



The Earls High School

Teaching & Learning Assistant Candidate Pack



**STOUR VALE
ACADEMY
TRUST**

Welcome

Dear applicant

The parents of Halesowen have been sending their children to The Earls High School for well over three hundred and sixty years.

We started as a small grammar school and the proud traditions of high standards in behaviour and high expectations of academic progress have stayed with us in the school's present form as a thriving, innovative comprehensive school.

At The Earls High School, we believe that people really do matter the most; our school is made a very special place by the students and staff who come here together to learn.

If you share our values and our commitment to developing students who have the skills and attributes to thrive in their next steps, we look forward to your application.

Mrs Nic Hirsch
Headteacher

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Join our team

In common with all schools, the main reason to join our organisation is to make a difference to the lives of young people. Having said that, choosing the right school for the next stage in your career is a critical choice. So why choose The Earls High School?

1. **We are fortunate to have fantastic students who are keen to learn and ambitious in their plans for the future.** They have great relationships with the staff in school and in April 2025 OFSTED rated behaviour at the school as good.
2. **Staff wellbeing is at the forefront of our thinking.** We are serious about ensuring that there is a healthy work-life balance for staff. We have recently achieved The Carnegie Mental Health Award for Schools this year in recognition of our work in this area. Examples of how we support wellbeing are:
 - Appraisal is rooted in research and development rather than performance targets and graded lessons.
 - Staff are trusted to do their work with autonomy and without intrusive, high stakes Quality Assurance. There is no requirement for staff to submit lesson plans.
 - There are minimal written reports and data capture is limited to three times per year.
 - Marking and feedback policies are developed at a faculty and minimising workload is a critical element of our approach in this area.
 - Directed time is well within the 1265 hours.
 - Flexibility is supported, many staff are part-time at school.
 - We have a generous approach to supporting family life, with requests for leave supported without question.
 - School counsellors and Mental Health First Aiders are available for everyone.
 - Staff are discouraged from sending emails outside of normal working hours.
 - Our administrative support is excellent.
 - There is a comprehensive induction package for new staff joining us.
 - All teaching staff are provided with a laptop.
3. We have a clear vision for learning at the school and have a well-developed training plan so that all teachers are able to research, learn and develop their practice.
4. The school is popular in the local community and is oversubscribed. This, along with effective management of resources, means that the school is very stable financially.

Applicant information

We are seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Teaching and Learning Assistant to support students and teachers in our vibrant secondary school environment. This is a fantastic opportunity to play a key role in supporting young people's learning and development across a range of subjects and year groups.

You will work closely with teachers and pastoral staff to help deliver high-quality lessons, provide tailored support to students – including those with additional learning needs – and contribute to the wider life of the school.

The Earls High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will carry out pre-appointment checks including DBS and will disqualify any applicant where we consider the outcomes to be unsatisfactory. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974.

We are equally committed to ensuring that no applicant will be disadvantaged or discriminated against because of their protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Application closing date 9am 20th October 2025

Interview date To be advised

How to apply Please complete an application form and return to hr@earls.dudley.sch.uk by the closing date.

Job description

JOB TITLE:	Teaching & Learning Assistant
GRADE:	Grade 5 scale point 7 - 11
RESPONSIBLE TO:	SENCO
RESPONSIBLE FOR	Not applicable
WORKING HRS/DAYS	5 days per week 31.5 hours per week 38 weeks per year
Job summary	Assist in the educational, personal and social development of designated students under the direction and guidance of relevant colleagues (e.g. the Headteacher, SENDCO, phase leaders and class teachers) with a limited degree of autonomy. Support students by adopting relevant strategies and techniques to enable them to access the curriculum, engage with their learning and achieve their full potential. Implement planned learning activities/ teaching programmes as agreed with the teacher, adjusting activities according to students' responses as appropriate. Deliver measurable impact on pupil attainment as well as social and emotional well-being. Work collaboratively with relevant colleagues to fulfil the requirements of the role. The duties of the Teaching Assistant will be determined by the Head Teacher, or appropriate senior leader, and will be arranged to meet the needs of the school and pupil(s) being supported. This may involve working in small groups or on a 1:1 basis and may include supporting pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). Provide specialist support and expertise for SEND students To assist the teacher in the whole planning cycle. May be required to supervise small groups or whole classes for short periods in the absence of the class teacher. This will be appropriate to the level of experience
MAIN ACTIVITIES:	
Supporting Learning Under the direction of the class teacher, support and supervise pupils undertaking designated activities in a group or on an individual basis and to assist their learning and development by:	

