

Active
Learning
Trust

Candidate Pack
Class Teacher (SEN)
February 2026



Contents

- Hello from our CEO
- About Active Learning Trust
- Our Schools
- Job Vacancy
- Job Description
- Person Specification
- How to Apply

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 19 schools in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, serving nearly 8,500 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 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 has put a lot of work into developing genuine shared values which you can see starting to come through all the schools. This feels very powerful. Despite the geographical distance between schools, there is real sense of the greater good with school leaders constantly supporting one another where needed. It is a particular privilege in my role to be able to identify and spread excellent classroom practice from school to school. People in this Trust are happy, and there is a widespread feeling of exciting times ahead.

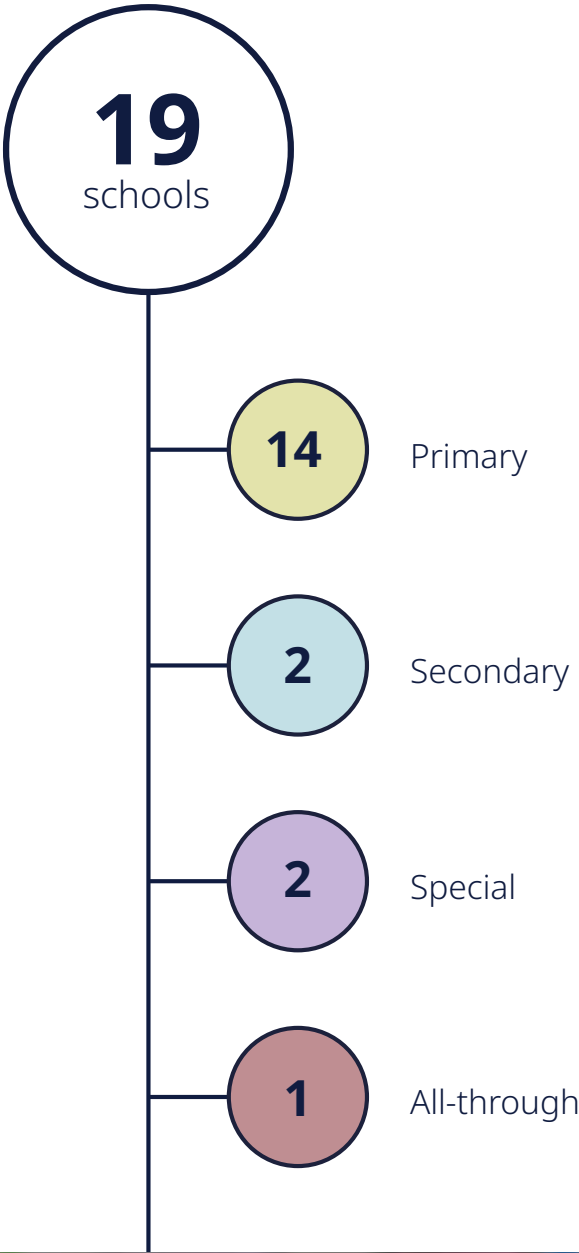
Lisa Corby
Academy Improvement Lead

Our Schools

Active Learning Trust encompasses 19 schools – eight in Cambridgeshire and 11 in Suffolk – including two special schools, two secondary schools, one all-through school and 14 primary schools. Of these, one special school and four primaries converted to academy status, while the remaining 13 operate as sponsor-led academies. Four of our schools opened as new establishments, gradually increasing their pupil intake year by year.

Our schools fall naturally into three designated geographical sub-regions – Ipswich, the Lowestoft area, and mid Cambridgeshire. This allows the Trust to apply so-called ‘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 Active Learning Trust teams and continues to develop further over time.

- The proportion of disadvantaged pupils in the Trust is above that found nationally.
- The proportion of pupils with an Education Health Care Plan is in line with national averages.
- The proportion of our pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and who speak English as an additional language are below national average.



Job Vacancy

Class Teacher (SEN)

Join our team and help make a positive impact on the lives of our students.!

Highfield Ely Academy is a vibrant SEN school in Cambridgeshire, dedicated to empowering students with diverse needs. We foster a nurturing and inclusive environment where every learner can thrive, achieve independence, and develop lifelong skills.

Summary of Key Responsibilities

- Plan and teach well-structured lessons to assigned classes, following the academy's plans, curriculum and schemes of work.
- Assess, monitor, record and report on the learning needs, progress and achievements of assigned pupils, making accurate and productive use of assessment.
- Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of pupils.

Our People-First Philosophy

At Active Learning Trust, we invest in you from day one. We love working with specialists who 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 that you can focus on making a real difference in our schools and beyond.

Why Join Our Trust?

- Belong to a compassionate and inclusive trust that values you and the role you play.
- Gain access to our VivUp employee benefit system, Cycle to Work scheme and Teacher pensions.

Contact

If you wish to discover more about this exciting opportunity and our Academy, then please contact Pippa Edwards (School Business Manager) on 01353 662085, or email pedwards@highfield.cambs.sch.uk



**Highfield Ely
Academy**

Location

Ely, Cambridgeshire

Contract

Full-time, Permanent

Salary

£32,916-£45,352, full-time
plus SEN allowance
£5,497.00 per annum

Closing Date

13 February 2026

Interviews

26 February 2026

Job description

Class Teacher (SEN)

Salary: Main Pay Range

Academy Site: Highfield Ely Academy

Reporting to: Department Leader

Main purpose

The teacher will:

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

Duties and responsibilities

Teaching

- Plan and teach well-structured lessons to assigned classes, following the academy's plans, curriculum and schemes of work
- Assess, monitor, record and report on the learning needs, progress and achievements of assigned pupils, making accurate and productive use of assessment
- Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of pupils
- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
- Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils
- Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge
- Participate in arrangements for preparing pupils for external tests

Whole-academy organisation, strategy and development

- Contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of the academy's policies, practices and procedures, so as to support the academy's vision and values
- Make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the academy
- Work with others on curriculum and pupil development to secure co-ordinated outcomes
- Provide cover, in the unforeseen circumstance that another teacher is unable to teach

Health, safety and discipline

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of pupils
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils, managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

Professional development

- Take part in the Trust's appraisal procedures
- Take part in further training and development in order to improve own teaching
- Take part in the appraisal and professional development of others, where appropriate

Communication

- Communicate effectively with pupils, parents and carers

Working with colleagues and other relevant professionals

- Collaborate and work with colleagues and other relevant professionals within and beyond the academy and Trust
- Develop effective professional relationships with colleagues

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

Class Teacher

E = Essential / **D** = Desireable

Qualifications & Training		
Qualified teacher status	E	
Degree	E	

Skills and Knowledge		
Knowledge of the National Curriculum	E	
Knowledge of effective teaching and learning strategies	E	
A good understanding of how children learn	E	
Ability to adapt teaching to meet pupils' needs	E	
Ability to build effective working relationships with pupils	E	
Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children	E	
Knowledge of effective behaviour management strategies	E	
Good ICT skills, particularly using ICT to support learning	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 Nolan principles) at all times	E	
Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times	E	
A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils and promoting the ethos and values of the academy and Trust	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.

