Bligh House

Specialist SEND Provision at Abbot's Hill

Abbot's Hill

TEACHING ASSISTANT AT BLIGH HOUSE

SPECIALIST SEND PROVISION AT ABBOT'S HILL

Candidate Information Pack



INTRODUCTION

An opportunity to help establish a new specialist provision

Bligh House at Abbot's Hill will open in January 2027 as a specialist provision for pupils experiencing Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA), including pupils with autism and associated needs. We are seeking a compassionate, skilled and adaptable teacher to join the founding team and help pupils rebuild their confidence, reconnect with learning and make meaningful progress.

Many pupils will have experienced significant anxiety, disrupted learning or prolonged absence from school. You will create secure relationships and predictable routines, combining high expectations with the patience and flexibility needed to help each child feel safe, understood and ready to learn. This is an opportunity to shape classroom practice and contribute to the curriculum and culture of a new provision from its earliest days.

About Bligh House at Abbot's Hill

Based within the school's 76-acre campus between Hemel Hempstead and Kings Langley, Bligh House will initially provide a tailored Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curriculum. The centre is planned for up to 24 pupils, taught in classes of no more than eight, with a specialist teacher and teaching assistant in each class.

Dedicated accommodation will include specialist classrooms, breakout and sensory spaces, a pupil common room and outdoor areas, with separate arrival and departure arrangements. Pupils will benefit from a calm environment, personalised learning and integrated therapeutic support, alongside appropriate access to Abbot's Hill facilities, outdoor learning and enrichment opportunities.

Closing date for applications: 9:00am on Tuesday 24 November 2026.

The School reserves the right to interview candidates ahead of the closing date and applications will be considered as they are received.

ABOUT BLIGH HOUSE

Specialist provision, belonging and possibility within a beautiful school setting.

Bligh House will be a distinct, specialist provision within the 76-acre Abbot's Hill campus, situated between Hemel Hempstead and Kings Langley. It is designed for pupils aged 7–16 who are struggling to access mainstream education because of EBSNA and related needs.

The centre will combine a carefully designed, low-arousal environment with a strong academic core and integrated therapeutic practice. Dedicated accommodation will include three specialist classrooms, breakout and sensory spaces, a pupil common room, a sensory garden and lawned outdoor areas, together with separate arrival and departure arrangements.

A personalised pupil experience

- Up to 24 pupils, taught in small classes of no more than eight.
- A specialist SEND teacher and teaching assistant in each class, with consistent adults and predictable routines.
- A tailored Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curriculum, including daily English and Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Art, Food Technology, Computing, PE, swimming, PSHE and emotional literacy.
- Forest School, outdoor learning, communication and social skills, enrichment and therapeutic activities.
- Integrated Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy assessment, monitoring and intervention, with trained staff and direct specialist input.
- Access, where appropriate, to Abbot's Hill facilities including the sports hall, swimming pool, Art Centre, tennis dome, playground, playing fields and Forest School area.

A model with a strong foundation

Bligh House at Abbot's Hill is the second specialist SEND centre created through the partnership between Mill Hill Education Group and Chiltern Way Academy Trust, building on the success of Bligh House at Cobham Hall. The established model shows how the right environment, relationships and specialist support can help pupils improve attendance, engagement, confidence and wellbeing.



OUR SCHOOL AND PARTNERSHIP

Abbot's Hill School and Mill Hill Education Group

Founded in 1912, Abbot's Hill is an inclusive school community with a long tradition of educating the whole child. High expectations sit alongside warmth, strong relationships and close attention to each pupil's academic, social and personal development. Bligh House pupils will belong to the Abbot's Hill community while receiving the specialist support and tailored timetable they need.

Abbot's Hill joined Mill Hill Education Group (MHEG) in 2024. The Group is a charitable family of schools committed to educational excellence, inclusion and public benefit, reinvesting resources in opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.

Working with Chiltern Way Academy Trust

Bligh House at Abbot's Hill is being developed through the partnership between MHEG and Chiltern Way Academy Trust (CWAT), building on the established Bligh House provision at Cobham Hall. CWAT brings specialist SEND expertise and will support curriculum development, staff training, therapeutic practice and quality assurance.

