**Lead Practitioner – English**

**Salary: L6 – L10 - £56,316 - £62,202 FTE (Pay Award Pending)**

**Working hours: Full Time – All Year**

**Contract type: Permanent**

**Start date: September 2025**

Are you a passionate English educator with a track record of inspiring both students and colleagues? Do you have the vision and drive to lead innovative teaching strategies within a dynamic English department? If so, we invite you to apply for the role of Lead Practitioner of English at The Westleigh School.

**As the Lead Practitioner of English, you will:**

* Model and lead outstanding teaching and learning within the English department.
* Drive continuous improvement in teaching practice through coaching, mentoring, and professional development.
* Develop innovative and engaging curriculum resources that inspire students of all abilities.
* Support and challenge colleagues to reach their full potential, enhancing the overall quality of education.
* Use data-driven approaches to raise student attainment and close achievement gaps.
* Contribute to whole-school improvement through strategic leadership.

At **The Westleigh School**, we place the utmost importance on the wellbeing and professional development of our staff. We believe that happy, supported educators are the key to unlocking the potential in our students. That’s why we prioritise a healthy work-life balance, continuous professional growth, and a collaborative, nurturing environment. We are proud to be a school that has enabled more staff than ever before to complete **National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)**, and we remain fully committed to supporting ongoing development at every stage of a teacher’s career. Whether you're an early career teacher or an aspiring leader, we invest in your journey because we know that developing great teachers leads to great outcomes.

We are a school driven by excellence and innovation. As a fully digital school, every staff member and student is equipped with an iPad, allowing for creative, high-impact teaching strategies and interactive learning experiences. Our strong pastoral system, built around a thriving college model, fosters healthy competition, a deep sense of belonging, and a shared determination to be the best in all areas of school life. At **The Westleigh School**, we don’t just aspire to excellence—we create the conditions for it, empowering our staff and students to achieve their full potential together.

Our ethos is ‘Aspiring and Achieving Together’. Whilst we are committed to ensuring that every student makes excellent progress, this concept stretches well beyond academic performance. We firmly believe that every aspect of school should equip learners to be successful in all areas of their lives, both now and for their future. Indeed, every single decision or action taken improves the life chances of all our learners. This is underpinned by ensuring The Westleigh school is a safe, nurturing and happy environment: put simply, The Westleigh School is a great place to learn and a great place to work.

Uniting with The Shaw Education Trust brings with it new opportunities and a wealth of resources to supplement our mission to improve outcomes for all our students. Colleagues will have access to a large range of well-established training opportunities, such as a fully funded L5 Instructional Coaching qualification or Accelerated Leadership training, for those aspiring to Middle Leadership. Outstanding teachers will also achieve Trust Professional Advocate designation, which provides exciting opportunities to support colleagues within both The Westleigh School and across other SET schools to share best practice. With this brings the opportunity to engage in the cross-trust peer review and Trust CPD programme.

**All candidates are required to provide a supporting statement on the formal application forms which states clearly your reasons for applying, skills and experience for this position.**

**Shaw Education Trust** are a thriving mix of diverse and growing schools including Primary, Secondary and Special Schools all working together to improve the lives of young people in our communities. We are sponsored by Shaw Trust a charity organisation that focuses on transforming lives. We’re a growing group of dynamically awesome academies providing education to children of all ages and abilities. Staff across our team of schools are dedicated to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to be successful, whatever their starting point in life.

In our secondary schools, we pride ourselves on our innovative approach to curriculum design, to ensure all our schools have breadth and ambition for all students, regardless of their starting points and barriers. Standard curriculum models don’t always engage all students, so we constantly seek to innovate and provide better opportunities to develop both

knowledge and skills for life. We want our students to believe their curriculum is bold, exciting, purposeful, and ultimately leads to something meaningful for them. Some examples of our innovation include moving towards an

extended school day, to provide a world class enrichment programme and more opportunities for essential skills like reading and cultural capital. We are also introducing vocational and technical pathways, which run through the normal

school curriculum but attract support from leading employers and universities to develops work-readiness in our students, so that they can progress onto T Levels and apprenticeships.

