



Danecourt
School

Danecourt School

Candidate Information Pack



Maritime
Academy
Trust



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Dear Applicant

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the interest you have shown in working at Danecourt School.

Danecourt is an ambitious school for children aged 4-11 years with severe and complex needs. Many of the children have a diagnosis Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Some have Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and in addition, some children may also have speech, language and communication needs, physical difficulties, multi-sensory impairments. All the children attending Danecourt have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

There are currently 186 children attending the school, however in September 2021 we are opening two satellite provisions at local mainstream schools within the Trust, that will enable us to offer a further 48 special school places.

Danecourt was judged to be good in all areas, except EYFS, which was judged as being outstanding by Ofsted in June 2019. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/25/142266>

Danecourt is incredibly lucky to have highly skilled and caring staff, supportive parents/carers and committed Governors on the Local Academy Council. We have an excellent local reputation and offer a supportive and nurturing work environment led by a dedicated and dynamic senior leadership team.

The school is located just off the A2 in Gillingham. It has excellent transport routes and is located on a main bus route as well as being approximately 2 miles away from Rainham and Gillingham train stations.

In September 2020, Danecourt became part of the Maritime Academy Trust. Maritime consists of 12 primary schools across Kent and the London. It is the Maritime's mission "to empower schools with the means to drive greater and more enjoyable outcomes for children".

I hope that you find this candidate pack useful and I urge you to look on our website (www.danecourt.com) for further details about the school. If you would like further information about the post or would like to arrange a visit prior to submitting your application, please contact the main school office – info@danecourt-maritime.org or 01634 232589.

I look forward to receiving your application.



Cathryn Falconer
Headteacher

Welcome to Danecourt

At Danecourt our mission is to provide all children with a “stimulating learning environment where every individual is valued, respected, safe and successful”.

The dedicated, enthusiastic and highly trained staff teams maintain high expectations of what each individual child is able to achieve, striving to ensure that they all achieve their maximum potential; celebrating difference and encouraging curiosity and creativity. All children receive a personalised curriculum tailored to meet their specific needs.

Staff work collaboratively with families and a range of other agencies in order to meet the children’s needs and as a result, they make strong progress academically, emotionally and socially. The children’s achievements are hugely valued and celebrated in a manner that is meaningful and appropriate for each pupil.

Danecourt Values

Valued

- We believe every individual is unique and special
- We foster a sense of self-esteem and self-worth
- We believe every child is entitled to outstanding care and education
- We support our children in the development of their communication, social and self-help skills
- We provide child-centred curriculum which encourages creativity and independence.

Respected

- We respect the rights and needs of every child and adult
- We believe every child has the right to be heard
- We believe that an outstanding learning environment stems from committed and compassionate staff, who work as a team to support all children
- We aim, through first hand experiences, to develop in our children a love of learning, a pride in their work and respect for their surroundings
- We support our children in developing appropriate relationships with others at home and at school

Safe

- We believe every child has the right to feel safe from harm, to be protected, cared for, and loved
- We provide a happy, secure and safe environment for our children where they feel a sense of belonging
- We ensure the well-being of every child by securing the best possible social, educational health and care outcomes
- We teach and expect high standards of behaviour from all children
- We believe happy and contented children will be ready and motivated to learn

Successful

- We recognise, praise and reward every achievement however small the step
- We believe that children succeed best when teachers have high expectations and inspire learning
- We provide a wide range of opportunities in order to maximise social and academic success
- We encourage aspiration so that all members of our school community can seek to develop their full potential
- We want our children to be happy, confident young people who will contribute to their community

Danecourt Photo Gallery



What the children say about Danecourt

"I like my teachers
because when I find
something hard they
help me"

Amelia

"I like the
teachers and
learning too. I like
everything"

Bobby

"Maths is good
because I like
counting and
numbers"

Hayden

"I like playing with
my friends"

Lexie



What the children say about Danecourt

“My favourite thing about school is school!”

Kenny



“I like learning about maths and counting”

Olivia



“I like learning about dinosaurs.
We made dinosaur fossils”

Dylan



Maritime Academy Trust

Maritime is a charitable education trust with schools across London and the South East and led by the CEO – Nick Osborne.

As an education charity, Maritime are fully committed to advancing education for the public benefit. It is our mission to empower our schools with the means to drive ever greater and more enjoyable outcomes for children.

