



**Teaching Assistant
Meopham School
Information**



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Welcome

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in joining Meopham School. I hope you will take a look at our website at <https://www.meophamschool.org.uk/> and take time to consider the information enclosed with this letter.

Meopham School is a vibrant and ambitious 11-18 school with a strong community ethos. This helps create a supportive and inspiring climate for success. Students at Meopham School are valued and nurtured as individuals. In April 2023 Ofsted awarded the school with a 'Good' grading in all areas, drawing attention to the fact that "pupils are proud to attend this inclusive and positive school. They value the supportive and nurturing relationships they have with staff."

We have exceptionally high standards where we value the hard work which makes it possible for every student and staff member to fulfil their potential. We are proud that visitors to our school often comment on the mature and courteous manner in which our students present themselves.

We are proud that Meopham students are also curious in their learning, resilient in overcoming difficulty, and are confident in evaluating their own progress. As a consequence they are ambitious to achieve academic and personal success, both in school and the world beyond.

To achieve our vision, we place the recruitment, retention and professional development of teachers as a top priority. We therefore seek well-qualified, highly skilled, and enthusiastic teachers, who have the highest expectations of both themselves and the pupils in their classes. We want teachers who enjoy working with young people of all abilities and differing needs.

Meopham School joined the Swale Academies Trust as an academy on 1st February 2013. This is made up of a group of schools, both primary and secondary, located in Kent and East Sussex.

We are unique in that we have all the benefits of a school in a rural setting, with the advantages of working as part of a larger Trust. We are involved in extensive outreach work across schools in Kent, both within the Trust and beyond. This means that we can offer you an invigorating professional environment in which to grow. We invite you to be part of our future success.

If you become part of our team we believe we could offer you a number of benefits. You would become part of something successful. We can offer an exceptional package of professional development, ranging from an acclaimed ECT induction programme, training through the nationally recognised Outstanding Teacher Programme, a Masters' Degree, and support for aspiring leaders and headteachers through the suite of National Professional Qualifications.

Meopham School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check. As a school dedicated to the principle of equal opportunities, we aim to ensure that staff recruitment is fair and open to all regardless of age, social class, disability, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation within the context of the detailed person specification.

If you wish to apply please visit Kent Teach to submit your application as soon as possible. We look forward to receiving your application.



Ethan Roberts
Headteacher

Job Description

Job Title: Teaching Assistant
Grade: SAT B
Responsible to: SENDCo

Purpose of the Job:

To work with teachers to support teaching and learning, providing general and specific assistance to pupils and staff under the direction, guidance and direct supervision of the classroom teacher.

Main duties and responsibilities (Accountabilities):

- Work with individuals or small groups of pupils in the classroom under the direct supervision of teaching staff and provide feedback to the teacher.
- Support pupils to understand instructions support independent learning and inclusion of all pupils.
- Support the teacher in behaviour management and keeping pupils on task.
- Support pupils in social and emotional well-being, reporting problems to the teacher as appropriate.
- Prepare and clear up learning environment and resources, including photocopying, filing and the display and presentation of pupils work and contribute to maintaining a safe environment.

Teaching Assistants in this role may also undertake some or all of the following:

- Record basic pupil data.
- Support children's learning through play.
- Assist with break-time supervision including facilitating games and activities.
- Assist with escorting pupils on educational visits.
- Support pupils in using basic ICT.
- Invigilate exams and tests.
- Assist with pupils' personal needs including toileting, hygiene, dressing and eating, as well as help with social, welfare and health matters, reporting problems to the teacher as appropriate. Physically assist pupils in activities (may involve lifting, where mobility is an issue).
- Assist with pupils on therapy or care programmes, designed and supervised by a therapist / teacher.

The duties / responsibilities of this post may vary from time to time according to the changing needs of the Trust services.

