

Job Description: Assistant Headteacher

(with Strategic Responsibility for a Core School Improvement Priority)

Reports to: Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher

Salary: L2-L6

Contract Type: Secondment (Fixed Term)

Responsible for: Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception)

Purpose of the Role

To provide strategic and operational leadership of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), ensuring a safe, stimulating, and inclusive environment that enables every child to thrive. The role includes leading high-quality teaching and learning across Nursery and Reception, embedding a rigorous and progressive curriculum, and driving school improvement with the aim of achieving excellence and sustainability within the EYFS phase.

The Assistant Headteacher will also have a timetabled teaching commitment complying with the Teachers' Standards and modelling best practice for others.

To play a key role on the Senior Leadership Team, with strategic and operational responsibility for a core school improvement priority—identified in line with the school's current needs and development plan. This role will contribute to whole-school leadership, driving high standards, staff development, and improved outcomes for all pupils.

They may also be required to undertake any of the duties delegated by the Headteacher.

Key Responsibilities

1. Strategic and Operational Leadership

- Lead the vision, planning, and day-to-day organisation of the Early Years phase.
- Create a cohesive, inclusive culture that reflects the school's values and high expectations.
- Ensure that safeguarding procedures are fully embedded in daily practice.
- Work with the governing board as appropriate.

2. Curriculum Leadership

- Embed the EYFS statutory framework effectively, tailoring it to meet the specific needs of pupils—particularly those with low starting points.
- Lead the implementation of the school's 'know-how' curriculum across EYFS, ensuring coherence, depth, and progression.
- Promote curriculum excellence that reflects the school's community and supports long-term pupil outcomes.
- Ensure a culture of staff professionalism.
- Encourage high standards of behaviour from pupils, built on rules and routines that are understood by staff and pupils and clearly demonstrated by all adults in school.

- Use consistent and fair approaches to managing behaviour, in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Encourage high levels of pupil attendance and help to uphold a school culture of safety, enjoyment, and engagement with learning to support attendance.
- Keep up to date with developments in education.
- Seek training and continuing professional development to meet their own needs.

3. Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- Establish and sustain high-quality teaching across subjects and phases, based on evidence.
- Ensure purposeful, high-quality adult-child interactions that extend children's language, thinking, and independence.
- Support and develop all EYFS staff, modelling excellent practice and coaching for improvement.
- Use formative and summative assessment effectively to track progress, inform planning, and close learning gaps—particularly for disadvantaged and SEND pupils.

4. Outcomes and Progress

- Drive high standards and a culture of continuous improvement.
- Monitor and evaluate children's progress, ensuring teaching and provision result in rapid progress from all starting points.
- Take a relentless approach to enabling more pupils to reach or exceed the Early Learning Goals.

5. Wider Leadership and Collaboration

- Work collaboratively with senior leaders, families, and external agencies to support holistic development.
- Lead EYFS improvement planning and contribute to whole-school strategic development.
- Develop whole school understanding of how EYFS lays the foundation for future learning.

5. Legacy and Sustainability

- Foster a confident, capable EYFS team that is empowered to sustain improvements long-term.
- Embed systems and practices that ensure continued high-quality provision beyond the secondment period.