

# **Job Description: Outdoor Learning Instructor**

**School:** Lonsdale School

**Contract:** Full-time, term-time, 32.5 hours per week H5/H6 (Depending on experience)

**Reports to:** Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

**Location:** School-based, on-site outdoor learning areas and off-site educational visits

## **Purpose of the Role**

The Outdoor Learning Instructor will design and deliver high-quality outdoor learning experiences to ensure all pupils receive equitable access to a high-quality, fully immersive Outdoor Learning experience and support the holistic development of children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities. The role combines practical instruction, therapeutic approaches, and curriculum-linked outdoor activities to build confidence, independence, communication, and wellbeing.

## **Key Responsibilities**

### **1. Planning & Delivery of Outdoor Learning**

- Plan and deliver high-quality, differentiated outdoor learning sessions across the school for pupils, tailored to individual outcomes and learning needs.
- Lead activities such as Forest School sessions, horticulture, nature exploration, outdoor play, team-building, bushcraft, sensory outdoor experiences and life-skills tasks to promote risk-awareness, communication, self-esteem, independence and collaborative teamwork through hands-on, practical problem-solving
- Adapt activities to ensure accessibility for pupils with complex needs, including physical disabilities, autism, sensory needs and communication difficulties.
- Embed curriculum links (e.g. Science, PSHE, PE, English) into outdoor learning in liaison with teachers and subject leads.
- Work collaboratively with the school's outdoor learning lead supporting the core strategic focus on enhancing outdoor learning across the whole school in line with the school Development Plan.

### **2. Supporting Pupil Needs**

- Use a range of communication approaches (e.g., visual support, signing, AAC) to enable full participation and inclusion.
- Implement positive behaviour support strategies and contribute to behaviour plans.
- Promote emotional regulation, resilience, and wellbeing through nature-based, outdoor learning experiences.
- Work as part of the Lonsdale School support team fulfilling tasks and supporting pupils as required with their moving & handling, personal care, eating & drinking and classroom learning.

### **3. Safety, Environment & Resource Management**

- Conduct dynamic and formal risk assessments for all outdoor activities and off-site outdoor learning visits.
- Maintain outdoor learning spaces, resources, tools, and equipment to a high standard.
- Ensure safe manual handling, safeguarding, and health & safety practices at all times.
- Support the development and/or use of new outdoor learning areas, gardens or forest school site.

### **4. Collaboration & Professional Practice**

- Work as part of a multidisciplinary team including teachers, support staff, therapists, and pastoral staff.
- Contribute to planning meetings, pupil reviews and reports.
- Record pupil progress and contribute to assessment and reporting.
- Participate in CPD, including outdoor learning qualifications, school mandatory training and safeguarding updates.

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential Qualifications & Experience**

- Experience delivering outdoor learning, Forest School, environmental education or similar practical instruction.
- Experience working with children or young people with SEND in any setting.
- Understanding of safeguarding, risk assessment, and health & safety in outdoor environments.
- Ability to adapt activities for pupils with a wide range of needs, including complex learning difficulties, autism, communication and sensory needs and physical disabilities.

### **Desirable Qualifications**

- Forest School Level 2 or 3 qualification.
- Outdoor First Aid or Paediatric First Aid.
- Training in positive behaviour support approaches.
- Qualifications in horticulture, bushcraft, environmental science or outdoor leadership.

### **Skills & Competencies**

- Ability to create engaging, sensory-rich outdoor learning experiences.
- Strong behaviour management rooted in positive, trauma-informed practice.
- Excellent communication skills, including the use of visual or alternative communication systems.
- Creativity in adapting resources and environments for accessibility.
- Confidence in leading groups outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to manage equipment and spaces safely.

## **Personal Qualities**

- Calm, patient, and nurturing approach.
- Enthusiasm for outdoor learning and belief in its benefits for all pupils.
- Resilience and flexibility when working with pupils with complex and varying needs.
- Commitment to inclusion, dignity and pupil voice.
- Team player with a willingness to learn and develop professionally.