



Hartshorne C of E Primary School

Main Street, Hartshorne, Derbyshire, DE11 7ES Tel: 01283 217423
Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Layhe-Humphreys

Inclusivity & Respect
Nurture
Aspiration & Hope
Curiosity
Generosity
Trust

Headteacher Recruitment Update for Parents and Carers

Sept 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, Mrs Layhe-Humphreys will be retiring at the end of this term. We are writing to update you on the arrangements for appointing the school's next Headteacher.

The appointment of a new Headteacher is a formal process which takes several weeks and the Governing Board is required to follow specific procedures and timescales. We will shortly be advertising the position and beginning the recruitment process.

We understand that a change in school leadership can naturally bring questions or concerns for both children and parents. Our aim is to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible, with minimal disruption to the day-to-day life of Hartshorne C of E Primary School.

The Governing Board is committed to appointing an experienced school leader who shares our values and vision for the future of the school, while also being the right fit for our community and someone who can develop a positive relationship with our children, families and staff.

The recruitment process will be undertaken carefully and thoroughly. A formal interview panel will be convened, comprising governors, including a Parent Governor, together with educational professionals from Derbyshire County Council and representatives from the Diocese. This ensures that the appointment process is robust, balanced and supported by appropriate and diverse professional expertise.

We would also like to reassure parents and carers that this recruitment process does not involve any change to the school's existing leadership structure (unlike the recent recruitment processes to appoint a co-headteacher). There is, therefore no requirement for a formal parental consultation as part of this appointment.

We will, of course, keep you informed and will let you know once the appointment of our new Headteacher has been confirmed.

We recognise that the retirement of an established Headteacher can bring a sense of uncertainty and, understandably, some sadness. At the same time, it also provides an exciting opportunity for the school to build on its strengths and move forward into its next chapter.

Thank you for your continued support of Hartshorne C of E Primary School. Please be assured, the governors all have the school's best interest at heart and look forward to keeping you updated as the process progresses.

With best wishes,

Hartshorne C of E Primary School Governing Board

"God's family, growing together, inspiring our world."