- Clarifying and explaining instructions.
- Facilitating the use of appropriate scaffolding for learning
- Mediating language as required
- Implementing specific strategies identified on individual support plans or EHCPs
- Reinforcing relevant aspects of the planned teaching programme, particularly literacy and numeracy.
- Being sensitive to the requirements of all pupils and encouraging their participation and independence.
- Assisting pupils with the appropriate use of materials and resources, including ICT applications.
- Nurturing the development of emotional literacy and social communication skills.
- Encouraging and building pupil resilience and self-esteem
- Effective use of positive behaviour management techniques and strategies with support where required. Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Work with individuals or small groups of pupils in the classroom under the supervision of teaching staff.
- May work with individual pupils with special educational needs and/or with pupils for whom English is not their first language.
- May implement planned learning activities/teaching programmes as agreed with the teacher, adjusting activities to pupils' responses as appropriate.
- Supervise whole classes or groups during the short-term absence of a teacher.
- Participate in planning and evaluation of learning activities with the teacher.
- Support independent learning and inclusion of all pupils.
- Provide feedback to pupils in relation to attainment and progress under the direction of the teacher.
- May assist with the development of individual development plans for pupils e.g. IEPs.

Resources

- Select, prepare and clear away classroom materials and learning areas ensuring they are available for use, including developing and presenting displays.
- May handle small amounts of cash e.g. for school visits and/or monitor stocks/supplies for the classroom.
- Arranging/providing resources for lessons/activities under the guidance of the teacher.
- May handle small amounts of cash e.g. for school visits.
- Photocopying, filing, and preparing resources for lessons as directed by the teacher.

Exams, educational visits and other supervision

- May invigilate exams and tests.
- May assist escorting pupils on educational visits.
- May assist with break time supervision including facilitating games and activities.

Personal and welfare support

- May assist pupils with dressing, hygiene and eating whilst encouraging independence.
- Supporting pupils emotional and social well-being, reporting any problems to the teacher.

Systems, policies and procedures

- Contribute to maintaining a safe environment.
- Responsible for the careful and safe use of equipment.

Team involvement

- May demonstrate own duties to new or less experienced staff.
- May support the work of volunteers and other teaching assistants in the classroom.

Building relationships

- Shares information about pupils with other staff, parents/carers, internal and external agencies as appropriate.
- Liaise sensitively and effectively with parents and carers, recognising their roles in pupils' learning
- Promote the inclusion and acceptance of all pupils, staff and stakeholders.

Record keeping and information management

- Record basic pupil data and provide feedback to the teacher on pupil progress and behaviour.
- Monitoring, accessing and recording pupil progress under the guidance of the teacher.
- Ensure all written and electronic records and reports are accurate, comprehensive and timely

Other responsibilities

- Take responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young people within the school in line with reporting policies and procedures.
- Supervise children during break and lunchtime, as required.
- Any other reasonable duties, commensurate with the responsibility and grade of the post.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
Skills and knowledge	
• NVQ level 2 in Maths and English (or equivalent), and / or qualified or willing to become qualified to Level 3 Teaching Assistant. • Able to support pupils' learning on a one-to-one basis, or in groups, including the provision of specialist support for SEND students, as appropriate. • An understanding of learning and the process of learning • An understanding of the development of the whole child • IT and keyboard skills to allow record keeping and reporting. • Able to assist with the development of individual development plans for pupils e.g. IEPs. • An understanding of safeguarding	• Other relevant training
Experience	
• Experience working with children individually and in groups • Experience of supporting children's development and progress in an educational setting • Experience with SEND children and challenging behaviour	• Experience of running intervention programmes
Personal Qualities	
• Ability to relate well to adults and pupils • Able to supervise groups or whole classes and maintain a calm and productive environment in the absence of the class teacher • Able to work constructively as part of a team • Ability to organise self and others • A calm, positive nature • Knowledge and compliance with policies and procedures relevant to health and safety and child protection.	

