



United Learning
The best in everyone™

Briefing Pack for Applicants

HR Administrator

January 2026

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Section 1 – Post Advertisement

Job title:	HR Administrator
Location:	Barnsley and Sheffield
Starting salary:	£30,960 gross per annum
Contract:	Full-time, permanent, 37.5 hours per week, 52-week contract
Start date:	As soon as possible (subject to pre-employment checks)

We are seeking to appoint an experienced HR Administrator to provide a professional and efficient HR service over the Yorkshire Cluster of United Learning academies. The academies are Secondary schools based in Barnsley and Sheffield; Barnsley Academy, Fir Vale Academy, Sheffield Park Academy and Sheffield Springs Academy. The successful post-holder will be based at Sheffield Springs Academy.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the HR Team providing a HR service to our schools. The successful candidate will have administrative responsibilities for recruitment, payroll, absence and contribute to the management of a central HR Inbox. In addition, a key aspect of the role includes producing letters and paperwork for general HR administration.

The ideal candidate will have a passion for HR and Recruitment and be a highly focused and organised individual. You must be efficient and possess excellent attention to detail. There is a high volume of work, in particular in relation to recruitment and processing pre-employment checks that are required within an Education setting. We are seeking an individual who is resilient and has previously worked in a fast-paced environment, with experience of dealing with a high volume of HR administration.

Our academies within the Yorkshire Cluster are part of United Learning and as such, our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone' and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost.

United Learning is one of the largest and most successful Trusts in the country who offers unrivalled Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and training, including opportunities for nationwide networking.

The city of Sheffield itself is a vibrant place to live and work with two universities and a range of entertainment opportunities alongside the access to the Beautiful Peak District. Quality of life is routinely ranked very highly and it is one of the greenest cities in Europe: [Welcome to Sheffield](#)

We will offer you:

- Highly competitive pay above national average.
- 26 days annual leave plus 8 statutory bank holidays per annum.
- An additional day's paid leave awarded per annum (a personal leave day).
- Excellent facilities and resources.
- Access to an outstanding professional development programme.
- A respectful working environment.
- Supportive, friendly colleagues who are committed to each other's professional development.
- A chance to become part of United Learning, one of the largest groups of academies in the country.
- Opportunities to work collaboratively with colleagues in each academy across the Cluster and United Learning.
- Excellent employee benefits which include a highly sought-after pension scheme with high employer contributions.

- Access to training through the Apprenticeship Levy.
- We offer a variety of staff benefits including gym, cycle and car lease schemes.
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme which provides independent, confidential advice 24 hours a day.
- Following completion of six months' service, you will be enrolled into the Westfield Health Cash Plan.
- Free on-site parking.
- We encourage open and regular conversations about work-life balance.

We are looking for:

- An individual with excellent communication skills.
- A professional with validated HR administration experience.
- An advantage would be to have a good understanding of HR Administration processes including pre-employment checks within an Education or a similar setting.
- Excellent IT skills, including HR systems iTrent or similar system.
- You must have strong organisational skills, a keen eye for detail, high standards and take pride in your work.
- Ability to adapt to changing and diverse workload with autonomy and resilience.
- Demonstrate a positive, proactive and professional approach at all times.

Please see the job description and person specification for further detail.

If you are looking for a challenging yet rewarding HR role within a small team please apply please click the 'Apply Now' button at the top of the advert on our website using the following link to our vacancies page: [Sheffield Park Academy Vacancies](#) and complete our online application form. Please note that CVs are not accepted. **The closing date for this post is midnight on the 08 February 2026. First stage interviews will take place on the 12 and 13 February 2026.**

If you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, please contact hr@unitedlearningyorks.org.uk

United Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employees will, in accordance with statutory guidance, be subject to a comprehensive checking process including references from current and previous employers, health, Right to Work in the UK, an Enhanced DBS check and a further check against the appropriate barred list.

Section 2 – United Learning

The Yorkshire Cluster is part of United Learning which is a large and growing group of schools aiming to offer life changing education to children and young people across England.

Our schools work as a team and achieve more by sharing than any single school could. Our Subject Specialists, Group-wide Intranet, our own curriculum and online learning portal all help us to share knowledge and resource, which supports simplifying work processes and managing workloads for an improved work-life balance.

