A group of children reading books

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**Higher Level Teaching Assistant Application Pack**

A logo for a school

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**Letter from Catherine Paine, Chief Executive**

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in this role within the REAch2 Academy Trust.

This is a hugely exciting time for our family of schools. The Trust has been recognised by the Department for Education as being well placed to raise standards and achieve excellence for pupils in a growing number of schools nationwide. We are presented with a rare opportunity to make a real difference to the lives and life chances of so many primary school children – many of whom haven’t previously received the educational opportunities they deserve.

The Trust includes schools at all stages of development, from those requiring significant improvement through to existing outstanding schools. As a Trust we are clear about the importance of achieving long term sustainability for our schools. Our vision is to enable individual academies to flourish with real autonomy, whilst also ensuring a strong ethos of support and collaboration across our schools.

Employees within REAch2 belong to a national community of professionals, and benefit from a wide range of networks and development opportunities across the Trust. In time, our best teachers are able to work across schools, develop specialisms and step up to leadership roles within and beyond their own academy. The Trust provides a strong culture of collaboration and support, together with high expectations for staff and pupils alike.

Those we recruit are able to demonstrate that they share our values, are highly motivated to work with colleagues within and beyond their school to continuously develop their skills and pursue professional excellence and are committed to providing the highest standards of teaching for all children. If that is you then we would be delighted to receive your application.

**Catherine Paine**

**CEO, REAch2 Academy Trust**



# Letter from Gemma Jackson, Head Teacher, Green Park Village Primary Academy

Dear Candidate

We are looking to appoint a Higher Level Teaching Assistant to join our school’s learning and teaching team. Our open year groups are Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.

Opening Green Park Village Primary Academy was exciting for the community and the school team involved and we are looking to continue to recruit to a team of committed and motivated individuals, with values and attitudes, which align with the REAch2 Touchstones and the GRIT Values of the school: Giving and gratitude; Resilience and readiness; Integrity and inspiration; Trust and teamwork.

Green Park Village Primary Academy is a new school in Reading, a highly populated, expanding and culturally diverse town in Berkshire. The academy has been built to serve a brand new community within a new and expanding housing development situated within the business hub of Reading.

Green Park Village Primary Academy will grow to be a two-form entry primary school with a 26 (FTE) place Nursery attached. The school opened in September 2020 residing in its permanent stunning building from the start. Opening to new Reception cohorts each September, the school will grow year on year to a capacity of 420 learners with 26 (FTE) nursery places.

Green Park Village Primary Academy will have an explicit focus on ‘Literacies for Life’. All of the five Literacies relate explicitly to communication. Communication is central to learning and all interactions at Green Park Village Primary Academy. The Literacies will be golden threads woven throughout our curriculum and all learning and experiences in our school. Our Literacies for Life are: Literacy- vocabulary, oracy, reading and writing; Emotional Literacy; Social Literacy; Digital Literacy; Cultural Literacy.

**Gemma Jackson**

**Head Teacher, Green Park Village Primary Academy, a REAch2 school**

# Our Cornerstones and Touchstones

REAch2 is the Cornerstone of the Trust: providing a strong, responsible foundation from which every academy develops and grows. A cornerstone provides a subtle yet paramount role in the construction of a building and ensures that REAch2 is a trustworthy, accountable and inspirational organisation, delivering the best possible learning experience.

REAch2 is defined by the values of **excellence, quality, delivery and standards** – these features give the Trust its enduring attributes and its inherent reliability.

However, what gives each REAch2 Academy its uniqueness are the Touchstones of the Trust (seen on the right). Just as 500 years ago touchstones were used to test the quality of the gold they marked, so too our touchstones find what is precious and set these things apart. They are used to express the values and ethos of the Trust and describe what the Trust wants to be known for and how it wishes to operate.

With good **leadership**, we aspire to develop children academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. We notice talent and spot the ‘possible’ in people as well as the ‘actual’. Developing potential across our Trust becomes a realisation that there is a future worth pursuing for everyone.

