

Link 2 Nurture Base (based at New Close Primary School)



Dear Applicant

Teaching Assistant

Welcome to Link 2 Nurture Base and thank you for your interest in this post. We hope the information enclosed in this pack inspires you to apply for this role.

The Acorn Education Trust

Acorn Education Trust was established in 2014 to provide a local solution to a national strategy. Our mission: to “prepare young people for their world in their time” through excellent leadership, excellent teaching and excellent learning is at the heart of all that we do. In every Acorn school you will see:

- active and visible leadership
- care, support and challenge
- opportunities for all
- respect, recognition and resilience
- needs of all are paramount.

Kingdown School is the founding school alongside Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School and The Avenue Primary School. Acorn now serves 11 schools (2 secondary and 9 primary). The schools are organised into 3 hubs – 2 are primary and each one is led by an Executive Headteacher. The third is the secondary hub overseen by the CEO; consisting of Kingdown School, Warminster and Clarendon Academy in Trowbridge.

The Trust is led by Sara Edwards CEO. Finance and HR are centrally organised and led by Fiona Simpson (Head of Finance) and Anna Williams (HR Director) respectively. Shared services in IT, premises, catering, PE/Sport (primary) and SEND, led by Sue Fulbrook, are developing across all schools.

One of the Trust’s main operational objectives is to ensure the Headteacher focuses on leading teaching and learning, so the business element is mainly managed by Trust staff. Reducing back office staff by sharing resources, improving IT and school to school support is keeping each school financially healthy and directing as much money as possible into teaching and learning. As mentioned in the acrostic above, professional development is a key priority and we hope that whoever joins a school in the Trust will see the potential career opportunities within Acorn.

While Directors are very keen for all schools to develop their unique identity and serve their community, there are key areas where the Trust expects to see standardisation or alignment. Within the primary school context this relates to: assessment; health and safety and various policies.

The Directors maintain overall responsibility for all Trust schools, however they delegate many tasks to each school Academy Council of Governors through the scheme of delegation. The latter are the guardians of:

- the standards in the school
- the safety of the students and staff
- the management of the finances and assets
- the school’s identity and community ethos.

Link 2 Nurture Base Academy Council works collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure high challenge and support.

The Setting

Link 2 is based at New Close Primary School situated in Warminster in beautiful rural Wiltshire. "Linked to" the home school, this primary nurture base offers the opportunity for learners who are struggling with the demands of mainstream school to access a different setting on full time or part time basis. Link 2 is designed to accommodate children who may have social, emotional or behavioural needs or additional sensory or communication needs which prevent a smooth day at mainstream school. Set up in an ASD friendly environment, Link 2 helps children to manage their emotions and develop a toolkit to take back to their home school equipping them with strategies to better manage their behaviour. Furthermore, each child is offered a bespoke programme to make best use of their time there and weekly feedback is provided to home and schools. Placements are available for children in Years 2 to 7 although careful consideration is given to the mix of age ranges in any one session.

For the successful applicant we can offer:

- A genuine commitment to your professional development and well-being
- A committed, cohesive and caring staff team
- Support and collaboration with other professionals within the Trust

Your application

We hope that you are as excited about the potential that this role offers as we are. The person we are looking for will have a passion for working with young people and be an outstanding practitioner. If you feel you have the drive, ambition and attributes to fulfil this role, we would love to hear from you.

Please complete the application form send by email to Elaine Fullick, by 12 noon on the closing date of 9/12/19. Please note that if you have not heard from us by 17/12/19, please assume that your application has not been successful.

The trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and, expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate is required for this post prior to commencement.

With many thanks for your interest in Link 2 and Acorn Education Trust.

Yours sincerely



David Middleton
Chair of Acorn Education Trust Directors



Sara Edwards, CEO Acorn Education Trust