

Science Technician

Salary Grade: UKAT Band C
Hours: 37 hours per week / 40 weeks per year
Responsible to: Science Subject Leader
Responsible for: n/a

Purpose and Vision

The purpose of the Science Technician is to provide high-quality technical, practical and organisational support that enables teachers to deliver safe, engaging and effective science education.

By ensuring that practical activities are well planned, appropriately resourced and carried out safely, the Science Technician contributes to creating high-quality practical experiences that support teaching and learning and help students to develop their scientific knowledge, practical skills, curiosity and confidence.

High-quality technical support → high-quality practical experiences → stronger science teaching and learning → improved student knowledge, skills, engagement and outcomes.

Technical and practical support

- Prepare, organise and provide equipment, materials and resources required for practical science lessons, in accordance with teachers' requirements and relevant procedures.
- Support teachers with the safe and effective delivery of practical activities, including setting up and clearing away equipment and materials.
- Ensure equipment and practical resources are available, appropriately prepared and fit for purpose.
- Clean, maintain and safely store equipment and materials following practical activities.
- Maintain laboratories, preparation areas, stores and other working areas in a clean, safe and organised condition.
- Identify damaged, defective or unsuitable equipment and report this to the Science Subject Leader or relevant colleague.
- Support the effective management and organisation of science resources and stock.

Health, safety and compliance

- Work in accordance with Trust and academy health and safety procedures and relevant legislation and guidance.
- Follow appropriate risk assessment and COSHH procedures when undertaking practical activities.
- Identify and report hazards, deficiencies or unsafe practices that may have health and safety implications.
- Ensure chemicals, equipment and other potentially hazardous materials are appropriately stored, handled and disposed of.
- Maintain appropriate records relating to equipment, chemicals, stock and safety procedures where required.
- Keep knowledge of relevant health and safety requirements up to date and undertake training as required.

Assessment method – Application (A), Interview (I), Practical assessment (P)

Resources and stock management

- Monitor levels of equipment, chemicals, consumables and other science resources and identify when replenishment is required.
- Support the ordering of equipment and materials through agreed Trust and academy procedures.
- Maintain an organised and accurate system for the storage and availability of resources.
- Use resources responsibly and contribute to effective management of departmental budgets and stock.

Working with colleagues and students

- Develop positive and professional working relationships with teachers, support staff and other colleagues.
- Communicate clearly with teaching staff about practical requirements, resource availability and any issues that may affect the delivery of practical activities.
- Where appropriate, support students with the safe and responsible use of equipment and resources, under the direction of teaching staff.
- Contribute positively to the wider work of the Science Department and support the effective delivery of the science curriculum.

Professional development

- Maintain and develop knowledge relevant to the role, including science practical techniques, equipment, health and safety requirements and relevant Trust procedures.
- Attend relevant training and development opportunities as required.
- Keep abreast of developments in practical science and consider their implications for technical support.

General

- Work flexibly and use initiative to respond to the needs of the Science Department.
- Undertake other reasonable duties consistent with the nature and level of the post, as directed by the Science Subject Leader, Principal or appropriate line manager.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The postholder is expected to understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), Trust safeguarding policies and procedures, and relevant training and guidance.

Role-specific safeguarding responsibilities

The Science Technician has additional responsibility for ensuring that practical science activities, equipment, chemicals and laboratory environments are managed safely and appropriately.

The postholder must:

- follow relevant risk assessments, COSHH requirements and laboratory safety procedures;
- ensure practical equipment and materials are appropriately prepared, stored and managed;
- promptly report any concern or unsafe practice that could place a student at risk; and
- follow Trust procedures for reporting safeguarding or welfare concerns about students encountered through their work.

Assessment method – Application (A), Interview (I), Practical assessment (P)

What Good Looks Like

Effective performance in this role will be demonstrated through:

- practical lessons being appropriately prepared and resourced in good time;
- equipment and materials being safe, fit for purpose and appropriately maintained;
- laboratories, preparation areas and stores being clean, organised and safe;
- health and safety procedures, including COSHH requirements, being consistently followed;
- issues with equipment, resources or safety being identified and communicated promptly;
- stock and resources being managed efficiently and responsibly;
- teachers receiving reliable and responsive technical support;
- positive and professional relationships with colleagues and students;
- the postholder working independently where appropriate and using initiative to resolve routine issues;
- accurate attention to detail, particularly where safety and preparation are concerned; and
- the technical support provided contributing to positive, engaging and effective practical science experiences for students.

Science Technician – Person specification

Attribute	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Qualifications	Good general education, including GCSE or equivalent qualifications in English, Maths and Science, or equivalent relevant experience.	Level 2 Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities – Educational, or equivalent. A Level, Level 3 or higher qualification in a scientific discipline.	A
Experience	Experience of providing technical or practical support within a science or laboratory environment.	Experience of working within an educational science department. Experience of managing stock, resources or ordering systems.	A & I
Skills	Ability to prepare and maintain equipment and resources safely and accurately. Ability to organise equipment, materials and tasks effectively and meet deadlines. Ability to communicate clearly and professionally with colleagues and students. Ability to work independently, use initiative and solve routine problems. Ability to work effectively as part of a team.	Experience with a broad range of school science equipment and practical techniques.	A & I & P
Knowledge	Understanding of health and safety requirements relevant to laboratory or practical work. Understanding of the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.	Knowledge and experience of COSHH and risk assessment procedures. Knowledge of practical science within the school curriculum.	A & I