



Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner The Echo SEND Unit



Job description

Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner

Pay Scale: F6

Main Purpose of the Role

The Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner at St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School plays a pivotal role in leading and delivering high-quality support and interventions for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within our specialist unit.

Aligned with St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School's vision and values, the Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner will champion inclusive education, promote positive wellbeing, and foster an environment where every pupil can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. This role supports the school's ethos of care, respect, and community engagement, ensuring that the specialist unit operates smoothly and effectively to meet the holistic needs of all pupils.

Key Responsibilities and Duties

Leadership and Teaching

- Lead targeted activities, interventions, and learning opportunities for groups and individual pupils within the specialist unit.
- Collaborate closely with the SENDCo and class teacher to support and direct members of the SEND unit team, ensuring coordinated and effective delivery of support.
- Assist class teachers in delivering an adapted, engaging, and effective curriculum tailored to pupils' needs.
- Design and create engaging, differentiated resources and activities to enhance learning outcomes.

Assessment and Monitoring

- Utilise the school's established assessment systems to monitor pupil progress rigorously.
- Maintain detailed observation records and provide timely, constructive feedback to class teacher and the SENDCo.
- Support the implementation and review of targeted SEND plans, working in partnership with external professionals and families to provide holistic support.

Unit Management and Pastoral Care

- Support the safe, calm, and smooth running of the SEND unit, ensuring it remains a positive and inclusive space.
- Foster a classroom culture that encourages self-advocacy, emotional regulation, and positive peer relationships.
- Manage the day-to-day care and support for pupils, including co-regulation strategies, medical needs, and personal care, with empathy and professionalism.

Professional Collaboration and Development

- Participate actively in relevant professional development opportunities to enhance personal knowledge and skills.
- Work collaboratively with school staff to share best practice and contribute to whole-school SEND provision.
- Model high levels of professionalism, empathy, and positivity in all interactions with pupils, colleagues, families, and external agencies.

Skills and Competencies

- **Strong Leadership:** Ability to support the teacher to lead and coordinate a team within the specialist unit, guiding staff to deliver high-quality SEND support.
- **Expertise in SEND:** Deep understanding of SEND needs, including strategies for adaptation, co-regulation, and personalised learning.
- **Curriculum Adaptation:** Competence in supporting the adaptation and delivery of a highly personalised and engaging curriculum that meets diverse pupil needs.
- **Assessment and Monitoring:** Skilled in using assessment tools and observation to track pupil progress and inform teaching strategies.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** Excellent interpersonal skills to work effectively with SENDCo, class teacher, support staff, external professionals, and families.
- **Empathy and Professionalism:** Demonstrates patience, empathy, and a positive outlook to foster trusting relationships with pupils and colleagues.
- **Organisational Ability:** Efficiently manages the day-to-day operation of the SEND unit, including pupil care and staff coordination.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Sensitivity to the diverse community at St. Andrew's, promoting inclusion and respect for all pupils and families.

Professional Development

St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School is committed to the continuous professional growth of its staff. The Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner will have access to:

- Ongoing training tailored to SEND best practises and specialist interventions.
- Opportunities to engage in collaborative learning with colleagues across the school and trust networks.
- Support for accredited professional qualifications and development.

- Participation in reflective practice and appraisal processes aligned with the school's vision to foster a culture of excellence and inclusion.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a paramount responsibility for all staff at St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School. The Specialist Unit Lead Practitioner will:

- Work in strict accordance with statutory safeguarding guidance (e.g., Keeping Children Safe in Education) and the school's safeguarding and child protection policies.
- Collaborate closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, particularly those with SEND who may be more vulnerable.
- Maintain vigilance for any signs of harm or distress and act promptly to report concerns through appropriate channels.
- Promote a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment within the specialist unit that upholds pupil dignity and welfare at all times.