About the school

About the School

As a school we are extremely proud of our badge, you will see it everywhere around the school. We are proud because it sums everything that we believe in. The motto on the badge says 'Ut Fili Lucis Fiatis' and it means 'to become children of the light', and that is the reason we exist as a school. We believe that every young person who walks through our doors has enormous potential. Our staff work hard to help students to reach their best and become enlightened, or as our motto says, become children of the light.

Everyone at The Earls High School supports students to make as much academic progress as possible so that they are equipped for the next stage of their education or career. We believe that it is our duty to help them develop character too, so that they can communicate effectively, have the resilience to carry on when things get difficult, work effectively as member of a team and develop their leadership skills. We want students who leave us to be kind, compassionate and caring individuals; people who will support and help their neighbours and make a significant positive contribution to Halesowen or whatever community they choose to live in.

If we develop these three qualities in the young people who choose to come to our school, we can feel content that we have done our job well.

How do we achieve this at The Earls High School?

In everything we do we are guided by our core values of Excellence, Care and Partnership. This can be seen in:

- **Great teaching.** We have a stable, dedicated and experienced group of excellent teachers who work hard to improve the learning of the students. We have a clear understanding of how children acquire knowledge and skills and the professional development of our staff is a crucial part of our success.
- **A rich and diverse curriculum.** We teach a full range of subjects from Year 7 to 9 and students then choose the subjects that they will specialise during Year 10 and 11. We give student the widest range of choices so that they can focus their learning on subjects that they enjoy and are good at.
- We have **high expectations** of our students. We will give lots of support, but we expect the students to make good decisions and to work to the best of their ability in every aspect of their learning. Even if dance or science or geography is not their favourite subject – we still expect students to try their hardest.
- **Extra-curricular** activities are an important part of life at our school. Every September we hold our Freshers' Fair for the new Year 7 students where they can sign up for orchestra, choirs, samba band, sports teams, dance companies, drama club, science club, history and chess club to name but a few. There is also a myriad of leadership opportunities: The Duke of Edinburgh Award, joining our Junior Leadership Team, becoming Head Boy or Girl, the Bushcraft experience, not to mention the opportunities they have to represent their house.
- **The Earls Gold Award** is our way of developing students as confident, accomplished individuals. It gives them a framework to demonstrate that they

have a positive attitude to their learning but also recognises their contribution to their community, their commitment to developing their own health and well-being and their engagement in cultural activities. You see students wearing their 'Gold' flashes with pride; it shows us that they are students who are becoming well-rounded individuals.

- We put a huge emphasis on the **care** of our students to ensure that they are safe and happy at school. We have a large pastoral team and great form tutors who will support students so that they can learn effectively at school. Like any school, there are rare incidents of bullying, but we deal with these quickly and effectively.
- **Partnership** is also vital in so many ways, especially the partnership between the school and parents. Research has shown that a parent's efforts towards their child's educational achievement are crucial – often playing a more significant role than that of school or the child. When we have high quality staff at school, supportive parents and motivated students the results can be absolutely stunning.

Does our approach work?

Our exam results suggest it does. The attainment of our students is well above average and they also make good progress here.

But more than this, if you spend time in school you will see happy, safe, confident students who attend well. We know that our students will thrive when they leave us because they are so well prepared for their next steps. We also know that students make friendships and build relationships here that will last a lifetime.

Please don't take our word for it though, as a prospective member of staff, you are warmly invited to visit The Earls High School to see for yourself. We look forward to meeting you

Safeguarding statement

The Earls High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We strive to ensure that consistent and effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, students and staff at school.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Paul Ramage, Senior Deputy Headteacher. Other staff trained in child protection are listed below.

The Earls High School has policies and procedures in place to deal effectively with child protection and safeguarding issues, which include tackling radicalisation and extremism, together with recording and monitoring processes.

To promote a safe environment for students, The Earls High School employs a strict selection and recruitment policy which includes all statutory checks on staff and regular volunteers including Enhanced DBS (disclosure and barring service) checks.

