



Teaching Assistant (Early Years Foundation Stage) Blackgates Primary Academy

Information Pack

October 2021



Contents

Welcome	Page 2
Leodis Academies Trust	Page 3
Values and Aims	Page 4
Staff Benefits & Wellbeing	Page 5
Job Description	Page 6-7
Person Specification	Page 8-9
Application Procedure	Page 10
Recruitment Process	Page 11



LEODIS ACADEMIES TRUST
Rein Rd, Tingley, Wakefield, WF3 1JQ



0113 887 3600



recruitment@leodisacademiestrust.co.uk



<https://www.leodisacademiestrust.com/>

Welcome

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in applying for a role working at Blackgates Primary Academy, which is part of the Leodis Academies Trust family of schools. We hope the information provided will encourage you to seriously consider becoming part of our academy where children are at the heart of all we do.

Blackgates is improving rapidly, our results show this, but more importantly this school is a happy one where pupils learn to appreciate success. We believe all children learn best when feeling happy and safe. It is always our aim to ensure all children enjoy learning. We promote kindness and caring above all else. If children are in a happy, safe environment with access to high quality teaching, presented in an enjoyable way they will achieve their full potential.

The safety of our pupils is paramount. We have worked hard to ensure the site is secure and have very strict safeguarding procedures in place. The health and safety of our wonderful pupils is a priority to all. We are an inclusive school, believing everyone deserves a high quality education in a local school, regardless of disability.

I believe our pupils are the best. They are happy, empathetic, imaginative, active learners. Behaviour within the school setting is good with visitors and professionals regularly commenting on this.

Our staff care. They have received high levels of professional development which has led to pupils receiving high quality teaching. Here at Blackgates you will see high quality teaching, well behaved happy pupils, and rapidly improving results. This is because we care. We are determined our pupils will receive the very best of everything because they deserve it.

More detail on the role itself is contained in the Job Description later in this document. I hope that the information provided is of use. If you require any further information or would like to speak to someone about your application, you will find some contact details in the 'Application Process' section of this document.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Mrs Julie Coulson

Headteacher



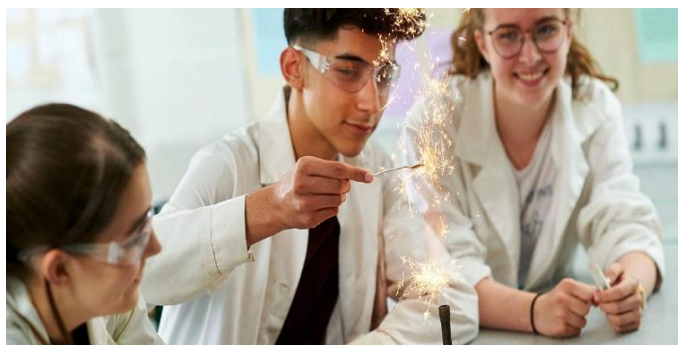
Leodis Academies Trust

Leodis Academies Trust was established in April 2016 to formalise the collaborative working of four high performing schools within close proximity of one another. In September 2018, Blackgates Primary Academy joined the Trust cementing our place at the heart of the Tingley and Ardsley Community. Leodis offers young people the opportunity to experience consistency and security in their education from 2 to 18 years old; from the start of nursery to the end of sixth form and into adulthood.

Leodis Academies Trust and our individual Academies are committed to 'Forging Young Futures'. To do this, each Academy has its own ethos and identity and has the freedom to develop individually as well as working collaboratively to secure high quality outcomes for all its young people. By providing an extensive curriculum both within and beyond the classroom we cater for the wide range of talent and ability that our students have to offer. We work tirelessly to improve the life chances of all our young people and support them to make a positive contribution to their community.

Whilst Leodis consists of schools closely geographically located, the Trust works collaboratively with a wide range of partner organisations both locally in Morley and south Leeds as well as further afield with our Initial Teacher Training partnerships, Universities and employers.

Our positive outlook and excellent reputation enables us to attract and sustain high quality staff teams led by exceptional leadership teams. We value our staff and the experience that they can bring to the Trust so that we can continue to build on our strengths. Those we recruit need to demonstrate that they want to be part of the collaborative working culture upon which we pride ourselves. We want to be the employer of choice in the area and working for the Trust, you will be able to access the many staff benefits on offer.



