



MOORFIELD
SCHOOL

Candidate Brief

Head of Moorfield School & Nursery
September 2027

moorfieldschool.co.uk



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About Moorfield School & Nursery

For nearly a century, Moorfield has been a beacon of educational excellence in the Yorkshire Dales market town of Ilkley. Nestled below the famous moor and shaped by its beautiful surroundings, fresh air, open space and Yorkshire grit are in abundant supply. A belief that children grow and flourish when they are trusted to explore, discover and challenge themselves informs the distinctive approach at Moorfield.

With the Cow and Calf Rocks looking down on the school, the landscape shapes the character and curriculum of the school. Children build campfires to toast snacks, climb hills, explore

woodlands, connect with nature and develop the confidence that comes from having a go.

Founded in 1930, Moorfield has always done things its own way. Ambitious but grounded. Nurturing without being overprotective. Academic without losing sight of the fact that children are, first and foremost, children. Generations of families have chosen Moorfield School & Nursery because it combines high expectations with warmth, personality and a sense of adventure. It is a school where children are known and encouraged to embrace opportunities together with confidence.

The Opportunity

The successful candidate will inherit a thriving and distinctive school with a strong reputation, an exceptional staff team and a deeply loyal wider community. Supported by the expertise, resources and long-term stability of Bradford Grammar School, they will be entrusted with leading Moorfield School & Nursery through its next chapter whilst protecting the independent identity and ethos that make it special.

We are looking for an inspirational educator who understands that school leadership is a rare and privileged responsibility and who sees the potential and opportunity in Moorfield. The successful candidate will be someone who wants to become a vital part of the life of the school and its community, build on its successes and help shape and secure the future of Moorfield for years to come.





Person Specification

Essential:

- A successful track record in a senior leadership position within an independent, preparatory, primary or all-through school.
- Demonstrable experience of leading teaching and learning, curriculum development and school improvement.
- A strong understanding of safeguarding, pupil wellbeing and pastoral care.
- Experience of leading, developing and managing high-performing staff teams.
- The ability to build trust and confidence with pupils, parents, staff, alumni, governors and the wider community.
- Experience of contributing to pupil recruitment, retention and the long-term commercial sustainability of a school.
- Strong strategic judgement and the ability to make balanced decisions across educational, operational and commercial priorities.
- The credibility, presence and communication skills required to act as the public face of a prestigious and high profile school.
- A clear commitment to the values, character and distinctive identity of Moorfield.

Desirable:

- Previous Headship experience.
- A relevant postgraduate or leadership qualification.
- Experience of working within the independent school sector.
- Experience of leading organisational change or school development.
- Experience of working closely with governors or trustees.
- Experience of successfully promoting a school and supporting pupil recruitment.
- Experience of working across multiple sites, schools or educational settings.
- Experience of leading, overseeing or working closely with Nursery provision.



Job Description

Job Title:	Head of Moorfield School & Nursery
Location:	Ilkley
Reports to:	Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School
Direct reports:	Assistant Heads, Bursar, Teaching Staff, Support Staff

Purpose of the Role

The Head of Moorfield School & Nursery is accountable to the Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School for the educational leadership, strategic direction, operational fluency and overall success of the school.

As the leader and public face of the school, the Head develops and communicates a clear vision for Moorfield, maintains strong relationships with current and prospective families and ensures the school remains a compelling choice in an increasingly competitive educational market.

Leading and working closely with the Assistant Heads and Bursar, the Head directs all aspects of school life, ensuring that Moorfield remains a thriving, distinctive and financially sustainable independent school.

The Head is accountable for educational standards and delivery, pupil recruitment, retention and outcomes, safeguarding, parental and wider stakeholder engagement and confidence, staff leadership and ultimately the reputation and standing of the school within the local community and wider independent school sector.

The role combines sector awareness, educational leadership, strategic stewardship and commercial acumen. The successful candidate will be entrusted with building on the cherished traditions and success of Moorfield, adding value and taking the school forward whilst remaining true to the ethos that has defined the school since its foundation.

