



Active
Learning
Trust

Candidate Pack
Lead Practitioner in English
April 2026



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Dear applicant



Thank you for your interest in joining the Active Learning Trust. I know that choosing where to build your career is a big decision, and before I share the details of the role, I want to tell you why this is such a special place to work.

At ALT, we do things differently. We are a values-led organisation that believes our people are our greatest strength. We invest deeply in the adults who work with us, because when we help our colleagues grow, our pupils thrive. Ours is a community built on trust, care and ambition – where every member of staff is encouraged to discover their strengths, take opportunities, and know that their work is shaping brighter futures for the children in our care.

We don't see education as just a system; we see it as a moral mission. Every day, our staff bring energy, compassion and commitment to their roles, united by the belief that every child deserves the very best. We stand alongside you with high expectations, professional development, and unwavering support so that together we can achieve extraordinary things.

If you share our values and our passion for making a difference, we would be delighted to hear from you. I look forward to the possibility of welcoming you into our Trust – a place where people matter, potential is nurtured, and purpose drives everything we do.

With warm regards,



Lynsey Holzer
Chief Executive Officer

Active Learning Trust

Overview

Our multi-academy Trust was originally established in 2012 and is currently made up of 1,600 staff across 21 schools in East Anglia, serving over 8,600 young people and their families. Our shared Trust mission of delivering excellence to ensure our young people can thrive and prosper is at the heart of everything we do.

Our trustees fulfil their duties through our Trust Leadership Team, which includes our central team and school leadership teams, working together as one unified organisation with joint accountability. We have an established central team that is not only knowledgeable but also driven by an imperative to deliver the very best for the young people in our care.

At Active Learning Trust, we are restless for excellence and improvement so that our children can thrive and prosper. Deeply rooted in the heart of our communities, people choose to join our trust because we make a difference. We explore the art of the possible to find the right solutions for our children, our people and the wider education sector.

Our Team

Our team is made up of experts across all specialist areas, including education, finance, HR, communications and marketing, estates, governance, procurement, data and IT. Their skills allow us to deliver shared savings and, more importantly, provide essential services to schools, enabling school-based leadership to focus on improving outcomes for pupils in the broadest sense.

- We know our schools exceptionally well and we offer both honest reflection and evaluation of our strengths and areas for improvement.
- We have clear and appropriate plans for continuing to improve the quality of education and pupil achievement.
- We encourage and celebrate the individual characteristics of each of our schools and provide them with a good balance of autonomy central oversight and accountability.

Our People-First Philosophy

At Active Learning Trust, we invest in you from day one. We love working with specialists that are united by their skills and passion for shaping the future of education. We provide tailored coaching, leadership training and clear progression pathways that turn roles into fulfilling, lifelong careers. Guided by our values of open dialogue, bold thinking and supportive teamwork, we put your growth and well-being at the heart of everything we do - so you can focus on making a real difference in our schools and beyond.

Our Values

At the heart of our Trust are five core values that shape our culture and guide every aspect of our work. They influence our interactions, decisions and strategic direction, and they unite our school communities.



I aspire, we achieve



We're curious, creative and bold



A family, not a house share



Comfortable being candid



Humour, humility, humanity



“

ALT creates environments where professionals can be bold and courageous in their practice, bringing about excellent outcomes for both students and staff. Our students receive the best standard of education from practitioners who are motivated to give their best as they are supported by a Trust that treats all with humanity, humility and humour!

More personally, I'm grateful for the CPD and career opportunities presented to me, that have allowed me to grow from an NQT into a Headteacher in 8 years.

Louise Creed
Headteacher, The Albert Pye
and Ravensmere Schools Federation

Our Schools

Active Learning Trust encompasses 21 schools across East Anglia – eight in Cambridgeshire, 12 in Suffolk and two in Norfolk.

Our schools fall naturally into three designated geographical sub-regions – Ipswich, Norfolk & North Suffolk, and mid Cambridgeshire. This allows the Trust to apply 'hub' level school-to-school support and collaborative working along with other mutually supportive arrangements. The synergy this creates has become a key way of working for our teams and continues to develop further over time.

For more information on our schools, please visit our website.

[View our schools](#)



Job Vacancy

Lead Practitioner in English

Help shape exceptional learning in English

Shaping excellent teaching is at the heart of this role. We are looking for someone who can strengthen practice across the English faculty by modelling exceptional practice, supporting colleagues and using research-informed approaches to raising outcomes for every pupil.

Working closely with the Head of English, you will lead coaching, develop high-quality training, and shape strategies that remove barriers to learning. As part of a large, inclusive academy with a strong commitment to professional growth, you will play a key role in driving high expectations, building collaborative practice, and ensuring our curriculum enables every student to achieve their best.