As a Group we can reward our staff better, we provide good career opportunities, better pay, employee benefits and ultimately, the satisfaction of helping children to succeed. We invest in our staff wellbeing. Our academies each have at least eight INSET/training days per year (with three of those solely dedicated to planning) and an ongoing group-wide wellbeing programme. It is an ethos we call 'the Best in Everyone'.

We are working hard to become a more diverse organisation, which is key to our commitment to bringing out 'the Best in Everyone'. We welcome applications from everyone committed to this ethos and would particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates who are currently under-represented in the Group as a whole. We always appoint on merit. We are open to discussing flexible working options.

<https://unitedlearning.org.uk/>

Section 3 – Letter from the Regional Director

Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the role within the Yorkshire United Learning Cluster. The cluster itself is a close-knit group of four Secondary Academies: Barnsley Academy, Fir Vale Academy, Sheffield Park Academy and Sheffield Springs Academy, who work alongside a number of local Primary Academies; all from within the United Learning Trust.

The cluster is well-established and has excellent support from locally based cluster central services. These cover Business Management, Finance, HR, IT and Site/Estate Facilities. They are led by an Executive Business Manager. This provides our Academies with excellent trained advice and support in these areas; this benefits the leadership and wider staff of every Academy.

United Learning Trust is a national organisation serving Primary and Secondary Academies, all-through Academies and Independent Schools. Our ethos is, “the Best in Everyone”. This is a useful phrase that sums up the work and focus of the organisation. Every decision taken is done with this aim in mind: for staff, for students and for the community. The Trust values of Respect, Determination and Ambition are driven through the Character Programme, which each Academy has carefully interpreted in their own way. The Trust attributes of Creativity, Confidence and Enthusiasm are demonstrated at every level.

United Learning, and Academies within the Yorkshire Cluster, demonstrate a strong commitment to staff CPD and staff wellbeing. If you join our schools you will be inducted, supported and developed in a deliberate way from before you even take up post. Our status as an Academy Trust enables highly competitive rates of pay progression and our employee schemes, such as our Westfield Health benefits package, are an attractive feature of employment.

Above everything, we put young people first and seek to recruit adults who share this view. We work with students, parents and families to provide a structured, supportive experience that enables them to achieve as well as they possibly can and become excellent scholars and rounded individuals. We insist on classrooms and corridors that are respectful, orderly places where everyone is expected to display positive and mature attitudes.

Applying for a new job is a huge investment of time and emotional energy. The recruitment decision has to be right for employee and employer. I would encourage you to seek out any information you need in order to make the important decision to apply and we welcome visits to our schools in advance of applications wherever this might be helpful.

I do wish you the very best with your application and thank you again for considering us.

Best wishes,

Laura Moore
Regional Director
United Learning

Section 4 – Letter from the Principal of Barnsley Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in joining Barnsley Academy. I am delighted to introduce you to our school and I hope that this application pack provides you with an overview.

Barnsley Academy and the United Learning academy trust are committed to teaching a knowledge-rich curriculum and education with character to all of our students. We believe in explicit instruction led by expert teachers. Our approaches are greatly influenced by Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like A Champion', with our lesson sequences underpinned by Rosenshine's principles. We are an outward-facing school, learning from outstanding schools both within the group and beyond. We are unapologetic about our high standards and unashamedly ambitious for all of our students and we are on a journey to becoming a great school with excellence as standard. As part of this journey, we are creating an academic culture that is warm and strict, disciplined and joyful, and ensures impeccable behaviour, so that teachers can teach and students can develop their knowledge.

If you are aligned with our mission and values, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Good luck with your application and thank you again for considering Barnsley Academy as the next stage in your career.

With best wishes,

Stephen Pitcher
Principal
Barnsley Academy

Section 5 – Letter from the Principal of Fir Vale Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in joining Fir Vale Academy. I am delighted to introduce you to our school and I hope that this application pack provides you with an overview. You are welcome to telephone and chat with me prior to applying and come and visit if you can.

Fir Vale Academy is a diverse and dynamic 11-16 school. We are delighted to be part of United Learning and we work closely with our Cluster schools.

We fully subscribe to the ethos and values of United Learning, they are very much values we subscribe to here at Fir Vale Academy.

Good luck with your application and thank you again for considering Fir Vale Academy as the next stage in your career.

