



**The
Whitstable
School**

Higher Level Teaching Assistant
INFORMATION

CONTENTS

The Whitstable School	Pg 3
Welcome from Trust CEO Jon Whitcombe	Pg 4
Job Description	Pg 5
Person Specification	Pg 7
Overview of Swale Academies Trust	Pg 8
Application Process	Pg 9
Safeguarding	Pg 10

Dear candidate

I am delighted that you are interested in joining our amazing team at The Whitstable School. In recent years, the school has gone from strength to strength and is now oversubscribed. Our results have steadily improved over the last five years and parents and pupils are happy with the excellent education that the school provides. [Click here](#) to view our prospectus.

Whitstable is a highly desirable seaside town which is popular with tourists in the summer and commuters from London all year round. Our children tend to walk to school and enjoy the beautiful views of the local coastline from many classrooms. There is a thriving community in Whitstable and the town is well known for its commitment to the arts, hosting a writing festival each year as well as the annual 'Oyster Festival' visited by thousands. Live music can be heard all year round and the school works with local groups to host events and workshops.

Our motto is 'Learn Locally, Think Globally' and we are an International Baccalaureate school. Students in our successful sixth form choose from a range of A Levels, vocational and IB courses. In recent years, pupils have visited a range of exciting international destinations.

We have created a 'knowledge curriculum with an oracy focus' and take every opportunity to encourage pupils to communicate and share ideas. Our exhibition programme is entirely pupil led - local people visit to hear students debate, perform and discuss the issues of the day. Our school has wonderful, purpose built facilities. Our permanent Exhibition Hall showcases pupils' work from all subject areas.

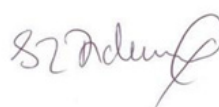
At The Whitstable School, we know all of our pupils and take the time to support and guide them towards targets and goals that are realistic and personalised. Whilst grades are important, school is about so much more than academic achievement. We seek to celebrate our pupils' talents and skills at every opportunity and are proud of what we achieve together as a school community.

As a new colleague, we will make you feel welcome. You will have a buddy and a 'Menu of Learning Opportunities' including CPD for induction, the chance to talk to senior colleagues about the work they do in school and opportunities to participate in learning walks to capture examples of great practice. Our Schools Direct programme has record numbers of enthusiastic participants and there are programmes of CPD for staff at all stages of their careers.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more.



Ana Gibson
Headteacher



Suzanne Dickson
Executive Headteacher

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this role within Swale Academies Trust. Swale Academies Trust is one of the leading Multi-Academy Trusts in the south east with a highly effective record in school improvement. We are currently looking for outstanding leaders and teachers to join us as we grow. Swale Academies Trust consists of a group of primary and secondary schools based in Kent, East Sussex and South London. We are also working with a number of schools who require support prior to joining the Trust. We have a very strong track record in school improvement and are looking for dynamic people who want to transform children's lives in some of the most challenging educational contexts in the region.

We are looking for ambitious professionals who are interested in working with pupils from diverse communities in some of the region's most challenging schools. We want energetic, inspiring classroom practitioners who are highly motivated and committed to the profession. We recognise the importance of a well-ordered teaching environment for staff to flourish. Parents and teachers provide regular positive feedback about our work to create a positive climate for learning. As a result, Ofsted visits identify pupils' conduct as a strength across the Trust. We want teachers who are keen to make a positive difference to children's lives, are proud of the students they teach, the work they produce and share this pride in the achievements of all.

Our salary package, continued professional development and additional benefits are some of the best in the sector. We invest in our staff at every level with a wide range of coaching programmes, delivered across our schools, including Westlands, the Trust Teaching school. We also work closely with a number of external partners such as the University of Kent to support leadership development across our family of schools. All of our schools are unique and reflect the communities they serve but they work closely together to support each other and collaborate to raise standards. Teachers identify the well-structured collaboration as a key factor in improving their practice but also improving their work-life balance.