Values and Aims



At Leodis Academies Trust we are committed to developing every young person's full learning potential through a wide variety of educational experiences in an environment that fosters positive relationships based on mutual respect.

Every individual part of the whole:

Each of our schools have their own identity and ethos that reflects their specific community and the needs of the young people within them. However they are all underpinned by a strong sense of purpose, order and

control which in turn produces confident and enthusiastic young people who value education and the opportunities it affords them.

Building on excellence together:

Not content with focusing on academic excellence we all work hard to shape our young people into fully rounded individuals, ready to face the demands of a rapidly changing society. We access a comprehensive range of support and development services, in-house and externally, to ensure barriers to learning are tackled and their impact on attainment is reduced to allow every young person to make significant progress.

Our positive outlook and excellent reputation enables us to attract and sustain high quality staff teams lead by exceptional leadership teams. Our tireless focus on quality first teaching secures a safe, happy and high achieving learning environment for all our young people. We value every success and celebrate the achievements of all our young people through events, newsletters and our websites.

Looking outwards to strengthen within:

With collaboration at the heart of our work as a Trust we are able to share good practice, resources, and a philosophy that secures high quality teaching and learning across our schools. We focus on the breadth of curriculum; and value and provide enrichment opportunities for our young people to develop their talents and to find new skills and interests.

Whilst we focus on working together across the schools we recognise that we cannot grow, develop and fulfil our vision for every young person without strong partnerships. Central to this is the relationship between home and school; strong communication and open, honest dialogue ensuring we know our young people well and can work together to meet their needs.



Staff Benefits & Wellbeing

At Leodis Academies Trust we pride ourselves on our collaborative approach to working together. We look for individuals who can contribute to this and make a difference to the academies that form our Trust. In return we can offer:

- Attractive salaries and annual leave entitlements.
- Free parking on site.
- Enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption leave.
- Auto-enrolment into an attractive pension scheme (West Yorkshire Pension Fund for support staff and Teachers Pension Scheme for teaching staff).
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme providing confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Access to job related learning and development opportunities.
- Access to an expanding range of lifestyle benefits including Simply Health cash plan, free flu vaccinations and a cycle to work scheme.





Job Description

Teaching Assistant (EYFS)

Working Pattern	32.5 hours per week, term time only (38 weeks plus 3 days)
Grade	A1 – B1
Scale Points	2 - 6
Contract Type	Fixed term contract until 31 st August 2022
Responsible to	Principal

Purpose of the role

To work with the EYFS team to deliver high quality childcare and education, the postholder will work with teachers to secure good progress for all pupils, regardless of their abilities or capabilities. With adept communication skills, the post holder will ensure the children are happy and safe while succeeding. Based in the EYFS provision, the postholder will work under the instruction of teaching/senior staff, usually in the nursery or the classroom. The post holder will support the teacher in making learning accessible for all pupils. This will include general support within nursery and the classroom, while supporting the implementation of structured intervention programmes. The post holder will support the teaching of children and the deliverance of educational activities by assisting pupils one to one, within groups or as part of the whole class alongside other professionals, while actively promoting the ethos and values of the school.

Main Duties

- Contribute to a high standard of quality within the Nursery, including practice, environment and resources to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Plan, create and implement nursery activities and events suitable for all children.
- Ensure the Nursery is a safe environment for children, that equipment is safe, standards of hygiene are high, safety procedures are implemented at all times.
- Assist in the preparation and cleaning up of activities.
- Attend to the pupils' personal needs, and implement related personal programmes, including social, health, physical, hygiene, first aid and welfare matters.
- Supervise and support pupils, both individually and in small groups, ensuring their safety and access to learning.
- Establish good relationships with pupils, acting as a role model and being aware of and responding appropriately to individual needs.
- Promote the inclusion and acceptance of all pupils.
- Be aware of and support difference and ensure all pupils have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop.

