

Love God
Work Hard
Be Kind



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Head of Music

Music at Holy Cross

Head of Music

February 2026

Dear Applicant

We are seeking to appoint an ambitious, enthusiastic and highly skilled teacher of music who will lead and inspire a love of music throughout our school.

Music is language and love. At Holy Cross, music gives us a way to communicate with those around us and allows us to share the Love of Christ and His Church with everyone we meet. Music and singing are of the upmost importance to us and it plays a central role in all of our liturgical celebrations.

Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education. Music plays a key role in brain development. It helps develop language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration. It can also help pupils build self-confidence, resilience and have fun.

As Head of Department you would be the sole music specialist. As well as leading in this subject area the successful candidate will also be responsible for providing a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities and performance opportunities for all. These come in the form of whole school productions, regular concerts, performance at school worship, choir performances, visits to professional performances and workshops. The successful candidate will also stretch and challenge the most able pupils, to allow them the opportunity to create and perform at the highest possible level.

Pupils at Key Stage 3 are currently taught between one and two hours of music per fortnight. Music is also an options subject and pupils have the opportunity to choose their GCSE subjects at the end of Year 9. We currently deliver the OCR GCSE in Music and our results are above national averages.

Music is a well-resourced department and is taught in a large, specialist room which has its own electronic whiteboard and access to the school's wireless network. There are several practice rooms where additional peripatetic music lessons led by external tutors take place.

I hope that this information pack has given you a flavour of the ethos and values of our school and all the opportunities that Holy Cross has to offer. Should you have any questions about us, or would like to look around our school before applying for the post, please do not hesitate to contact the SLT link for music, Mrs K Hitchen via Mrs B Palmer, 01257 262093 or b.palmer@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr Greg Lindley
Headteacher

Contract: Full-time hours, permanent contract

Start date: September 2026

Salary: MPR/UPR + TLR 2.3 (£8,219)

Closing date: 12 noon, Friday 27 February 2026

Interview: Friday 6 March 2026

Working at Holy Cross

At Holy Cross, we are a supportive community where relationships matter. We look after our staff with protected PPA, twice weekly tea and toast at break times, termly staff activities and wellbeing afternoons. There is a book club you can join, staff social events and a weekly prayer group "Thank God it's Friday".

We pride ourselves on offering a harmonious and supportive environment for all staff through our Mission Statement *To have life and have it to the full* John 10:10. Our staff are valued and supported through bespoke CPD and development opportunities.

Facilities:

Located off Myles Standish Way in Chorley, the grounds overlook the hills of Rivington. We are easily accessible via the M6, M61, A49 and A6. Where possible, teachers have their own classroom that they can take ownership of. We have a large multi purpose sports pitch, a separate maths block with a drama suite and newly refurbished classrooms.

The facilities offered at Holy Cross are exceptional with many more exciting developments underway. Recent developments include:

- A new music room
- A new computer suite with 32 computers
- Two refurbished science classrooms - providing first-class science teaching facilities, as well as modern preparation rooms
- An additional maths classroom
- Two additional english classrooms

More developments are planned for 2026-2027.

As a school, we offer:

- A supportive leadership structure
- A warm community in which your career will flourish
- A robust effective behaviour system with a clear and consistent policy
- A thorough and supportive induction process
- Bespoke CPD with individual membership to the National College
- Protected PPA
- Access to high-quality, regular professional development
- Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues across the Archdiocese of 36 Catholic secondary schools and sixth form colleges and the local authority
- Continual review of working practices and staff workload
- Lancashire reward scheme including staff discount scheme in partnership with Vivup, financial benefits and Employee Assistance Programme

Child Protection Statement

In this school, the welfare of the child is paramount. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All staff should understand their responsibility to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions. Staff should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way.

Attitudes towards promoting and safeguarding the welfare of our children and young people will be scrutinised during the selection process for the post that you have applied for. If you are appointed to this post, information in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and young people will be provided at induction. This practical guidance for safe working practice will provide information about which behaviours constitute safe practice and which behaviours should be avoided.

