



Sawtry Village
Academy

Helping Young Minds Grow

Pushing students to their full potential



Sawtry Village Academy

Student Support Assistant

Recruitment Pack



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About Sawtry Village Academy

I have spent all of my working life in education, with the majority of this time spent in Sawtry, and I am delighted to welcome you to our team. Sawtry is committed to providing a high quality educational experience in a school that puts learning and individual achievement at the heart of everything it does. It has been an exciting period of rapid improvement and development for both staff and students at the Academy, since joining Meridian Trust in April 2015.

Sawtry Village Academy has high expectations of all its students and in return offers a high-quality education at the heart of its local community. We develop our students into successful, confident, responsible and employable citizens whilst providing a nurturing and supportive hub for students, their families and the wider community.

Following the most recent Ofsted inspection, in October 2023, it is evident that students at Sawtry Village Academy benefit from good teaching by staff who have good subject knowledge and who continuously enhance their teaching skills to ensure the best possible progress and attainment outcomes for all students.

There is an excellent standard of student care provided across the Academy by all staff and this ensures high aspiration for student attainment can be realised. Students benefit from following a broad and balanced curriculum which facilitates the development of the important skills of leadership, teamwork and co-operation through participation in a broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom such as sport, music and community involvement. In addition we expect students to engage in the completion of PLEDGES.

We expect students to work hard, developing resilience when the going gets tough and together we will celebrate their progress and achievements, whatever their level of success. We know that learning is at its best when staff, students and parents work closely together, and it is a privilege to be sharing the responsibility of educating the young people in our care with you.

The academy is underpinned and supported by the ethos and values of Meridian Trust. The core of this philosophy is:

- Achievement for all
- Valuing People
- A high-quality learning environment
- The pursuit of excellence
- Extending the boundaries of learning

I look forward to collaborating with you in the future and hope that you will join us in achieving the aim of knowing and supporting every student to achieve and enjoy their school experience.

Simon Parsons

Principal of Sawtry Village Academy



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all

A Brief History

Meridian Trust, formerly known as Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT), is a values-led Trust and has risen to be one of the highest performing academy groups in the country. Our Trust was first formed as an educational trust to create a federation of schools in 2006 with a desire to provide high quality and dynamic education for everyone, right in the heart of our community. Through various government policies, our commitment to collaboration has remained consistent.

Meridian Trust was formed in 2011 to deliver more widely on that clear vision to provide high quality and dynamic education for all at the heart of the communities we serve. Our steady growth since then reflects our commitment to the communities we serve and our track record of success. The period since 2018 has seen an increase in speed of growth as many long term projects matured and our relationship with Sharnbrook Academy Federation emerged.

We are currently a family of 30 academies (including 14 primary, 3 special and 13 secondary schools). The secondary schools include a University Technology College, an Upper School, four 11-16 schools and six 11-18 schools. We also have 2 new secondary free schools in development. All within 20 miles of Cambridge and Peterborough and the main communication routes between. We merged with Cambridge Primary Education Trust to become the Meridian Trust in April 2022. In addition to operating schools, we are the home of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub, and train more than 150 new teachers each year through Meridian Trust ITT. We retain a strong commitment to growing and supporting staff throughout their training and career development. We have a

proven track record of school improvement and transforming the lives of children and young people over the last 10 years.

Students thrive in Meridian Trust academies as a result of the implementation of our values, our successful and proven systems and our commitment to valuing people. We are among the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the country for student progress. Our academies are well-run and our staff benefit from excellent access to professional development.

Our commitment to the education system goes beyond just our own academies. We operate 'The Cambridge Partnership', one of the largest initial teacher training providers in the country which has recently merged with the SAF ITT, and 'Leadership East' these further strengthen our capacity and commitment to professional development. We also provide support through various SLAs to a number of other trusts and academies.

As a strong, regional multi-academy trust we currently operate schools across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Peterborough, and Northamptonshire. We are proud to have strong partnerships within all these communities.



Trust Vision, Mission and Values

Our values and who we are:

Meridian Trust is a successful multi-academy trust founded on its commitment to people and communities.

Our proven approach over more than a decade has elevated us to a respected and admired academy trust, a national leader in education and a source of great pride to the communities we serve.

Every child is known, equally valued and supported to achieve their potential in all our academies. Every community we serve benefits from the facilities and services we provide.

Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach where they are equally valued and supported.

We ensure that well-run schools retain and develop their distinct contextual identity, while sharing and contributing to Meridian Trust values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems.

Our Vision:

High-quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities.