Best wishes,

Danny Bullock
Principal
Fir Vale Academy

Section 6 – Letter from the Principal of Sheffield Park Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in joining Sheffield Park Academy. I am delighted to introduce you to our school, and I hope that this application pack provides you with a good overview of the type of candidate we are looking for. If you like what you have read or know about our school, I would advise you to get in contact with us either for a visit to the academy or a phone call (with me or one of my senior leaders) to find out more.

Sheffield Park Academy is a flourishing 11-18 school and we really value working as part of the Yorkshire cluster alongside our sister schools: Barnsley Academy, Fir Vale Academy, and Sheffield Springs Academy. Our close collaboration across the schools is a real source of strength and support as is the wider support of United Learning, and particularly our Regional Director.

We fully subscribe to the ethos and values of United Learning and as Principal, I would thoroughly recommend working for the group. Our own academy character values of Community, Ambitions, Respect, and Endurance filter through everything we do as a school, and we aspire for all students, staff, and other members of our community to live these into being. We also subscribe to our academy strapline of 'One Community, One Park' to ensure our school is a place of strong values, together, and shared goals.

If you are aligned with our mission and values, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

As an academy, we will be relentless in our aim to provide ambitious and high-quality learning and education to the students of Sheffield Park Academy. To provide that, we are looking for colleagues who wish to make a strong and valuable contribution to positively shaping the lives of young people in our community.

Good luck with your application and thank you again for considering Sheffield Park Academy as the next stage in your career.

Best wishes,

Rob Watson
Principal
Sheffield Park Academy

Section 7 – Letter from the Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the role at Sheffield Springs Academy. The school itself is a fantastic place to work and a brilliant place to learn. Our values are respect, excellence, ambition and pride; if you join our academy, you will see these demonstrated in all aspects of academy life and by all members of our wonderful team.

The team

I am extremely proud to be the Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy, I have worked at the academy for over 15 years and many colleagues have been here longer than this still; I believe this shows the team ethos and community-feel of our academy. The team are deeply invested in our students and new employees are warmly welcomed into this team.

Where we are and where we're going

Sheffield Springs Academy is an outward-facing school, learning from outstanding schools both within the group and beyond. We are unapologetic about our high standards and unashamedly ambitious for all our students and our staff team, we are embarking upon a journey towards becoming a great school. As part of this journey, we are creating an academic culture that is warm, disciplined and joyful and ensures impeccable behaviour. We aim for a culture that means teachers can teach and students can develop their knowledge.

We are committed to staff wellbeing and have a wide-reaching wellbeing programme in place, we listen to the views of our staff team and we strive to make Sheffield Springs a brilliant place to work. We hold celebration briefings, ensure early finishes on INSET days, have a realistic marking policy, calendar in meeting-free-weeks and host a range of wellbeing activities to make sure staff have the time and support they need to fully support our pupils.

Location

Our academy is located at one of Sheffield's highest points, with incredible views across our catchment area directly to Stanage Edge, Hathersage and beyond into the Peak District. We are less than 30 minutes from the beautiful Peak District National Park, only 15 minutes away from the M1 motorway network and just a 5-minute walk to the nearest Supertram stop which provides efficient links to all areas of the city. Sheffield is a vibrant and diverse city; we are incredibly lucky to be in such a fantastic location which offers so much.

Applying for a new job is a huge investment of time and energy. I would encourage you to seek out any information you need in order to make the important decision to apply and I welcome visits to our school in advance of applications wherever this might be helpful.

I wish you the very best with your application and thank you for taking the time to consider Sheffield Springs Academy as a place of employment.

Best wishes,

Claire Cartledge
Principal
Sheffield Springs Academy

Section 8 – Job Description



Job Description

Post title	HR Administrator
Salary	Band 2
Responsible to	HR Manager
Responsible for	The postholder does not have any direct line management responsibility.
Role purpose	<p>To provide a confidential and professional efficient administrative service to the academies within the Cluster.</p> <p>To support the academies with the accurate and efficient processing of HR information in relation to payroll, recruitment and pre-employment checks and the maintenance of the Single Central Record.</p> <p>Leading the tracking of absence and inputting the information into HR systems and producing relevant paperwork. Producing all letters in relation to HR policies and procedures. The maintenance of central HR Inbox with timely actions along with updating all data within the iTrent HR system.</p>
Relevant qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 2 qualifications in English and Maths• Level 3 apprenticeship qualification or equivalent (or willingness to work toward).• One to three years' experience in a working environment.

