



Great Ouse Primary Academy

Level 1 Teaching Assistant

Recruitment Pack



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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



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.

Our Trust currently consists of 36 schools, 19 primary schools, 13 secondary schools, 3 special schools and 1 all-through. 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 36 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: 10/07/2026

Interviews: Suitable candidates will be contacted to interview before the closing date.

Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact:

[Kyla Murray – Primary Recruitment Officer](#)

Email: KMurray@meridiantrust.co.uk

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.

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Teaching Assistant – Level 1
JD Reference:	STD TA 01
School/Academy:	Great Ouse Primary Academy
Weeks:	39 Weeks
Hours of work:	32.5 Hours
Salary:	Grade 4 Points 3-5
Responsible to:	SENDCO

Role:	To support the teaching of students
Purpose of job:	To assist the classroom teacher in the support and inclusion of children To support access to learning for students and encourage interaction and independence

Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

Support for Students:

- Supervise the activities of individuals or groups of children to ensure their safety and welfare
- Establish and keep supportive relationships with individual students or small groups to ensure they understand and can achieve the tasks
- Promote the inclusion and acceptance of all students
- Aid the learning of children by:
 - Clarifying and explaining instructions
 - Ensure that the child can use the equipment and materials supplied
 - Motivate and encourage the child as needed
 - Aid in weaker areas, e.g., spelling, handwriting, reading etc
 - Help students to concentrate and to finish the work set

Support for Teachers:

- Prepare the classroom for lessons as directed
- Undertake support activities as needed, e.g., photocopying, mounting displays, filing, etc
- Undertake student record keeping as requested
- Contribute to the management of student behaviour



Support for the Curriculum:

- Support students to understand instructions
- Support students in respect of local and national learning strategies e.g., literacy, numeracy, KS3, KS3, as directed by the teacher
- Support the use of ICT in the curriculum

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 the relevant person
- Accompany staff and students on visits, trips and out-of-school activities as needed
- Develop and keep effective working relationships with other staff
- Attend relevant meetings as needed

Support for School/Academy/Place of work:

- Participate in staff events by arrangement
- Attend Staff Meetings
- 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:

- Follow the legal provisions regulating confidentiality and security of data and information under GDPR

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/run all equipment within Health and Safety & Welfare
- 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 safeguarding 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 1	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	Teaching Assistant qualification or willingness to work towards one		✓	A
Experience		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
3	Experience of supporting children in a classroom environment		✓	A/I
4	Experience of working with children across all key stages		✓	A/I
Knowledge and understanding		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
5	Some understanding of the education system	✓		A/I
6	Some knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice		✓	A/I
7	Some understanding of how children learn	✓		A/I
8	Some understanding of phonics, numeracy, and literacy development	✓		I
9	Knowledge of the concept of confidentiality	✓		I
10	Awareness of child protection issues	✓		I
11	First aid certificate		✓	A
Skills and abilities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
12	Able to make and sustain positive relationships with children	✓		I
13	Able to work closely with pupils who are finding learning difficult	✓		I
14	Good written and oral communication skills	✓		I
15	Ability to contribute to team meetings and contribute ideas	✓		I
Personal Qualities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment

16	Willingness to undergo further training and development	✓		I
17	Positive and enthusiastic approach towards work	✓		I
18	Ability to act on own initiative	✓		I
19	Kindness and empathy towards students and colleagues	✓		I
20	Ability to work as part of a team effectively			I
Child Protection		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
21	Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection.	✓		A/I
Other		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
22	Flexibility of working hours	✓		A/I