- Encourage pupils to interact with others and engage in activities led by the teacher.
- Encourage pupils to understand instructions and act independently as appropriate.
- Prepare classroom as directed for lessons and clear afterwards and assist with the display of pupil's work.
- Be aware of pupil problems/progress/achievements and report to the teacher as agreed.
- Undertake pupil record keeping e.g. recording assessments as requested.
- Support the teacher in managing pupil behaviour, reporting difficulties as appropriate.
- Gather/report information from/to parents/carers as directed.
- Provide clerical/administrative support - photocopying, typing, filing etc.
- Support pupils in respect of local and national learning strategies - literacy, numeracy, early years, as directed by the teacher.
- Support pupils in using basic ICT as directed.
- Prepare and maintain equipment/resources as directed by the teacher and assist pupils in their use.
- Assist with the supervision of pupils out of lesson times, including before and after school and at lunchtimes.
- Accompany teaching staff and pupils on visits, trips and out of school activities as required.
- Adhere to the Academy and Trust's policies and procedures.
- Any other duties commensurate with the post

General Responsibilities

- Attend and participate in staff meetings, training and briefings as appropriate.
- There may be a need to occasionally work outside of school hours and off school premises, as required by the school
- To follow academy procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Be aware of and comply with school and Leodis Academies Trust policies and procedures e.g. Safeguarding and Child Protection, Health and Safety, Confidentiality and GDPR regulations.
- Be aware of and support difference and ensure equality for all working in an anti-discriminatory manner, upholding and promoting the standards and equal opportunities of the school and Leodis Academies Trust.
- Contribute to the overall ethos, work and aims of the school.

The duties and responsibilities highlighted in this job specification are indicative and may vary over time. Postholders are expected to undertake other duties and responsibilities relevant to the nature, level and scope of the post and the grade has been established on this basis. Performance management assessment will be based on the responsibilities listed above and judgements will be made against these as part of the school's performance management cycle.

Blackgates Primary Academy is a member of Leodis Academies Trust with a number of local schools and as such the postholder may be required to attend training at, or work occasionally across other sites in the future.



Person Specification

Teaching Assistant (EYFS)

Key

E – Essential

D – Desirable

A – Application form

C – Certificate

R – Reference

T – Task

I – Interview

		Essential/ Desirable	Evidence
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 qualification or equivalent in English/Maths (GCSE A*-C) NVQ 2 for Teaching Assistants (or equivalent level of experience in a classroom environment) Minimum full and relevant Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification Training in relevant learning strategies, e.g. literacy Paediatric First Aid qualification 	E D D D D	AC ACI ACI AC AC
Knowledge & Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General understanding of national curriculum and other basic learning programmes/strategies Basic understanding of child development and learning Understanding of classroom roles and responsibilities Sound knowledge of the EYFS and Characteristics of Effective Learning Understanding of relevant policies/codes of practice and awareness of relevant legislation Knowledge of child protection and safeguarding 	E E E D D D	AIR AIR AIR AIR AIR AI
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of commitment to previous employers/training Good level of ICT skills Working with or caring for children in an Early Years setting Experience of recording information using SIMS/CPOMS databases Supporting children with Special Educational Needs Working in a school environment 	E E D D D D	AR AR AIR AR AR AR
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to communicate effectively with students, staff and other stakeholders Ability use ICT effectively to support learning 	E E	AIR AIR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to relate well to children and adults • Ability to work constructively as part of a team • Good organisational skills and a flexible approach to work 	E E E	AIR AIR AIR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to plan and implement a stimulating Early Years curriculum, outdoors and indoors • A commitment to the values and vision of Blackgates Primary Academy and Leodis Academies Trust. • A commitment to extra-curricular activities and the life of the school 	D E D	AIR AIR AIR

Application Procedure

For a discussion on this vacancy please contact Blackgates Academy on 0113 8878155.

Please apply using the online application form - [click here](#). In compliance with Safer Recruitment guidelines, CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: Monday 18th October 2021 at 9.00am

Interviews: Thursday 21st October

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted with details of the interview process. We will contact everyone who has submitted a correctly completed application form to let you know whether you have been successful or not. If you have not been shortlisted, unfortunately, due to the number of applications that we receive, we are unable to comment and give feedback on your application.

