



Acorn
Education Trust



Teaching Assistant

St Michael's Church of England
Primary School

Welcome from Sara Edwards

Acorn Education Trust CEO

Thank you for your interest in one of our vacancies, I hope the information enclosed in this pack inspires you to apply.

Acorn Education Trust was established in 2014 to provide a local solution to a national strategy. We now serve 21 settings: 16 Primary Schools, 3 Secondary Schools and 2 nurseries.

Our mission is to 'prepare young people for their world in their time' and this sits at the heart of all we do. We strive for excellent leadership, excellent teaching and excellent learning. Our vision is to transform lives through education.

In every Acorn School, you will see:

- A** Active and visible leadership
- C** Care, support and challenge
- O** Opportunities for all
- R** Readiness to reach out
- N** Needs of all are paramount

Every Headteacher focuses on leading teaching and learning in their school. Central teams manage the business element of the Trust which allows us to share resources, improve IT and estates infrastructure and invest in school to school support. We are therefore able to direct as much money as possible into teaching and learning thus improving the life chances of all our young people.

Whatever role you are applying for, whether in a school or as part of the central team, we hope you can align with our vision and values, have the determination to succeed and are up for a challenge. In turn, we will provide you with a comprehensive and supportive induction programme, professional development and a career with Acorn.

We hope this information pack provides you with a flavour of working within our Trust and we look forward to receiving your application.

Sara Edwards

About St Michael's

Shiningly brightly, standing out

St Michael's Church of England Primary School is an open and inclusive primary school, educating children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old. Located in the garrison town of Larkhill, Wiltshire, our school is at the heart of the community and we are proud of our local and wider links.

At St Michael's Church of England Primary School, we want to spark interest, ignite a passion for learning and fire up ambition to inspire every child to recognise and exceed expectations. Our staff aim to provide a challenging, yet nurturing, environment based on our Christian values. We are committed to learning outside the classroom, as much as inside; Regular trips are planned and visitors invited in to help make the learning relevant and linked to both our local community and the wider world.

In May 2022, we joined Acorn Education Trust, which has provided exciting opportunities to improve local education and draw on collective experience. We work closely with other schools within the Trust and the central team to help us continue to grow from strength to strength.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and showing you what makes St Michael's such a wonderful school.

Sarah Awuye
Headteacher

For more information, please visit our website: www.stmichaelsprimary.org.uk

Our Christian Values

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

John 10:10

We are proud to be an open, inclusive, diverse church school at the centre of our community in Larkhill, where children are encouraged to shine brightly, to stand out.

St Michael's aims to provide a challenging, yet nurturing, environment based on our Christian Values. It is our responsibility as a Church of England school to provide the children with the building blocks of the Christian faith through the means of worship, prayer and familiarity with Scripture. Our children are challenged to think for themselves about the big questions that face the world today, within an environment which is accepting of other faiths and cultures.

All the children in our care are children of God and are created in his likeness. God is love and he wants the best for his children. He wants us to have life in all its fullness, and central to the Christian faith is the truth that he sent his Son to die for us so that we might be forgiven and by his grace receive eternal life, and to build a relationship with him of love and trust. He never said that things would be easy, but that he is with us by his Spirit in whatever situations we find ourselves. As we grow in that relationship and allow his Spirit to work in our lives, we see the outworking of that in all we do, think and say. Our values demonstrate qualities which we would find in that relationship.

Spirituality at St Michael's

We nurture and celebrate each person within our school family; individuals are respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Here at St Michael's, spirituality is where we 'grow the soul'. It is woven like a thread through our school enriching who we are.

By creating meaningful moments, we aim to transform thoughts, actions and heighten awareness. Through providing an exciting, engaging and thought provoking curriculum we encourage children to explore, ask questions, reflect and grow as unique individuals. We want our pupils to go out from St Michael's and shine brightly in their communities.

Job description

Job title	Teaching Assistant (TA)
Reporting to	Class Teacher/ Headteacher

Main purpose

The Teaching Assistant will:

- Work with Class Teachers to raise the learning and attainment of pupils;
- Promote pupils' independence, self-esteem and social inclusion;
- Give support to pupils, individually or in groups, so they can access the curriculum, take part in learning, and experience a sense of achievement

Duties and responsibilities

Teaching and learning

- Demonstrate an informed and efficient approach to teaching and learning by adopting relevant strategies to support the work of the Teacher and increase achievement of all pupils including, where appropriate, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND);
- Promote, support and facilitate inclusion by encouraging participation of all pupils in learning and extracurricular activities;
- Support the teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum aimed at pupils achieving their full potential in all areas of learning;
- Use effective behaviour management strategies consistently in line with the school's policy and procedures;
- Support Class Teachers with maintaining good order and discipline among pupils, managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment;
- Organise and manage teaching space and resources to help maintain a stimulating and safe learning environment;
- Observe pupil performance and pass observations on to the Class Teacher;
- Supervise a class if the Teacher is temporarily unavailable;
- Use ICT skills to advance pupils' learning;
- Undertake any other relevant duties given by the Class Teacher.

