



Archdiocese of Liverpool

Choral Director

Information for applicants

Contact for enquiries

Mr Danny Townley, Director of Schools Singing Programme

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Introduction from the Archbishop of Liverpool

Thank you for your interest in a career at the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

As an archdiocese, we serve thousands of people every week through our parishes, schools, partnerships and local communities.

It is a significant time in the life of our archdiocese, as we continue to walk together on the journey set out by our Pastoral Plan in becoming the Church God calls us to be. This plan outlines a clear mission for the future of our Church and every single member of staff plays a vital role in helping us achieve this.

As an employer, we offer wide range of benefits and a place to develop your career in an environment where every member of staff is valued and encouraged to develop fully their gifts.

We are looking for people whose values align with ours and are passionate about playing a key role in the next steps of our journey.

Thank you again for considering a role within our archdiocese. Each person contributes to our wider mission. I am grateful for your interest in joining us in this important work.



The role of music within the Archdiocese of Liverpool

'Music in the liturgy unites the faithful and enables a deep prayer which expresses the desires of the heart and gives glory to God: "He who sings, prays twice".

On the Jubilee of Choirs on the Feast of Christ the King 2025, Pope Leo XIV celebrated Mass, urging choristers to live their ministry as a sign of ecclesial unity, singing "in unison" as a people walking together in faith. He notes that liturgical music must foster communion, helping the whole Church journey forward. "Singing belongs to those who love," he recalled, citing Saint Augustine. Those who sing, he added, "give expression to love, but also to the pain, tenderness and desire that dwell in their hearts"

This important post provides an opportunity to contribute to the musical life of the Archdiocese through our schools and choirs. He will help deepen the spiritual lives of our children and young people. Through the beauty of music, the work of evangelisation continues as the human hearts are caught more fully into the mystery of God.'

We join together to sing the new song of the Risen Christ.

Most Reverend John Sherrington
Archbishop of Liverpool



Music in the Archdiocese of Liverpool

The music department provides staffing and resources for the Schools Singing Programme and music in the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Schools Singing Programme

Launched in 2022, with the aim of bringing together schools, parishes and the archdiocese to spread the good news of the Gospel in song, the singing programme currently engages with nearly 5000 children each week in schools across the archdiocese.

Choral Directors visit partner schools on a weekly basis, leading singing sessions utilising both sacred and secular repertoire, to inspire, catechise and enthuse young people through music.

Children in partner schools in Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Sefton, Widnes & Wigan (from Sept 2026) have the opportunity to become members of local Catholic Children's Choirs, performing regularly in concerts and leading music in parish liturgies, with plans for more choirs in other areas to follow.

An innovative new award scheme allows partner schools to be recognised for their excellence as singing schools, and a number of large-scale annual events such as the Good Shepherd Mass and Secondary School Choir of the Year widen the engagement of the music department to schools throughout the archdiocese.

The initial phases of the singing programme have been made possible through partnerships between the Archdiocese, the National Schools Singing Programme and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Music is provided at 10 regular liturgies each week. The Cathedral choir consists of around 60 boy and girl choristers (educated at Runnymede St Edward's Primary School & St Edward's College) who sing at the daily choral liturgies alongside the adult Lay Clerks.



The choir sings an expansive repertoire of music from Gregorian Chant to Twenty-First century compositions and both broadcasts and tours regularly.

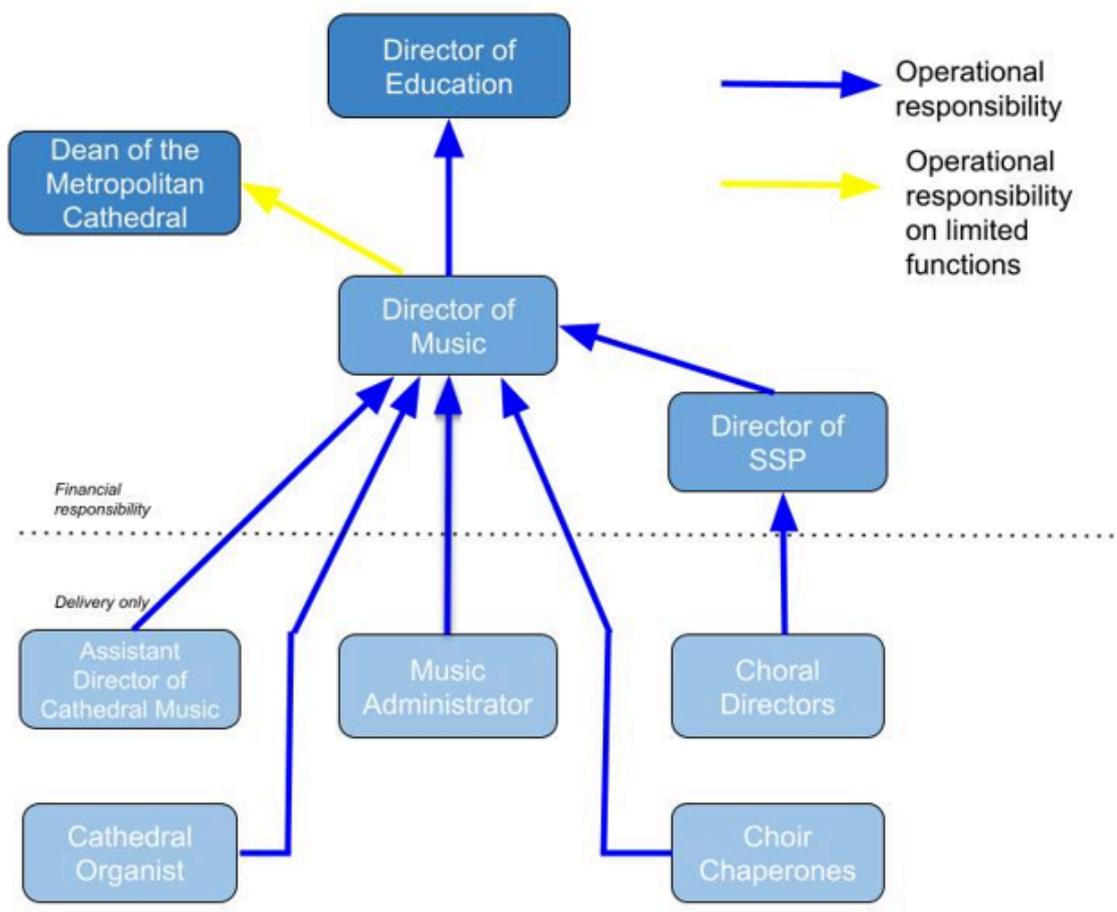
The Cathedral Youth Choir acts as a musical stepping-stone for ex-choristers, and the cathedral operates a choral studentship scheme (in partnership with the Cathedral Music Trust) providing opportunities former choristers opportunities to sing with the adult Lay Clerks.