Accountabilities/Responsibilities

The Head is accountable for:

- The quality of education and pupil outcomes across the whole school, from Nursery to Year 6.
- The safeguarding, wellbeing and personal development of every pupil.
- The recruitment, retention and development of high-quality staff.
- Maintaining strong pupil numbers, including healthy Nursery enrolment and retention, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the school.
- Maintaining the confidence of parents and the wider school community.
- Preserving and strengthening the distinctive character, ethos and reputation of Moorfield.
- Providing assurance to the Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School and the Governing Body regarding the performance and effectiveness of the school.



Leadership Responsibilities

The Head will:

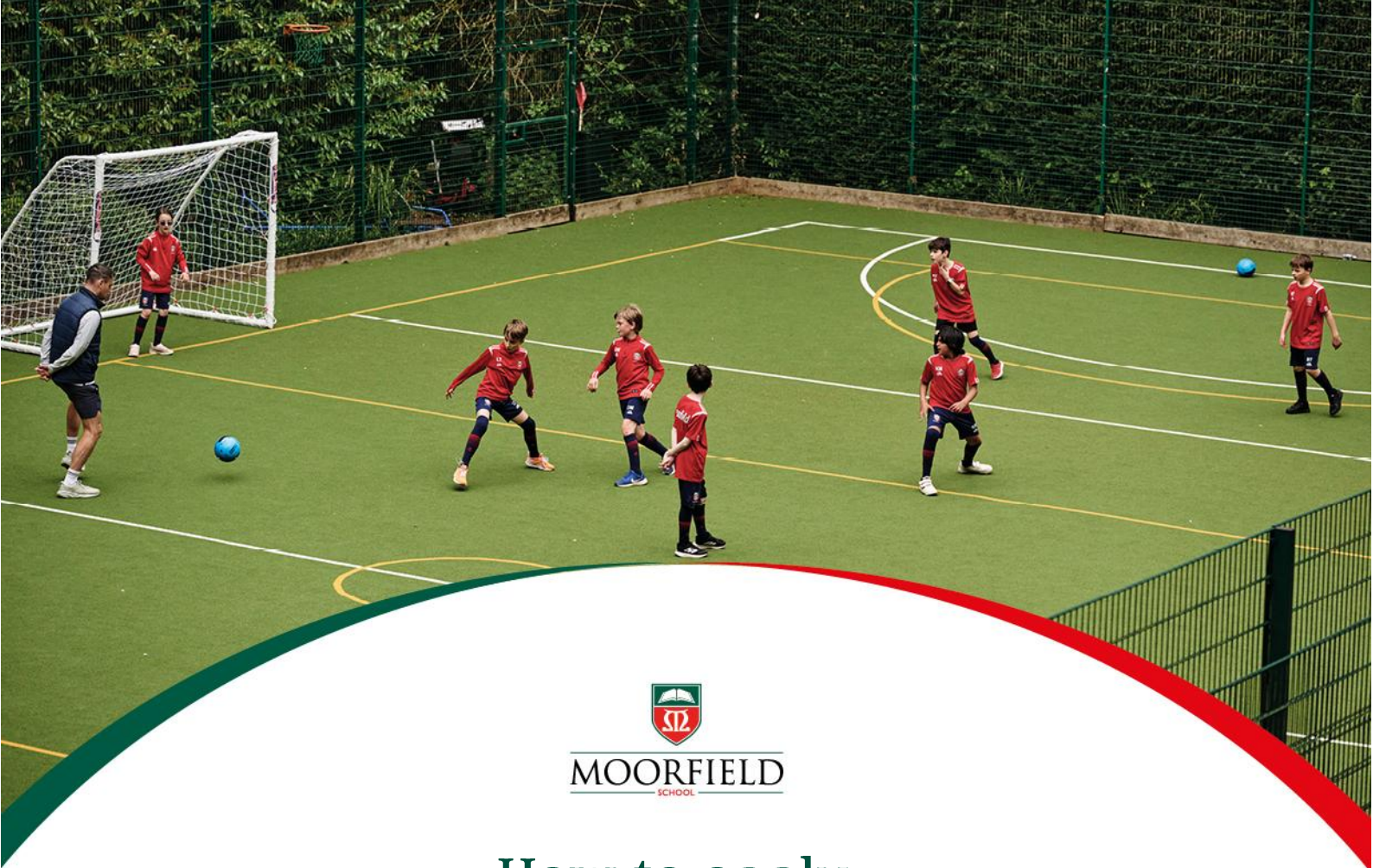
- Provide clear educational leadership for the school, working with Governors and the Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School to determine its strategic direction.
- Lead the development of teaching, learning, curriculum and the wider pupil experience across all phases of the school, from Nursery to Year 6.
- Lead, manage and develop the staff through the Senior Leadership Team.
- Build strong and trusted relationships with pupils, parents, colleagues, alumni and governors and the wider community.
- Act as the principal ambassador for the school and champion the Moorfield proposition to current and prospective families.
- Work closely with the Headmaster of Bradford Grammar School, Governors and colleagues across Bradford Grammar School to draw upon shared expertise and support whilst maintaining Moorfield's unique identity.
- Ensure that safeguarding, pupil welfare, operational effectiveness and financial sustainability remain central to decision-making.
- Lead the continued development of the school, strengthening its reputation, market position and long-term success.
- Ensure a coherent and high-quality educational journey for children and families from Nursery through to successful transition beyond Moorfield.

