

Forest School Leader



Job Profile

Job Purpose	The Forest School Leader is expected to plan, prepare and deliver purposeful and productive activities for children. Be prepared to innovate and devise imaginatively varied ways of teaching the forest school experience to children. Encourage children and show enthusiasm for their subject indoors and outside and in the forest school sessions. Select and use a range of different resources and teaching styles, appropriate to the forest school experience. Promote positive management of behaviour in the Forest School environment, establish routines and boundaries to ensure the safety and good behaviour of the children.
Reporting to:	Head of School/SLT
Responsible for – Staff	No line manager responsibility
Liaising with:	Pupils, teachers, senior staff, parents/carers, visitors to the school.
Disclosure Level:	Enhanced
Grade of post:	Grade 7 SCP 18-23

Job Outline

Forest School

- To be responsible for, plan and oversee the day to day delivery, organisation and smooth running of Forest Schools programmes.
- To evaluate programmes and to continually strive for improvement.
- To promote learning in the outdoor environment and the ethos of Forest Schools and outdoor learning.
- To be responsible at all times for high standards of care and education of all group members in accordance with the Forest Schools Association principles and criteria for good practice.
- To ensure effective communication with teachers, support staff, head teachers, governors, parents, volunteers, partner organisations and of course, children.
- To manage support staff and volunteers effectively, ensuring they embrace the ethos of forest schools.
- To ensure the health and safety of all participants, including writing and checking risk assessments for the sites, tools and activities used.
- To regularly check and maintain tools and other equipment.
- To keep records as appropriate of emergency contact details for participants, permission forms and achievement of pupils.
- To adhere to all relevant policies and procedures of the individual schools and settings.
- To engage in continuous professional development.
- To carry out all other such duties as may from time to time be determined by the line manager

Other Specific Duties

- Any other duties required by the Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, or the Headteacher, which is in the scope of the post.
- At all times carry out duties with due regard to the school's Health and Safety policy.
- To work within and encourage the school's Equal Opportunity policy and contribute to diversity policies.
- The work requires moderate levels of physical effort. It involves lifting and handling of equipment and other resources and to be involved in practical activities and physical care of learners and the physical outdoor environment. The role is almost exclusively out of doors and will require working on uneven surfaces and in unpredictable weather conditions.

Health and Safety Training

- To undertake Health and Safety Training on areas within the designated work area.

Person Specification/Selection Criteria

Forest School Lead

A. Experience	Essential	Desirable	Source A = Application I = Interview R = References T = Task
Experienced in working with children in education or play work.	E		A, I
Ability to motivate and inspire children across the range of age, ability and confidence.	E		A, I
To be clear, confident, fair, with good behaviour management skills appropriate to the age of the child.	E		A, I, T
Experience of supporting teaching and learning in a formal setting		D	A, I, T

B. Training and Qualifications	Essential	Desirable	Source
HLTA qualification, or equivalent		D	A, I
English and Mathematics grade C at GCSE or equivalent.	E		A, I

Applicants should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following areas relevant to the post.

C. Knowledge and Understanding	Essential	Desirable	Source
Level 3 Forest Schools Programme Leadership Certificate (or at least Level 2 working towards Level 3).	E		A, I, R

Hold a current Paediatric First Aid Certificate, (or be willing to undertake the training)	E		A, I
Hold a Food Hygiene Certificate (or be willing to undertake the training).	E		A, I
An understanding of Health & Safety requirements and welfare issues of working with children aged between 3 and 11.	E		A, I, T
Knowledge, understanding and practical experience of Forest Schools provision for children aged between 3 and 11.		D	A, I
Knowledge and practical understanding of child development and pedagogy		D	A, I
Knowledge and understanding and practical experience of sustainable woodland management and education within the outdoor environment.	E		A, I
Knowledge and understanding of schools, their ethos and how they work.			A, I

Applicants should be able to provide evidence that they have the necessary skills and abilities required.

D. Personal Skills, Abilities and Competencies	Essential	Desirable	Source
Ability to communicate with and relate well to pupils and adults	E		A, I, R
Ability to work under supervision and as part of a team	E		A, I, R
Ability to work in accordance with the school's health and safety policies	E		A, I
Ability to think creatively and adapt activities to allow all pupils to be included and a commitment to equal opportunities for all learners	E		A, I
Able to work independently and to manage own time efficiently	E		A, I, R
Ability to manage support staff and volunteers	E		A, I, R
Ability to effectively manage risk and produce thorough risk assessments, putting suitable measures in place to ensure the safety of all staff and children	E		A, I
Willingness to be flexible and adaptable as determined by the needs of the school and the Trust	E		I
An understanding of, and commitment to, Equal Opportunities, and the ability to apply this to strategic work and day- to-day situations.	E		A, I

Love of the outdoors and nature	E		A, I
Self-motivated	E		I
A flexible approach to work commitments	E		I
Excellent role model for learners, staff and volunteers.	E		A, I
Willingness to work exclusively out of doors, on uneven surfaces and in unpredictable weather conditions.	E		A, I
Ability to sustain moderate levels of physical effort		D	A

E. Legal Issues	Essential	Desirable	Source
Legally entitled to work in the UK	E		A, I

Updated March 2024