Children deserve **enjoyment** in their **learning** and the pleasure that comes from absorption in a task and achieving their goals. Providing contexts for learning which are relevant, motivating and engaging, release in children their natural curiosity, fun and determination.

**Inspiration** breathes energy and intent into our schools: through influential experiences, children can believe that no mountain is too high and that nothing is impossible.

REAch2 serves a wide range of communities across the country and we celebrate the economic, social, cultural and religious diversity that this brings: embracing **inclusion** ensures that we are a Trust that serves all, believing that everyone can succeed.

We take our **responsibility** seriously. We act judiciously with control and care. We don’t make excuses, but mindfully answer for our actions and continually seek to make improvements.

REAch2 is a Trust that has a strong moral purpose, our **integrity** is paramount. Our mission is to change children's lives by providing the very best quality education we can. Through this, children can fulfil their potential, become happy, successful adults and contribute effectively and meaningfully to society. We welcome the fact that all our decisions and actions are open to scrutiny. You can learn more about REAch2 at our website: [www.reach2.org](http://www.reach2.org)

# The role

**Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Green Park Village Primary Academy**

Are you:

* An excellent classroom practitioner excited to work in a brand new, state of the art school?
* Passionate about creativity, fun and learning through play?
* Warm in character and fully committed to team work, recognising that more can be achieved together than is possible an individuals?
* Determined to succeed and be relentless in the pursuit of excellence for our children?
* Willing to hold a flexible role at class, group and individual level, supporting the personalisation of learning for all children?

If so, you’ll love to be part of our team developing Green Park Village Primary Academy to be a school which families and professionals aspire to part of.

At Green Park Village Primary Academy we are looking for an excellent practitioner to join our learning and teaching team.

We seek team members who are genuinely up for a challenge and who want to get involved with all aspects of our academy life. This is the chance to be part of something exciting and fulfilling and we recruit team members who share the dream and pro-actively demonstrate the values and attitudes to make Green Park Village Primary Academy a truly special experience for our children and families.

We can offer you:

* A firm commitment to you and your professional development;
* Friendly, supportive, enthusiastic and hardworking colleagues, staff and governors;
* A growing learning community;
* Encouragement to develop new ideas and the opportunity to make a real difference;
* Coaching and mentoring from experienced leaders;
* Fantastic trust-wide CPD opportunities;
* Opportunities to further develop your career within our Multi Academy Trust, REAch2, the largest primary-only academy trust in the country;
* The unique opportunity to help develop and shape a brand-new school, including an innovative approach to curriculum provision;
* A stunning school environment, with state-of-the-art facilities.

There is no doubt about it, setting up the academy from new takes vision, dedication and hard work. Being part of that exciting and rare journey will be very rewarding in seeing the academy take shape over the next few years and being part of that vision and growth from the earlier years.

# The application

You are invited to submit an application form to Gemma Jackson, Head Teacher, Green Park Village Primary Academy

Completed applications should be returned by email to: recruitment@reach2.org

REAch2 Academy Trust have an Equal Opportunities Policy for selection and recruitment. Applicants are requested to complete the Trust’s online [Equality & Diversity Monitoring Form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGorfMwEtEi30d9QFOXXNJ4DEcgd411KhzIQrNunT_hUMlJXTkhNVlE0SlhKV0FWTEk2Wkw1TTUwRS4u) separately.

In accordance with our Safeguarding Policy the successful candidate will be required to have an enhanced DBS check.

To arrange an informal discussion please contact Gemma Jackson, Head Teacher, Green Park Village Primary Academy

## The application process and timetable

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Application deadline:** | Applications will be considered on receipt |
| **School visits:** | Please contact the school to arrange |
| **Interviews:** | To be confirmed with shortlisted candidate(s) |
| **Contract details:** | 37 hours per week (full school hours included) |
| **Salary:** | NJC SCP 9-15 £25,119-£27,803 FTE per annum, actual salary is £21,509 (term time only plus 5 inset days) |
| **Start date:** | As soon as possible |

The candidates selected for interview will be informed after shortlisting and full details of the interview programme will be provided.

# Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment and Data Protection

At REAch2 we recognise that those who work in an academy are in a unique position in their care of children. The responsibility for all staff to safeguard pupils and promote their welfare, as stated in Section 175 of the Education Act (2002) is one that is central to our ethos, our policies and our actions. All children are deserving of the highest levels of care and safeguarding, regardless of their individual characteristics or circumstances, and we are committed to applying our policies to ensure effective levels of safeguarding and care are afforded to all our pupils.

We will seek to recruit the best applicant for the job based on the abilities, qualifications, experience as measured against the job description and person specification. The recruitment and selection of staff will be conducted in a professional, timely and responsive manner and in compliance with current employment legislation, and relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.

All information is stored securely and any information supplied by unsuccessful candidates will be destroyed through a confidential waste system six months after the decision has been communicated, in accordance with our information and records retention policy.

The Trust ensures all applicant data is stored and processed appropriately. For further details on how your information will be managed during the recruitment process please refer to our [Privacy Notice for Job Applications](https://reach2.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Privacy-Notice-Job-Applications.pdf).

# Job Description

**Post:**   **Higher Level Teaching Assistant**

**Salary: NJC SCP 9-15 £23,194-£25,878 actual salary is £20204.30 (term time only)**

**Responsible to: Phase Lead**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Job title** | Higher Level Teaching Assistant |
| **Salary Scale** | NJC SCP 9-15 |
| **Responsible to** | Phase Lead/ Head Teacher |
| **Purpose of Job** | |
| * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant is a member of a team of practitioners responsible for the education and care of the children in the school. * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant will advance pupil learning; implement work programmes for individuals/groups and supervise physical/general care of students, including those with SEND; enable access to learning for students and assist the teacher in the behaviour management of learners in the classroom and in transitions around the school. * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant will supervise a class, when required and as directed by the Head Teacher | |
| **Context of Role** | |
| * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant will be used flexibly to support the learning of a range of learners across the school and this will include covering classes, when required and as directed by the Head Teacher * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant will work under the direction of a Teacher, supporting learning of individuals and groups within classes or in intervention areas within the school * A Higher Level Teaching Assistant will be utilised to support where the need is the greatest and this may involve vertical groupings for targeted interventions/ quality additional teaching * The school welcomes practitioners of high professional standard and shares the responsibility with each practitioner for continual review and the development of expertise. * All Higher Level Teaching Assistants make a valuable contribution to the school’s development and, therefore, to the progress of all children. | |
| **Support for learners** | |
| * establish productive working relationships with learners, acting as a role model and setting high expectations * promote the inclusion and acceptance of all learners * encourage learners to interact with others and engage in activities * set challenging and demanding expectations and promote self-esteem and independence * provide feedback to learners in relation to progress and achievement * assist with the development and implementation of Individual Education/Behaviour Plans and Personal Care Programs, including intimate care where required * supervise and provide specific support for learners, including those with special needs, ensuring their safety and access to learning activities * support pupils consistently whilst recognising and responding to their individual needs * be responsible for First Aid (after training) in the event of accident or injury and provide documentation as required * promptly report signs of health problems to the class teacher and comply with school policy and procedures for recording information about pupils’ health, including issues of confidentiality * supervise children at arrival/departure and at other designated times in the school environment, in some cases the teacher may not be in the immediate vicinity * where necessary, and under the direction of the teacher, act as an escort on and off school premises, this may include situations where the teacher is not in the immediate vicinity or immediate sight and in accordance with the Educational Visits Policy | |