Please note that in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 an online search will be carried out as part of our due diligence on short-listed candidates.

Working at Holy Cross



What do staff say about being a part of the Holy Cross community:

Mr Holliday, teacher of Geography "We have excellent pupils who want to learn. As staff, we are supported and given opportunities for development".

Mrs Coyle, Head of Maths "Working at Holy Cross offers the opportunity to be part of a vibrant, faith-driven community rooted in a strong Catholic ethos. Staff and pupils thrive in a supportive environment where wellbeing is prioritised and mutual respect is central to daily school life. Clear policies and routines ensure consistency, allowing teachers to focus on teaching and pupils to focus on learning. With the best interests of pupils always at heart, Holy Cross fosters a culture of care, collaboration, and excellence".

Mrs Milligan, Head of Geography "At Holy Cross you are able to focus on the fundamental reason you joined the profession - to teach and inspire a love of learning for your subject. There are clear behaviour systems in place to ensure that learning is the priority. Over the last seven years, I have also been heavily supported by the Senior Leadership Team in pursuing my ambitions and developing my career, something I am very grateful for."

Mrs Moss, PE Co-ordinator "Holy Cross has a supportive environment. There is a collaborative and caring atmosphere amongst staff and pupils".

Mrs Ogden, Teaching Assistant "Holy Cross is a place where staff and pupils are cared for, they respect and look after each other".

Miss Wane, Teacher of Maths and former pupil "I love working at Holy Cross. My favourite thing is how kind and respectful the pupils are, after finishing most lessons pupils leave the room saying, 'Thanks Miss'. It is a small gesture but really shows how much our pupils value the lessons we teach at Holy Cross".

Mrs Fletcher, Second in English "There is such a welcoming atmosphere from staff on reception and around school and everyone is willing to help each other out; there is a real sense of community that is like no other school I've ever worked in (and I've taught in three). The pupils are polite, friendly and genuinely enjoy coming to school, which makes the job worthwhile. It feels like they really care about our school".

Mr Simpson, Teacher of Science and parent "I work at Holy Cross because it's a school where you can actually focus on inspiring and teaching pupils rather than behaviour. I recommend the school to everyone I speak to because it's where I sent my children and where I will stay for the remainder of my career. The expectations of staff are high, but the reward is great in the pupils and lessons you are able to teach".

Miss Wallace, Assistant Headteacher "I choose to work at Holy Cross because it is a school where the Catholic community truly matters. From the day I started, I felt welcomed and supported by colleagues who genuinely care about one another and the pupils they serve. The pupils at Holy Cross are respectful, kind, and committed to their learning and this makes it a rewarding environment to work within. What also makes Holy Cross special is its strong Catholic ethos, which fosters a sense of purpose, respect, and compassion throughout the school community. Holy Cross is a place that makes you feel valued, where faith and learning go hand in hand, and where the atmosphere is one of care, aspiration, and shared values".

Job Description

Head of Music



Responsible to: Headteacher, SLT link

Key Responsibilities:

Teaching and Learning

- Foster a love of music in every pupil, ensuring they experience the joy of playing, singing, and performing
- Deliver high-quality, engaging music lessons tailored to stretch, challenge, and inspire pupils
- Use a range of innovative teaching methods to engage pupils of all abilities
- To raise attainment and achievement within the curriculum area
- To ensure that there is continuous development of schemes of learning
- To nurture and develop each child's musical talents
- To liaise with relevant external agencies (examination boards, colleges, other schools, business/industry links)
- To lead the requirements of the National Curriculum or examination syllabus and ensure all pupils are thoroughly prepared for public examinations
- To undertake effective planning of department development plans, capitation bids and resource management, ensuring best value principles are applied
- To ensure that your classroom promotes an effective climate for learning
- Contribute to curriculum development and the sharing of best practice within the school
- To work as part of a team to prepare pupils for concerts and whole school productions

Learning and Collaborating

- To liaise with other subject teachers and Heads of Department where appropriate in order to promote a cross-curricular approach to learning
- To routinely review and develop the curriculum and produce resources to support learning for the full ability range

