



Rye Oak Primary School
Passion for learning, ready for life.

Learning Support Assistant Application pack



Letter to candidates

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant (LSA). My name is Ruth Sharp and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about our school.

We are a happy and vibrant community school situated in the heart of Peckham. The school is well situated for transport links, being close to Peckham Rye and Nunhead stations and on several bus routes.

Rye Oak is a Good school (Ofsted, May 2023). We have some very unique features including a strong reputation for inclusion and love the fact that our school community is so diverse. Staff at the school respond positively to the many challenges that such diversity can bring. Our reputation for caring for and attending to the needs of each child is justly deserved and a real strength of our fabulous school.

Morale is high among leaders, all staff and pupils. This successfully impacts on how adults very calmly and sensitively interact with pupils, including those pupils who have challenging and complex needs.

Ofsted (November 2016)

We are far more than just a 2FE Primary School. We are rapidly becoming a focal point for the local community and provide a range of services which include; day care provision for 2 year olds, fully extended services from 8am to 6pm and a specialist resource base for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition.

Our children enjoy coming to school and are very excited about learning. They feel trusted and respected and they know that there is always someone who will listen to them. School is a safe, warm and caring place where children can thrive and succeed.

Trusting and secure relationships between staff and pupils ensure that pupils feel confident to ask for help, if required, in all aspects of school life.

Ofsted (November 2016)

The current leadership team are extremely talented and wholly committed to making a difference in our children's lives. We are looking for an exceptional learning support assistant to join our staff team and contribute to the journey into the next phase of development. This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and ambitious candidate with a strong commitment to raising standards.

Pupils are very polite and respectful towards adults and their peers. The school's values, including resilience, respect and responsibility, are embedded throughout all aspects of the school's provision.

Ofsted (November 2016)

We are developing an exciting curriculum which we feel is relevant to our children and will enable them to become creative thinkers who welcome challenge and have the resilience needed to solve problems. Staff explicitly teach language and emotional intelligence so that every pupil is the best they can be.

Learning is enhanced through a wide range of experiences which include; visits and visitors, music lessons, sport and the performing arts.



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Our staff team are passionate about making a difference and strongly believe that all children should have equitable opportunities to achieve well and become the best they can be. To this end, we promote the highest possible expectations of our children and each other in all aspects of school life. Underachievement is not acceptable and we aim for our children to leave Rye Oak with a strong sense of self belief, high levels of independence and the ambition to succeed. Members of the school community care passionately about creating a school where all of society are recognised, valued and celebrated.

The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.

Ofsted (November 2016)

We know that our staff are our most valuable resource and invest heavily in ensuring that everyone has the skills they need both to fulfil their current role and to prepare them for future aspirations. Senior staff use a coaching model to provide personalised support for teachers alongside professional development opportunities provided by external training providers. In addition to the development of teaching and learning, we also provide opportunities for middle and subject leaders to develop their leadership skills, taking responsibility for the development of whole school initiatives in line with school improvement priorities.

There is a high priority placed on continuing to develop staff through training. Opportunities to learn are provided for staff new to the school and those more experienced.

Ofsted (November 2016)

High quality professional development for staff at all levels is highly valued and we will ensure that you have the support and training you need to be effective in post. We work closely together and believe we can learn from the expertise held across the team as well as beyond through collaborative work with other settings.

Our staff team are extremely dedicated and demonstrate high levels of passion, energy and resilience. Our pupils are highly motivated, determined and curious. Everyone in the school community has a passion for learning.

I hope this information pack encourages you to make an application. If you have any questions about the position or the school, please do not hesitate to contact our office manager, Nina Ahmed, on the number below. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer visits at the current time. Please feel free to visit our school website on www.ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk to watch our virtual tour and to find out more about us.

work: 020 7639 3914

email: nahmed@ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk

If you think this might be the right school for the next step in your career, then I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Ruth Sharp
Headteacher



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Vision for teaching and learning

Rye Oak is an inclusive school. We are committed to doing the very best that we can to make sure that every child succeeds. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that we are doing the very best for our children and aim to meet the individual needs of each child wherever possible.

At Rye Oak we aim to engender a passion for learning and the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of our work. We have the highest expectations for ourselves and all of our pupils, aiming for standards that exceed national expectations, both in the core subjects and across the wider curriculum.

We want our children to:

- Be eager and enthusiastic learners
- Be confident in themselves as learners
- Understand themselves as learners, being proud of their successes and understanding the next steps in their learning
- Be articulate with an excellent range and depth of vocabulary
- Be emotionally intelligent
- Be resilient and determined to succeed
- Be responsible for their actions

We aim to achieve this by:

- Ensuring that children's wellbeing is at the heart of our school
- Valuing and celebrating children's social and cultural diversity
- Maintaining the highest possible expectations of every child
- Striving to ensure that every child succeeds
- Adopting a 'no excuses' attitude towards children's progress and attainment
- Providing opportunities for our children to develop academically, socially, morally, emotionally and spiritually in a safe and caring environment
- Working closely as co-educators with parents and carers to ensure the best possible education for our children

About the school

We have around 400 children at Rye Oak, each one of them different and unique. Our Owl Babies (two year old class) and our Nursery provide high quality learning experiences for 80 pupils. Our Reception classes cater for up to 60 children. Our fantastic, bespoke EYFS space is used as an example to other settings within and beyond the Borough.

