



# Meridian Trust

## Student Support Assistant 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.

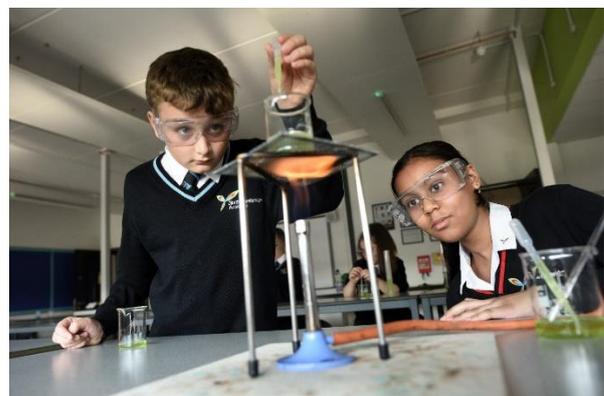
We are currently a family of 28 academies (including 14 primary, 2 special and 12 secondary schools). The secondary schools include a University Technology College, an Upper School, four 11-16 schools and six 11-18 schools. We also have 2 new secondary free schools in development. All within 20 miles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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <br>Valuing People                       | Engaged, developed, supported, and consulted.   |
| <br>High Quality Learning Environment    | Experts who strive for continual development. Collaborative networks, trusted to deliver. |
| <br>Pursuit of Excellence                | Set ambitious goals and model what success looks like. Eager to improve.                  |
| <br>Extending the Boundaries of Learning | Make connections, provide opportunities. Generous and sharing of knowledge and expertise. |
| <br>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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Interviews:

Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact:

Catherine Sutton

[csutton@elycollege.co.uk](mailto: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

<b>Job Title:</b>	Student Support Assistant
<b>JD Reference:</b>	Meridian Trust 009
<b>School/Academy:</b>	Ely College
<b>Weeks:</b>	Term Time Only plus 5 days (39 Weeks)
<b>Hours of work:</b>	37 Hours
<b>Salary:</b>	Grade 7 Points 12 to 19
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Assistant Principal

<b>Role:</b>	Support the running of the House Office.
<b>Purpose of job:</b>	To provide administrative and pastoral support to the house leadership and promote positive behaviour of all students. Support the house leadership with all aspects of their pastoral work.

### Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

#### 1. Support the House Office with student attendance and punctuality

- Monitor the attendance of students and have regular communication with the Attendance Officer
- Liaise with the Attendance Officer regarding contact home and undertake duties in their absence
- Provide Senior Tutor with attendance data for the House
- Inform Senior Tutor, Attendance Officer & Safeguarding Team of any students with attendance issues
- Liaise with Attendance Officer regarding appropriate attendance letters and attach copies to school files
- Inform Senior Tutor of any patterns of absence or lateness
- Monitor lateness and co-ordinate lunchtime detentions with the Senior Tutor
- In collaboration with Senior Tutor, provide support to students and parents to encourage good attendance using Student Support Plans
- Ensure Fire Registers are available and delivered during Fire Drills

#### 2. Administrative support for the House Office

- Clerical support as requested including filing, word processing, record keeping and telephone messages
- Support the Lead DSL and SPOC with matters relating to safeguarding and welfare
- Issue letters from Senior Tutor to parents to maintain good standards of behaviour and dress



- Produce achievement certificates for students
- Create, manage, and update all student confidential records
- Attend re-admittance meetings for excluded students
- Attend and support as necessary during the New Intake Evening
- Attend and support as necessary the school open evenings
- Support fundraising activities and ensure the House Charities board is kept up to date
- Monitoring of supplies and ordering equipment
- Organisation of house activities and events building a House identity and ethos
- Co-ordinate rewards and sanctions for the House
- Assist with the organisation of assemblies
- Administer induction of new students to the house for mid-academic year
- Support with parents' evenings' administration including appointment bookings and follow up

### **3. Outside Agencies**

- Liaise with and provide student information for:
  - Secondary Support
  - Youth Service
  - School Nurse
  - Social Services
  - Police
  - Charities
- Attend regular meetings to provide the best support for students

### **4. To liaise with parents**

- Act as first point of call for all parental enquiries and complaints regarding the pastoral care of their children
- To deal with those issues that are manageable and to pass on to the appropriate member of staff any matters of significance
- Maintain a good relationship with parents

### **5. Provide support for students**

- Assist the Assistant Principal, Senior Tutor, and Tutors in effectively implementing the behaviour management programmes for students
- Implement the school's policy regarding the emergency withdrawal of students from a classroom
- Telephone parents to advise them of any issues or concerns
- Follow up incidents of behaviour, including taking witness statements and talking to students
- Collate work for students in isolation or absence on long term sick



Valuing People



High Quality  
Learning  
Environment



Pursuit of  
Excellence



Extending the  
Boundaries of  
Learning



Achievement  
for all

- Co-ordinate mentoring, counselling, and additional support for students
- Develop mentoring relationships with students identified as requiring additional support

#### **6. First Aid**

- Assess and provide basic medical assistance as required across the Academy
- Facilitate and administer mediation for students, some with medical support plans
- Attend relevant First Aid CPD as required
- Take decisions to send unwell students' home
- Accompany students to hospital in an emergency (if necessary)
- Log all treatments of Basic First Aid on the central system
- Report any serious incident linked to Health and Safety through the appropriate channels
- Undertake and participate in any training as and when required

#### **7. Specific Duty related to the House**

- Each SSA will be required to undertake a specific role related to their skills and experience and which meets the needs of the school. Responsibility could include:
- First Aid – lead on first aid issues and training across the academy, reporting and monitoring of accidents in school and attend meetings in medial capacity for students with complex needs
- Student Transition – liaise with primary school settings, support with the open events and full admin support for students joining the school including induction days
- Child Protection – undertake all filing for CP issues on student files and monitor the approved list of visitors into school
- Work Experience and Careers – support with careers events and post 16 guidance for Year 11

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

#### **Support for School/Academy/Place of work:**

- Participate 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
- Hours authorized by the school more than full-time hours will be paid at the overtime rate

**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
- 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 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**



<b>Person Specification – Student Support Assistant</b>	Assessment Key: A = Application Form I = Interview
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Education and Qualification	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Good educational background with GCSE or equivalent in English Language	✓		A/I
Experience	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Experience of administration background	✓		A/I
Experience of working in the education sector		✓	A/I
Experience of working with young people		✓	A/I
Experience of working as part of a team	✓		A/I
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Knowledge of using different IT software such as Microsoft Office, and Email. With training, use the school management information system	✓		A/I
The interpersonal skills to communicate effectively and professionally with staff, students, parents, and other outside agencies (by phone and in person)	✓		A/I
Ability to establish good working relationships with colleagues	✓		A/I
Ability to work as an individual, as well as part of a team	✓		A/I
Ability to work using own initiative	✓		A/I
Ability to always remain calm and professional	✓		A/I
Personal Qualities	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Highly motivated and enthusiastic	✓		A/I
Committed and reliable	✓		A/I

High professional standards	✓		A/I
Excellent timekeeping	✓		A/I
<b>Child Protection</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection	✓		A/I
<b>Other</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Flexibility of working hours	✓		A/I