The postholder must, at all times, carry out their duties and responsibilities within the spirit of United Learning and academy policies and procedures, and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

Role Summary

To support both the HR Manager and HR Officer in delivering a high quality, efficient and confidential HR service to all academies within the Cluster.

To provide administrative support including supporting with a high volume of recruitment, completing pre-employment checks aligned to an education setting, absence management, notetaking at formal HR meetings. Keeping the HR system iTrent up to date along with processing a monthly payroll and making key changes throughout the month. Producing letters with regard to all aspects of HR.

Key Responsibilities

Although not an exhaustive list the following gives an indication of the role and associated responsibilities.

Main Responsibilities

- To undertake the efficient and accurate preparation, input and maintenance of information and data into the HR systems in accordance with agreed procedures and regulations.
- Ensure that the confidentiality of sensitive information and data is not compromised in-line with the GDPR regulations.
- Maintain staff sickness and absence records for staff on long term absence, maternity leave and other extended periods of absence.
- Ensure all electronic HR records are kept updated and paperwork is saved accordingly.
- Undertake administrative duties regarding all aspects of people management ensuring all the correct paperwork is produced and saved on the HR system within the HR files. Ensure that the iTrent system is updated accordingly including all the information that relates to the Single Central Record and pre-employment in relation to safer recruitment checks are completed in-line with Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. Along with Occupational Health Job Screen Health Assessment to be fully completed and any actions followed through.
-
- Provide help and advice to staff and external parties as and when required in relation to HR matters.
- Provide regular HR reports from the HR system as required.
- Attend meetings as notetaker as and when required in relation to HR policy matters.
- Lead the recruitment and selection administration process, including production and placement of job adverts, providing candidate and panel support and pre interview screening and supporting line managers with the interview process.
- Make Occupational Health referrals as required to support with absence management process, completing return to work documentation and producing letters in relation to absence management.
- Ensure that all staff are paid on the correct scale and spine point in consultation with the Principals and provide an appropriate level of information on pay to leaders and Local Governing Bodies ensuring that all letters and documentation are approved.
- Management of Excel spreadsheets to update the Finance Department in respect of people changes.
- To support with the development of induction process to include and HR presentation within the process.
- Be responsible for the completion and submission of the Workforce Census following approval/sign off from the HR Manager and Principals on annual basis.
- Support the academies with the administration of pay moderation aligned to the performance review process.

Personal Competences

- Ability to demonstrate the understanding of HR systems.
- A good understanding of HR policies and procedures.
- Actively seek to maintain and develop knowledge in all areas of HR.
- Support new academies within the cluster with all of the administration in relation to HR Policies and Procedures and Payroll.
- The resilience to work in a fast-paced environment delivering a high work load delivering across four schools.

General

- Develop excellent working relationships with colleagues internally, centrally and externally.
- Be an effective and flexible member of the team.
- Ensure any documentation produced is to an accurate and high standard and in-line with Cluster and United Learning expectations.
- Participate in training and other learning activities as required.
- Participate in the Performance Management process.
- Provide appropriate guidance and supervision and assist in the training and development of staff as appropriate.
- Represent the academy at events as appropriate.
- Support and promote the academy and United Learning's ethos, contributing to strengthening relationships between academies in the Cluster and between the Cluster and central office.
- To be aware of and comply with United Learning policies and procedures relating to Child Protection, Health and Safety, security, confidentiality and Data Protection, reporting all concerns to the appropriate person.
- To actively participate in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and act as a positive role model across the academies and United learning.
- The above duties are not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Executive Business Manager and Principals.
- This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Executive Business Manager and Human Resources as required.

Information

The need to adapt working hours around the business need of the academies and Cluster is an expectancy of the job role.

The information contained above is to help staff understand and appreciate the work content of their post and the role they are to undertake in the organisation. However, it should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to outline all duties and responsibilities, a document such as this does not permit every item to be specified in detail. Broad headings have therefore been used in which case all the usual associated duties are included in this job description.

This job description will be reviewed annually as part of the performance management process and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the postholder. Elements of this job description and changes to it may be negotiated at the request of either the postholder or the incumbent of the post.

I accept my job description and job title as detailed above.

