



Meridian Trust

Finance Officer Recruitment Pack



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Welcome from our CEO, Mark Woods



Thank you for your interest in joining the Meridian Trust family.

The success and growth of our Trust has been based on remaining focused on some critical principles:

- 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 our common values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems

Since 2011, thanks to the fantastic work of our staff, our Trust has grown from 1 to 28 academies whilst retaining our focus on working within an area that enables easy movement between our schools. From first developing an application in 2007 to open schools in the new town of Northstowe, we have been committed to the vision of being an all-through and all-inclusive Trust. Our Trust currently consists of 14 primary schools, 12 secondary schools and 2 special schools. We are also currently developing 3 free school projects within our region.

Meridian also plays a key role in the wider development of education in the region. We are the home to the Cambridge and Peterborough Teaching School Hub and operate a vibrant Initial Teaching Training provider that trains upwards of 100 teachers annually. In addition, our commitment to the local community as an extension of our village college ethos means that we host a range of activity in our schools, including providing leisure and educational opportunities.

If being part of a dynamic, compassionate and dedicated group who believe we can really improve young people's life chances and opportunities by working together appeals to you, we very much look forward to receiving your application.

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.

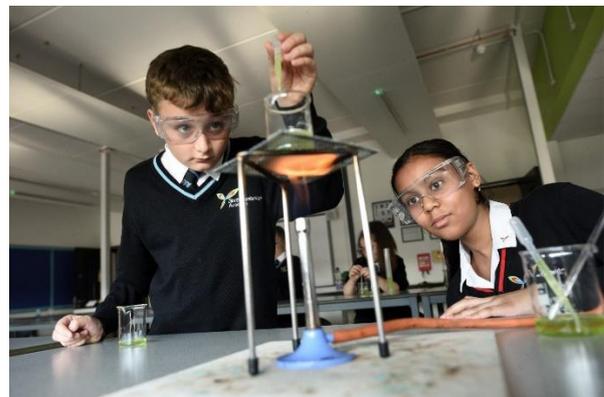
We are currently a family of 28 academies (including 14 primary, 2 special and 12 secondary schools). The secondary schools include a University Technology College, an Upper School, four 11-16 schools and six 11-18 schools. We also have 2 new secondary free schools in development. All within 20 miles 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:

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Valuing People | Engaged, developed, supported, and consulted. |
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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 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:

Working with us brings with it a range of attractive benefits, including;

- Generous employer contributions to Local Government or Teacher Pension Scheme
- Free on-site parking
- Eyecare vouchers
- Access to a free Employee Assistance Programme, offering mental health and wellbeing support to staff
- Cycle to work scheme
- Reduced staff membership to the facilities at Academy Leisure, Sawtry
- Free tea and coffee making facilities
- Generous sick pay and annual leave



How to apply

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

Closing Date:

9am 6th November 2023

Interviews:

14th November 2023

Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact:

Catherine Sutton

csutton@elycollege.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:	Finance Officer
JD Reference:	Meridian Trust 0024
School/Academy:	Ely College
Weeks:	40 - 52 weeks
Hours of work:	37 per week (part time hours negotiable)
Salary:	Grade 7
Responsible to:	Trust Accountant

Role:	Provide financial support for the successful operations of the school
Purpose of the job:	To assist the Trust Accountant with the Trust's financial operations to ensure the support services provided enable the academies to meet their responsibilities and goals

Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

- Prepare monthly supplier payment runs including e-mailing remittance advice to suppliers
- Enter and check payroll variances for the staff at the school and liaise with HR to ensure that any contractual changes are reflected accurately and promptly
- Assist the Trust Accountant with the preparation of month end accounts and re-forecasts
- Prepare reconciliation of balance sheet control accounts
- Meet with the Principal of the school and the Trust Accountant regularly
- Daily and monthly procedures and transaction processing in connection with the accounting system including monthly reconciliation of control accounts
- Oversee payments to Post 16 bursary students
- Oversee and post entries into the Nominal Ledger
- Reconcile the bank statements weekly and assist with the planning of cash flows
- Review payroll month end and prepare and input payroll journals
- Ensure that the Trust's financial procedures are always adhered to, concerning payment authorisations, and ensuring that orders do not exceed Budget Holder's financial limits. Wherever possible, help Budget Holders to understand their budget, commitment, and available spending positions
- Oversee that Sales Ledger receipts are banked promptly and accurately recorded against the correct account
- Ensure effective credit control procedures are in plan i.e. any monies owed to the school that are overdue are chased up

- Reconcile ParentPay receipts and post them to relevant income codes
- Assist the Trust Accountant to monitor income from lettings by ensuring that all invoices are raised as soon as possible. Receipts must be banked and entered PSF promptly
- Be responsible for the financial management of school trips
- Be responsible for the financial management of catering income and expenditure
- Oversee management of petty cash
- Line management of finance assistant

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
- Contribute to the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment
- Ensure new budget holders are trained to use the PSF PO systems

Data security:

- Act following legal provisions regulating confidentiality and security of data and information under General Data Protection 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 assessments
- Contribute to the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment

Continuing Professional Development:

- In conjunction with the line manager, take responsibility for personal and professional development, keeping up to date with research and developments related to school/academy/place of work efficiency, which can contribute to improvements in the daily running of the Trust
- Participate in the annual appraisal system
- 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
- Participate in an induction programme

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 commensurate with 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 concerning 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:
Finance Officer**

Assessment Key:
A = Application Form
I = Interview

Education and Qualification		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
1	5 GCSEs passes or equivalent including English and Maths	✓		A
2	Qualification in Accounting		✓	A
3	Qualification in the use of IT systems		✓	A
Experience		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
4	Experience in working in an administrative or accounting environment	✓		A/I
5	Experience of working in an educational setting		✓	A/I
6	Experience in working with external agencies		✓	A/I
7	Proficient in data entry and management	✓		A
Knowledge and understanding		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
8	Knowledge of the concept of confidentiality	✓		I
9	Awareness of child protection issues	✓		I
10	Knowledge of accounts payable/receivable	✓		A/I
11	Knowledge of general accounting procedures	✓		A/I
12	Knowledge of office administration and procedures	✓		A/I
13	Knowledge of general bookkeeping procedures	✓		A/I
14	Knowledge of PSF accounting software or equivalent		✓	A/I
Skills and abilities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
15	Organising and prioritising	✓		I
16	Attention to detail and accuracy	✓		I



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all

17	Information management skills	✓		I
18	Good verbal and written skills	✓		I
19	Problem analysis and problem-solving skills	✓		I
20	Strict adherence to regulations, procedures, and practices	✓		I
21	Ability to meet deadlines	✓		I
Personal Qualities		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
22	Willingness to undergo further training and development	✓		I
23	Positive and enthusiastic approach toward work	✓		I
24	Ability to act on own initiative	✓		I
25	Kindness and empathy towards students and colleagues	✓		I
26	Ability to work as part of a team effectively			I
27	Adaptable to changing working patterns and practices	✓		I
28	A presence and strength of character that promotes calm in a busy and demanding environment	✓		I
29	Commitment to working with other staff as part of a team responsible for supporting the process of teaching and learning	✓		I
30	Ability to work on own for much of the time, but integrate with the wider office team	✓		I
31	Personable and well presented	✓		I
32	Desire to learn and take on new challenges	✓		I
Child Protection		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
33	Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection	✓		A/I
Other		Essential	Desirable	Assessment
34	The flexibility of working hours	✓		A/I



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all