This is done by seeking out the intersection between logic and magic; between the knowledge children need, the skills that will enable them to navigate a future world of work that doesn't exist yet, and a journey through education that will stick with them as they grow.

Our Maritime Entrepreneurial Curriculum brings this all together, weaving essential skills and knowledge into a thematic approach to learning that is embraced by all of our schools. It culminates with our Maritime Expeditions: child-led learning showcases that demonstrate how children have found solutions to real-world challenges.

Like our name suggests, Maritime draws on the heritage of our original Greenwich home. We are explorers and adventurers who believe that our community grows stronger the more people we meet and the more we learn from them. Our whole approach to what we do, our whole mindset, is that through strong collaboration we can most effectively spark innovation throughout our schools. Collaborate, Innovate, Educate.

We are very proud of how we work together, approaching everything through the lens of our Maritime Behaviours, the ways of working that build towards our vision and make it enjoyable to be a part of the team.

As an employee of the Maritime Academy Trust you can expect:

- a positive working environment
- national terms and conditions
- tailored programmes of CPD with cross trust development opportunities
- a generous package of staff benefits.

You can find out more information about Maritime Academy Trust on the [website](#).

Staff Benefits

The Maritime Academy Trust is able to provide our children with a phenomenal education because we employ the very best Teachers and Support Staff, who share our vision, values and behaviours. We want our employees to feel valued and offer a competitive package of benefits.

Your Maritime Benefits

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National Terms & Conditions



Mental Health First Aiders



Enhanced maternity & paternity benefits



CPD & Progression opportunities



Early salary access & financial advice



Interest free Travel Work Loans



Access to face to face counselling sessions



Annual Flu Vaccinations



Eyecare Vouchers



Local Government & Teachers Pensions Schemes



Cycle to Work Scheme



Comprehensive Employee Assistance Programme



Application Guidance

Thank you for your interest in working with the Maritime Multi-Academy Trust. This Application Guidance has been developed to help you to complete your application. Please take a few minutes to read through the information before filling out the application form.

Your application will be your first point of contact with the Trust and the school you would like to work with. The content of your application will determine whether or not you will be invited to interview, therefore it is essential that you complete it as fully as possible. We will not make any assumptions about your abilities and do not take into account any previous applications.

CVs are not acceptable in the place of a completed application form and all candidates are required to address the criteria on the person specification for the post. However, you may submit a CV in addition to your completed application form.

Personal Details

Enter fully and clearly your name, address and telephone number(s) so that you can be easily contacted in the event that you are shortlisted to attend an interview.

Employment

State clearly your current or most recent employer's name and address. Include details of the post held and (if applicable) reason for leaving.

Previous Employment

Enter names and addresses of all previous employers, starting with the most recent. You can also include work experience placements, holiday jobs or voluntary work in which you have developed skills relevant to the job you are applying for. It is very important that you complete this section in chronological order, and detail accurately any gaps between employment and other activities.

Education

Provide full details of your education at secondary level and above along with details of degrees/diplomas and any other qualifications, including those that you are currently studying for. Make sure you give all the information required, including levels and grades of any examinations taken. If a required qualification has been specified for the role, make sure you give all the information required and levels of any examinations taken. You will be expected to provide documentary evidence if you are invited for an interview.

Supporting Statement

This section is very important. It gives you the opportunity to detail why you feel you are the best person for the job and why you are applying, and is the key information that is used for shortlisting. Before completing this section refer to the Job Description and Person Specification for the role.

Application Guidance

Focus on how your skills, knowledge and experience meet each role requirement, detailed in the person specification giving specific examples. In completing this section you may refer to both paid and voluntary work and your experience within any school or any relevant experience outside work.

Referees

Provide the names, addresses and email addresses of two people who are willing and able to provide references in support of your application. One of these must be your current (or most recent) employer.

If you are an NQT We suggest you ask the Headteacher of your most recent placement and your university or college tutor, as they will be able to comment upon your teaching skills.

If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, the second referee should be the employer by whom you were most recently employed in work with children. Please note that family members, friends and relatives are not acceptable referees.

Referees will be asked about past disciplinary actions or allegations excluding those that were deemed to be unfounded, unsubstantiated or malicious when assessing your application.

If you are subsequently made a conditional offer of employment, further information may be sought about health and absences.

Eligibility to Work in the UK

If you are selected to attend for an interview you will be asked to provide documentary evidence of your right to work in the UK.