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| --- |
| **Support for the Teacher(s)** |
| * organise and manage appropriate learning environment and resources * provide objective and accurate feedback and reports as required on learner achievement, progress and other matters, ensuring the availability of appropriate evidence * record progress and achievement in lessons/activities systematically and providing evidence of range and level of progress and attainment * work within an established discipline policy to anticipate and manage behaviour constructively, promoting self-control and independence * supporting the role of parents in learners’ learning and contribute to/lead meetings with parents to provide constructive feedback on pupil progress/achievement etc. * monitor and evaluate pupil responses to learning activities through a range of assessment and monitoring strategies against pre-determined learning objectives * within an agreed system of supervision, plan challenging teaching and learning objectives to evaluate and adjust lessons/work plans as appropriate * use strategies, in liaison with the teacher, to support students to achieve learning goals * provide detailed and regular feedback to teachers on students’ achievement, progress, problems etc. * promote positive values, attitudes and good learner behaviour, dealing promptly with conflict and incidents in line with established policy and encourage learners to take responsibility for their own behaviour * show effective behaviour management, ensuring a purposeful, orderly and supportive environment * report uncharacteristic behaviour patterns in individual learners and incidents of inappropriate behaviour to the teacher * provide general clerical/admin support, for example, administer work, produce worksheets for agreed activities, photocopying, filing and inputting data * assist with the planning of learning activities * help learners to select equipment and materials relevant to their learning tasks and to use these safely and correctly |
| **Support for the curriculum** |
| * deliver learning activities to pupils within agreed system of supervision, adjusting activities according to pupil responses/needs * deliver local and national learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, early years and make effective use of opportunities provided by other learning activities to support the development of learners’ skills * use ICT effectively to support learning activities and develop learners’ competence and independence in its use * Advise on appropriate deployment and use of specialist aid/resources/equipment * Select and prepare resources necessary to lead learning activities, taking account of learners’ interests and language and cultural backgrounds   + - follow the curriculum plans and learning programs and obtain and use equipment and materials appropriate to the learning objectives and learners’ developmental needs     - obtain accurate and up-to-date information on learners’ current literacy and numeracy skills     - agree appropriate support strategies with the teacher to provide support across the curriculum and obtain the resources needed to implement these strategies     - promptly inform the teacher when a learner is experiencing learning difficulties that cannotbe resolved     - respond to learners’ use of home language and local accents and dialects in a manner which values cultural diversity and reinforces positive self-images     - provide levels of individual attention, reassurance and help with learning tasks as appropriate to learners’ needs     - monitor learners’ response to learning activities and, where necessary, modify or adapt activities to achieve the intended learning outcomes     - provide relevant information to the class teacher about students’ learning achievements on a daily basis     - provide an appropriate level of assistance to enable learners to experience a sense of achievement, maintain self-esteem and self-confidence and encourage self-help skills     - use appropriate strategies for challenging and motivating learners to learn |
| **Support for the school** |
| * be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person * contribute to the overall ethos/work/aims of the school * be aware of and support difference and ensure that the school’s equalities and diversity policies are followed, ensuring that all pupils have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop * participate in training, staff meetings, other learning activities and performance development when required * establish constructive relationships and communicate with other agencies/professionals, in liaison with the teacher, to support achievement and progress of students * establish positive/effective relationships with all stakeholders, including parents and governors * accompany teaching staff and students on visits, trips and out of school activities as required and take responsibility for a group under the supervision of the teacher * undertake all relevant training as directed by senior staff, including first aid training and safeguarding training * develop personally and professionally through reflection and development of own practice through professional development programmes and own reading, keeping abreast of new initiatives. * contribute effectively to the review of team practice, identifying and sharing information on opportunities for improvement * demonstrate a willingness to share information and expertise, which could benefit other team members in their work * comply with Health and Safety regulations * give clear, accurate and complete information to staff as needed for them to work effectively * provide information to assist other professionals in their role in accordance with school policies and procedures * take the initiative as appropriate to develop appropriate multi-agency approaches to supporting pupils * show a high level of professionalism at all times in accordance with school policies and procedures * be aware of confidentiality and maintain confidentiality linked to home/student/teacher /work as appropriate * actively encourage the development of positive relationships and promote confidence about the care and education of their children during contact and communications with parents, passing on any information given to you by parents to the appropriate staff member within the school * promptly report any difficulties in communicating with parents to the class teacher * take part in the wider life of the school, including taking responsibility for leading an extra-curricular activity * contribute to the identification and execution of appropriate out of school learning activities which consolidate and extend work carried out in class. * undertake play and lunch time supervision as directed by senior staff * be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection; health and safety; confidentiality; and data protection and report all concerns to an appropriate person. |