Data Protection

The School's Privacy Notice is available on the all staff shared drive within the Moorfield School & Nursery policy section. All job roles within Moorfield School & Nursery are required to adhere to the School's Privacy Notice at all times when handling personal data in the course of executing their role responsibilities. Failure to comply with the School's Privacy Notice may be dealt with under the School's disciplinary procedure and, in serious cases, may be treated as gross misconduct leading to summary dismissal.

General

Undertaking such other duties, as may be requested from time to time.



How to apply

All candidates should complete our application form, including a personal statement outlining how they meet the requirements for the role.

The closing date for applications is 8 November 2026

Assessment interviews will be held week commencing 16 November 2026

Final interviews will be held 26 November 2026

CVs cannot be accepted.

As part of Safer Recruitment regulations please read the Recruitment and Selection Guidance and the School's Safeguarding Policy by clicking the links below

[Safer Recruitment Policy](#)
[Safeguarding Policy](#)
[Privacy Notice](#)

To provide false information is an offence and may result in your application being rejected or summary dismissal, if already appointed.

Selection for interview will be undertaken by a panel. Each panel member will assess which candidates most closely meet the necessary experience and skills criteria for the role. All members of the interview panel will hold a current Safer recruitment Certificate.



What we offer

Moorfield is a school with a strong sense of identity. Rooted in Yorkshire, it is known for its warmth, resilience, adventurous spirit and belief that children should be challenged, encouraged and allowed to grow in confidence.

As Head, you will have the opportunity to lead a school that is proud of who it is, while helping to shape the next stage of its development as part of the Bradford Grammar School Foundation

We offer:

- A competitive salary and pension scheme.
- 50% fee remission across the Bradford Grammar School Foundation.
- The opportunity to lead a successful and well-respected school with a loyal and engaged community.
- The strength, stability and support of the Bradford Grammar School Foundation.
- Access to experienced professional services and educational expertise across the Foundation.
- Committed governors, dedicated staff and supportive families.
- Professional development and leadership support.
- The opportunity to make a lasting difference to the lives of children and families.

Above all, this is an opportunity to lead a school with real character and purpose, combining the independence and close-knit community of a prep school with the confidence and stability that comes from being part of a strong and ambitious foundation.





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