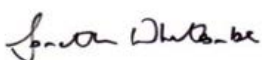
Since its creation in September 2010, Swale Academies Trust has become a strong and successful school improvement service, specialising in taking schools in Ofsted category and turning them into good schools. A glance at the most recent Ofsted reports for Beaver Green Primary School, South Borough Primary School, Meopham School, Regis Manor Primary School, Westlands Primary School, Istead Rise Primary School and The Sittingbourne School, will all point to the effectiveness of the Trust in bringing about change and providing and enabling excellent leadership. First and foremost, Swale Academies Trust is about the provision and development of high quality leadership and management.

Our ambition is driven by enabling schools and children to succeed. We have a wide range of excellent and highly accomplished senior leaders who lead with a sense of purpose, charisma and a set of shared values. The Trust is fortunate to be overseen by a Board of Directors who share leaders' values and provide the highest quality challenge and support.

We are proud of our schools and strive for a sense of shared pride in the achievements of all of our students.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,



Jon Whitcombe
Chief Executive Officer

JOB DESCRIPTION



Job Title: Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Salary: SAT 6
Responsible to: Senior Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour)

Purpose of the Job:

To work with teachers to organise and support teaching and learning activities for classes. The primary focus is to undertake specified work with individuals, groups and whole classes under the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Plan, prepare and deliver specific learning activities to individuals, small groups and/or classes modifying and adapting activities as necessary under the direction and supervision of a teacher.
- Assess, record and report on development, progress and attainment.
- Liaise with staff and other relevant professionals and provide information about pupils as appropriate.
- Use teaching and learning objectives to plan, evaluate and adjust lessons/work plans as appropriate within agreed systems of supervision.
- Assess the needs of pupils and use knowledge and specialist skills to support pupils' learning.
- Support pupils in social and emotional well-being, reporting problems to the teacher as appropriate.

Teaching Assistants at this level are expected to undertake at least one of the following:

- Provide specialist support to pupils with learning, behavioural, communication, social, sensory or physical difficulties.
- Provide specialist support to pupils where English is not their first language.
- Provide specialist support to gifted and talented pupils.
- Provide specialist support to all pupils in a particular learning area (e.g. ICT, literacy, numeracy, National Curriculum subject).

JOB DESCRIPTION



Teaching Assistants in this role may also undertake some or all of the following:

- Develop and implement Individual Development Plans for pupils (such as Individual Educational Plans), including attendance at, and contribution to, reviews.
- Support the role of parents / carers in pupils' learning and contribute to meetings with parents / carers to provide constructive feedback on pupil progress/achievement etc.
- Contribute to the development of policies and procedures.
- Provide short- term cover supervision of classes.
- Supervise or manage the work and development of other classroom support staff.
- Be responsible for the preparation, maintenance and control of stocks of materials and resources.
- Liaise with external agencies on a regular basis.
- Provide pastoral care to pupils for example as head of year or tutor group.
- Be responsible for pupils who are not working to the normal timetable.
- Assist pupils with eating, dressing and hygiene, as required, whilst encouraging independence.
- Invigilate exams and tests.
- Be responsible for the presentation of displays.

The duties / responsibilities of this post may vary from time to time according to the changing needs of the Trust service.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

CRITERIA	ESSENTIAL/ DESIRABLE
English, Maths and Science GCSE at grade C or above (or equivalent).	E
Level 2 or 3 Diploma (or equivalent) plus additional knowledge in specialist areas; working at or towards professional standards for HLTA.	E
Evidence of other TA related qualifications and/or training courses.	D
Successful relevant experience of working with children of relevant age within a learning environment.	E
Experience of working in school KS3 or above, or in other child related roles.	D
Experience in supporting those with specific learning difficulties.	D
Developed skills for communicating with individuals, groups and whole classes of pupils to promote learning, including assessing the impact of the communication on recipients and adjusting approach as necessary.	E
Full working knowledge of relevant policies, codes of practice and legislation plus working knowledge and experience of implementing national curriculum and other relevant learning programmes.	E
Good understanding of child development with the ability to apply behaviour management policies and strategies which contribute to a purposeful learning environment.	E
Understanding of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children and commitment to child welfare and safety.	E
An understanding and knowledge of various needs types, especially SpLD (dyslexia), SLCN and how to meet those needs.	D
Additional understanding of safeguarding issues relating to the vulnerability of pupils with SEN.	D
Willingness to learn.	E
Team player.	E
Initiative.	D
Commitment to the role.	E

OVERVIEW

Since its creation in September 2010, Swale Academies Trust has developed into one of the South East's leading Multi-Academy Trusts.

