



**Learning Support Assistant Application Pack**

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**Letter from Catherine Paine, Chief Executive Officer**

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**

# 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

**Learning Support Assistant at** **Water Lane Primary Academy**

Water Lane Primary Academy is an Ofsted rated ‘Good’ school and we are currently seeking a Learning Support Assistant to provide help and support to our amazing children.

**In particular, successful applicants should have:**

* At least one years experience of working with children in the primary age range
* Experience of working with children in a friendly, busy environment
* An understanding of children with SEN needs
* Level 2 qualification in play work/childcare
* A current food hygiene certificate (desirable)
* Paediatric first aid qualification (desirable)
* Knowledge of child safeguarding procedures

**You should:**

* Have excellent communication skills
* Have the ability to build effective relationships with students, parents and other staff
* The ability to relate in a firm and friendly way with a wide range of personalities
* The ability to use initiative
* Be willing to undertake direction and guidance
* Have a good understanding of behaviour management strategies
* Be able to work as part of a team

**In return we can offer you:**

* The chance to be part of a Multi-Academy Trust that genuinely cares about YOU
* The chance to work with a supportive team.
* An excellent CPD training programme with REAch2 and beyond.
* A tenacious and courageous senior leadership team who care fervently about inclusion and promote creativity and thinking outside of the box
* Fun-loving, energetic and enthusiastic pupils (and staff).
* Proactive parents waiting to join us on our journey to excellence
* Membership of a Local Government Pension Scheme LGPS,
* As part of REAch2 employee benefits we also offer an eye care scheme, access to an Employee Assistance Programme for you and your immediate family and membership of ‘perks at work’ – which includes discounts on holidays, shopping, family days out and much more.

**About the school**

Based in Harlow, and set in large and beautiful grounds, Water Lane Primary Academy is a happy and safe environment in which children can learn, grow and develop into confident and successful young people.

The school has a caring team that works hard to reach high standards in everything they do. The school firmly believe that education is a partnership between home and school and regard parents as an active partner in their child’s education.

Through the school’s engaging curriculum, they ensure that children can foster a passion for learning and curiosity that will help to develop: a strong knowledge base, high aspirations and a lifetime of memories. The school has a focus on Visible Learning strategies that promote independence, develop resilience and encourage all our children to become inquisitive, life-long learners.

Like many REAch2 schools, Water Lane Primary Academy supports a community that is socio-economically mixed and thenumber of students who are from minority ethnic backgrounds is above the national average.

# The application

You are invited to submit an application form to Elaine Brook, Interim Headteacher using[**admin@waterlane.essex.sch.uk**](mailto:admin@waterlane.essex.sch.uk)

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.

Informal and exploratory conversations are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact the school office using 01279 417410

## The application process and timetable

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Application deadline:** | Monday 2nd October 2023. However, applications will be assessed as upon receipt. |
| **School visits:** | Please contact school office |
| **Interviews:** | Week beginning 2nd October |
| **Contract details:** | Permanent |
| **Salary:** | NJC E&W SCP 3-5 Pro Rata |
| **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. NJC E&W SCP 3-5 Pro Rata

# 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: Learning Support Assistant (LSA)**

**Responsible to: Class teacher**

**Line manager: Phase Lead**

**Job purpose:**

Ledarning Support Assistants (LSAs) are an important valued member of the teaching team. As well as working directly with the children’s teacher, the LSA is encouraged to use his/her own initiative and skills to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for the children

**Context of Role:**

* A Learning Support 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 Learning Support 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 Learning Support 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 led by the teacher
* set challenging and demanding expectations and promote self-esteem and independence
* provide feedback to learners in relation to progress and achievement under guidance of the teacher
* 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
* 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

**Support for Class Teachers**

* 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 led by the teacher
* set challenging and demanding expectations and promote self-esteem and independence
* provide feedback to learners in relation to progress and achievement under guidance of the teacher
* 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
* 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

**Support for the curriculum**

* 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 cannot be resolved
* use appropriate strategies for introducing learners to key words to help them access the curriculum
* 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.
* participate in training, staff meetings, other learning activities and performance development when required
* assist with the supervision of students out of lesson times, including before and after school
* 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
* 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
* 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.
* show a commitment to work outside directed time when required.
* contribute to and provide evidence for the school Self-Evaluation Summary.
* contribute to activities which are required to support the School Development Plan.

# Person Specification

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Essential | Desirable |
| **Philosophy** | * A belief in the ability of all children to achieve and be successful * A belief in teamwork and ability to get involved in the day-to-day running of the school | ✓  ✓ |  |
| **Experience** | * Working with children of primary school age * Working with individuals and groups of children * Experience of supporting children with SEN | ✓  ✓  ✓ |  |
| **Qualifications & Training** | * Very good Numeracy and Literacy skills - at least GCSE C grade or equivalent | ✓ |  |
|  | * Minimum NVQ2 or equivalent qualification * First Aid Qualification | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Knowledge & Skills** | * Knowledge of the National Curriculum * Experience of delivering Read Write Inc * Experience of promoting and gaining positive pupil behaviour conducive to learning, focused on raising standards | ✓ | ✓  ✓ |
|  | * Very good organisational skills | ✓ |  |
|  | * Very good time management skills | ✓ |  |
|  | * Ability to prioritise | ✓ |  |
|  | * Adaptability and flexibility | ✓ |  |
|  | * Willing to participate in CPD * ICT Literate Willingness to | ✓  ✓ |  |
| **Personal Characteristics** | * Boundless enthusiasm, determination and drive to inspire others to achieve high standards * A personable nature to build effective relationships with parents/members of the community * Ability and willingness to promote the school’s aims and the positive culture and ethos | ✓  ✓  ✓ |  |