Summary of Key Responsibilities

- Model consistently high-quality teaching and develop materials, training and strategies that improve practice across the academy.
- Lead coaching, mentoring and professional development, including observations, feedback and targeted support for colleagues.
- Use data to identify priorities, shape interventions, and evaluate the impact of strategies that raise achievement and strengthen teaching.
- Co-ordinate monitoring and evaluation activities, contributing to self-evaluation and improvement planning.
- Stay informed about research and best practice, sharing insights and helping staff apply them to enhance learning.

Why Join Our Trust?

- Belong to a compassionate and inclusive trust that values you and the role you play.
- Join an experienced group of people that are fully dedicated to delivering the best for our children.
- Gain access to our VivUp employee benefit system, Cycle to Work scheme and local government pension scheme.

Contact

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, or for more info, please contact Donna Spendelow, HR & Recruitment Officer, at: dspendelow@neale-wade.org



Neale-Wade
Academy

Location

March, Cambridgeshire

Contract

Permanent, Full Time

Salary

LP1 – LP6
£52,026 – £58,857

Closing Date

31 May 2026

Start Date

September 2026

Job description

Lead Practitioner

Salary: Lead Practitioner- Range LP1 - LP6

Academy Site: Neale Wade Academy

Reporting to: Head of English

Main purpose

The lead practitioner will lead on the improvement of teaching skills through modeling high-quality teaching, coaching and training other members of staff.

The lead practitioner will also:

- Fulfil the professional responsibilities of a teacher
- Meet the expectations set out in the Teachers' Standards

Duties and responsibilities

Raising quality of teaching and learning

- Carry out teaching responsibilities in line with the professional duties of a teacher
- Model consistently high-quality teaching and be able to demonstrate excellent practice to others
- Produce high-quality teaching materials that support excellent practice
- Prepare and deliver training courses across the academy to improve teachers' practice
- Support with teachers' professional development and appraisal through carrying out lesson observations, providing feedback and implementing strategies to improve practice
- Provide mentoring/coaching to individual teachers' in need of 1-to-1 support to improve their practice
- Use data to identify individuals or groups that need further teaching support and develop and implement strategies to raise the quality of teaching
- Use data to identify individuals or groups of pupils that need targeted support, and develop and implement strategies to raise achievement
- Set challenging and ambitious targets for pupils on interventions and update parents' on progress
- Measure and assess the impact of interventions to raise achievement for pupils and the quality of teaching
- Promote strategies which support differentiation, inclusion and positive behaviour

Monitoring and evaluation

- Co-ordinate and carry out monitoring and evaluation activities to improve teaching and learning, including work scrutinies, lesson observations, learning walks etc.
- Use systems to analyse data from monitoring and evaluation, and use insights to inform strategies and plans for teacher development
- Support with self-evaluation and academy improvement planning where appropriate

Professional development

- Lead on researching best practice and keeping up-to-date with the latest developments
- Share knowledge with staff and offer support to implement the research into their own practice
- Inform staff about the latest innovations in intervention strategies
- Lead on identifying high quality CPD to improve quality of teaching and learning, in collaboration with the Trust central team
- Take part in the Trust's appraisal procedures
- Take part in further training and development in order to improve own practice
- Take part in the appraisal and professional development of others, where appropriate

Personal and professional conduct

- Uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside the academy
- Have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the academy, and maintain high standards of attendance and punctuality
- Understand and act within the statutory frameworks setting out their professional duties and responsibilities

Management of staff and resources

- Direct and supervise support staff assigned to them, and where appropriate, other teachers
- Contribute to the recruitment and professional development of other teachers and support staff
- Deploy resources delegated to them

Safeguarding

- Work in line with statutory safeguarding guidance (e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education, Prevent) and our safeguarding and child protection policies
- Work with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to promote the best interests of pupils, including sharing concerns where necessary
- Promote the safeguarding of all pupils in the academy and the Trust

Generic responsibilities of all Active Learning Trust employees

- To consistently uphold the Trust's Aims, Visions and Values.
- To work in a co-operative and polite manner with all stakeholders and visitors to promote and enhance the reputation of the academies and Trust.
- To work with children and young people within the framework of the academy in a courteous, positive, caring, and responsive manner.
- To take an active and positive role in the Trust's commitment to the development of staff and review procedures, undertaking training as required.
- To act in a professional way that is consistent with the values and expectations of the Trust.
- To be responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons.