All staff are trained to a level appropriate to their safeguarding responsibilities ranging from basic awareness for all, to Level 2 for key staff. Other safeguarding training is attended by relevant staff and governors. The training is monitored and comprehensive records kept by the DSL.

All concerns are passed through members of staff who are trained as 'Designated Child Protection Officers' in school in compliance with the HM 'sharing of information' guidance March 2015. Staff are required to report any causes of concern to the school safeguarding team. Referrals are logged and monitored to make sure that they are followed up appropriately.

Student attendance is monitored closely and concerns shared as appropriate with parents/carers, West Midlands Prevention Service, Social Care and the school Safeguarding team. The Earls High School works effectively with other agencies and parents/carers when necessary to safeguard young people.

If you have any serious concerns about your child, another student or a member of staff at Earls High School please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will be able to provide you with the best advice and help using the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Earls High School Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Naomi Sevier, Deputy Headteacher

Ms Holly Whitlock, Safeguarding Officer

Other staff trained in Child Protection:

Deputy DSL: Mr Joe Toulson, Deputy Headteacher

Year Team:

Lower School: Ms Julie Bryant

Middle School: Mr Mike Baker

Upper School: Mrs Libby Wycherley

Stour Vale Academy Trust

About Stour Vale Academy Trust

Our multi-academy trust was founded in 2017 and developed from collaboration between schools, the significant positive impact of which convinced three schools, two secondary and one primary, that together we would have much greater capacity to continuously improve. Over time, Stour Vale has steadily grown. We began as a cross-phase multi-academy trust and as we have grown, both secondary and primary schools have joined us. There are currently thirteen member schools, six primary, one junior, one infant with day nursery and five secondary.

As a successful family of schools, delivering high-quality education for the communities we serve, Stour Vale values its diversity. Each school brings their own distinct character, community, history and identity. We celebrate the uniqueness of member schools, recognising that there is a great deal to learn from education in different contexts. This is also the reason why we remain outward-looking, committed to learning from research and excellent practice across the education system.

Our Vision and Values

Stour Vale Academy Trust holds children and young people at the heart of all that we do. We recognise that as a multi-academy trust we exist in order to advance education for the public good. Our mission, therefore, is to improve life opportunities for children and young people by both providing the best possible education and care to pupils in Stour Vale member schools and by having a positive impact across the wider education system. Our values are encapsulated in four words:

OUR VALUES



INTEGRITY

By always acting with integrity we will deploy our resources appropriately to provide the very best education and care for pupils. This approach will enable us to recruit and retain the best staff who share our values.

We recognise our responsibility to support and challenge member schools to have a positive impact on the lives of children and young people, our communities and the wider educational system.

RESPECT

We are committed to treating everyone with respect and promoting equality.

Stour Vale member schools are safe and inclusive schools. We value and celebrate the diversity of pupils, colleagues and the communities we serve. We believe that developing pupils' character and their own commitment to treating others with respect must sit alongside the pursuit of academic excellence.

COLLABORATION

Stour Vale Academy Trust exists because we believe that effective collaboration has a positive impact on the life opportunities of children and young people.

We believe that working collaboratively together we have much greater capacity to realise continuous improvement in all member schools. Therefore, we seek to actively promote positive, impactful collaboration, most often with school-based staff taking the lead.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to constantly pursuing excellence and improving all aspects of our work as a trust.

Excellence in teaching and learning, curriculum and character development is our primary focus. This will be achieved by realising our ambition to provide top-level professional learning for all colleagues, developing leadership in every role and providing exceptional back-office services such as HR and finance.

SVAT.ORG.UK

We describe our shared approach to school improvement as 'secure autonomy'. Headteachers, with school leadership teams and staff, have autonomy to lead school improvement in their own schools, responsively and in collaboration with others within and beyond our trust. We believe that this approach enables us to grow, attract and retain excellent school leaders and to develop the most innovative and impactful school improvement strategies. We recognise that this autonomy must be secured within the structure of the multi-academy trust, and our model of challenge and support for impact, underpinned by our shared values, ensures sustained school improvement and a sharp focus on outcomes for pupils. This in turn realises our ambition that *Stour Vale* member schools will *create the difference together*.