead teams, balance priorities and grow projects. ▪ Be competent at personal time and diary management. ▪ Willing to work flexible and sometimes unsocial hours.
<p>There is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) that the holder of this post is a Christian as this is a Christian ministry post. Equality act 2010 part 1. This post is also subject to an enhanced DBS check.</p>	

Salary:
 £9,051 for 3 days a week term time only. [£22,627 full time equivalent].
 [We have permanent funding for 2/3 of the post. The final 1/3 is for three years. However, we are confident that we can raise funds from local churches and trust funds to cover this 1/3 once the initial three year funding grant ends.]
 The notice period is half a term.



Appointment Timetable
 Applications should be sent to jobs@sexey.somerset.sch.uk by 12noon on Monday 30th September.
 Shortlisting will take place by 12noon Friday 4th October.
 Interviews will take place on Thursday 10th October, starting at 10am at Ansford Academy, Castle Cary.

Further Information
 If you would like an informal conversation about this role please contact Revd Mike Haslam, Bath and Wells Diocesan Chaplaincy Advisor on mike.haslam@bathwells.anglican.org or 07530 677493.