



Forest School Leader – Job Description

Position: Forest School Leader

Reports To: Assistant Headteacher

Salary:

Contract Type: Permanent and Full Time

Purpose of role:

- To plan, develop and establish a Forest School
- To plan and lead sessions that incorporate a wide range of activities such as outdoor cookery, environmental stewardship, woodworking and shelter building alongside other creative activities
- To promote and develop children's confidence, wellbeing, resilience and social skills

Working Conditions

Outdoor work in all weather conditions.

Physical activity, including setting up equipment, walking on uneven ground, or lifting.
Possible after school club opportunities

Key Responsibilities

1. Planning and Delivery

- Design and deliver Forest School programmes in line with Forest School ethos and principles.
- Adapt activities to suit pupils' developmental, sensory, emotional, and physical needs.
- Incorporate cross-curricular links (e.g., literacy, numeracy, science, wellbeing).
- Create inclusive, child-centred sessions that promote curiosity and independence.

2. Supporting Pupil Development

- Build trusting relationships with pupils.
- Foster emotional wellbeing, resilience, and positive behaviour through outdoor experiences.
- Encourage teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and environmental awareness.
- Monitor and assess pupils' engagement and development during sessions.

3. Health, Safety, and Safeguarding

- Conduct and record risk assessments for all activities and outdoor areas.
- Ensure safe use of tools, fire, and natural resources following Forest School best practices.
- Maintain equipment, storage, and site cleanliness.
- Follow the school's safeguarding, behaviour, and health & safety policies.

- To participate in training and other learning as required.

4. Professional Collaboration

- Work closely with class teachers, TAs, SENDCo, and therapists to support specific pupils.
- Communicate regularly with staff and parents about pupil progress and wellbeing.
- Lead or support staff CPD on outdoor learning, when required.

5. Administration and Evaluation

- Develop curriculum planning, evaluations, and assessment records.
- Contribute to the school's additional curriculum planning or development documents.
- Assist in reporting for school development plans, inspections (e.g., Ofsted), or funding bodies.

Person Specification:

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<p>Forest School Level 3 qualification e.g. through the Forest School Association (or willing to complete)</p> <p>Hold a current Paediatric / 16 hour outdoor first aid certificate and food hygiene certification</p>	Other outdoor experiences and/or qualifications (e.g. Bushcraft)
Experience	<p>Experience of working with groups of children at different stages of development and with SEN.</p> <p>Recent and significant experience in leading and planning Forest School/outdoor education sessions with children of a range of ages</p> <p>A love of working outdoors regardless of the weather, whilst ensuring the safety of the children when working in wet and muddy conditions / uneven surfaces, or in hot and sunny conditions.</p>	Experience of working in a primary school. Ability to engage constructively with and relate to a wide range of children, children with SEN and families/carers
Knowledge, Skills and Understanding	<p>Knowledge and practical understanding of child development.</p> <p>Commitment to equal opportunities for all learners.</p> <p>An understanding of health and safety requirements and</p>	

	welfare issues of working with young children.	
	A good general knowledge of wildlife, flora and fauna and conservation issues.	
	Understanding of the Forest School Ethos and be able to apply this throughout all working practice, both with children and staff.	
	Able to work independently and to manage own time efficiently.	
	Good organisational skills	
	Excellent communication skills, within a wide age range including staff at all levels.	
	Computer literate for report writing and recording.	
	Full working knowledge of current statutory and regulatory guidelines related to outdoor learning and education.	
Understanding of Child Protection & Safeguarding Personal Qualities	Enjoy working with primary aged children from a range of backgrounds and SEN needs and commitment to supporting their physical, social and emotional development through forest school activities	
	Commitment to continued professional and personal development.	
	Professional credibility & commitment to equal opportunities and valuing diversity	
	Demonstrate a commitment to supervision and reflective practice.	
	Fully adhere to all safeguarding policies and especially in support of vulnerable pupils	
Personal Characteristics	Warm and caring personality, friendly and approachable.	
	Flexibility and adaptability: Being able to adjust plans and activities in response to the needs of the children	

	and the environmental conditions.	
	An ability to innovate and devise imaginative ways to deliver forest school experiences.	
	Passion for outdoor learning: An enthusiasm for inspiring children to learn and grow in an outdoor environment.	
	Ready to learn from and rise to challenges – keen for all children and staff members to thrive.	
	Creative, practical thinker who works well as part of a team.	
	Punctual and organised	

The duties listed may be varied to meet the changing demands of the school at the reasonable direction of the Headteacher.

This job description does not form part of the contract of employment. It describes the way the post holder is expected to perform and complete the particular duties as set out above.

Southfield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced DBS with Child Barred List check will be requested.