We pride ourselves in maintaining a stimulating and well resourced learning environment in our modern and spacious building. Classrooms are fully equipped with a wide range of resources to support teachers with making sure learning is as exciting and fun as possible.

Inclusion is very much at the heart of what we do and we have a very strong and knowledgeable team who support our children with SEND. We are one of only four schools in Southwark with a specialist resource base for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition and are often used by the Local Authority as a model of good practice.

We use core texts as starting points for our curriculum planning. High quality texts are used as the basis of half termly learning sequences which are meaningful and engaging for the children. Key themes such as resilience, team work and empathy are woven into our medium term planning in order to support children to become the best learners they can be.

Our core curriculum offer is supplemented by specialist teaching from experts in their field. This means we are able to provide children with lessons in; African drumming and musicianship, dance and drama, in addition to a wide range of sporting activities through our partnership with the London P.E. and School Sports Network.



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Our staff work very closely together and there is a strong sense of teamwork. Teachers have non contact time to plan together with year group partners. Planning in this way ensures consistency across classes and means that teachers are able to share particular expertise and support each other. Staff are all part of learning triads that promote reflection and action research.

Every staff member receives ongoing professional development from a member of the Leadership Team, focusing on improving the quality of teaching and learning and accelerating the progress of any children whose progress is causing concern. Support may include lesson or session planning, joint teaching, demonstration lessons, observations and feedback. The impact of this support is evaluated regularly through lesson observations and book looks and is differentiated according to need.

Rye Oak pupils can expect a high quality of teaching across a broad and balanced curriculum that allows all children to achieve their best and have a strong sense of self. Staff can expect pupils who are keen and who know how to learn. Parents value education and work in positive partnership with the school.

Our aim is to prepare our pupils for the roles and responsibilities they will face at Rye Oak, at secondary school and in the community.





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How to Apply

If you decide to make an application, please look carefully at the Job Description and Person Specification.

Your supporting statement should be no longer than 2 sides of A4 and should be tailored to demonstrate your suitability for this post.

A properly completed application form is essential. CVs will not be accepted and interviews will be offered to those applicants best demonstrating skills, abilities and experience that match the person specification and can demonstrate and evidence their commitment to our school.

Key Dates

Closing date: Monday 21st September 2026

Interviews: Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Visits to the school:

Unfortunately, we are not carrying out visits at the moment. Please visit our school website on www.ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk to find out more about us!

If you would like an informal discussion about any aspects of this job opportunity, please contact Nina Ahmed in the first instance on:

work: 020 7639 3914

email: nahmed@ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk

Applying

If you decide to apply for this post please return your completed application form to:

nahmed@ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk





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Location

Rye Oak Primary School
Whorlton Road
London
SE15 3PD

Tel: 020 7639 3914

Email: office@ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk

Rye Oak is located on Whorlton Road and is a short walking distance from Peckham Rye Park.

Parking:

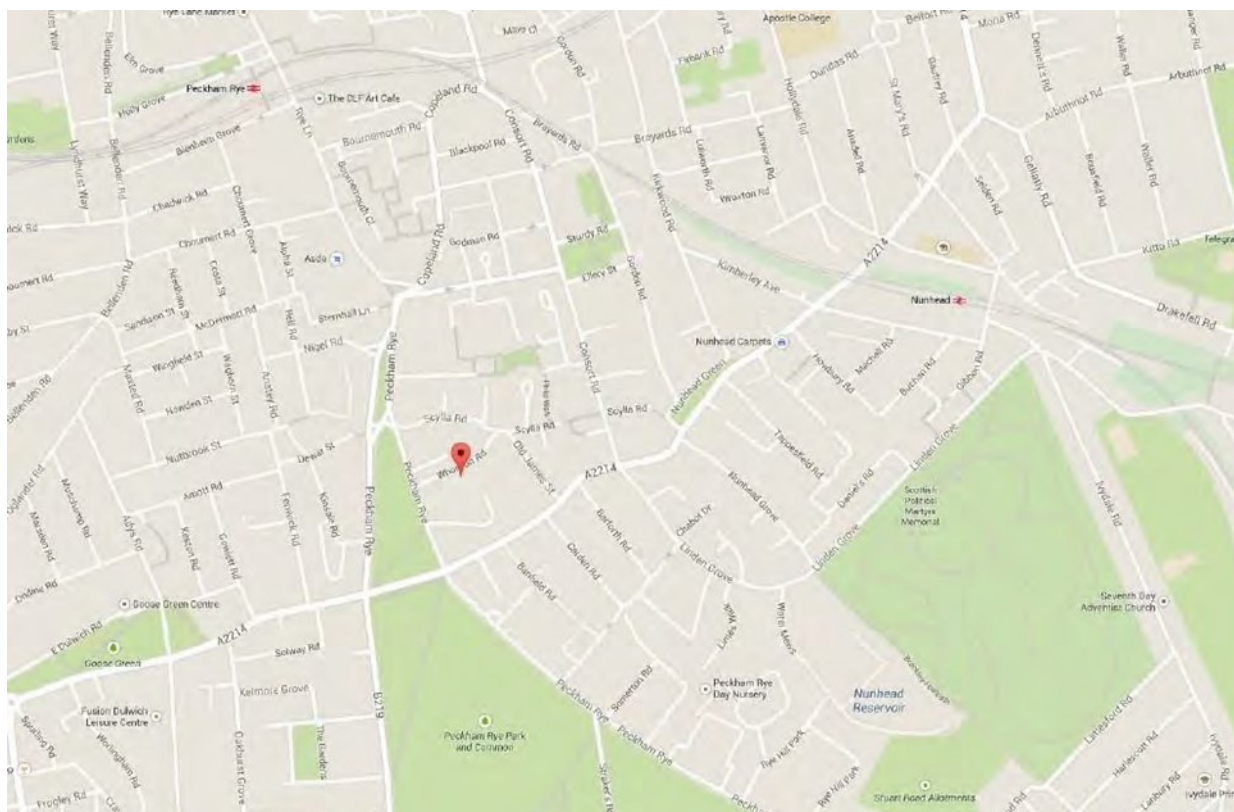
Parking is available in the surrounding roads.