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS** REAch2 has a strong commitment to achieving equality of opportunity in its services to the community and the employment of people and expects all employees to understand, comply with and promote its policies in their work and to undertake any appropriate training

The post holder is expected to undertake any appropriate training, including recognised professional qualifications, considered necessary to fulfil the role

The post holder is expected to demonstrate a flexible approach in the delivery of work.

Consequently, the post holder may be required to perform work not specifically identified in the job description.

The duties outlined in the Job Description may be varied to meet the changing demands of the school at the reasonable direction of the Head Teacher. This job description does not form part of the contract of employment. It describes the way the post holder is expected to perform and complete the particular duties as set out above

# Person Specification

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Indicate if assessed at application or interview stage** |
| Right to work in the UK |  |  |  |
| Evidence of a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people |  |  |  |
| Commitment to promote and support the aims of REAch2 |  |  |  |
| **Skills and Abilities** |  |  |  |
| Effective communication skills with a range of audiences, both written and oral |  |  | Application & interview |
| Excellent numeracy/literacy skills |  |  | Application & interview |
| Ability to recognise the range and implications of factors that impact on the behaviour of students, e.g. age, gender and culture |  |  | Interview |
| Display commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people |  |  | Interview |
| Demonstrate a positive attitude to learning and a commitment to professional development |  |  | Interview |
| Ability to teach a structured activity to a group of learners |  |  | Application & interview |
| Excellent interpersonal skills |  |  | Interview |
| Work constructively as part of a team, making important contributions |  |  | Application |
| **Knowledge and understanding** |  |  |  |
| Effective knowledge/use of ICT to support own professional activities and to advance student learning |  |  | Interview |
| Prior knowledge, and ability to demonstrate an understanding, of child development and learning |  |  | Application & interview |
| Knowledge of Health and Safety in a school environment |  |  | Interview |
| Strategies suitable for effectively supporting learners’ learning |  |  | Interview |
| Understanding of the need for confidentiality in relation to students’ personal and protected information |  |  | Interview |
| Knowledge of the Primary Curriculum |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Has up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation and guidance in relation to working with, and the safeguarding and protection of, children and young people |  |  | Application & Interview |
| **Qualifications and Experience** |  |  |  |
| Meet Higher Level Teaching Assistant Standards or equivalent qualification or experience |  |  | Application & Interview |
| English & Maths GCSE at grade C or above |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Relevant medical qualifications/training, such as First Aid training or Paediatric training |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience or interest in working with children in a school based environment |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience or commitment to providing breakfast and after school club provision |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience or commitment to providing PPA cover |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience of supporting pupils with Literacy and Numeracy |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience of working with pupils with special educational needs. |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Recent experience of working in a school or other organisation with children of relevant age to promote learning |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience of planning Literacy and Numeracy tasks for small groups or classes in accordance with the National curriculum and National strategies. |  |  | Application & Interview |
| Experience of developing creative learning opportunities for children of all ages |  |  | Application & Interview |
| The willingness and ability to move between Key stages FS/KS1/KS2, if required |  |  | Application & Interview |
| **Personal Qualities** |  |  |  |
| * Ability to apply a positive approach to teaching and learning * Ability to remain calm under pressure. * Demonstrate good co-operative, interpersonal and listening skills. * Good sense of humour. * Flexibility and willingness to accept change. * Willingness to share expertise, knowledge and experience. * Ability to self-evaluate learning needs * Ability to work proactively and independently using own initiative. * Ability to organise, lead and motivate self and others. * Maintain a professional, positive attitude and outlook at all times. |  |  | Application, Interview and Reference |