



St Mary's School

Gerrards Cross



Application Pack

Job Role: Learning Support Assistant – SEN
Start Date: September 2026

Closing Date: 9:00am Friday 19th June 2026
Interview Date: Thursday 25th June 2026

Early applications are advised as the school reserves the right to appoint at any stage during the application process.



Welcome from Head

St Mary's is a truly special place to work — from the moment you step through our doors, you experience the warmth of the community and the clear sense that each individual student is at the heart of all that we do. Every member of staff plays a vital role in helping our girls flourish and achieve her dreams and ambitions.

Our motto, *Embrace – Empower – Excel*, reflects not only our approach to educating girls, but also the professional culture we foster. We value individuality, encourage ambition, and create space for both students and staff to grow and excel.

Working at St Mary's means joining a team where collaboration, kindness, and high expectations go hand in hand. We offer opportunities for professional development, leadership and innovation, and we welcome applications from those who are excited to contribute to the life of a forward-thinking, dynamic school.

If you are looking to make a meaningful impact in a school that is dedicated to developing our students, then we want to hear from you.

Lars Fox

Head

About St Mary's School



St Mary's is an independent day school for girls aged 3-18 in the heart of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Founded in Paddington in 1872, the school moved to its present site in 1942. Class sizes average 16-18 and academic outcomes are excellent.

St Mary's School is warm friendly community where parents, staff, students, and governors work together to ensure that every student exceeds her potential whilst having the time of her life, making memories, and building skills to equip her to be successful through her future years.

Our students leave with the resilience to take on the next challenge, the ambition to follow their dreams and the confidence in themselves to go from success to success in their future careers. Through the pastoral and classroom support she has received at St Mary's, she knows her worth, who she is as an individual, and what she wants to go on to do.

Well-being and happiness of staff and students alike is at the heart of our success – a happy school is a successful school!

Joining St Mary's staff community, you would be welcomed into a supportive, close knit community who can regularly be found spending lunch times in the Senior or Prep staff room, enjoying social time outside of school, competing in the teacher's relay, performing in the school orchestra or at an open mic event, and can even be caught on a space hopper on the lawn on the last day of term!





St Mary's School

St Mary's is committed to providing an excellent education in a caring, happy environment, where each girl develops self-confidence and exceeds her potential.

Staff and students, alike, are encouraged to find their own SMS Spirit by exploring our huge range of Co-Curricular activities to try new skills and meet new people, explore different learning or teaching techniques in small classes and make friends from Nursery right through to Sixth Form through our House System and whole school opportunities that brings.

Staff are supported in their roles through Department Heads, and SLT links, with well-being at the heart of staff satisfaction and the positive morale which we pride ourselves on. A comprehensive CPD programme allows for staff members to grow personally and professionally and broaden their skills in their specialist areas finding their very own SMS Spirit in their own individual ways.

Our whole school community operates under our TAKE CARE acronym which ensures each individual reaches his or her potential in a supportive and challenging environment.



T – Team Work – we work together to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for our students, pastorally and academically, and that as a staff community we work in a supportive, collaborative caring team who have each other's backs.

A – Ambition – we go above and beyond in everything we do. We look for the WOW factor at every opportunity.

K – Kindness – through our ethos runs the theme of kindness. Everything our staff and students do should consider kindness first.

E – Enthusiasm – staff and students alike bring the energy and desire to succeed.

C – Curiosity – we always ask why.

A – Adventure – work should be exciting, satisfying and thrilling – we are spending time doing what we feel passionately about.

R – Resilience – we carry on in the face of challenge, and come out stronger and wiser.

E – Excellence – aim for the highest quality in all that we do.



Why Work at St Mary's?

- Competitive Salary
- Support Staff Pension Scheme
- Fee Remission at St Mary's
- Subsidised staff socials
- Annual pay review



- Hot daily meal
- Use of fitness suite
- On-site parking if available
- Free annual flu vaccine
- Electric Car purchase Scheme
- Cycle to work Scheme

- Full staff induction in Term 1
- Staff buddy system
- Full training and development program
- Equal opportunities for all
- Wellbeing committee to share ideas



All staff share responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of our pupils and must adhere to, and comply with, the School's safeguarding and Child Protection Policy at all times.



