



Sawtry Village
Academy

Helping Young Minds Grow

Pushing students to their full potential



Sawtry Village Academy

Teaching Assistant (Level 2)

Recruitment Pack



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About Sawtry Village Academy

I have spent all my working life in education, with the majority of this time spent in Sawtry, and I am delighted to welcome you to our team. Sawtry is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience in a school that puts learning and individual achievement at the heart of everything it does. It has been an exciting period of rapid improvement and development for both staff and students at the Academy, since joining Meridian Trust in April 2015.

Sawtry Village Academy has high expectations of all its students and in return offers a high-quality education at the heart of its local community. We develop our students into successful, confident, responsible and employable citizens whilst providing a nurturing and supportive hub for students, their families and the wider community.

Following the most recent Ofsted inspection, in October 2023, it is evident that students at Sawtry Village Academy benefit from good teaching by staff who have good subject knowledge and who continuously enhance their teaching skills to ensure the best possible progress and attainment outcomes for all students.

There is an excellent standard of student care provided across the Academy by all staff and this ensures high aspiration for student attainment can be realised. Students benefit from following a broad and balanced curriculum which facilitates the development of the important skills of leadership, teamwork and co-operation through participation in a broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom such as sport, music and community involvement. In addition we expect students to engage in the completion of PLEDGES.

We expect students to work hard, developing resilience when the going gets tough and together we will celebrate their progress and achievements, whatever their level of success. We know that learning is at its best when staff, students and parents work closely together, and it is a privilege to be sharing the responsibility of educating the young people in our care with you.

The academy is underpinned and supported by the ethos and values of Meridian Trust. The core of this philosophy is:

- Achievement for all
- Valuing People
- A high-quality learning environment
- The pursuit of excellence
- Extending the boundaries of learning

I look forward to collaborating with you in the future and hope that you will join us in achieving the aim of knowing and supporting every student to achieve and enjoy their school experience.

Simon Parsons

Principal of Sawtry Village Academy



A Brief History

Meridian Trust, formerly known as Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT), is a values-led Trust and has risen to be one of the highest performing academy groups in the country. Our Trust was first formed as an educational trust to create a federation of schools in 2006 with a desire to provide high quality and dynamic education for everyone, right in the heart of our community. Through various government policies, our commitment to collaboration has remained consistent.

Meridian Trust was formed in 2011 to deliver more widely on that clear vision to provide high quality and dynamic education for all at the heart of the communities we serve. Our steady growth since then reflects our commitment to the communities we serve and our track record of success. The period since 2018 has seen an increase in speed of growth as many long term projects matured and our relationship with Sharnbrook Academy Federation emerged.

We are currently a family of 35 academies (including 19 primary, 3 special and 13 secondary schools). The secondary schools include a University Technology College, an Upper School, four 11-16 schools and six 11-18 schools. We also have 2 new secondary free schools in development. All within 20 miles of Cambridge and Peterborough and the main communication routes between. We merged with Cambridge Primary Education Trust to become the Meridian Trust in April 2022. In addition to operating schools, we are the home of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub, and train more than 150 new teachers each year through Meridian Trust ITT. We retain a strong commitment to growing and supporting staff throughout their training and career development. We have a

proven track record of school improvement and transforming the lives of children and young people over the last 10 years.

Students thrive in Meridian Trust academies as a result of the implementation of our values, our successful and proven systems and our commitment to valuing people. We are among the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the country for student progress. Our academies are well-run, and our staff benefit from excellent access to professional development.

Our commitment to the education system goes beyond just our own academies. We operate 'The Cambridge Partnership', one of the largest initial teacher training providers in the country which has recently merged with the SAF ITT, and 'Leadership East' these further strengthen our capacity and commitment to professional development. We also provide support through various SLAs to a number of other trusts and academies.

As a strong, regional multi-academy trust we currently operate schools across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Peterborough, and Northamptonshire. We are proud to have strong partnerships within all these communities.



Trust Vision, Mission and Values

Our values and who we are:

Meridian Trust is a successful multi-academy trust founded on its commitment to people and communities.

Our proven approach over more than a decade has elevated us to a respected and admired academy trust, a national leader in education and a source of great pride to the communities we serve.