Professional Requirements

- To produce data reports to parents in accordance with the school's Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- To attend Parents' Evenings and provide parents with information relating to their child's progress and how to improve their level or grade
- To take part in performance management processes in accordance with school policy
- To carry out any such other reasonable duties in connection with subject teaching that may be required by the Head-teacher of the school

For more information about our school, please visit: www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

For an informal discussion or to arrange a visit please contact:

Mrs B Palmer, PA to Headteacher email: b.palmer@holycross.lancs.sch.uk or Tel: 01257 262093

Completed application form should be returned to vacancies@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

Person Specification

Head of Music



Skills and Knowledge

- Passionate about music education, with a deep belief in the power of music to enrich children's lives
- A forward-thinking approach to the strategic direction of the music department, ensuring that music at Holy Cross remains an integral and exciting part of school life
- A confident leader who can work independently and as part of a team, including overseeing and motivating peripatetic music staff
- A highly skilled musician who can confidently lead ensembles and choirs
- A proactive and energetic presence in the school, ready to drive new initiatives and develop existing musical traditions
- Ability to create, monitor and develop engaging schemes of learning for KS3 and KS4 in music
- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with staff, parents, children and young people
- Good time management and personal organisational skills
- An ability to track and analyse pupils' attainment and progress using a range of data
- An ability to improve their own practice through observations, evaluations and discussions with colleagues
- Knowledge of current curriculum developments in music at KS3 and KS4
- Understanding of strategies for raising the achievement of pupils of all aptitudes and abilities

Experience and Qualifications

- Qualified Teacher Status
- Honours degree in music or related subject
- At least two years' experience teaching music, ideally with leadership experience or the potential to lead a department
- A proven track record of success in delivering high-quality music education
- Expert knowledge of music theory, composition, and performance
- Experience leading ensembles, choirs, and productions
- A strong record of professional development and a commitment to continued learning
- Experience with digital music production and contemporary trends in music education
- A history of pupil success in music
- A record of participation in CPD activities

Professional Values

- A willingness to promote the Catholic ethos of the school
- High expectations of all pupils; respect for their social, cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic background and a commitment to raising their educational achievements
- A commitment to equal opportunities
- A willingness to engage in extra-curricular activities relating to music
- A good sense of humour and highly enthusiastic about working with young people

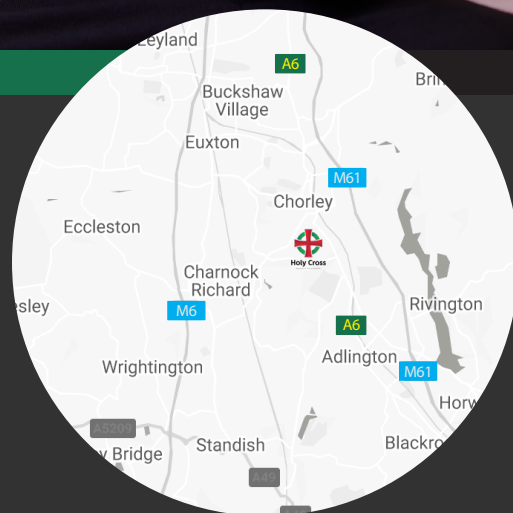
This appointment is subject to the current conditions of employment of teachers contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document, the required standards for Qualified Teacher Status, other current educational legislation and the school's articles of governance. Candidates should also refer to the most up to date Teacher Standards for the generic responsibilities of a main pay scale teacher. This job description may be amended at any time following discussion between the Headteacher and member of staff, and will be reviewed annually.

The school 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 applicant will be subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure.



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



How to find us

Holy Cross Catholic High School,
Myles Standish Way, Chorley, PR7 3LS

Conveniently situated with good transport links via
the M61, M6 and A6 to Wigan, Preston, Bolton,
Manchester, and mainline train station.

TELEPHONE 01257 262093

ONLINE www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

E-MAIL vacancies@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

X [@holycrosscholr](https://twitter.com/holycrosscholr)