



JOB TITLE : Play Makers

GRADE : D (SCP pts 11 - 17)

1. JOB PURPOSE

The purpose of the job is to oversee and contribute to the care, safety, welfare and supervision of children during the lunch times, in the playground, dining and other areas, ensuring that the whole lunchtime experience is as positive as possible for all children.

In addition to supporting children's eating, feeding and personal care regimes, this role is responsible for ensuring all children have the opportunity to access engaging and rewarding play experiences.

2. MAIN DUTIES

The post holder will work under the general direction of the Play Coordinator.

Play Makers are required to facilitate child led play opportunities wherever possible. Due to children's specific needs, Play Makers may need to take a more active role in facilitating children's access to play.

Ensure all pupils are encouraged and empowered to engage in play opportunities and are not excluded by their specific educational needs.

Ensure provision of a safe play environment in which children are able to play freely.

Allow children the freedom to play whilst supporting them through any difficulties they may experience in playtime.

Employ a 'low intervention, high response' approach to children's play, involving observing children's play and facilitating specific activities, such as arts and crafts, to support the extension of their play.

Play Makers will take any immediate action to attend to sickness or accidents by carrying out minor first aid and summoning relevant assistance.

Assist in tidying the playground at the end of lunchtime.

Report any hazards in the playground environment to the Play Facilitators or Play Coordinator, and highlight any concerns about risks in children's play activities.

Report any serious incidents to the Play Coordinator and appropriate class teacher and record details fully and appropriately, according to school procedures.

Play Makers may need to attend team meetings and training opportunities which will contribute to the Play Maker's professional development.

4. JOB CONTEXT

Play Makers have an essential role in helping to realise the visions and values set out in the school's play policy. The opportunities which lunch times offer for children to play sociably, outdoors and in environments which enhance play are very valuable experiences for their well being and development.

Play Makers make a valuable contribution to the provision offered by the school and the care and well being of the children. Happy and playful lunchtimes are an important part of the school day allowing children to eat, socialise and experience the benefits of freely chosen play.

5. PROBLEMS AND DECISIONS

Play Makers will be required to resolve day to day issues of a practical or routine nature amongst the children but issues of an operational or organisational nature should be referred to the Play Coordinator.

6. PHYSICAL EFFORT AND/OR STRAIN

Working with children is demanding and requires stamina and resourcefulness. This post will require physical effort, such as moving play equipment and resources.

7. WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Play Makers are required to work both indoors and outdoors, supporting a range of play experiences including some involving, for example, mud, water and other messy materials. Play Makers may be required to work outside in all weathers, and it is essential that Play Makers dress appropriately for the duties they are required to undertake.

8. GENERAL

This job description only contains the main duties relating to this post and does not describe in detail all the duties required to carry them out and there will be an expectation that the post holder will carry out other duties that reasonably fall within the general nature of the level of responsibility of the post.

9. SPECIAL NOTES OR CONDITIONS

The postholder will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check to satisfy child protection requirements. The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and all convictions (including cautions, bindovers or no case to answer) must be declared.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the safety and welfare of children in accordance with the schools child protection and behaviour management policy.

This post is term time only. The postholder will normally be expected to take leave entitlement when the school is not in session. Where the postholder is required to attend a meeting or undertake training outside of normal working hours, s/he will be paid for this time.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential requirements:

- aptitude for special needs support
- ability to work as part of a team
- commitment to the midday support of pupils with a wide range of learning and associated difficulties, within the special school environment
- commitment to undertake any of the tasks indicated in the job description, as directed and according to the capability of the postholder
- willingness to undertake relevant training (e.g. moving and handling; feeding techniques)
- reliability

Desirable qualities and skills:

- a calm and positive approach
- flexibility and good humour