Every child is known, equally valued and supported to achieve their potential in all our academies. Every community we serve benefits from the facilities and services we provide.

Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach where they are equally valued and supported.

We ensure that well-run schools retain and develop their distinct contextual identity, while sharing and contributing to Meridian Trust values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems.

Our Vision:

High-quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities.

Our Mission:

To deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in schools at the heart of their local communities so that:

- Young people become successful learners and confident, empowered individuals;
- Young people are encouraged to think for themselves and act for others, equipping them with the values,

attributes, knowledge and skills to make a rewarding contribution to society;

- Every school is a hub for community activities, a centre for extended services and a source of immense pride for students, their families, and other local stakeholders;
- Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach where they are equally valued and supported;
- Well-run schools retain and develop their distinct contextual identity while sharing and contributing to the Meridian Trust values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems.

The enactment of our values for staff:



Valuing People

Engaged, developed, supported, and consulted.



High Quality
Learning
Environment

Experts who strive for continual development. Collaborative networks, trusted to deliver.



Pursuit of
Excellence

Set ambitious goals and model what success looks like. Eager to improve.



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning

Make connections, provide opportunities. Generous and sharing of knowledge and expertise.



Achievement
for all

Are accountable for the outcomes we contribute towards and strive for the very best.



Valuing People



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Pursuit of
Excellence



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning



Achievement
for all

Why work for us

Meridian Trust aims to be the employer of choice for the communities we serve. Since 2010 we have nurtured and developed the careers of many people. You can read about some of those journeys in the 'Meridian Trust People' section of this website. We are committed to making a difference to young people's lives and the communities we serve. Help us make our mission a reality.

Benefits:

As a multi-academy trust of 35 schools, Meridian Trust can provide a wide network of opportunities for collaboration and career development for both teaching and support staff. With an initial teaching training facility and a teaching hub network within our Trust, there are ample opportunities to both, get into teaching, and develop within the profession.

- As well as the above we also offer:
- Unlimited access to CPD via Meridian Learning
- Free annual eye tests
- Access to a free Employee Assistance Programme, offering mental health and wellbeing support
- Unlimited value cycle to work scheme



To see the full range of benefits available, please visit [Employee Benefits – Meridian Trust](#)

How to apply

To apply please complete the online form on MyNewTerm. Your supporting statement should address and evidence the selection criteria detailed in the Person Specification.

Closing Date: 2nd February 2026 9.00 am

Interviews: 5th February 2026

Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact:

recruitment@sawtryva.org

Email:

Meridian Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks including enhanced DBS disclosure.

We are committed to diversity & inclusion and equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Meridian Trust is committed to safer recruitment practice and pre-employment checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check. We expect all adults who work for the Trust to share our commitment to safeguarding and the health and wellbeing of our students.



Valuing People



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Pursuit of
Excellence



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning



Achievement
for all

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Teaching Assistant – Level 2
JD Reference:	STD TA 02
School/Academy:	Sawtry Village Academy
Weeks:	39 Weeks
Hours of work:	32.5 hours
Salary:	Grade 5, Points 5-7
Responsible to:	SENCO

Role:	To support the teaching of students
Purpose of job:	Working under the direction of the Class Teacher to enable access to learning for students and to aid the Class Teacher in the management of students and the classroom

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Support for Students:

- Under the guidance of the Class Teacher undertake work/care/support programmes to enable access to learning for students
- Take responsibility for adapting and delivering learning activities with individuals or small groups who would receive help from a different learning approach as agreed
- Encourage and promote the inclusion and acceptance of all students • Aid the learning of students by:
 - Clarifying and explaining instructions
 - Ensure that the child can use the equipment and materials supplied ○ Motivate and encourage the child as needed
 - Support students in respect of local and national learning strategies, e.g., literacy, numeracy, KS3, KS4, ICT etc
 - Develop the correct resources to support the students ○ Help students to concentrate and to finish the work set
 - Liaise with the Class Teacher about Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Supply feedback to students about progress and achievement under the guidance of the Teacher

Support for Teachers:

- Organise the learning environment and develop classroom resources as needed
- Monitor and track progress and provide feedback to aid in developing IEPs for children with additional needs
- Supply detailed and regular feedback to teachers on students' achievement, progress, problems, etc

- Contribute to the management of student behaviour, including anticipating and preventing potential problems from arising
- Undertake support activities for the Teacher as needed

Support for the Curriculum:

- Undertake programmes linked to local and national learning strategies - e.g., literacy, numeracy, KS3, KS4 - recording achievement and progress and feeding back to the teacher
- Support the use of ICT in learning activities and develop students' competence and independence in its use
- Supply targeted support to enhance learning and improve attainment

Support for the School:

- Be aware of, and follow, policies and procedures, e.g., child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality, and data protection, reporting all concerns to a suitable person
- Accompany staff and students on visits, trips and out-of-school activities as needed
- Develop and keep effective relationships with other staff, parents, and carers
- Attend relevant meetings as needed

Support for School/Academy/Place of work:

- Participate in staff events by arrangement
- Attend Staff Meeting
- Contribute and take part in Trust events and activities where possible
- Develop and keep effective working relationships with other staff and parents/carers
- Adhere to the Trust values
- Follow school policies, practices, and procedures

Data security:

- Act in accordance with legal provisions regulating confidentiality and security of data and information in accordance with GDPR regulations

Health and Safety:

- Be aware of the responsibility for personal Health, Safety and Welfare and that of others who may be affected by your actions or inactions
- Co-operate with the Trust on all issues to do with Health, Safety & Welfare
- Work/operate all equipment within Health and Safety and other legal regulations, including risk assessment
- Contribute to the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment

Continuing Professional Development:

- In conjunction with the line manager, take responsibility for personal professional development, keeping up to date with research and developments related to school/academy/place of work efficiency, which may lead to improvements in the day-to-day running of the Trust

- Undertake any necessary and identified professional development taking full advantage of any relevant training and development available, particularly when related to the use of ICT, for data management and record keeping
- Maintain a professional portfolio of evidence to support the Performance Management process – evaluating and improving own practice

Child Protection and Safeguarding

- The post holder will have a shared responsibility for the safeguarding of all children and young people. The post holder also has an implicit duty to promote the welfare of all children and young people
- Inform the Child Protection Officer of any issues relating to the safety and well-being of students

The post holder will undertake any other duties equal to the grade of the post, in consultation with the line manager.

This job description is subject to review and may be changed following consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the Trust in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

All staff will be subject to an enhanced check with the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Updated: January 2022



Person Specification Teaching Assistant Level 2	Assessment Key: A = Application Form I = Interview
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Education and Qualification		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
1	Good educational background with GCSE or equivalent in English Language and Maths	✓		A
2	Level 2 or above Teaching Assistant qualification or willingness to work towards this		✓	A
Experience		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
3	Experience of supporting children in a classroom environment, including those with a range of learning needs or challenging behaviour		✓	A/I
4	Experience of working with children across all key stages with evidence of having achieved successful pupil outcomes		✓	A/I
Knowledge and understanding		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
5	An understanding of the education system	✓		A/I
6	A good knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice		✓	A/I
7	Understanding of how children learn	✓		A/I
8	Understanding of phonics, numeracy, and literacy development	✓		I
9	A sound grasp of the concept of inclusive practice	✓		I
10	Knowledge of the concept of confidentiality	✓		I
11	Awareness of child protection issues	✓		I

12	First aid certificate		✓	A
Skills and abilities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
13	Good at making and sustaining positive relationships with children	✓		I
14	Good at developing children's self-esteem and motivation so that they become resilient, independent learners	✓		I
15	Able to work closely with pupils who are finding learning difficult, or those who have experienced a feeling of failure	✓		I
16	Good written and oral communication skills	✓		I
17	Ability to contribute to team meetings and contribute ideas	✓		I
Personal Qualities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
18	Willingness to undergo further training and development	✓		I
19	Positive and enthusiastic approach towards work	✓		I
20	Ability to act on own initiative	✓		I
21	Kindness and empathy towards students and colleagues	✓		I
22	Ability to work as part of a team effectively	✓		I
Child Protection		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
23	Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection	✓		A/I
Other		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
24	Flexibility of working hours	✓		A/I