By bus:

There are bus stops located on Rye Lane served by the following numbers: P12, P13, 37, 63, 78, 197, 343, 363, 468

By train:

Peckham Rye train station is situated on Rye Lane, Nunhead train station is situated on Gibbon Road, and both are located in Zone 2 and are approximately a 10 minute walk away from the school.





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Southwark - The place to live and work

Is Southwark what you think it is? Probably not. While we have some things in common with other London boroughs, such as a culturally diverse population, there's a lot more to a place which people from Charlie Chaplin to Rio Ferdinand have called home.

Just a walk along the South Bank or over the Millennium Bridge to the Tate Modern will show you this is an area worth investing in. Around 40% of it is being redeveloped and regenerated, to the tune of £4 billion.

Southwark dates back to Roman times, so we're a living history lesson. During the Anglo Saxon period it was the greatest traffic and trading centre in the country. Thanks to the fact that we were outside the City of London's jurisdiction, playhouses like the Globe and the Rose began to make up our popular theatre district. And today, the Elephant and Castle is the location of one of the UK's biggest regeneration initiatives.

Around London Bridge there's a thriving business district full of financial institutions, service companies and a growing arts and media sector. Stunning residential districts along the river embody high quality design and lifestyle. For a 2,000 year old area, we're good at looking ahead.

Life in Southwark can spoil you for choice. Foodie? Borough Market. Shakespeare buff? The Globe. Outdoor type? Burgess or Dulwich Park. Kids feeling bored? The City farm.

There's a great deal for you and your family and friends to do. Getting to and from those various places and events won't be a problem either, as we've got great transport links. Most teachers live around a half-hour's walk or bike ride away from work, and enjoy access to good rental properties, shared ownership schemes and interest-free loans for home purchase on the open markets as part of the Keyworker Living scheme. So living and travelling couldn't be much easier.



Millenium Bridge



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From frequent carnivals to the afro-caribbean food market, Southwark pretty much has it covered. Thriving, established markets, restaurants that cover almost every cuisine in the world, riverside walks, beautiful green spaces, sport, dance and music. There's something for everyone, whether you're after stimulation or peace of mind.

The children of Southwark are our future business leaders, hairdressers, politicians, taxi drivers, mechanics, nurses, plumbers, artists, footballers, engineers, music moguls, journalists, chefs and even teachers. We owe it to them to give them the best start to their lives and careers.

Some of our schools weren't always as good as they are now, and some others still have a way to go. But the important part is that they're getting better year on year and making children ready for the opportunities coming their way.

That's because we've made a concerted effort to support teachers and school leaders in bringing the curriculum alive. Whether they're at an Academy, Specialist, Church, Foundation or Community School, they're not left to go it alone. There's a structure and good funding in place to help them. Our determination plus their talent and experience is already beginning to bear fruit.

As one of our school staff, you'll have children's futures in your hands. Because of that, you deserve all the support we can provide. In fact, all our staff enjoy the best we can offer, from the School's Continual Professional Development Programme that will help you develop your knowledge and skills, no matter what your level of experience.



Borough Market



Shakespeare's Globe Theatre



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Our invaluable support staff get access to development and training in order to raise pupils' achievement levels, and they have real career paths. For you, it means you'll have a motivated, well-trained team of people around you. And you'll benefit from all the other support systems Southwark have implemented, from the Arts team and EAL advisors to borough advisory staff who focus on Hearing, Visual, Speech & Language, Specific Learning and Physical Difficulties, and a Behaviour Improvement Programme.

For staff with children, there are many nursery classes and crèches, good childcare, and after-school clubs and play centres. We'll also be happy to talk to you about flexible and part-time working.

Just as importantly, you'll have borough-wide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development, including conferences, action research and overseas trips. So our students won't be the only ones improving their prospects.

(extracted from the Inspiration Brochure - www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/1046/inspiration_brochure)



