'Together we can…Think Big, Have Fun, Learn More!'

Location:	Ridgeway Infant School
Post:	Temporary SEND Teaching Assistant
Grade:	Grade C, NJC Points 5 - 6, £26,428 – £26,846 FTE (actual salary pro-rata)
Hours per week:	32.5 hours per week
Hours of work:	Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 3.30pm
Contract type:	Temporary: January 2027 – August 2027 - Contract attached to E3 funding
Start Date:	4th January 2027

The Governors wish to appoint an enthusiastic, committed and caring Teaching Assistant to join our dedicated team and support pupils with complex and significant Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within our school setting. This is a rewarding but demanding role, requiring someone who is compassionate, patient, adaptable and confident in supporting children with a high level of need. The role will also include opportunities to deliver targeted small-group interventions to help pupils achieve their full potential. The successful candidate will become part of the close-knit, hardworking and friendly team at Ridgeway. They will provide dedicated support to a child with complex physical needs and visual impairment for part of the week, alongside flexible assistance for pupils with a range of SEND needs across the school as required.

Working closely with teachers and other professionals, the successful candidate will contribute to pupils' learning, personal development, wellbeing and inclusion, adapting strategies and interventions to meet individual needs. They will support pupils with a variety of SEND needs, including communication, sensory, physical, medical, social, emotional and behavioural needs, enabling them to access learning, develop independence and participate fully in school life.

The role will also involve providing personal care and physical support to pupils, which may include changing nappies, supporting children with toileting and other intimate care needs, assisting with personal hygiene, dressing and feeding. The successful candidate must be comfortable undertaking these responsibilities and understand the importance of maintaining children's dignity, privacy, safety and independence at all times.

The role will be based in our High Needs Hub, supporting children with significant language and communication needs, predominantly those with an ASD diagnosis who are non-verbal.

Successful candidates must demonstrate a strong background in a total communication approach. Practical knowledge of Makaton and visual strategies is essential, alongside proven experience in facilitating shared attention through intensive interactions.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has recent experience or knowledge of working with children with special educational needs, particularly those with autism and more complex needs
- Has a knowledge and understanding of supporting children with speech, language and communication difficulties
- Has experience of delivering targeted intervention such as attention autism
- Works effectively as a part of a team

- Is flexible in their communication approach to meet the needs of the child in different situations and is committed to building strong relationships with parents
- Is familiar with working with Education Health Care Plans and following targets and provision or open to training
- Can monitor and contribute to the assessment and recording of children's development and be involved in the sharing of this information
- Is adaptive and uses their time proactively to support the child they are working with and others within the class
- Has knowledge and experience of delivering planned interventions and monitoring progress
- Is confident teaching individual pupils and small groups to accelerate progress
- Understands behaviour is communication and is confident using a relational and nurturing approach
- Is willing and confident to undertake all aspects of personal care, including nappy changing, toileting, intimate care and supporting children's personal hygiene. This is an essential requirement of the role.
- Is committed to promoting children's dignity, privacy, safety and independence when providing personal care.
- Is willing to undertake appropriate training to support pupils with complex physical and medical needs, which may include moving and handling, mobility, positioning and specific medical care procedures, should the needs of pupils attending the school require this.
- Is patient, resilient, empathetic and able to respond positively to the changing and sometimes challenging needs of individual children.

We warmly welcome prospective applicants to visit the school and encourage you to contact Michelle Hollis, School Business Manager to arrange a visit.

To book an appointment, please call 01332 760770 or email mhollis@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk.

An application form and further information about the role is attached. Application packs are also available from the school office. Please return completed applications quoting reference 'SEND TA Application' via email to Mrs. M Hollis, School Business Manager to recruitment@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk .

Please add a supporting statement, detailing your reasons for applying for the job, what makes you suitable and any key experience you have that fits the person specification. (max. 1500 words)

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Sunday 29th November 2026.

Interviews: Monday 7th December 2026. Any application forms received after the closing date will not be accepted. C.V.s will not be considered.

Ridgeway Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to enhanced DBS check (previously known as CRB check) and suitable references being received.