Declarations

If you are appointed, you will be required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application. The DBS will provide a report to you confirming whether you have any history of criminal convictions, including cautions and bind-overs.

All posts in schools are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; this means you must declare all convictions, including those that would normally be regarded as 'spent'. The existence of a criminal background does not automatically mean that you cannot be appointed but it may do so.

We need to know if you have a close relationship with and/or are related to any employee, governor or anyone else connected to the school, in order to ensure a fair selection process.

If you have a disability please provide details of any adjustments that you will require if shortlisted for an interview. Any details you provide regarding a disability will be dealt with sensitively and will only be disclosed to staff involved in the selection process when it is considered appropriate and necessary.

Application Guidance

Submitting Your Application Form

Before submitting your application form ensure that you take time to read it through to check for any errors or omissions. You may find it useful to keep a copy of your submitted application form to refer to if you are short listed for the post you are applying for. Your completed application must be submitted before the specified closing date.

Next Steps

All applications will be acknowledged. You will be notified within two weeks whether you have been shortlisted to attend an interview. It is the policy of the Trust that feedback is not provided to candidates at the shortlisting stage

Safeguarding

It is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children. See our policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders

Maritime Academy Trust is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A copy of our recruitment of ex-offenders policy can be **found here**

A copy of the Maritime Child protection and safeguarding policy can be found on the link below

https://www.maritimeacademytrust.org/docs/policies/Maritime_Child_Protection_and_Safeguarding_Policy_2021-2022.pdf

If you are shortlisted you will be asked to complete a Criminal History declaration form.

Privacy

A copy of our privacy statement for job applicants can be found **here**

Job Description

POST:	Therapy Assistant
LINE MANAGER:	Speech and Language Therapist
Function of Post:	To be responsible for the delivery of a range of interventions in collaboration with the therapies team (speech and language, occupational, physio and behaviour therapists) for children with a wide range of complex needs.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To work under the direction of the Speech and Language therapist to deliver interventions from set programmes and targets on a timetabled basis with individual children or small groups within the context of the classroom.
2. To create resources for interventions with children and for wider projects across the school environment as determined by the School's Strategic Plan.
3. To use programs such as Boardmaker, to create resources as well as updated Voice Output Communication Aids for children who use them across the school.
4. To assist in the delivery of Sensory Circuits and diets for class teams and individual children.
5. To create and demonstrate use of curriculum support to assist children with their learning.
6. To assist in the assessment and evaluation of pupil progress.
7. To communicate with therapists either formally or informally concerning matters of individual pupil progress.
8. To participate in Whole Staff training events and embrace continuing professional development opportunities.
9. To actively support the aims and values of Danecourt and all the schools policies and procedures.
10. To participate in the evaluation and review of his/her performance in order to effectively carry out the duties described above.

Person Specification

Therapy Assistant

Key Skills:

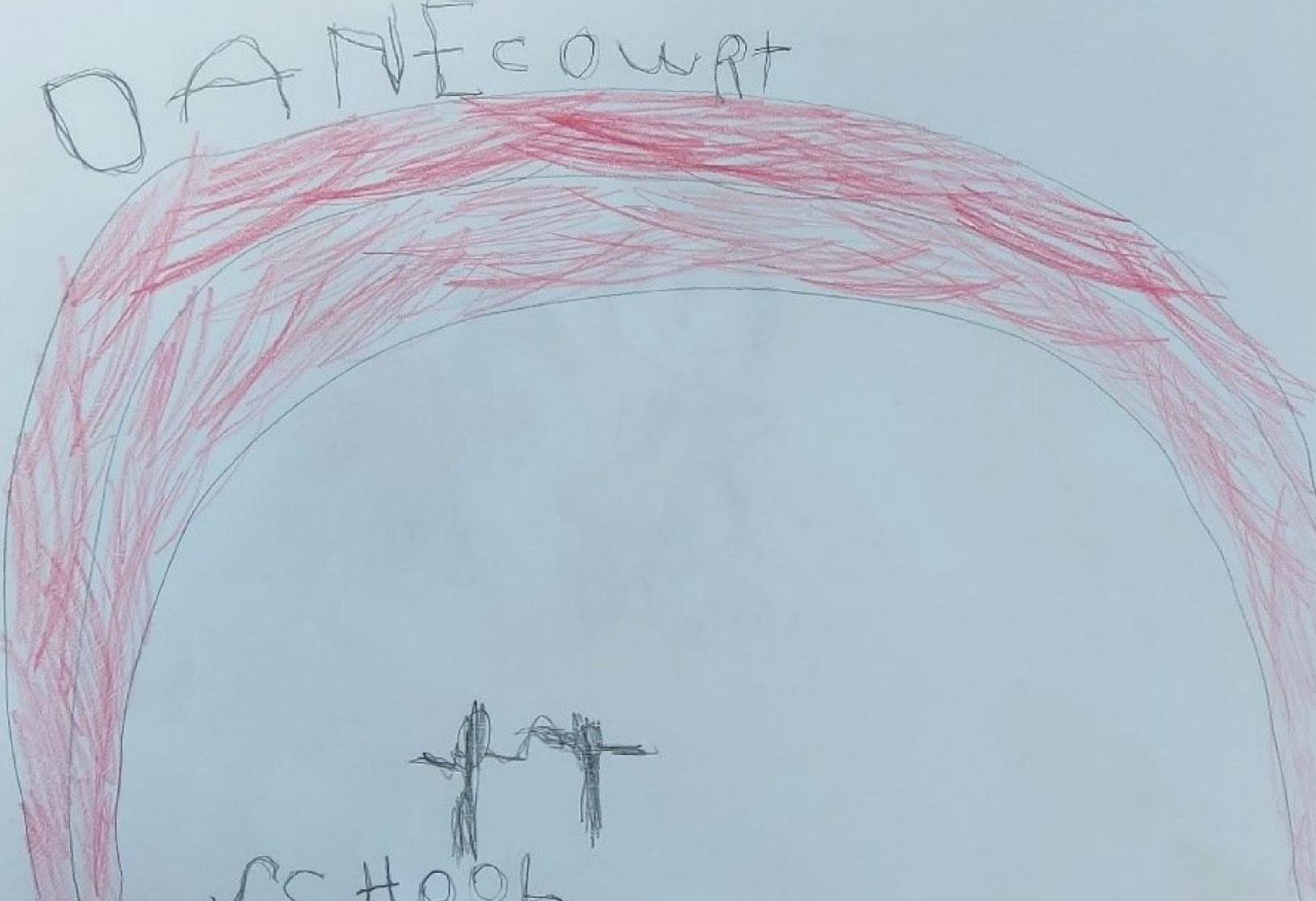
- Create effective working relationships with children, rooted in age appropriate child-centred fun.
- You must have a 'companionate curiosity' for understanding the child's experience, creating a narrative from their viewpoint in terms of the challenges they face in their learning.
- Have a wide range of personal interaction skills to enable communication with children who range from non-verbal to age appropriate speech and language skills and everywhere in between.
- Be creative and imaginative.
- You will need to be confident and have the group management skills to working with children in whole class and small group and the 1:1 setting within classes.
- Have keenness to learn about and implement new approaches quickly.
- Demonstrate effective listening, negotiating, empathy skills to collaborate with class staff to hand over and demonstrate Intervention programmes using an 'appreciative enquiry,' style approach.

Professional Skills:

- You will need to have the computer skills to access and make resources on Boardmaker, as well as skills in Microsoft office to create individualised resources.
- You must be able to write to clinical notes based upon effective observational skills of the child following each session completed.
- Have the communication and negotiation skills to create collaborative working relationships with teaching staff.
- You must be happy to be recorded on video based feedback systems such as Iris which we use routinely at school to assess/ observe children's skills.
- Have a self-directed, confident working style and be able to take responsibility for the delivery of your timetable.

Knowledge:

- Demonstrate an understanding of disorders including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome and Global Developmental Delay.
- A basic knowledge of sensory integration and communication skills would be desirable but not essential.
- Knowledge of frequently used visuals and classroom curriculum supports would be desirable but not essential.
- A basic knowledge of curriculum approaches such as sensory diets, sensory circuits, Attention Autism and Colourful semantics.



Contact Us



[@DanecourtSchool](#)



[@Danecourt-School](#)



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Maritime Academy Trust



@MaritimeMAT



@MaritimeAcademyTrust



www.tes.com/jobs/employer/maritime-academy-trust-1162586



Telephone: 020 8016 6064

Email: info@maritimeacademytrust.org

Recruitment: recruitment@matoffice.org