



Atlantic Academy, Portland

Head of Primary (Assistant Principal)

Job details

Salary: L2 - L7

Contract type: Permanent from 1st September 2026

Reporting to: The Principal

Main purpose

The Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will support the principal in:

- Communicating the school's vision compellingly and supporting the principal's strategic leadership
- The day-to-day management of the school
- Formulating the aims and objectives of the school
- Establishing policies for achieving these aims and objectives
- Managing staff and resources to that end
- Monitoring progress towards the achievement of the school's aims and objectives

The Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will also have a timetabled teaching commitment of up to 0.8 complying with the Teachers' Standards and modelling best practice for others.

They may also be required to undertake any of the duties delegated from the principal.

Qualities

The Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Uphold public trust in school leadership and maintain high standards of ethics, behaviour and professional conduct
- Build positive and respectful relationships across the school community
- Serve in the best interests of the school's pupils

Duties and responsibilities

School culture and behaviour

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Create a culture where pupils experience a positive and enriching school life
- Uphold educational standards in order to prepare pupils from all backgrounds for their next phase of education and life
- Ensure a culture of staff professionalism
- Encourage high standards of behaviour from pupils, built on rules and routines that are understood by staff and pupils and clearly demonstrated by all adults in school
- Use consistent and fair approaches to managing behaviour, in line with the school's behaviour policy

Teaching, curriculum and assessment

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Establish and sustain high-quality teaching across subjects and phases, based on evidence
- Ensure the teaching of a broad, structured and coherent curriculum
- Establish curriculum leadership, including subject leaders with relevant expertise and access to professional networks and communities
- Use valid, reliable and proportionate approaches to assessing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum
- Ensure the use of evidence-informed approaches to reading so that all pupils are taught to read

Additional and special educational needs and disabilities

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Promote a culture and practices that enables all pupils to access the curriculum
- Have ambitious expectations for all pupils with SEN and disabilities
- Make sure the school works effectively with parents, carers and professionals to identify additional needs and provide support and adaptation where appropriate
- Make sure the school fulfils statutory duties regarding the [SEND Code of Practice](#).

Organisational management and school improvement

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Establish and oversee systems, processes and policies so the school can operate effectively
- Ensure staff and pupils' safety and welfare through effective approaches to safeguarding, as part of duty of care
- Ensure rigorous approaches to identifying, managing and mitigating risk
- Ensure effective use of budgets and resources
- Identify problems and barriers to school effectiveness, and develop strategies for school improvement that are realistic, timely and suited to the school's context

- Make sure these school improvement strategies are effectively implemented

Staff management and professional development

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Performance manage staff, including carrying out appraisals and holding staff to account to their performance
- Manage staff well with due attention to workload
- Ensure staff have access to appropriate, high-standard professional development opportunities
- Keep up to date with developments in education
- Seek training and continuing professional development to meet their own needs
- Ensure clarity and consistency of communication

Governance, accountability and working in partnership

Under the direction of the principal, the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Work with the regional board as appropriate
- Ensure the school effectively and efficiently operates within the required regulatory frameworks and meets all statutory duties
- Work successfully with other schools and organisations
- Maintain working relationships with fellow professionals and colleagues to improve educational outcomes for all pupils

Other areas of responsibility

It is expected that the Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will lead on a core curriculum area and a subject that has been identified as a key issue within the AIP.

Assessment

The Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) will:

- Track and analyse pupil performance data, paying particular attention to disadvantaged groups such as those eligible for the pupil premium, with special educational needs, or who speak English as an additional language
- Plan and implement interventions for those pupils who are not progressing
- Provide training and support for teachers and support staff on administering the assessment system effectively

Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the principal will carry out. The post holder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role.

Person specification

| CRITERIA | QUALITIES |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Qualifications and training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualified teacher status• Degree• Professional development in preparation for a leadership role |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership and management experience in a school• Teaching experience• Involvement in school self-evaluation and development planning• Line management experience• Demonstrable experience of successful line management and staff development |
| Skills and knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of high-quality teaching, and the ability to model this for others and support others to improve• Understanding of school finances• Effective communication and interpersonal skills• Ability to communicate a vision and inspire others• Ability to build effective working relationships |
| Personal qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils and promoting the ethos and values of the school• Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively• Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times• Commitment to safeguarding and equality, ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways that exploit the position. |

Conditions of Service

Governed by the National Agreement on Teachers Pay and Conditions, supplemented by local conditions as agreed by Aspirations.

Special Conditions of Service

Due to the nature of the post, candidates are not entitled to withhold information regarding convictions by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975 as amended. Candidates are required to give details of any convictions on their application form and are expected to disclose such information at the appointed interview.

As this post allows substantial access to children, candidates are required to comply with departmental procedures in relation to police checks. If candidates are successful in their application, prior to taking up post, they will be required to give written permission to the Department to ascertain details from the Police regarding any convictions against them and, as appropriate, the nature of such conviction/s.

Equal Opportunity

The post holder will be expected to carry out all duties in the context of and in compliance with the academy's Equal Opportunities Policies.

This job description will be reviewed at regular intervals and is subject to change as the needs of the academy evolve.

The Head of Primary (Assistant Principal) at Atlantic Academy, Portland will carry out the professional duties as described in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions document.