The Role – Learning Support Assistant - SEN

This role involves supporting learners in Key Stage 3 and 4 with additional needs. These may include Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia and Anxiety. The role will primarily involve supporting the learners to successfully access the curriculum. Candidates should have experience of working with neurodivergent individuals, preferably in a secondary school environment.





Main Duties

Working closely within the LEAPS Team and other experienced teaching professionals providing support and guidance, your role will be to:

- Develop an understanding of the learners' profiles and SEN.
- Support the learners in accessing their curriculum, academically, organisationally and emotionally, by building trust and developing a positive relationship.
- Consider the learners' SEN when assisting them in accessing the content of lessons, through the use of appropriate clarification, explanation, equipment and materials; developing an understanding of the most effective way in which to support learning for a given task.
- Help the learners to learn as effectively as possible, both in group situations and individually, inside and outside of the classroom.
- Promote academic independence, whilst helping the learners to develop effective study skills, including strategies to support their executive functioning skills, to increase motivation and keep them on task.
- Encourage social independence, whilst scaffolding interactions and helping to mediate any issues with peers, as well as supporting the learners to develop positive relationships with their teachers.
- Support emotional independence by promoting strategies to help regulate the learners' emotional and physical state.





Main Duties

- To build and maintain a successful relationship with the learners, treating them consistently with respect, consideration and sensitivity.
- To provide effective and pro-active in-class support, by selecting appropriate resources and/or methods of differentiation to facilitate learning.
- Support the use of IT in the classroom and develop the learners' competence and independence in its use, including helping the learners record work in an appropriate way (e.g. scribing).
- To attend lessons and take notes as appropriate.
- To assist in the delivery of any individual learning programmes or with any specific duties outlined in the learners' EHCPs.
- Provide feedback and highlight any concerns to teachers in relation to learners' attainment / progress.
- To liaise with, and be guided by, relevant external agencies as required.
- To be involved in keeping records as required by the EHCP.
- To contribute to the learners' Annual Reviews.
- To foster links between home and school and to keep both informed of relevant information whilst maintaining confidentiality at all times.
- To support learners during unstructured time.
- To supervise and support learners taking part in interventions.
- To accompany learners on school trips as required.
- To participate in relevant professional development as deemed appropriate for the needs of learners.
- To understand and apply the school policies on learning and behaviour and the statutory guidelines relating to disability discrimination and SEN.
- To fulfil any other reasonable request made by the Headteacher.





Candidate Specification

Qualifications and Experience	Experience of working with Neurodivergent learners with SEN, preferably in a secondary school environment
	Willingness to attend relevant training courses
	Experience of record keeping (Desirable)
	NVQ Level 3 Qualification or equivalent (Desirable)

Knowledge and Skills	Good oral and written communication skills
	Ability to use initiative
	Knowledge and understanding of the policies relating to safeguarding pupils
	Good knowledge of IT
	Basic knowledge of first aid (Desirable)
	Scribing experience (Desirable)

Personal Behaviours	Nurturing
	Calm under pressure
	Professional outlook
	Smart appearance
	Committed to personal and professional development



Safeguarding

St Mary's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in its recruitment and selection of job applicants. The school expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment and be willing to undergo checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service.



How to Apply

Please complete an application form on mynewterm <https://mynewterm.com/home> or contact the HR Officer at hradmin@stmarysgx.co.uk for an application form.

Early applications are advised as the School reserves the right to appoint at any stage during the application process.

Interviews will take approximately two hours and will be held at the school. As part of the process you will be given a tour of the school, complete a task and attend a panel interview. You will also be asked to provide documentation confirming your identity and qualifications and a search of an online social media presence may also be conducted as part of due diligence checks.

There is no need to visit St Mary's before applying, as the school website contains plenty of information, photos and all the school's policies. However, if you'd like to see the school in person, you are most welcome to arrange a visit. Interviews will, of course, include a tour. All applications will be acknowledged and interview dates are provided below. References will be requested for all those invited to interview.

Closing date for applications: Friday 19th June 2026 at 9.00am

Hours: 8:30am- 4:00pm (35 hours per week)

Salary: £21,456pa (£29,500 FTE)