



Great Ouse Primary Academy

SENDCO

Recruitment Pack



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Valuing People



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Pursuit of
Excellence



Extending the
Boundaries of
Learning



Achievement
for all

About Great Ouse Primary Academy

Welcome to Great Ouse Primary Academy, a school that thinks and dreams big for its pupils. Expectations are high for all who make up the Great Ouse Primary Academy community and these standards reflect the wonderful physical environment we have developed to enable children to flourish within and beyond the school walls. We are committed to developing learners who are resilient, focused and aspirational in their goals and we are delighted that you'll be joining our team to prepare our pupils to be successful citizens of the 21st century.

Great Ouse Primary Academy, in Bedford, opened as a brand-new primary academy in September 2017 and is a proud member of the Meridian Trust. In February 2022 we were visited by Ofsted inspectors and received a 'Good' result across all areas. Inspectors noted that 'leaders have carefully considered the important things that pupils need to know and remember. This allows pupils to make connections, so they learn and remember more.'

We encourage all our children to strive to be the best that they can be and to take responsibility for their own growth as members of the school and wider community. This is expressed through our Six C's, "Co-operative, Conscientious, Curious, Caring, Courageous and Courteous."

The school is a bright, modern and inspiring learning environment with up-to-date technology providing vibrant teaching and learning spaces linking with our Core Visions of "Academic excellence, Self-belief, Intellectual curiosity and Responsibility."

Being part of Meridian Trust, our school is underpinned and supported by their ethos and values. The core of their philosophy is:

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

We believe that the school absolutely belongs to our community of children, staff, parents and carers and we are very much looking forward to you joining our team of highly experienced staff.

Mr Chris Payne

Headteacher



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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.



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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.

Why work for us

Meridian Trust aims to be the employer of choice for the communities we serve. Since



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all

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: 30/01/2026

Interviews: 02/02/2026

Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact:

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.



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JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	SENDCO
JD Reference:	
School/Academy:	Great Ouse Primary Academy
Salary:	Leadership
Responsible to:	Principal

Role:	Determine the strategic development of special educational needs (SEN) provision within the school.
Purpose of job:	Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Meridian SEN policy and co-ordination of provision to support students with SEN within the school. Provide professional guidance to colleagues, parents, students and external agencies.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities as SENDCO:

Strategic development of SEN policy and provision:

- Have a strategic overview of provision for students with SEN across the school, monitoring and reviewing the quality of provision.
- Contribute to a school self-evaluation, particularly with respect to provision for students with SEN.
- Make sure the SEN policy is put into practice and its objectives are reflected in the school improvement plan.
- Maintain up to date knowledge of national and local initiatives that may affect the school's policy and practice.
- Evaluate whether funding is being used effectively and suggest changes to make use of funding more effective.

Operation of the SEN policy and co-ordination of provision:

- Maintain and accurate SEN register and provision map.
- Provide guidance to colleagues on teaching students with SEN and advise on the graduated approach to SEN support.
- Advise on the use of the school's budget and other resources to meet students' needs effectively including staff deployment.
- Work with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals being the main point of contact.
- Analyse assessment data for students with SEN.
- Implement and lead intervention groups for students with SEN, and evaluate their effectiveness.

Support for students with SEN:

- Identify a student's SEN and co-ordinate provision that meets the student's needs and monitor its effectiveness.
- Secure relevant services for the student and ensure records are maintained and kept up to date.
- Review the education, health and care plan (EHCP) with parents or carers and the student.
- Ensure if the student transfers to another school, all relevant information is conveyed to it, and support a smooth transition for the student.
- Promote the student's inclusion in the school community and access to the curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities.

Leadership and management:

- Work with the Principal and academy council (Governance) to ensure the college meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 in terms of reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Prepare and review information the academy council is required to publish.
- Identify training needs for staff and deliver training as needed.
- Share procedural information, such as the college's SEN policy.
- Promote an ethos and culture that supports the trust's SEN policy and promotes good outcomes for students with SEN or a disability.
- Lead and manage teaching assistants (TAs) working with students with SEN including their performance management process.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities as a Teacher:**Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils:**

- Establish a safe and stimulating environment for pupils, rooted in mutual respect.
- Set goals that stretch and challenge pupils of all backgrounds, abilities and dispositions.
- Demonstrate consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of pupils.

Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils:

- Be accountable for pupils' attainment, progress and outcomes.
- Be aware of pupils' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these.
- Guide pupils to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how pupils learn and how this impacts on teaching.
- Encourage pupils to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study.

Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge:

- Have a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas, foster and maintain pupils' interest in the subject, and address misunderstandings.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas, and promote the value of scholarship.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and take responsibility for promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject.
- If teaching early reading, demonstrate a clear understanding of systematic synthetic phonics.
- If teaching early mathematics, demonstrate a clear understanding of appropriate teaching strategies.

Plan and teach well-structured lessons:

- Impart knowledge and develop understanding through effective use of lesson time.
- Promote a love of learning and children's intellectual curiosity.
- Set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.
- Reflect systematically on the effectiveness of lessons and approaches to teaching.
- Contribute to the design and provision of an engaging curriculum within the relevant subject area(s).

Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils:

- Know when and how to differentiate appropriately, using approaches which enable pupils to be taught effectively.
- Have a secure understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit pupils' ability to learn, and how best to overcome these.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the physical, social and intellectual development of children, and know how to adapt teaching to support pupils' education at different stages of development.
- Have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs; those of high ability; those with English as an additional language; those with disabilities; and be able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them.

Make accurate and productive use of assessment:

- Know and understand how to assess the relevant subject and curriculum areas, including statutory assessment requirements.
- Make use of formative and summative assessment to secure pupils' progress.
- Use relevant data to monitor progress, set targets, and plan subsequent lessons.
- Give pupils regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encourage pupils to respond to the feedback.

Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment:

- Have clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms and take responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour both in classrooms and around the school, in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- Have high expectations of behaviour and establish a framework for discipline with a range of strategies, using praise, sanctions and rewards consistently and fairly.
- Manage classes effectively, using approaches which are appropriate to pupils' needs in order to involve and motivate them.
- Maintain good relationships with pupils, exercise appropriate authority, and act decisively when necessary.

Fulfil wider professional responsibilities:

- Make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school.
- Develop effective professional relationships with colleagues, knowing how and when to draw on advice and specialist support.
- Deploy support staff effectively.
- Take responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development, responding to advice and feedback from colleagues.
- Communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils' achievements and well-being.

Support for School/Academy/Place of work:

- Participation in staff events by arrangement.
- Attend Staff Meetings.
- Contribute and participate in Trust events and activities where possible.
- Develop and maintain 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.
- To work/operate all equipment within Health and Safety and other legal regulations, including risk assessments.
- 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.
- To 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 commensurate with the grade of the post, in consultation with 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 2023

Person Specification – SENDCO	<p>Assessment Key:</p> <p>A = Application Form</p> <p>I = Interview</p> <p>RE = Reference</p> <p>AS = Assessment</p>
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Education and Qualification		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
1	Qualified Teacher Status.	✓		A
2	Good educational background including a good Honours Degree or equivalent.	✓		A
3	NASENCO or a willingness to work towards it.	✓		A/I
4	Evidence of continuing professional development.		✓	A/I
Experience		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
5	Excellent classroom practitioner.	✓		A/I/RE/AS
6	Excellent subject knowledge.	✓		A/I/AS
Knowledge and Skills		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
7	Evidence of both curricular and pastoral responsibilities.	✓		A/I/RE/AS
8	Understanding of and commitment to teaching standards.	✓		A/I/RE
9	Ability to foster and promote good relationships with all stakeholders.	✓		A/I/RE
10	Ability to contribute to team meetings and contribute ideas.	✓		A/I/RE
Personal Qualities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
11	High personal standards in terms of attendance, punctuality and organising workload.	✓		I/RE/AS
12	Willingness to undergo further training and development.	✓		I
13	Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.	✓		I/RE/AS
14	Think creatively and collegiately to solve problems and identify opportunities.	✓		I/RE/AS
15	Positive and enthusiastic approach towards work.	✓		I/AS

16	Professional approach when dealing with all issues, students and staff.	✓		I/AS
17	Clear, fully inclusive, educational philosophy.	✓		A/I/RE
18	Commitment to continual improvement and challenging norms.	✓		A/I/AS
Child Protection		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
19	Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection.	✓		A/I
Other		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
20	Flexibility of working hours.	✓		A/I