We are currently at an exciting point in their evolution, with collaboration at the heart of our collective endeavour. We don’t operate in silos: we value the power of the pack and strive to collaborate as a collective, ensuring no school or colleague is left behind. We are currently co-constructing an aligned curriculum across all EBacc curriculum subjects,

to create a world class curriculum, rich in powerful knowledge and skills. This is driving up standards through the sharing of the very best practice, whilst allowing each school sufficient flexibility for autonomy to do what is right for their local context. A by-product of this approach has been the reduction in planning workload for colleagues, meaning

they can spend more time on the things that matter and fostering strong relationships with pupils and delivery of the curriculum.

As a group of schools, we take an evidence-informed approach to developing the quality of our teaching and learning, learning from research and best practice in the sector. We value a non-hierarchical, supportive approach to developing great teachers. As a people-focused trust, we consider the professional development of our staff as a fundamental responsibility. Where any schools face any barrier, it has the mutual support of the others in sector to call upon for subject specific or general support, all facilitated by a group of servant leaders at trust level. Our Heads meet regularly and genuinely support each other in a non-competitive environment. We have team of directors with vast experience at headship, senior and middle leadership levels and our team of subject directors are supporting

subject staff across the trust to design and deliver the very best curricula, providing subject specific pedagogical support.

Our secondary schools are currently driving ‘PedTech’ across the sector: we believe teaching and technology should go hand-in-glove and are passionately committed towards providing a fully digitally enhanced curriculum. We are very close to achieving full 1:1 device delivery and are sprinting towards better use of iPads in lessons to enhance the experience and learning.

Please visit our Careers site for more information on The Westleigh School on [Vacancies at The Westleigh School | The Westleigh School](https://thewestleighschool.co.uk/vacancies-at-the-westleigh-school)

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**Or click the QR Code to see all vacancies with The Westleigh School.**

**Shaw Education Trust offer the following employee benefits with your Teaching or Support Staff employment:**

* An excellent Local Government Pension Scheme (Support Staff) / Teachers Pension (Teaching Staff)
* **Support Staff only** based on working **full time, all year** - Generous holiday entitlement from your first day of employment (**37 days holiday** **rising to 39 days** after 5 years’ service including Bank Holidays)
* Electric Car Scheme: Environmentally friendly vehicles with our electric car scheme.
* Access to Medicash Health & Wellbeing Plan: Enjoy health services designed to support your well-being.
* Free DiscountForTeachers Scheme for all staff (Support and Teaching), Exclusive discounts to save money with a wide selection of discounts and exclusive offers from hundreds of the biggest brands.
* Free Eye Tests
* Cycle to work scheme
* Access to our Institute of Education and fantastic opportunities to help you **grow, contribute** and **flourish** in your role and in the Trust.

We know **our people** are the key to our success and so we’re committed to ensuring the **employment experience** at **Shaw Education Trust** is a **rewarding** one.

**Colleagues within the Trust benefit from:** Access to a full range of courses both in-house and professionally accredited. These courses include all of the National Professional Qualifications – NPQH, NPQSL, NPQEYL, NPQLL, NPQLT, NPQLTD, NPQLBC are all delivered by the Shaw Education Trust as a delivery partner for Ambition Institute. In addition, we provide access to the NPQEL for Executive Leaders.

* Experienced leadership and subject-specific support.
* Guidance from former HMIs and serving Ofsted Inspectors within the Trust.
* Access to the Trust’s Institute of Education and SCITT.
* Opportunities to work with different schools within the Trust as a Professional Advocate.
* Participating in peer reviews.
* Access to a suite of online courses.
* Placement projects within our family of schools.

**The Westleigh School** is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment, click here to review Safeguarding and Pupil Protection Policy <https://www.shaw-education.org.uk/our-trust/key-information>

This position is subject to appropriate vetting procedures including an online checks and criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly CRB) which will require you to disclose details of all unspent and unfiltered spent reprimands, formal warnings, cautions and convictions.

All shortlisted candidates will undergo an online search as part of Trust safer recruitment checks.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer and will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment.

**In accordance with our safer recruitment policy CVs alone will not be accepted.**

**Application deadline:     Monday, 19th May 2025 at 9am**

**Interview date: Thursday, 22nd May 2025**

**We reserve the right to appoint before the closing date as we review applications on an on-going basis and interviews may be arranged as suitable candidates are identified, therefore, we encourage early applications.**

Successful candidates will be subject to a fully Enhanced DBS check along with other relevant employment checks.