

Headteacher Welcome Pack



Houghton Primary School

Houghton Primary School

Working hard to achieve our best



Welcome to Houghton

A message from our Governors

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in becoming the next Headteacher of Houghton Primary School. As Chair of Governors, I am delighted to introduce you to our one-form entry village school in the beautiful location of Houghton.

We are proud to lead a school where children are happy, safe and excited to learn, and benefit from a culture that places reading, curiosity, and personal development at the heart of school life. Our school has been described as feeling like an “extended family”, and this is something we treasure deeply.

We are looking to appoint a Headteacher who can:

- Provide vision and leadership, notably in raising standards of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum
- Continue to raise the academic standards further for all groups of pupils
- Demonstrate excellent communication skills
- Continue the existing strong partnerships amongst all the members of the school community
- Maintain and continue to champion a strong focus on pupil, staff and parental wellbeing

We are of course committed to fully supporting our new Headteacher in all necessary training requirements and ensuring that they maintain a good work/life balance.


Yours sincerely


Briony Rice, Chair of Governors

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Our School at a Glance

 **Location:** Houghton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

 **Pupils:** Approx. 180

 **Age Range:** 4–11

 **Type:** Community Primary School

 **Ofsted:** Good (2023)

Our most recent Ofsted inspection said the following

‘Pupils enjoy attending Houghton Primary School. Pupils and staff have fostered relationships that make the school feel like an extended family. Older pupils look out for and support younger pupils. Pupils understand that staff have high expectations of how they should behave. Every pupil understands these expectations and demonstrates them in their conduct.

Pupils enjoy learning and have a real thirst for knowledge. They benefit from an engaging curriculum that is well planned. Parents value how their children are encouraged to learn more. The views of many parents were exemplified by one who said, ‘Children wake every morning excited to go to school and come home bubbling with enthusiasm.’

Pupils feel happy and safe. They understand what bullying is, and they say that it rarely happens. When it does happen, it is dealt with quickly. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to take part in a wide range of clubs and experiences. They relish the chance to represent their school in fixtures and tournaments. Other opportunities include taking part in the annual ‘Young Voices’ event, where pupils sing alongside professional musicians and artists.’

What Makes Us Special

At Houghton Primary School, we pride ourselves on:

- ✦ **Happy, confident learners**
- ✦ **Strong relationships with parents, carers and the wider community**
- ✦ **A broad and engaging curriculum**
- ✦ **Reading at the heart of school life**
- ✦ **A hard-working and dedicated team**

Children come to school excited and leave at the end of the day “bubbling with enthusiasm” for their learning.

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Located in a picturesque Cambridgeshire village, Houghton offers:

- A strong village identity and supportive community
 - A fabulous locality to extend the children's learning, using local assets such as the National Trust Houghton Mill, The Great River Ouse and Houghton Meadow.
 - Strong links with the local community and the children have the opportunity to participate and experience village groups, such as the bowls club, the over 60's coffee mornings and Houghton Timebank volunteering.
 - Participation in community events, such as the popular village Feast Week in July and Christmas Lights celebration in December.
 - We are an active school, participating in the Hunts Schools Sports Partnership giving children the opportunity to participate and represent the school at different sporting fixtures.
 - We have a number of after school clubs run by the school from gardening club, chess club, volleyball and Choir to name a few!
 - Our active Friends of Houghton Primary School (PTA) puts on events and activities throughout the school year, raising funds to enhance pupils' learning investing in resources beyond the school budget.
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Our Vision and Values

Our vision of **'working hard to achieve our best'** and for every child to leave Houghton with a love of learning, confidence in who they are, and the skills to succeed.



Our values are:

- **Responsibility** – We are responsible for our environment, our words and actions and our learning journey
- **Respect** – We treat our school community with care, patience, understanding and compassion
- **Ambition** – We set goals, take risks and aspire to do great things
- **Determination** – We keep on going, no matter what challenges we face
- **Teamwork** – We treat everyone equally, support each other and work together
- **Confidence** – We are brave and we believe in ourselves on our journey towards success

Our school's current priorities;

- All pupils to make progress in line with their peers and that adaptations to learn support access and progress, particularly with regard to writing.
- The curriculum evidences that pupils develop knowledge over time and assessment practices accurately identify progress.
- Effective systems and provisions are in place to support mental wellbeing and personal development.
- Positive behaviours and attitudes are embedded and evidenced across the curriculum.

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The Opportunity

This is more than a Headship — it is a chance to lead a school with heart.

As our next Headteacher, you will:

- Shape the strategic direction of the school
 - Build on our strong foundations and continue to raise achievement
 - Foster a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment for all pupils
 - Inspire a talented and committed staff team
 - Strengthen our position at the heart of the community
 - Champion a broad, engaging and ambitious curriculum
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Who We're Looking For

We are looking for a leader who is:

Visionary – with clear ideas and ambition

Values-driven – putting children at the centre

Inspiring – someone who motivates staff and pupils

Collaborative – building strong relationships

Impact-focused – committed to continuous improvement

Whether you are an experienced Headteacher or ready for your first headship, we want someone who will make a difference from day one.

What We Offer You

- ✓ A happy, caring and ambitious school community
- ✓ Motivated, enthusiastic pupils who enjoy learning
- ✓ A dedicated and supportive staff team
- ✓ Experienced and engaged governing body
- ✓ Professional autonomy and leadership opportunity
- ✓ Opportunities for continued professional development

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- ✔ A beautiful village setting with strong community links
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Visit Us

We strongly encourage visits—come and experience Houghton for yourself.

Please contact the Chair of Governors, Briony Rice at chair@houghton.cambs.sch.uk

The Selection Process

The vacancy is for a Full-Time Headteacher to start in January 2027.

The salary scale is L12 - L18

Applications should be made via My New Term

Key Dates

- Closing Date for applications: 29th June at midday
- Shortlisting: 1st July
- Interviews: 9th and 10th July

Safeguarding Commitment

Houghton Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff are expected to share this commitment.

Appointments are subject to:

- Enhanced DBS check
- Satisfactory references
- Pre-employment checks