Planning

- Contribute to effective assessment and planning by supporting the monitoring, recording and reporting of pupil performance and progress as appropriate to the level of the role;
- Read and understand lesson plans shared prior to lessons, if available;
- Prepare the classroom for lessons.

Continues on next page

Job description continued

Duties and responsibilities cont.

Working with staff, parents/carers and relevant professionals

- Communicate effectively with other staff members and pupils, and with parents and carers under the direction of the Class Teacher;
- Communicate their knowledge and understanding of pupils to other school staff and education, health and social care professionals, so that informed decision making can take place on intervention and provision;
- Contribute to meetings with parents and carers by providing feedback on pupil progress, attainment and barriers to learning, as directed by teachers;
- With the Class Teacher, keep other professionals accurately informed of performance and progress, or concerns they may have about the pupils they work with;
- Understand their role in order to be able to work collaboratively with classroom teachers and other colleagues, including specialist advisory teachers;
- Collaborate and work with colleagues and other relevant professionals within and beyond the school;
- Develop effective professional relationships with colleagues.

Health and safety

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of pupils, and help to safeguard pupils' wellbeing by following the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and our school's child protection policy;
- Look after children who are upset or have had accidents.

Professional development

- Help keep their own knowledge and understanding relevant and up-to-date by reflecting on their own practice, liaising with school leaders, and identifying relevant professional development to improve personal effectiveness;
- Take opportunities to build the appropriate skills, qualifications, and/or experience needed for the role, with support from the school;
- Take part in the school's appraisal procedures.

Safeguarding

- Work in line with statutory safeguarding guidance (e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education, Prevent) and our safeguarding and child protection policies;
- Promote the safeguarding of all pupils in the school.

Please note: This Job Description may be amended at any time in consultation with the postholder.

Person specification

Criteria	Essential
Qualifications and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE or equivalent level, including at least a Grade 4 (previously Grade C) in English and Maths; First-aid training, or willingness to complete it.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working in a school environment or other educational setting; Experience working with children / young people; Experience planning and delivering learning activities.
Skills and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good literacy and numeracy skills; Good organisational skills; Ability to build effective working relationships with pupils and adults; Skills and expertise in understanding the needs of all pupils; Knowledge of how to help adapt and deliver support to meet individual needs; Subject and curriculum knowledge relevant to the role, and ability to apply this effectively in supporting teachers and pupils; Excellent verbal communication skills; Active listening skills; The ability to remain calm in stressful situations; Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children; Good ICT skills, particularly using ICT to support learning; Understanding of roles and responsibilities within the classroom and whole school context.
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoyment of working with children; Sensitivity and understanding, to help build good relationships with pupils; A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils, and promoting the ethos and values of the school; Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times; Commitment to safeguarding pupil's wellbeing and equality; Resilient, positive, forward looking and enthusiastic about making a difference; Capacity to inspire, motivate and challenge children and young people.

The Teaching Assistant will be required to follow school policies and the staff code of conduct.

Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the successful applicant will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role.

Support for our staff

Whether your role is in a school or the central team, you will be part of a caring team that will provide you with the support and challenge needed to fulfil your role effectively.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

- A comprehensive induction programme for all new staff (across all roles), that includes mentor and peer support
- Statutory training on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR
- Access to over 2,500 world-leading courses, webinars and resources via the National College online training platform
- Support for Early Career Teachers (ECTs)
- Role specific training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) roles
- School based training, including mentoring and coaching from senior leaders within school and across the wider Trust; Cross phase and school to school support
- Subject communities, across primary and secondary level, to share good practice across the Trust
- Opportunities to role shadow
- Apprenticeships available at various levels across the Trust for multiple roles, including Teaching, Teaching Assistants, Nursery and IT Technicians

Health and wellbeing

- A strong culture of wellbeing across all schools and the central team
- Family friendly policies, including comprehensive flexible working policy, adoption leave policy, maternity and paternity (including shared parental leave) policies and staff wellbeing policy
- Access to [Care First](#), an employee assistance programme which provides confidential support on health and wellbeing, relationships, money issues, bereavement and loss, stress, anxiety and depression and much more

Pensions

- Teacher pension
- Local government pension
- Nest pension

Staff wellbeing is very important at Acorn Education Trust. We are consistently looking for new ways to improve our offering, and, regularly collect feedback at all levels to check in with our staff and ensure they feel supported in their role.

How to apply

We highly encourage all interested applicants to arrange a tour of our school prior to applying.

To arrange a tour, or if you would like any additional information about this role, please contact the school office via email at admin@stmichaelsprimary.uk or by phone on 01980 670268.

To apply

Please visit our [Acorn careers page](#) to complete an application form.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a one-day interview.

**St Michael's Church of England Primary School, The Causeway,
Larkhill, SP4 8FB**

01980 670268

admin@stmichaelsprimary.uk

St Michael's Church of England Primary School, as part of the Acorn Education Trust, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If successful in obtaining this post you will be subject to a Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service and health screening. We are an equal opportunities employer. As part of our safer recruitment processes, if you are shortlisted for the post, we will carry out a social media account search.