You will work closely with the Head of Bligh House, teaching assistants, CWAT specialists, therapists and Abbot's Hill colleagues. We value shared expertise, professional curiosity and thoughtful discussion: effective support for each pupil will be developed together, informed by evidence and the views of the child and their family.

Purpose of the role

As a Teaching Assistant, you will play a vital role in helping pupils overcome barriers to education. Working alongside experienced teachers and pastoral colleagues, you will support pupils academically, socially and emotionally, helping them take meaningful steps towards re-engaging with learning.

You will also deliver targeted one-to-one literacy and numeracy interventions, helping pupils address gaps in their learning, develop essential skills and rebuild their confidence as learners. You will adapt your approach to meet individual needs, celebrate progress and help pupils experience success in areas where they may previously have struggled.

This is a rewarding opportunity to see the real impact of your work every day. Sometimes success means completing a challenging piece of work; sometimes it means walking through the door, building trust or taking the next small step towards independence. Every achievement matters.



JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching and Curriculum

- Build positive, trusting relationships with pupils experiencing EBSNA and other barriers to education
- Support pupils in accessing learning and engaging positively with education
- Deliver targeted one-to-one literacy and numeracy interventions to address individual learning needs
- Monitor and celebrate pupil progress, adapting support to help pupils achieve their potential
- Promote emotional wellbeing, resilience, independence and positive engagement with learning
- Work collaboratively with teachers, pastoral staff, families and external professionals
- Contribute to a safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment

KEY FACTS

Start Date
1 January 2027

Working Pattern
Full time, 38 weeks per year

Salary
Competitive salary

Location
Abbot's Hill School, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Reports To
Head of Bligh House at Abbot's Hill School



PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for someone who:

- Is passionate about supporting young people with anxiety, EBSNA and barriers to education
- Is patient, empathetic, resilient and able to build strong, trusting relationships
- Has the confidence to support and deliver individualised literacy and numeracy interventions
- Understands the importance of emotional wellbeing, consistency and a nurturing approach
- Can encourage, motivate and inspire pupils celebrating progress in all its forms
- Works collaboratively and positively as part of a dedicated team
- Is committed to helping every pupil recognise their strengths and achieve their potential
- Experience of working with pupils with SEN, SEMH needs or EBSNA would be an advantage, as would experience delivering literacy or numeracy interventions. However, a positive attitude, compassion and a genuine desire to make a difference are just as important.

The difference you will make

Success will be seen in pupils feeling safe and known, attending and participating more consistently, and making progress from their individual starting points. Families will have confidence in the care and teaching their children receive, and classroom practice will reflect the shared expertise of the Bligh House team and its partners.

Safeguarding and equal opportunities

Mill Hill Education Group is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, an enhanced DBS check and the Group's other required recruitment checks. The Group is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

HOW TO APPLY

1. If you would like to apply for this role, please complete an application using the Apply button below.

APPLY

2. Our Guidance Notes for Applicants can also be found on the portal. Please complete the application by **9.00am on Tuesday 24 November 2026.**

Please note that we are unable to accept applications unless they are made on our own application form. Due to the large number of applications the School receives, please be aware that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted to be invited for an interview.

The Mill Hill Education Group reserves the right to interview candidates ahead of the closing date and applications will be considered as they are received.



The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. As part of our Recruitment Checks, the appointed candidate will be subject to a Social Media and Enhanced DBS Check.

The Education Group apply for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for all positions at the schools which amount to regulated activity. The role you are applying for meets the legal definition of regulated activity with children.

If you are successful in your application you will be required to complete a DBS Disclosure Application Form. Employment with the schools is conditional upon the schools being satisfied with the result of the Enhanced DBS Disclosure. Any criminal records information that is disclosed to the schools will be handled in accordance with any guidance and/or code of practice published by the DBS. It is an offence for person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

The Mill Hill Education Group is committed to Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Successful applicants will also be expected to keep up to date with annual safeguarding training, DfE guidance and School specific safeguarding information.

Come and shape what happens next

The Head of Bligh House will have the support of an established school, a charitable education group and an expert SEND partner — together with the freedom and responsibility to build something genuinely transformative for pupils who have struggled to find their place in education.

Ever inspiring | Highly ambitious | Big hearted

Bligh House

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