Person Specification

Qualifications	Essential / Desirable
Level 1 or 2 diploma (or equivalent) in Learning Support	E
English, Maths and Science GCSE (or equivalent) grade C or above, or significant relevant experience.	E
Evidence of other TA related qualifications and / or training courses.	D
Experience	
Experience of working with children in a similar environment.	E
Experience in supporting those with specific learning difficulties.	D
Experience of supporting pupils with medical needs.	D
Skills, Abilities and Knowledge	
Proven ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.	E
A willingness to learn.	E
Understanding of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children and commitment to child welfare and safety.	E
Experience in Phonics.	D
An understanding of the needs of SEND pupils.	D
Experience of reading and scribing for pupils.	D
Knowledge of policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety, security, equal opportunities and confidentiality.	D
Personal Qualities	
Team player.	E
Initiative.	E
Commitment to the role.	E
Positive approach and flexibility.	E
Commitment to CPD.	E



Working at Meopham School

Benefits

- Discounts with local and national retailers, cinemas and restaurants
- Local Government Pension Scheme – with a generous employer contribution
- Self Sacrifice Shared Cost AVC (Additional Voluntary Contribution) Scheme
- Employee Referral Recruitment Incentive
- Access to training and development
- On-site Parking
- Enhanced Maternity Pay

Well-Being

- Employee Assistance Programme – Wellbeing and advice
- Cycle to Work scheme

Finding Us

Meopham School

Wrotham Rd, Meopham, Gravesend DA13 0AH

01474 814646

mss-reception@swale.at

Closest Train Station: Meopham Station

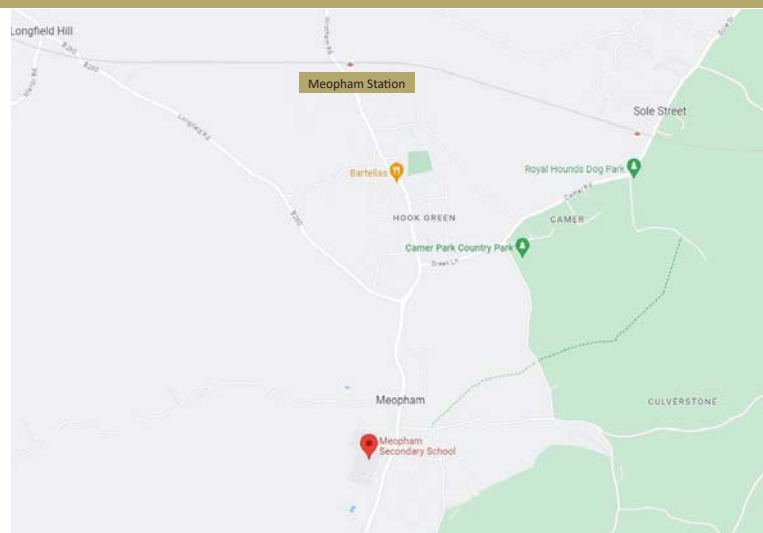
Approx. 35 minute walk or 9 minute Bus

Closest Bus stop:

Secondary School -

223*, 305*, 306*, 308*, 311, 418R*, 418W*, 695*, VIGO1*

*go to/from Meopham Station





Meopham School Overview

Located in the heart of the village of Meopham, an area of outstanding natural beauty, we are committed to teaching within traditional classroom spaces. Our £14 million main school building opened in Spring 2018. A second building is currently under construction, and is due for completion in late Spring 2024. Once completed all teaching spaces will offer state-of-the-art and inspiring modern learning environments.

Meopham School is particularly proud of its highly consistent approach to teaching and learning. The Meopham 'House Style' is our confirmation of agreed principles of effective teaching and learning. It is designed to support teachers at all stages of their career to ensure that students in their care receive high quality learning opportunities.

It is our view that effective lessons will have FIRE at their heart:

- Include appropriate and effective assessment and feedback opportunities;
- Be fully inclusive and enable progress for all students;
- Allow opportunities for retrieval of key identified knowledge and skills;
- Stimulate and encourage student curiosity, engagement and a love of learning.

"Leaders have high aspirations for pupils and make sure that all experience effective teaching overall." (Ofsted April 2023)

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, and students benefit from a wide suite of subjects designed to meet the needs of tomorrow's world. Essential skills of literacy, oracy and numeracy are woven through lessons across the curriculum.

"Across subjects, staff have strong subject knowledge and give clear explanations of lesson content. This was especially evident in teaching in the Sixth Form." (Ofsted April 2023)

At Meopham School we value children of all abilities, and offer a fully inclusive environment. We understand that every child is unique, and so we tailor our teaching and curriculum to help all students reach their full potential. Our aim is to ensure each pupil makes the greatest possible progress from their own individual starting point. To do this we use targets as floors to help raise aspirations, not ceilings to limit their ambitions.