The Active Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We expect all staff to actively share this commitment. All adults working in our Trust in whatever capacity will be part of a thorough safer recruitment process. All appointments will be subject pre-employment checks including the taking of satisfactory references and enhanced criminal record clearance (via the Disclosure and Barring Service) in line with the need to create and maintain a safe culture.

Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks expected to be carried out. It will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the appraisal process and planning for the next academic year. It will be reviewed, and it may be subject to modification or amendment at any time after consultation with the holder of the post. The duties may be varied to meet the changing demands of the Trust at the reasonable discretion of the Reports to Manager.

Person Specification

Lead Practitioner

E = Essential / **D** = Desirable

Qualifications & Training		
Qualified teacher status (QTS)	E	
Degree	E	
Successful completion of statutory induction for teachers (or ready to undertake)	E	
Experience		
Successful teaching experience in area of specialism	E	
Experience planning and delivering interventions for pupils	E	
Experience of supporting colleagues to develop	E	
Experience delivering training	E	

Skills and Knowledge		
Able to meet the teachers' standards, consistently and effectively	E	
Knowledge of the National Curriculum	E	
Knowledge of effective teaching and learning strategies	E	
Knowledge of the barriers to learning that students may face	E	
Tailoring plans and interventions to individual pupils	E	
An excellent understanding of how children learn	E	
Ability to adapt teaching to meet students' needs	E	
Ability to build effective working relationships with pupils	E	
Ability to establish curriculum development, assessment and co-ordination	E	
Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children	E	
Knowledge of effective behaviour management strategies	E	
Able to use systems and to conduct analysis and produce reports	E	
Good ICT skills, particularly using ICT to support learning	E	
A more developed knowledge and understanding of your subject/curriculum area and related pedagogy, including how learning should progress	E	
Flexible, creative and adept at designing learning sequencing within and across lessons as part of the curriculum	E	

Personal Qualities		
Embodies of the Active Learning Trust's values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I aspire, we achieve - We're curious, creative and bold - A family, not a house share - Comfortable being candid - Humour, humility, humanity 	E	
Commitment to uphold the seven principles of public life (the <u>Nolan principles</u>) at all times	E	
Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times	E	
High expectations for children's attainment and progress	E	
Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively	E	
Equal Opportunities		
Commitment to inclusion, equality and diversity	E	
Safeguarding		
Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.	E	

Application Process

How to Apply

You can browse and apply for all Active Learning Trust vacancies by clicking the link below to access our recruitment platform. Once you have found the corresponding vacancy, click on the 'Apply Now' button to begin your application. You can save your application and return to it at any time. Please ensure you have completed and submitted your application before the deadline shown on the job advert.

[View current vacancies](#)

Hints and Tips

To increase the chance of your application being considered for the role, please follow these steps:

- Use the Person Specification document to write your application. Consider using the headings and give examples where possible.
- Check for punctuation and grammar errors.
- Ensure your first referee is from your current or most recent employer. If you are employed within a school or academy, ensure you list your Headteacher as your first referee.
- All gaps in employment history must be explained. This should start from the date you left full-time education, including the summer holiday.



Useful Information

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications irrespective of race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or age. We value the individuality and creativity that every worker potentially brings to the workforce.

No CVs are accepted in line with requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education, therefore all applications are required to be completed using the MyNewTerm platform.

The Active Learning Trust reserves the right to interview and appoint prior to the advert closing date. With this in mind, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

The Active Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We expect all staff to actively share this commitment. All adults working in our Trust in whatever capacity will be part of a thorough safer recruitment process. All appointments will be subject to pre-employment checks including the taking of satisfactory references and enhanced criminal record clearance in line with the need to create and maintain a safe culture. Please be advised that references may be requested prior to interview for roles within our academies, where permission has been given to do so via MyNewTerm.

Candidates are advised that, if shortlisted for interview, they will be subject to an online search of information in the public domain.

This post will come under the requirements of the Childcare (Disqualification) 2009 Regulations and the successful applicant will be required to complete a declaration form to establish whether they are disqualified under these regulations.

Meet the team

Thursday 16 and Thursday 23 April
at Neale-Wade Academy (March, Cambs)
16:30 - 17:30

Join us for a guided tour, meet teachers from across our secondary schools, and speak with senior leaders about teaching within the Active Learning Trust.

You'll also have the chance to learn about the ambitious work taking place at Neale-Wade Academy and Cromwell Community College over refreshments, and to find out more about current teaching opportunities through informal chats with our team.



Duncan Low
Director of Education
Active Learning Trust



Graham Horn
Headteacher
Neale-Wade Academy



Jane Horn
Headteacher, Cromwell
Community College

Book your visit online



www.activelearningtrust.org