



Our Lady and All Saints
Catholic Multi Academy Company
Strong in Faith



Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Multi Academy

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School

JOB DESCRIPTION – OPAL PLAY ASSISTANT (Band A)

£5,463 pro-rata for 9.75hrs/wk – Term time only

Post Title: OPAL Play Assistant

School: Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School

Reporting to: OPAL Team

Hours: 9.75 hours per week (term time only)

Purpose of the Role

The OPAL Play Assistant is responsible for supporting the development of high-quality outdoor play provision during lunchtimes, ensuring that all pupils have access to rich, engaging and inclusive play opportunities in line with the school's OPAL play policy.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The post holder will promote and safeguard the welfare of all pupils and support the Catholic ethos and values of the school.

Key Responsibilities

Delivering High Quality Play Provision: Facilitate a wide range of play opportunities that engage and motivate all pupils. Supporting the delivery of OPAL play strategy alongside the OPAL Team and model high-quality play.

Pupil Supervision and Welfare: Promote positive behaviour, social interaction, and cooperative play. Supervise pupils to ensure their safety while encouraging safe risk-taking, maintain behaviour standards, administer first aid and report concerns.

Play Development and Inclusion: Provide a wide range of inclusive, accessible play opportunities that support the development of all children, including those with SEN, through appropriate support and adaptation.

Resources and Environment: Set up and tidy play resources and environments. Maintain safe, accessible and high-quality play resources.

Pupil Voice: Observe and respond to children's needs, interests, and play behaviours. Engage pupils in improving play provision.

Operational Duties: Communicate effectively with staff to support pupils' wellbeing and development. Support lunchtime routines and ensure safe environments.

Safeguarding: Follow safeguarding, health and safety, and school policies at all times. Contribute to a positive, inclusive, and supportive play culture across the school. Report any concerns regarding pupil wellbeing, behaviour, or safety

General Responsibilities

Follow school policies, maintain professionalism, undertake any training as necessary and appropriate and carry out duties as required.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Experience working with children in a school or play setting
- Understanding of safeguarding and child protection procedures
- Strong communication skills with children and adults
- Ability to build positive, trusting relationships with all pupils, including those with SEN
- Commitment to inclusive play, ensuring all children can access and engage in activities
- Ability to adapt play opportunities to meet a range of needs and abilities
- Positive, proactive, reliable and well organised
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team and use initiative

Desirable:

- Experience working as a playworker, in a school, or outdoor learning environment
- Understanding of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach
- Experience supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Awareness of inclusive play strategies and adaptive approaches
- Relevant qualifications (eg Playworker, Teaching Assistant, Childcare)
- First Aid qualification or willingness to undertake training
- Confidence in leading or facilitating play activities
- Knowledge of risk-benefit play and supporting safe risk-taking
- Experience of working collaboratively with staff and external professionals

Other responsibilities:

All duties and responsibilities must be carried out with due regard to the Our Lady and All Saints Multi Academy Company policies and procedures

Our Lady of Compassion Catholic Primary School, part of Our Lady and All Saints Multi Academy Company, has a responsibility for and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable groups. All employees and volunteers are expected to share this commitment and to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring

Service check (DBS) and where relevant, a childcare disqualification check. Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks including two suitable references, evidence of Right to Work, Medical Clearance and where applicable a prohibition check and evidence of qualifications. All successful candidates will be required to present their birth certificate along with evidence of any name changes.

This post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the

Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. Further information can be found in the DBS filtering guide.

This post is covered by Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016). Therefore, the ability to speak fluent and spoken English

is an essential requirement for this role.

An online search will also be carried out as part of due diligence on all short-listed candidates.