Our purpose is to develop good and outstanding schools and ensure the rapid improvement of schools with challenges. The Trust is an organisation which is driven by the belief that all children deserve a good quality education where they are seen as individuals and above all are exceptionally well cared for.

As the Trust has grown and developed, we continue to ensure that effective school support and leadership is maintained. The Trust's approach to school improvement is based on a combination of CPD, capacity building and collaboration, with a relentless focus on teaching and pupil progress, in order to effect rapid and sustained improvements in outcomes for young people.

Swale Academies Trust – Schools

Primary

- Beaver Green Primary School, Ashford
- Istead Rise Primary School, Istead Rise
- James Dixon Primary School, Bromley
- Langney Primary Academy, Eastbourne
- Parkland Infant School, Eastbourne
- Parkland Junior School, Eastbourne
- Regis Manor Primary School, Sittingbourne
- Shinewater Primary School, Eastbourne
- South Borough Primary School, Maidstone
- Westlands Primary School, Sittingbourne



Secondary

- Meopham Secondary School, Meopham
- Peacehaven Community School, Eastbourne
- The Eastbourne Academy, Eastbourne
- The Sittingbourne School, Sittingbourne
- The North School, Ashford
- The Turing School, Eastbourne
- The Whitstable School, Whitstable
- Westlands Secondary School, Sittingbourne



Central Support Services (based at Trust Head Office), Ashdown House, Sittingbourne

- Human Resource Team
- Finance Team
- ICT Team
- Building / Estate Management

The Application Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the appropriate application form. All sections of the form which are applicable to you must be completed as clearly and fully as possible.

Please note CVs will not be accepted in place of a completed application form.

Application forms can be found on the Kent-Teach website and all electronic applications should be made via this route. Alternatively, completed forms can be sent by post to the following address:

Ms D Possee
The Whitstable School
Bellevue Road
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 1PX

The Shortlisting and Interview Process

After the closing date for this post a panel will conduct the shortlisting process. You will be selected for interview based entirely on the contents of your application form, it is therefore important that you fully read the Job Description and Person Specification prior to completing your form.

After the shortlisting process has been completed candidates who have been selected for interview will be informed, and provided with full details of the interview programme. If you have not heard from us within 10 working days of the closing date for this post, you have, on this occasion, unfortunately been unsuccessful.

All candidates who are invited to interview must bring the following original documents:

- Documentary evidence of right to work in the UK
- Visual identification which includes a photograph, usually a passport or driving licence
- Documentary proof of current name and address
- Where appropriate any documentation evidencing change of name
- Certificates of educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Conditional Offer

Any offer of employment will be conditional upon a number of formalities, including, but not restricted to the following:

- Verification of right to work in the UK
- Receipt of two satisfactory references
- Verification of identity checks and qualifications
- Satisfactory enhanced DBS check, as well as additional checks that may be appropriate if you have worked or been resident overseas in the previous five years
- Satisfactory pre-employment health clearance
- A check against the Teacher Service Register for any teaching prohibition or restriction orders where you are applying for a teaching role or if you have previously held a teaching role in past employment.

Safeguarding

Our Trust has robust safer recruitment procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

All individuals working in any capacity at our Trust will be subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Retention of information

All information is stored securely and any information supplied by unsuccessful candidates will be destroyed through the confidential waste system after six months from the date of the interview, in accordance with our retention of records procedure.

Privacy Notice

Please refer to the Trust's Privacy Notice for job applicants for information about how we use any personal data about them we hold.

This can be downloaded here: <https://www.swale.at/page/?title=Privacy+Notice&pid=33>



SWALE ACADEMIES TRUST
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JOHNSON ROAD
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT
ME10 1JS
COMPANY NUMBER: 7344732