Safer Recruitment

The schools within Leodis Academies Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We therefore have a rigorous recruitment process which includes assessing candidates' suitability to work with children. All staff will be required to hold an enhanced DBS Disclosure.

Equal Opportunities

Leodis Academies Trust is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community. At Leodis Academies Trust we believe that all individuals are of equal value and we are committed to equal opportunities for all. All people who work and study in the school have the right to be respected and valued within a safe and secure environment and not to be discriminated against on the grounds of age, class, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

Please [click here](#) to view the Privacy Notice for Applicants.

Recruitment Process

Leodis Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

APPLICATION FORM (online process)

You are expected to complete an online application form as the first part of our recruitment process – please [click here](#).

DISABLED APPLICANTS

If you are a disabled person and may not be able to meet some of the job requirements because of your disability, please specify this in your application. If you meet all other criteria, you will be shortlisted, and we will discuss with you if there are ways in which the post can be modified to meet your needs.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leodis Academies Trust is an equal opportunity employer committed to the elimination of discrimination throughout its employment practices. Selection criteria procedures will be reviewed frequently to ensure that individuals are selected and treated based on their merits and abilities. All information is treated in confidence and personal information submitted as part of the Equal Opportunities questions will not form part of your application; the shortlisting panel do not have access to this information.

REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

The post you are applying for requires you to have a Disclosure & Barring Service check. Prior to your interview you will be required to disclose details of your criminal history as appropriate in line with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 2013. Guidance about what you are required to disclose can be found [here](#). Having a criminal record is not necessarily a bar to obtaining a post. This information may be discussed with you at your interview in order to assess job related risks, but we emphasise that your application will be considered on merit and ability and you will not be discriminated against unfairly.

Failure to disclose required information will result in any offer of employment being withdrawn. A DBS check will be carried out for successful applicants – this check for disclosure of criminal history will include spent convictions, pending prosecutions/current court proceeding and police enquiries. In the event of employment, any failure to disclose such convictions will normally result in dismissal by the Trust. Any information given will be completely confidential and will be considered only in relation to this application. We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which can be found [here](#).

CANVASSING

You must not try to influence any current employee or member of the school governing board or Trust, to act in your favour as this will disqualify you. If you are related to a current employee, governor or Trust member, you must indicate this in the relevant section of the application form.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REFERENCES

At least one of the references should be your current employer. If you are not currently working with children, but have previously done so, then you must include a referee from the last post where you worked with children. If you have not been in recent paid employment, referees should be appropriately qualified to provide confirmation of your suitability for employment. Referees will normally be contacted before interview where possible. You should be aware that your referees will be asked if, in relation to you, they are aware of any Child Protection allegations or issues of a similar nature.

SHORTLISTING & INTERVIEWS

Applicants who meet the requirements will normally be shortlisted for interview, however, places for interview will need to be limited to a manageable number. In addition, the school may conduct tests and/or written exercises in appropriate circumstances and you may be asked to undertake such exercises as part of the selection process. At the interview, the panel will ask questions which are intended to allow you to expand on your application and to demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the post. This is also your opportunity to ask questions relating to the job. You will also be asked for your views on the importance of safeguarding children and provide evidence of your suitability to work with young people through your responses to interview questions.

SALARY SCALES & INCREMENTS

Administrative, Professional, Technical & Clerical (APT & C) Grades relating to Operational Staff – Progression on the salary scale is by annual increment until the maximum within the grade is reached, subject to at least 6 months service in the grade and a satisfactory performance review and levels of attendance by that date.

PRE-APPOINTMENT CHECKS

Permission to Work in the UK

Please note that we can only consider applications from British citizens, EU citizens with settled status (in line with right to work guidelines after Brexit) and those holding valid UK visas.

At Interview

Under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, we must ensure that you have permission to work in the United Kingdom. No offer of employment can be made without verification of proof of identity. During the period 1 January to 30 June 2021, employers can continue to use European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss passports and national identity cards as evidence of an individual's right to work in the UK.

As evidence of your right to work in the UK, you will need to submit one of the original documents included in List 1 below, or two original documents specified in List 2 below. Alternatively you can provide your right to work share code to us so that we can check online your right to work in the UK.

