



St. Margaret Ward Catholic Academy Recruitment Pack

Reading Support Practitioner

Closing Date: Friday 6th March 2026 (noon)

Interviews: TBC

A Message from the Catholic Senior Executive Leader

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Reading Support Practitioner at St. Margaret Ward Catholic Academy which forms part of the St. Gabriel the Archangel CMAT. I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself, to give some details about our Trust and to describe the kind of candidate we hope to appoint to this position.

St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT encompasses 63 schools across multiple local authority areas, with a mission to provide an outstanding educational experience, whilst ensuring long-term sustainability and growth aligned with Catholic educational values.

We are ambitious and seek to secure the very best outcomes for all our learners, developing pathways from Early Years to Post 16 and beyond. Our Catholic ethos is based around nurture and the ambition to drive outstanding achievement – this applies both to our students and our staff who strive to live their lives in the values of our Faith. Through excellent and effective professional development and an extensive pastoral programme, we create an environment which enables staff to enhance their practice and develop professionally.

Parents and stakeholders in our Catholic communities are at the heart of our learning partnerships. Our Directors and Governors are both supportive and challenging and all our staff are committed and dedicated to providing the highest standards of education for all of the children and young people in our academies.

We are looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic professional to join our highly skilled staff and to be integral in delivering outstanding educational experiences to all the young people.

I look forward to receiving your application and meeting you soon.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Beardmore
Catholic Senior Executive Leader



Our Academy



St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy

Our aim is to provide children, from all abilities and backgrounds, with the best possible opportunities for success. We aspire for all students to succeed through excellent teaching, uncompromising standards of behaviour and persistent unconditional care. Through the inspiration we find in the words and example of our three patrons, St Margaret Ward, Saint John Henry Newman and St John Baptiste De La Salle, we aspire to provide an education that produces responsible, compassionate, tolerant, courageous, and non-judgmental young people who live their lives with integrity.

As an Associate Lasallian school, the five core values of a Lasallian education are central to us; Faith in the Presence of God, Respect for all persons, Quality education, Inclusive community and Concern for the poor and Social justice. Inspired by these words of John Baptiste De la Salle; 'Teaching minds, touching hearts, transforming lives', we have developed a challenging knowledge centered academic 'Teaching minds' curriculum and a thorough 'Touching Hearts' curriculum that supports the holistic formation of each child in order to transform lives. Our mission therefore, is to educate their mind and heart and deliver an education for all our young people which will provide them with a broad range of choices and opportunities in the future. We proudly celebrate the high standards our students achieve in examination results, in the arts and in sport.

Academy Location

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy - Little Chell Lane, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent. ST6 6LZ



Reading Support Practitioner Job Description

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To be responsible both for existing book stock and the selection of new stock which will support the curriculum at all key stages and will promote literacy and reading for pleasure.
- To encourage, promote and manage the students' use of the library and all its resources both as a source of leisure activity and a more formal study tool. This will include assisting students in accessing resources and giving appropriate advice and assistance.
- To develop and maintain a centre of excellence that is vibrant and seen as an integral part of the school and its educational and Lasallian ethos.
- To supervise pupils in the library both before and after school hours and during break and lunchtimes, ensuring that pupils conduct themselves in line with the St Margaret Ward Way.
- To be available to promote the library at open evenings and other events in order to enhance the public perception of the school as a dynamic provider of educational opportunities. Also, co-ordinate and promote special events such as competitions, World Book Day, Poetry Day, book fairs and author visits to promote reading.
- To organise and deliver library induction sessions for pupils and staff on the use of library resources and provide support to post-16 students with research, referencing and general study skills.
- In liaison with the Literacy Lead, to support the school's Literacy Policy and the whole school drive to promote and improve literacy. This will include the administration and supervision of NGRT Assessments.
- To undertake necessary training in the delivery of the Lexonik reading intervention and deliver this to groups of pupils.
- Have a willingness to engage with professional bodies to stay abreast of professional developments in School Libraries and develop links with other school libraries/librarians and the LA library service.
- To make valued contributions in the evaluation of the library as a learning space and to suggest ways to develop it further.



Reading Support Practitioner Person Specification

We are ideally seeking to appoint someone with the following attributes:

- Relevant experience of working in a library or similar environment.
- Relevant experience of working with children/students.
- Appropriate academic qualifications
- Willingness to support and contribute to the ethos and mission of our Catholic Academy.
- Willingness to take an active part in Academy development.
- Confidence to consult and use initiative.
- The ability to inspire confidence in both staff and pupils.
- An enthusiasm for Reading and Literacy in all its guises which is transmitted to students via a positive approach and demeanour.
- Ability to work independently and as part of different teams.
- Willingness to work hard and show resilience as a professional.
- Personal flexibility and good humour.
- Willingness to take part in extra-curricular activities



How to Apply

If you decide to apply for this post, please complete an application form via My New Term. **CVs will not be accepted.** Your formal letter of application (supporting statement) should be **no more than 1,300 words** and should address:

- Why the post attracts you
- How your experiences and achievements match the job description and person specification.

St. Margaret Ward Catholic Academy will contact all candidates regarding their application and feedback will be given to all unsuccessful shortlisted applicants.

Applications should be returned to Mrs Kelly McGough: kmcgough@smwca.org.uk

Key Dates

Closing Date: Friday 6th March 2026 (noon)

Interviews: TBC

As part of our shortlisting process, St. Margaret Ward Catholic Academy will carry out online searches of shortlisted candidates. This will help us to identify anything in a candidate's online activity that would not be in line with our Trust's Ethos. Candidates should be prepared to talk about this at interview.

Job Description

This tells you the main responsibilities of the post and explains what we are looking for. It tells you about the personal and professional qualities you need for this post. These criteria will be used to make the appointment.

Additional Information

Ofsted Reports: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Information about Staffordshire County Council: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Information about Stoke City council: www.stoke.gov.uk

A copy of the most recent inspection report, and copies of the Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policies can be found on the Academy website: <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/>



Benefits of Joining the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

- Great employer pension scheme (Teachers' Pension Scheme and Local Government Pension Scheme)
- CMAT recognition of national terms and conditions for teaching and support staff
- Valuable access to EAP
- Family friendly policies, including the opportunity to request flexible working, occupational maternity and paternity pay
- Free flu jabs
- A firm commitment to the Education Wellbeing Charter in all our schools

