

Teaching Assistant Apprentice

Smallthorne Academy, part of the City Learning Trust

Level: 2

Salary: £8.00 per hour

Hours: 33.5 hours per week / Term time only

Closing date: Friday 12th June 2026

Interview: Thursday 18th June 2026

Start date: 1st September 2026



**United by our
values, we place
children and young
people at the heart
of all we do.**



Teaching Assistant Apprentice

Could this be the start of your journey into teaching?

At Smallthorne Primary Academy, we believe every child deserves adults who help them Smile, Strive and Shine. We are looking for a caring, enthusiastic and ambitious apprentice to join our Reception team and become part of our school family.

This is more than just a job. It's an opportunity to learn from experienced educators, gain a nationally recognised qualification and play a part in creating magical learning experiences for our youngest children.

Every day in Reception is different. One moment you might be helping children build a castle, the next you could be exploring the outdoors, sharing stories, investigating minibeasts or celebrating a child's first successful attempt at writing their name.

If you have energy, patience, a sense of fun and a passion for helping children thrive, we'd love to hear from you.



Welcome to Smallthorne:

An academy working together to
Smile, Strive, Shine

What you will be doing:

As a Reception Apprentice, you will work alongside our experienced Early Years team to:

- Support children as they begin their learning journey.
- Help create exciting and engaging learning experiences through play.
- Encourage children's confidence, independence and curiosity.
- Read stories, sing songs and support language development.
- Help children develop early reading, writing and maths skills.
- Support children to build friendships and positive relationships.
- Join in with outdoor learning, creative activities and exploration.
- Celebrate children's achievements and help them believe in themselves.
- Learn from skilled practitioners whilst working towards your Level 2 qualification.

We are looking for someone who:

- Loves working with young children.
- Brings enthusiasm, positivity and a willingness to learn.
- Can build warm and supportive relationships with children and adults.
- Is reliable, professional and keen to develop their skills.
- Enjoys being part of a team.
- Shares our belief that every child can achieve great things.

United by our values, we place children and young people at the heart of all we do.

What we offer:

- A welcoming, supportive school community.
- A caring and friendly team who look out for one another.
- Ongoing training and development opportunities.

Why Smallthorne?

At Smallthorne Primary Academy, we are proud of our strong sense of community and our commitment to ensuring every child feels valued, supported and inspired.

Our curriculum is built around creativity, character and opportunity. We want children to become confident learners who can question, explore, communicate and contribute positively to the world around them.

As an apprentice, you'll be joining a team that:

Supports and develops each other.

Values creativity and innovation.

Puts children at the heart of every decision.

Invests in professional development and growth.

Believes learning should be engaging, memorable and meaningful.



What will you gain?

A nationally recognised Level 2 Teaching Assistant qualification.

Valuable hands-on experience in an Early Years classroom.

Support from experienced mentors and teachers.

Opportunities to develop skills that could lead to a career in education.

The chance to make a real difference to children's lives every single day.

Ready to begin your career in education?

If you are ready to learn, grow and inspire young minds, we'd love to hear from you.

Join us and help our children Smile, Strive and Shine.

Safeguarding:

Smallthorne Primary Academy and the City Learning Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All appointments are subject to safer recruitment checks, including an enhanced DBS check. All staff are expected to act in line with statutory safeguarding guidance at all times



Dear Colleague

Re: Teaching Assistant Apprentice

Thank you for your interest in Smallthorne Academy.

Smallthorne Academy has a dedicated and talented team of staff who are committed to ensuring that the young people in its care are supported and nurtured to achieve the very best they can. Staff work closely with all of the Academies in the Trust to improve outcomes and life chances for our young people and enjoy a particularly effective relationship with CLT central staff, who work across all of the Trust's Academies.

If you want to work in a partnership of Academies committed to cooperation and collaboration; unlock talent and fulfil potential, then this post is just right for you. In return, you will be supported and encouraged to develop further and enjoy a long and rewarding career working across the City Learning Trust.

The successful candidate will demonstrate excellent practice to ensure that all of our young people have the richest quality of education we can provide. We would like a candidate who has a passion to develop standards, pedagogy and practice, will be child-centred and able to inspire young people to be the best that they can be.

