



## Greenfields Specialist School for Communication

### **Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) – Hydrotherapy and Lifeguard**

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Post:           | HLTS – Hydrotherapy and Lifeguard |
| Level:          | TA Level 4 SEND                   |
| Responsible to: | Head Teacher                      |

#### **Purpose of the Role**

To work as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant in a specialist setting supporting pupils with complex medical needs, profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), and severe learning difficulties (SLD).

The role includes leading high-quality hydrotherapy provision, ensuring safe pool operation and lifeguarding, and supporting pupils to access learning, therapy, and personal development opportunities in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment.

#### **Key Responsibilities**

##### **1. Teaching and Learning (Specialist Support)**

- Plan, prepare, and deliver adapted learning activities under the guidance of a teacher.
- Lead whole-class or small-group sessions, particularly for pupils with complex needs.
- Support pupils to access the curriculum through sensory, physical, and communication-based approaches.
- Use specialist strategies to support communication and engagement.
- Monitor, record, and report on pupil progress, including EHCP outcomes.
- Adapt resources and environments to meet the needs of wheelchair users and pupils with significant physical disabilities.

##### **2. Hydrotherapy Programme**

- Plan and deliver hydrotherapy sessions in line with individual physiotherapy programmes and EHCP targets.
- Work closely with teachers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and nursing staff.
- Use hydrotherapy to support:
  - Physical development and mobility
  - Muscle relaxation and tone management
  - Sensory regulation and wellbeing
  - Curriculum delivery
- Ensure all sessions are personalised, inclusive, and therapeutic and focus on pupil engagement

- Maintain detailed records of pupil progress and session outcomes.

### **3. Lifeguarding and Pool Management**

- Act as the designated lifeguard during all hydrotherapy sessions.
- Maintain a safe aquatic environment for medically vulnerable pupils.
- Conduct and review risk assessments for pool use, including moving and handling procedures.
- Ensure compliance with health and safety policies and statutory regulations.
- Maintain valid lifeguard qualification (e.g. NPLQ or equivalent) and First Aid training.
- Respond to emergencies, including those relating to medical conditions (e.g. seizures, respiratory issues).

### **4. Medical, Personal Care & Physical Support**

- Provide personal care (including toileting, changing, feeding) with dignity and respect.
- Support pupils with complex medical conditions, following care plans (e.g. epilepsy management, gastrostomy feeding where trained).
- Carry out safe moving and handling procedures, including hoisting and positioning.
- Ensure correct use of specialist equipment (wheelchairs, standing frames, slings, pool hoists).

### **5. Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

- Promote a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all pupils.
- Maintain high vigilance around safeguarding, particularly for vulnerable learners.
- Support emotional regulation and behaviour positively and proactively.
- Follow safeguarding and medical protocols at all times.

### **6. Teamwork and Professional Practice**

- Work as part of a multidisciplinary team, including teachers, therapists, nurses, and support staff.
- Provide guidance and support to other Teaching Assistants around hydrotherapy practices.
- Attend staff meetings, and training sessions.
- Engage in continuous professional development, particularly in:
  - Complex needs support
  - Hydrotherapy delivery
  - Medical care training

### **Person Specification**

#### **Essential**

- HLTA qualification or significant relevant experience in a special school setting.
- Experience working with pupils with PMLD, SLD, and complex medical needs.

- Experience supporting wheelchair users and physical disabilities.
- Valid lifeguard qualification (or willingness to obtain immediately).
- Knowledge of:
  - Safeguarding
  - Moving and handling
  - Health and safety in aquatic environments
- Strong communication, teamwork, and organisational skills.
- Emotional resilience and a compassionate, pupil-centred approach.
- Requirement to support afterschool clubs as Lifeguard twice weekly

### **Desirable**

- Experience delivering hydrotherapy or aquatic therapy programmes.
- Training in:
  - Physiotherapy programmes
  - Manual handling / hoisting
  - Medical procedures (e.g. gastrostomy feeding, suctioning, epilepsy care)
- Communication training.
- First Aid qualification specific to complex needs settings.

### **Additional Requirements**

- Willingness to work in and around water and support pupils with personal care needs.
- Ability to physically support pupils, following safe handling procedures.
- Commitment to inclusive education and equality of opportunity.
- Flexibility to support across classes and therapy provision.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

This role involves working with children with significant vulnerabilities and requires a strong commitment to safeguarding and promoting welfare. The successful candidate will require an enhanced DBS check and appropriate pre-employment clearances.