Name (print)	
Sign	
Date	

Section 9 – Person Specification



Person Specification

Post title	HR Administrator	
Salary	Band 2	
Education and Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
Level 2 qualifications in English and Maths	X	
Level 3 apprenticeship qualification or equivalent (or willingness to work toward).	X	
Experience	Essential	Desirable
Previous experience of working in a HR administration role.	X	
Experience working in a similar HR environment.	X	
Experience of working in a busy and dynamic environment, managing a central HR Inbox and across more than one location.	X	
Maintaining positive relationships with a variety of different stakeholders.	X	
Experience of maintaining comprehensive and accurate records.	X	
Knowledge and Skills	Essential	Desirable
Strong IT skills, be competent in using Office 365, Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint.	X	
The ability to prioritise workload ensuring targets are met and timescales adhered to.	X	
The ability to deal sensitively and appropriately with confidential information.	X	
Ability to assimilate knowledge across a wide range of subject matters.	X	
Demonstrate the ability to learn and adapt from past experiences.	X	
The ability to minute-take at meetings.	X	
Knowledge of best practice in recruitment and selection.		X
Knowledge of vetting check procedures.		X
Teamwork	Essential	Desirable
Recognises the contribution and achievement of colleagues.	X	
Keeps colleagues, stakeholders and/or customers informed of progress.	X	
Treats others fairly, openly and consistently.	X	
Expresses disagreement or challenges views calmly, constructively and tactfully.	X	
Supports and cooperates with colleagues.	X	
Personal Attributes	Essential	Desirable
High levels of discretion, confidentiality, and awareness of Data Protection.	X	

High levels of personal and professional integrity.	X	
A 'can do' mindset.	X	
Good written and verbal communication skills.	X	
Ability to prioritise, multitask and manage workloads while maintaining a flexible response to urgent requests.	X	
Good interpersonal skills and ability to work with stakeholders at all levels.	X	
Organised and good attention to detail.	X	
Maintains high standards.	X	
Ability and willingness to travel regularly to locations within the Cluster.	X	
Ability to drive and the use of a vehicle is advantageous.		X

Section 10 – The Appointment Process

These notes are intended to guide you when making an application.

The Application Form

The application form is accessible via the 'Apply' link on the job advertisement. Please complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. You are requested to submit a concise application. CVs are not accepted.

Education and Training

State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.

Present Appointment

Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is.

Previous Appointment

When completing this section it is important that you offer a continuous record, or an explanation of any gaps to allow full account to be taken of your experience, for example, child raising, voluntary work.

Referees

Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. References will be taken if the candidate is successfully short-listed for interview. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.

The Supporting Statement

The supporting statement is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post.

Arrangements for Interview

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. Referees are contacted prior to the interview stage for teaching and support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the academy website/s prior to attending the interview.

The Interview

Candidates will be invited to interview at the academy during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the academy at work.

Feedback

Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted, interviewed and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.

Section 11 – Visitors/Contacts

The academies are located in thriving towns close to the beautiful Peak District



Barnsley Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Barnsley Academy
Farm Road
Kendray
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 3DL

Website: www.barnsley-academy.org

Email: enquiries@barnsley-academy.org

Telephone: 01226 284606

Barnsley Academy is an 11-16 secondary and is Ofsted rated 'Good'. As part of United Learning our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone' and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost.



Fir Vale Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Fir Vale Academy
Owler Lane
S4 8BG

Website: <https://www.firvale.com>

Email: enquiries@firvale.com

Telephone: 0114 2439391

Fir Vale Academy is an 11-16 secondary. As part of United Learning our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone' and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost.



Sheffield Park Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Sheffield Park Academy
Beaumont Road North
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S2 1SN

Website: www.sheffieldpark-academy.org

Email: info@sheffieldparkacademy.org

Telephone: 0114 2392661

Sheffield Park Academy is an Ofsted rated 'Good' academy. The academy is part of United Learning, a national group of schools and academies. Sheffield Park Academy is an 11-18 academy. As part of United Learning our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone' and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost.



Sheffield Springs Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Sheffield Springs Academy
Hurlfield Road
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S12 2SF

Website: www.sheffieldsprings-academy.org

Email: enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org

Telephone: 0114 2392631

Sheffield Springs Academy is an 11-16 secondary school and is Ofsted rated 'Good'. As part of United Learning, our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone'. Our values are Respect, Excellence, Ambition and Pride, and these are demonstrated in all aspects of academy life by all members of our wonderful team.