You will join the Trust at an exciting time. we have a unique bespoke Professional Growth programme and remain committed to bespoke CPD for all staff who work with children. We also have an extensive professional support package available to all CLT employees to ensure you can be the best you can be for the young people every day.

As Chief Executive Officer, I am proud to provide strategic leadership in line with the culture, ethos and values of the Trust and its member Academies. The Trust Board has unwavering expectations to deliver the highest quality educational experiences and outcomes for the children and young people in its care.

If you are interested in having an informal conversation about this opportunity and/or wish to arrange a visit to the Academy please contact the HR Director, who will arrange such (01782 853535). The letter in support of your application should be no more than 2 sides of A4. You may, if you wish, submit a CV with your application but not instead of it. Please send your application to HR@citylearningtrust.org.

Dr Carl Ward

Chief Executive Officer





Smallthorne Primary Academy is a very happy place to be” - OfSTED November 2023.

At I couldn't ask for a better way to introduce you to our wonderful school, where our children are "articulate, courteous and curious", and I am extremely proud to be their Principal. I wish you a very warm welcome and thank you for your interest in joining our Smallthorne family.

From the first time I visited and every day since, I have been greeted by the smiling faces of our wonderful, eager children. Not a day goes by without a child excitedly wanting to share their learning and talk about what they have been doing. They really do encapsulate the Smile, Strive and Shine motto of the school.

The staff at Smallthorne work tirelessly to make sure that each and every child is supported and nurtured to reach their potential and develop their own unique talents. It is delightful to see the relationships and care provided by such a dedicated team.

Every child deserves access to a world-class curriculum that allows them to grow, explore, question and understand. Our aim is to make sure that teaching and learning at Smallthorne allows children to grow spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually. We want them to see themselves as empathetic, kind young people who have the ambition to see the world around them as a place full of opportunities. We are delighted to be part of the Character and Arts Foundation, and as such our children are able to participate in life-affirming and life-changing opportunities each term.

If you would like to be part of a vibrant, successful and happy school, committed to enhancing the experiences and chances of young people in Stoke-on-Trent, then we would love to hear from you.

Tina Steele
Principal, Smallthorne Academy



City Learning Trust

City Learning Trust is a family of academies sharing resources and expertise: united by our values, we place children first in everything we do.

We believe in the power of collaboration and cooperation to unlock talent and fulfil potential. We want all children and young people within our Trust to be the best that they can be and are firmly committed to achieving our mission to create a world class education system for the communities we serve.

Children in the City Learning Trust have the best opportunities to develop their education and skills. Our mission is to provide the strongest start in life to enable our community to contribute in their own futures. We don't just want them to be employed, we want them to believe that they can change the world with their choices. There are no limits for any of our children as we inspire them to be lifelong learners and fully rounded citizens so they can adapt in an ever- changing world.

In our Trust, education is linked up from 3 to 19. Skills and qualifications are allied to an increasing understanding of the value of continuous learning and social responsibility as well as tolerance, understanding and compassion.

In recognition of our Professional Growth Package opportunities for children through the Character and Arts Foundation and our leadership programme we were awarded Multi Academy Trust of the year in December 2023.

Our values are important to us and guide the work we do:

Ambition: Our academies aim to unlock the potential for all learners to achieve their dreams, hopes and aspirations.

Cooperation: We value working together in teams, supporting each other, and sharing expertise and accountability to improve standards.

Commitment: Our academies are a family of Academies with a common bond, dedicated to the communities that they serve.

Creativity: We encourage innovation and the use of imagination and original ideas in all our Academies.

Leadership: We believe in listening to, inspiring and empowering our learning communities so that they can achieve their true potential.

Respect: We value all people and organisations abilities, qualities and achievements, and operate using the principles of equality, equity and solidarity.

The Trust is on a journey from Good to Great. Through cooperation and collaboration, we develop sustainable partnerships that will provide a legacy for tomorrow's generation. This enables our member academies to become greater than the sum total of their parts.

The City Learning Trust is a registered charity and a DfE sponsor. We have a range of strategic partners and work closely with a number of multi-academy trusts to raise standards.





City Learning Trust

Inspiring Outstanding Achievement