The Cathedral houses a fine four-manual Walker organ of 1967 which was recently restored by Harrison and Harrison Ltd. The cathedral's annual concert series 'Music at the Met' features the choirs, organ and local orchestras in a variety of concerts and events.

Music Department Structure

The Director of Music has overall responsibility for the work of the music department.

The structure of the music department is shown below.





About the Role

The postholder will develop music in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, through leadership of singing in schools, parishes and the cathedral.

Key Responsibilities

- To visit partner institutions to lead high quality choral singing sessions.
- Identify and organise performance opportunities and projects for partner institutions to participate in.
- Direct regional after-school choirs, who will rehearse weekly and sing at parish liturgies, concerts etc.
- Identify, recruit, develop and maintain relationships with partner institutions throughout the archdiocese who may benefit from membership of the singing programme.
- Provide leadership for 2-3 responsibility areas within the music department, in line with your skills and interests, but subject to the operational requirements of the department.
- Contribute to the musical life of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.
- Provide continued professional development in singing leadership to staff in partner institutions.

Working Week

During term time Choral Directors spend approximately 15 hours per week in curriculum delivery in partner institutions, 8 hours per week non-curriculum contact time (eg, choir rehearsals) and around 17 hours a week on planning, preparation and travel time.

Term time 30 weeks per academic year are devoted to curriculum delivery, alongside planning weeks and performance weeks each term. Wider music department activities involving staff continue during Holy Week and Advent/ Christmas (up to and including Christmas morning.)

Outside of term-time there are occasional tours and residencies, and the Choral Directors have autonomy over how to organise their planning time in these periods; we recognise the importance of recharging properly after the intensity of term-time.



“Your choral directors are an absolute credit to the archdiocese. They have breezed into our school with ease and confidence, establishing relationships with staff and children immediately. The children wanted to do well because they did not want to let them down. The experience the children had when they visited the Cathedral was exceptional, they felt included, and they felt welcome.”

Archdiocese of Liverpool primary school headteacher

Leadership & development

The music department provides leadership for a variety of activities, both in the cathedral and throughout the archdiocese. Opportunities exist for staff to get involved and provide leadership for a wide variety of different areas. Current areas include:

- Choir Directors
- Scholarships lead
- Cathedral Crypt music lead
- SSP curriculum lead
- Concerts & special events lead
- Music education lead

We actively support the professional development of our staff and provide regular training within our programme including encouraging attendance at the annual training conferences organised by the National Schools Singing Programme. We welcome applicants at any stage of their careers, including new graduates, and we are experienced in tailoring our support and opportunities to musicians' strengths and development needs.

It has been a source of real pride to be part of establishing the Archdiocese of Liverpool Schools Singing Programme. We have developed wonderful relationships with all of our partnered schools and there is so much help and support from within the music department, the Cathedral and the wider Archdiocese. This all helps us to deliver the best possible opportunities for young people in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Archdiocese of Liverpool Choral Director

For an informal discussion about the role please contact
Mr Danny Townley music@metcathedral.org.uk
0151 708 7283



Terms and Conditions

Salary

£30,015.00

Term-time permanent Contract.

Location

Contractual base of work is the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ. Daily travel across the sites of the Archdiocese will be required in order to fulfil this role.

Working Hours

40 hours per week for 40 weeks of the year. Role will include occasional pre-planned weekend and evening working.

DBS

The post holder will require an enhanced disclosure and barring service check.

Pension

Employees will be enrolled into the People's Pension Scheme with a contribution rate of 3% and 5% contributed by the employer. The archdiocese will match employee contributions up to 6% of their pensionable salary.

Other benefits

There are a range of other benefits including a pension salary sacrifice scheme, subsidised Lifestyles gym membership, life assurance scheme, enhanced parental leave pay and 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme.

How to Apply

Visit the careers page on our website <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/careers> to apply online.

Application should include details of two referees who can be contacted if you are shortlisted for an interview.

The closing date for applications is Friday 17th April 2026 , interview and auditions provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 29th April 2026.

Please note that the information you provide in your application will be used only for the purpose of recruitment and selection and will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.





Saint Margaret Clitherow Centre

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