Our Mission:

To deliver, promote and inspire high quality educational provision in schools at the heart of their local communities so that:

- Young people become successful learners and confident, empowered individuals;
- Young people are encouraged to think for themselves and act for others, equipping them with the values,

attributes, knowledge and skills to make a rewarding contribution to society;

- Every school is a hub for community activities, a centre for extended services and a source of immense pride for students, their families, and other local stakeholders;
- Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach where they are equally valued and supported;
- Well-run schools retain and develop their distinct contextual identity while sharing and contributing to the Meridian Trust values, practices, curriculum approaches and operational systems.

The enactment of our values for staff:



Valuing People

Engaged, developed, supported, and consulted.



High Quality Learning Environment

Experts who strive for continual development. Collaborative networks, trusted to deliver.



Pursuit of Excellence

Set ambitious goals and model what success looks like. Eager to improve.



Extending the Boundaries of Learning

Make connections, provide opportunities. Generous and sharing of knowledge and expertise.



Achievement for all

Are accountable for the outcomes we contribute towards and strive for the very best.



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all

Why work for us

Meridian Trust aims to be the employer of choice for the communities we serve. Since 2010 we have nurtured and developed the careers of many people. You can read about some of those journeys in the 'Meridian Trust People' section of this website. We are committed to making a difference to young people's lives and the communities we serve. Help us make our mission a reality.

Benefits:

As a multi-academy trust of 30 schools, Meridian Trust can provide a wide network of opportunities for collaboration and career development for both teaching and support staff. With an initial teaching training facility and a teaching hub network within our Trust, there are ample opportunities to both, get into teaching, and develop within the profession.

- As well as the above we also offer:
- Unlimited access to CPD via Meridian Learning
- Free annual eye tests
- Access to a free Employee Assistance Programme, offering mental health and wellbeing support
- Unlimited value cycle to work scheme



To see the full range of benefits available, please visit [Employee Benefits – Meridian Trust](#)

How to apply

To apply please complete the online form on MyNewTerm. Your supporting statement should address and evidence the selection criteria detailed in the Person Specification.

Closing Date: 07/01/2025, 9.00 am

Interviews: 14/01/2025

Applying:

For any questions about the application process please contact: Maria Taylor, HR Officer, at

Email: recruitment@sawtryva.org

Meridian Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks including enhanced DBS disclosure.

We are committed to diversity & inclusion and equality of opportunity for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Meridian Trust is committed to safer recruitment practice and pre-employment checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service check. We expect all adults who work for the Trust to share our commitment to safeguarding and the health and wellbeing of our students.



Valuing People



High Quality Learning Environment



Pursuit of Excellence



Extending the Boundaries of Learning



Achievement for all

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title:	Student Support Assistant
JD Reference:	STD ADM 7
School/Academy:	Sawtry Village Academy
Weeks:	40 Weeks
Hours of work:	37 Hours
Salary:	Grade 7, Points 12 - 19
Responsible to:	Assistant Principal

Role:	Support the running of the House Office.
Purpose of job:	To provide administrative and pastoral support to the house leadership and promote positive behaviour of all students. Support the house leadership with all aspects of their pastoral work.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

1. Support the House Office with student attendance and punctuality

- Monitor the attendance of students and have regular communication with the Attendance Officer
- Liaise with the Attendance Officer regarding contact home and undertake duties in their absence
- Provide Senior Tutor with attendance data for the House
- Inform Senior Tutor, Attendance Officer & Safeguarding Team of any students with attendance issues
- Liaise with Attendance Officer regarding appropriate attendance letters and attach copies to school files
- Inform Senior Tutor of any patterns of absence or lateness
- Monitor lateness and co-ordinate lunchtime detentions with the Senior Tutor
- In collaboration with Senior Tutor, provide support to students and parents to encourage good attendance using Student Support Plans
- Ensure Fire Registers are available and delivered during Fire Drills

2. Administrative support for the House Office

- Clerical support as requested including filing, word processing, record keeping and telephone messages
- Support the Lead DSL and SPOC with matters relating to safeguarding and welfare

- Issue letters from Senior Tutor to parents to maintain good standards of behaviour and dress
- Produce achievement certificates for students
- Create, manage, and update all student confidential records
- Attend re-admittance meetings for excluded students
- Attend and support as necessary during the New Intake Evening
- Attend and support as necessary the school open evenings
- Support fundraising activities and ensure the House Charities board is kept up to date
- Monitoring of supplies and ordering equipment
- Organisation of house activities and events building a House identity and ethos
- Co-ordinate rewards and sanctions for the House
- Assist with the organisation of assemblies
- Administer induction of new students to the house for mid-academic year
- Support with parents' evenings' administration including appointment bookings and follow up

