

## Pen Portrait: Robert Meek Local Leader of Education (LLE)

### Experienced Headteacher

I have enjoyed a varied and challenging career in education. As an experienced Headteacher, I led **St Columba's Primary School** in Wallsend for nineteen years following a seven-year period as head of **St Philip Neri Primary School**, Dunston in Gateshead. In 2014, I was appointed as Executive Headteacher of **St Joseph's RC Primary School** in North Shields during the long term absence of the Headteacher, supporting the school in preparing for a successful Ofsted.

Prior to this, I worked in a variety of schools of different sizes and contexts including a small village school (**St Cuthbert's**, Walbottle), a four form entry school in an advantaged area, (**West Jesmond Junior School**), a junior school in a very deprived area of Newcastle (**St. Michael's Junior School**) and a large school with a majority of pupils with EAL (**Westgate Hill**). The range of experiences that these schools offered to me is, I feel, one of my strongest assets.

As a teacher I was a science and mathematics co-ordinator. I have a national diploma in teaching mathematics and the Catholic Teachers' Certificate. My current special interests are in curriculum planning, use and analysis of data and ICT.

### National and Regional Strategic Roles



As a member of BECTA's original Leading Leaders Group, I contributed to a national focus group piloting ICT initiatives in primary education. St Columba's led early initiatives in ICT being the first schools to install a PC room, run an Integrated Learning System and operate data projectors in all classrooms. As a result of these projects we were asked to be a host school for the National College of School Leadership's Strategic Leadership of ICT (SLICT) courses.

Within North Tyneside Local Authority (LA), I have served for nine years on the Schools' Forum in addition to working with the ICT Strategy Committee and the Succession Planning Committee.

I have worked for the LA as a Primary Strategy Consultant Leader, a professional partner to newly appointed head teachers and more recently as **Local Leader of Education** for the LA, Diocese and ShiNE Teaching School Alliance.

Over the past twelve years I have supported nineteen North Tyneside and Durham schools, their Headteachers and leadership teams. I represented North Tyneside RC schools on the Newcastle and Hexham Diocese Head Teachers' Forum and acted as chair of my local partnership of Catholic schools.

As the NAHT President of North Tyneside's local branch I attend national meetings to represent the interests of North East Headteachers.



## International Profile

As a facilitator for international visits, co-ordinating groups of Headteachers on behalf of the British Council, I led visits to Oman, Singapore, Czech Republic and Finland. I have co-ordinated several Comenius Schools Partnerships with schools from Slovenia, Iceland, Cyprus, Ireland, Poland and Spain.



In addition, I visited Rwanda with a group of North Tyneside RC schools and formed part of an area partnership with six Rwandan schools. Every teacher working in my school was offered the opportunity to visit Rwanda and work in their schools. The school donated over £10k to support the work of Rwandan schools. Three Rwandan teachers were given the opportunity to visit and work with teachers at St Columba's.

## Outstanding Track Record

As Headteacher of St. Columba's, I led the school through six successful OFSTED inspections which were judged to be never less than good. We were awarded four outstanding grades, including the only outstanding grade awarded to a North Tyneside school for a thematic inspection. Following our first inspection, our school was invited by Chris Woodhead to pioneer the National SCITT for Outstanding Schools. After our second and third report we were included in the Chief HMI's annual report as a "particularly successful" and "an outstanding school".

Over eighteen years, I worked collaboratively with schools across the country within the National SCITT in partnership with Nottingham University to provide high quality initial teacher training.

I left St Columba's RC Primary, Wallsend after nineteen years as Headteacher. Including my time as Head of St Philip Neri, I have 26 years experience as a primary Headteacher.

Following a proven track record of supporting leadership teams, I continue to work with the ShiNE Teaching School Alliance as an LLE writing Pupil Premium Reports in preparation for, or following Ofsted inspections. I am happy to advise, support and challenge schools on a range of issues.

