



# Application Support Pack



## Welcome from The Head Teacher

Dear Applicant,

It is a privilege to serve as the headteacher at Peak academy. I lead a dedicated staff team who genuinely want to make a difference. We place our pupils at the centre of everything we do and believe that it is their right to receive an excellent education.



Peak is located in North Derbyshire. It is the only special school in the area and serves a large catchment area including Tameside, Cheshire, Chesterfield and the Derbyshire Dales. We are a generic special school catering for pupils aged two to nineteen, who experience a wide range of special educational needs.

Our motto is 'Unique People, Individualised Approach' and our offer is designed to be aspirational yet flexible, allowing for adjustments based on each pupil's unique strengths, interests, and challenges. Through a focus on developing independence, we want our pupils to be the best that they can be, and to have a voice they are confident to use. We support our young people to be resilient, and equipped for the next stage of their lives.

Our whole community values are to listen, to try our best, to work as a team and to be kind. We encourage our pupils to be tolerant and respectful, and to form successful relationships with others. We aim to create an inclusive culture of mutual respect, where wellbeing, care, and happiness are prioritised. We offer a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment and believe in the power of working in partnership with parents to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils.

We welcome applications from candidates who, after reviewing our application pack, feel they possess the necessary skills, experience and character to be successful in this role. We encourage you to visit our site to gain a better understanding of our school community. Please contact us at 01663 750324 to arrange a visit. Further information about our academy can be found on the website at: <https://www.peakschool.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,  
Jo Howarth  
Headteacher

## Welcome from Esteem Multi-Academy Trust

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in joining Esteem Multi-Academy Trust.  
You are considering Esteem at an important point in our journey.

Over recent years, the Trust has focused deliberately on strengthening its foundations.

- Clearer systems.
- Stronger processes.
- Greater consistency.
- A sharper strategic direction.

**This work matters.**

It allows our schools to focus on what matters most.

High-quality provision for children and young people with complex needs.

Support for the staff who work with them every day.

**Esteem is a values-led** organisation, but we are also ambitious and disciplined.

We are building a Trust that is:

- Strategically clear about what we exist to do
- Operationally strong and financially responsible
- Supportive of professional growth and collaboration
- Confident in its voice across SEND and Alternative Provision

We believe good systems should enable people, not constrain them.

We believe strong leadership is built on trust, clarity and accountability.

We believe improvement is sustained when people feel supported and challenged in equal measure.

If you join **Esteem**, you will be part of a Trust that is still evolving.

A Trust that reflects, learns and adapts.

A Trust that invests in its people and expects high standards in return.

We are always keen to hear from people who share our values, bring fresh thinking, and want to contribute to something purposeful and meaningful.

I wish you well in your application and thank you for taking the time to consider Esteem.

Kind Regards,



**Karen Hayes**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Esteem Multi-Academy Trust



## About Esteem Multi-Academy Trust

Esteem MAT was formed in 2018 and now consists of fourteen academies from the East and West Midlands. Many of our pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities or are disadvantaged. Therefore, inclusion is our watchword, and our vision is for Esteem to be a learning community of excellence for SEND and alternative provision in the Midlands. However, we want mainstream schools to join us too as they have many pupils with SEND or who are disadvantaged. We want all our pupils to achieve their full potential whatever type of school they attend.

Our vision is to be a Trust that:

- Leads and supports our academies to provide the highest standards of education and development for all our pupils
- Enables academies with a shared sense of purpose to benefit from alignment whilst maintaining individuality
- Provides a strong, collective voice for our academies at a local and national level
- Delivers support and SEND expertise to our academies and to other schools and local authorities
- Our vision will be delivered via our three core strategic aims. Everything we do should be ultimately focused on doing these three things well:

We will provide an ambitious, inspirational, bespoke education, setting the foundation for the future and ensuring our young people are ready for the world.

We will deliver high standards and value for money from our support services, resources, estate and technology.

We will invest in and support our people, exploiting opportunities for collaborative, continual professional development, sharing of expertise and best practice.

Our people are our most valuable resource. We invest in them by providing high quality specialist training, opportunities to collaborate and develop their careers within Esteem.

We greatly value each school's unique identity, which reflect the diverse needs of the pupils. It is also important to us that our pupils feel they belong to their school community. This is why we believe that our schools need strong leaders and governors who understand their local context. Being part of a family of schools in a trust brings the added benefits of support and collaboration. We know that sharing ideas and working together are the best ways for our schools to continue to improve for the benefit of all our pupils.

## Safeguarding and checks

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. We expect all staff, volunteers and agency staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided. Esteem Multi-Academy Trust's Safeguarding Policy applies to all adults, including volunteers and agency staff, working in or on behalf of the MAT.

Each student's welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse e.g. those with special educational needs and disabilities, those living in adverse circumstances. We recognise that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world positively. We recognise that some children who have experienced abuse may harm others. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all students within our academies.

The MAT pays full regard to the DfE 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2025' guidance. We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works for the MAT who is likely to be perceived by the students as a safe and trustworthy adult including volunteers and agency staff. As part of our safer recruiting practises, we scrutinise applicants; verify their identity, academic or vocational qualifications, obtain professional and personal references, check full employment history and ensure the applicant's health and physical capacity is suitable to undertake the role. Interviews and DBS checks are also undertaken.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as "spent" must be declared. If you are currently working with children, either paid or voluntary, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including those related to children or young people (whether disciplinary sanction is current or time-expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and, if so, the outcome of any investigation or disciplinary proceedings. If you are not currently working with children, but have done in the past, that previous employer will be asked about these issues. Where neither your current or previous employment has involved working with children or young people, your current employer will be asked about your suitability to work with children and young people, although it may be answered "not applicable", where appropriate, if your work has not brought you in to contact with children or young people.

## Application process and timeline

Applications are completed online via MyNewTerm via the Esteem MAT [Website](#).

After the closing date, shortlisting will be conducted by a panel who will score your application against the person specification, so please ensure that you read the Job Description and Person Specification carefully before you complete your application form.

All candidates invited to the interview and assessment day must bring the following documents; original documents only, copies will not be accepted:

- Documentary evidence for your right to work in the UK
- Documentary evidence of identity which meets the DBS requirements i.e. current photocard driving licence including a photograph and/or a passport and/or a full birth certificate
- Documentary proof of current name and address i.e. utility bill, financial statement etc.
- Where appropriate, documentation evidencing a name change
- Educational or professional qualifications that are essential or necessary for relevant for the post

Further information relating to DBS check documentation requirements can be found on the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/documents-the-applicant-must-provide>.

If you are not the successful candidate, all your personal information will be destroyed, in a secure way, in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR May 2018) guidelines.

References will be sought for shortlisted candidates and we may approach previous employers for information to verify experience or qualifications prior to interview. Any relevant issues arising from references will be discussed at interview.

Your completed application form and supporting letter should address and evidence the essential and desired criteria in the Person Specification.