Do you want the opportunity to make a difference for pupils?
Are you an inspirational person looking for a new challenge?

Teaching Assistant

🗓️ **Start Date:** ASAP or December 2026
📍 **Location:** The Cavendish School, Cambridgeshire
💼 **Salary:** £25,185.00 – £26,428 FTE (Approx £21,600 - £22,667 Pro-rata) (Encapsulating Level 2/point 4 – Level 3/Point 7)
🕒 **Contract:** Permanent – Term time only + training days
🕒 **Closing Date:** 9:00am Thursday 12th November 2026
We reserve the right to close applications early if a suitable candidate is found.

We are proud to be Cambridgeshire's first state-maintained Autism Specialist school and the world's first IB special school**.** Following our *Outstanding* Ofsted rating in March 2024, we are expanding our provision and are now looking for a, passionate, and innovative **Teaching assistant** to join our dynamic teaching team.

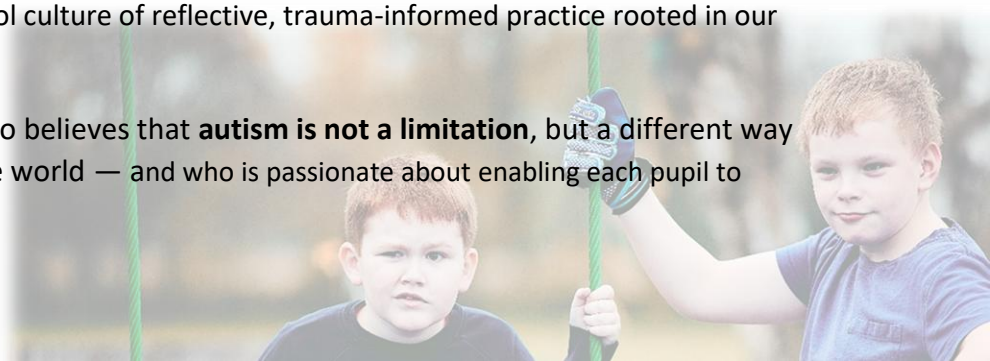
This is an exciting opportunity to work in a forward-thinking, trauma-informed, and inclusive setting that puts pupil wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. Our pupils are autistic, each with their own strengths and challenges, and our mission — *Enabling the Self* — is to ensure they leave school confident, self-aware, and ready for the future.

About the Role

As a **teaching assistant** at The Cavendish School, you will play a vital role in supporting the communication and wellbeing of autistic pupils with complex needs by:

- Working alongside the class teacher to deliver engaging, inclusive learning experiences tailored to each pupil's needs
- Providing individual and small-group support to help pupils access the curriculum and build confidence, communication, and independence
- Supporting pupils with sensory regulation and emotional wellbeing in our purpose-built therapeutic environment, including sensory rooms and regulation spaces
- Helping to prepare learning resources, support classroom routines, and contribute to observations that inform planning and progress tracking
- Modelling and implementing a range of autism-specific strategies in the classroom, in line with our trauma-informed and therapeutic thinking approach
- Working closely with our multidisciplinary team — including therapists, teachers, and leaders
- Contributing to a whole-school culture of reflective, trauma-informed practice rooted in our ethos of "enabling the self".

We are looking for someone who believes that **autism is not a limitation**, but a different way of thinking and experiencing the world — and who is passionate about enabling each pupil to



grow, learn and thrive in a setting that celebrates individuality.



What We're Looking For

- Someone who is compassionate, proactive, and committed to supporting autistic pupils to succeed academically and emotionally
- Experience working with children or young people, ideally in an educational or specialist setting
- A genuine interest in therapeutic approaches and trauma-informed education
- Strong teamwork and communication skills, with the ability to follow guidance and contribute meaningfully to classroom life
- A calm, flexible, and reflective approach to supporting pupils with diverse needs
- An enthusiasm for contributing to an inclusive, pupil-centred school ethos
- A willingness to learn and grow professionally as part of a supportive and skilled multidisciplinary team

Whether you're experienced in special education or excited to transition into this rewarding field, we offer **additional collaborative planning time**, **ongoing CPD**, and a supportive community where your passion will truly make an impact.

Why Join Us?

- An Outstanding-rated autism specialist school with a pioneering IB curriculum
- A vibrant, therapeutic and supportive school community
- Access to **professional development**, training, and clinical supervision
- A team of **passionate professionals** committed to equity and inclusion
- The chance to **make a real difference** — not just for pupils, but for their families and futures
- A **Well-being directory** for all staff offering financial supports and to improve wellbeing and work-life balance.
- **Free school meals** are provided for dining with our pupils.
- A **50% discount to our trust sports centre** membership
- An additional **bookable holiday** "Eastern Family Day" for you to take when you require
- A modern **flexible working** school, with the opportunities for home working and reduced hours.

If you believe in inclusive, relationship-based practice and want to make a lasting impact in a setting that **celebrates neurodiversity**, then we would love to hear from you.

Prospective applicants are warmly invited to visit the school. Please contact HR to arrange this: HR@tcs.tela.org.uk

To apply:
Please complete the application form and submit it with a cover letter (max 2 sides) outlining your suitability to: HR@tcs.tela.org.uk

Deadline: 9:00am, Thursday 12th November 2026

The Eastern Learning Alliance 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 enhanced DBS checks and satisfactory references.