"Leaders identify well the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These pupils are well supported through the adaptations that teachers make for them in lessons." (Ofsted April 2023)



The Application Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the appropriate application form. All sections of the form which are applicable to you must be completed as clearly and fully as possible.

Please note CVs will not be accepted in place of a completed application form.

Application forms can be found on the Kent-Teach website and applications should be made via this route. Alternatively, completed [SAT Application Forms](#) can be sent by email to diane.mills@swale.at or by post to the following address:

Mrs Diane Mills
Meopham School,
Wrotham Road,
Meopham,
Gravesend
DA13 0AH

The Shortlisting and Interview Process

After the closing date for this post a panel will conduct the shortlisting process. You will be selected for interview based entirely on the contents of your application form, it is therefore important that you fully read the Job Description and Person Specification prior to completing your form. Meopham School may complete online checks of any candidates as part of the shortlisting process.

After the shortlisting process has been completed candidates who have been selected for interview will be informed, and provided with full details of the interview programme. If you have not heard from us within 10 working days of the closing date for this post, you have, on this occasion, unfortunately been unsuccessful.

All candidates who are invited to interview must bring the following original documents:

- Documentary evidence of right to work in the UK
- Visual identification which includes a photograph, usually a passport or driving licence
- Documentary proof of current name and address
- Where appropriate any documentation evidencing change of name
- Certificates of educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Conditional Offer

Any offer of employment will be conditional upon a number of formalities, including, but not restricted to the following:

- Verification of right to work in the UK
- Receipt of two satisfactory references
- Verification of identity checks and qualifications
- Satisfactory enhanced DBS check, as well as additional checks that may be appropriate if you have worked or been resident overseas in the previous five years
- Satisfactory pre-employment health clearance
- A check against the Teacher Service Register for any teaching prohibition or restriction orders where you are applying for a teaching role or if you have previously held a teaching role in past [employment](#).



Safeguarding

Our Trust has robust safer recruitment procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

All individuals working in any capacity at our Trust will be subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Swale Academies Trust schools will conduct an online check of shortlisted candidates in line with the Keeping Children Safe In Education guidelines.

Retention of information

All information is stored securely and any information supplied by unsuccessful candidates will be destroyed through the confidential waste system after six months from the date of the interview, in accordance with our retention of records procedure.

Privacy Notice

Please refer to the Trust's [Privacy Notice](#) for job applicants for information about how we use any personal data about them we hold.

Overview of Swale Academies Trust

Since its creation in September 2010, Swale Academies Trust has developed into one of the South East's leading Multi-Academy Trusts.

Our purpose is to develop good and outstanding schools and ensure the rapid improvement of schools with challenges. As the Trust has grown and developed, we continue to ensure that effective school support and leadership is maintained. The Trust's approach to school improvement is based on a combination of CPD, capacity building and collaboration, with a relentless focus on teaching and pupil progress, in order to effect rapid and sustained improvements in outcomes for young people.

The Trust is an organisation which is driven by the belief that all children deserve a good quality education where they are seen as individuals and above all are exceptionally well cared for.

Primary

- Beaver Green Primary School, Ashford
- Istead Rise Primary School, Istead Rise
- James Dixon Primary School, Bromley
- Langney Primary Academy, Eastbourne
- Parkland Infant School, Eastbourne
- Parkland Junior School, Eastbourne
- Regis Manor Primary School, Sittingbourne
- Shinewater Primary School, Eastbourne
- South Borough Primary School, Maidstone
- Westlands Primary School, Sittingbourne

Secondary

- Meopham Secondary School, Meopham
- Peacehaven Community School, Eastbourne
- The Eastbourne Academy, Eastbourne
- The Holmesdale School, Snodland
- The North School, Ashford
- The Sittingbourne School, Sittingbourne
- The Turing School, Eastbourne
- The Whitstable School, Whitstable
- Westlands Secondary School, Sittingbourne

Central Support Services

- Human Resource Team
- Finance Team
- ICT Team
- Estate Management
- Governance and Communications