3. Outside Agencies

- Liaise with and provide student information for:
- Secondary Support
- Youth Service
- School Nurse
- Social Services
- Police
- Charities
- Attend regular meetings to provide the best support for students

4. To liaise with parents

- Act as first point of call for all parental enquiries and complaints regarding the pastoral care of their children
- To deal with those issues that are manageable and to pass on to the appropriate member of staff any matters of significance
- Maintain a good relationship with parents

5. Provide support for students

- Assist the Assistant Principal, Senior Tutor, and Tutors in effectively implementing the behaviour management programmes for students
- Implement the school's policy regarding the emergency withdrawal of students from a classroom
- Telephone parents to advise them of any issues or concerns

- Follow up incidents of behaviour, including taking witness statements and talking to students
- Collate work for students in isolation or absence on long term sick
- Co-ordinate mentoring, counselling, and additional support for students
- Develop mentoring relationships with students identified as requiring additional support

6. First Aid

- Assess and provide basic medical assistance as required across the Academy
- Facilitate and administer mediation for students, some with medical support plans
- Attend relevant First Aid CPD as required
- Take decisions to send unwell students' home
- Accompany students to hospital in an emergency (if necessary)
- Log all treatments of Basic First Aid on the central system
- Report any serious incident linked to Health and Safety through the appropriate channels
- Undertake and participate in any training as and when required

7. Specific Duty related to the House

- Each SSA will be required to undertake a specific role related to their skills and experience and which meets the needs of the school. Responsibility could include:
 - First Aid – lead on first aid issues and training across the academy, reporting and monitoring of accidents in school and attend meetings in medial capacity for students with complex needs
 - Student Transition – liaise with primary school settings, support with the open events and full admin support for students joining the school including induction days
 - Child Protection – undertake all filing for CP issues on student files and monitor the approved list of visitors into school
 - Work Experience and Careers – support with careers events and post 16 guidance for Year 11

The post holder will undertake any other duties commensurate with the grade of the post, in consultation with line manager

This job description is subject to review and may be changed following consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the Trust in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties

Support for School/Academy/Place of work:

- Participate in staff events by arrangement
- Attend Staff Meetings
- Contribute and participate in Trust events and activities where possible
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with other staff and parents/carers
- Adhere to the Trust values
- Follow school policies, practices, and procedures
- Hours authorized by the school more than full-time hours will be paid at the overtime rate

Data security:

- Act in accordance with legal provisions regulating confidentiality and security of data and information in accordance with GDPR regulations

Health and Safety:

- Be aware of the responsibility for personal Health, Safety and Welfare and that of others who may be affected by your actions or inactions
- Co-operate with the Trust on all issues to do with Health, Safety & Welfare
- Contribute to the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment

Continuing Professional Development:

- In conjunction with the line manager, take responsibility for personal professional development, keeping up to date with research and developments related to school/academy/place of work efficiency, which may lead to improvements in the day-to-day running of the Trust
- Undertake any necessary and identified professional development taking full advantage of any relevant training and development available, particularly when related to the use of ICT, for data management and record keeping
- Maintain a professional portfolio of evidence to support the Performance Management process – evaluating and improving own practice

Child Protection and Safeguarding

- The post holder will have a shared responsibility for safeguarding all children and young people. The post holder also has an implicit duty to promote the welfare of all children and young people
- Inform the Child Protection Officer of any issues relating to the safety and well-being of students

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

All staff will be subject to an enhanced check with the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Updated: January 2022

**Person Specification –
Student Support Assistant**

Assessment Key:
A = Application Form
I = Interview

Education and Qualification	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Good educational background with GCSE or equivalent in English Language	✓		A/I
Experience	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Experience of administration background	✓		A/I
Experience of working in the education sector		✓	A/I
Experience of working with young people		✓	A/I
Experience of working as part of a team	✓		A/I
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Knowledge of using different IT software such as Microsoft Office, and Email. With training, use the school management information system	✓		A/I
The interpersonal skills to communicate effectively and professionally with staff, students, parents, and other outside agencies (by phone and in person)	✓		A/I
Ability to establish good working relationships with colleagues	✓		A/I
Ability to work as an individual, as well as part of a team	✓		A/I
Ability to work using own initiative	✓		A/I
Ability to always remain calm and professional	✓		A/I
Personal Qualities	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Highly motivated and enthusiastic	✓		A/I
Committed and reliable	✓		A/I
High professional standards	✓		A/I

Excellent timekeeping	✓		A/I
Child Protection	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Support the Academy policies on safeguarding and child protection	✓		A/I
Other	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Flexibility of working hours	✓		A/I