List 1

- A passport showing that the holder is a British citizen, or has a right of abode in the United Kingdom.
- A document showing that the holder is a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland. This must be a national passport or identity card. EEA and Swiss nationals who are in the UK before 31 December 2020 have until 30 June 2021 to apply for either settled or pre-settled status, which will give them the right to work in the UK.
- A resident permit issued by the Home Office to a national from a European Economic Area country or Switzerland.
- A Biometric Residence permit or current passport endorsed to show that the holder can stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom or has no time limit on their stay.
- A passport or other travel document endorsed to show that the holder can stay in the United Kingdom; and that this endorsement allows the holder to do the type of work you are offering if they do not have a work permit.
- An Application Registration Card issued by the Home Office to an asylum seeker stating that the holder is permitted to take employment.

List 2

- First Combination of two documents

- A document giving the person's permanent National Insurance Number and name. This could be a P45, P60, National Insurance card, or a letter from a Government agency.
- Plus, one of the following documents:
 - A full birth certificate issued in the United Kingdom, which includes the names of the holder's parents; OR
 - A birth certificate issued in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Ireland; OR
 - A certificate of registration or naturalisation stating that the holder is a British citizen; OR
 - A letter issued by the Home Office to the holder which indicates that the person named in it can stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom, or has no time limit on their stay; OR
 - An Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the person named in it can stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom, or has no time limit on their stay; OR
 - A letter issued by the Home Office to the holder which indicates that the person named in it can stay in the United Kingdom, and this allows them to do the type of work that you are offering; OR
 - An Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the person named in it can stay in the United Kingdom, and this allows them to do the type of work that you are offering.

- Second Combination of two documents

- A work visa or other approval to take employment that has been issued by the UK government. Plus, one of the following documents:
- A passport or other travel document endorsed to show that the holder is able to stay in the United Kingdom and can take the employment in question; OR
- A letter issued by the Home Office confirming that the person named in it is able to stay in the United Kingdom and can take the employment in question.

QUALIFICATIONS

At Interview

Evidence of qualifications relevant to the post and proof of Qualified Teacher Status (if applicable) will also be required. We can only accept original certificates. If you cannot produce original documents or certified copies, written confirmation of your relevant qualifications must be obtained from the awarding body.

PROOF OF IDENTITY

At Interview - In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education, we must see proof of your identity and evidence your name, date of birth, address and see some form of photographic identity.

At Appointment - In accordance with Safer Recruitment guidelines designed to protect young people, we will check your suitability to work with children. You will need to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS), involving completing an electronic application for this purpose and provide original supporting documents. A copy of the DBS Code of Practice can be made available on request.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

At Appointment - Verification of your medical fitness is required and again you will be asked to complete a form. You will not be able to start work, for insurance purposes, until medical clearance has been received.

Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

- The Trust is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of any protected characteristics (e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, race/colour/nationality/ethnic origin, disability) or their responsibilities for dependants or their offending background.
- This policy will be made available to all applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.
- The Trust actively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
- A DBS check is usually required for most positions in the Trust. For positions requiring a DBS check, all application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a satisfactory DBS check is an essential condition of employment with the Trust.
- A DBS check will be requested after an offer of employment has been made, and the person has accepted the offer of employment. Therefore, any offer of employment is subject to receipt of a satisfactory DBS check.
- Where a DBS check is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application

process. Applicants called for interview should provide details of their relevant criminal record by completing the self-disclosure form which will be sent to them when they are invited for interview. This form should be given to the Chair of the interview panel. This is to ensure that only those who are entitled to see the information are privy to it. If you are unsure what constitutes a relevant criminal record, please refer to [this document](#) for clarification.

- Failure to provide full details of a criminal record or information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to the offer of employment being withdrawn or dismissal if the successful candidate has already commenced employment in the post.
- The Trust will take advice from a suitably trained person (usually the Trust's HR Manager or Legal Adviser) to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences.
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, the Trust will ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position.
- The Trust makes every subject of a DBS check aware of the existence of the Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.
- The Principal (or designated senior manager) and the HR Manager will be made aware that all information in relation to previous convictions given by applicants must be treated in the strictest confidence.
- The Trust undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a DBS check with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
- The Trust will comply with its obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 in its storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information.