



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Details

Job Title:	Therapy Assistant
Banding:	Basic Grade S6 / Current role grade if above Grade 6
Reports to:	School Senior Physiotherapist / School Occupational Therapist / Deputy Headteacher

Main Purpose of the Job:

The post holder will be providing direct and indirect therapy independently but with support and direction from the School Senior Physiotherapist/ School Occupational Therapist. In doing so, they will support the assessment of students and implementation of programmes delegated to them by the physiotherapist, ensuring that the post holder practices within their sphere of competence and knowledge. The post holder will work within a range of procedures and pathways in which they have received training in order to be competent.

The post holder will also support and assist other members of the multi-disciplinary team to deliver therapeutic input, as directed and delegated by the School Senior Physiotherapist/ School Occupational Therapist and Deputy Headteacher, including the use of equipment such as standing frames, walkers and the Smart Platform.

Key Responsibilities

Clinical

1. The postholder will implement programmes of therapy within the limits of the procedures and pathways in which they have achieved competence following training
2. Support and assist other member of the school team to deliver therapeutic input as directed and delegated, including use of equipment such as standing frames and walkers
3. Be aware of potential safety issues at all times and ask a physiotherapist for clarification whenever unsure
4. Following training, to support the students in regular practice to develop their use of the Smart Platform
5. Observe and evaluate student progress, condition or levels and report to school physiotherapist
6. Keep accurate, clear and timely notes in a record shared with school physiotherapist
7. Identify risks or changes in condition and take action to alert the appropriate staff members
8. Involve the young person and, if appropriate, their family/carer, in their assessment, programme of treatment and/or care, as directed by the school physiotherapist

9. Approach each young person with care, compassion and sensitivity, ensuring that these values are reflected in all aspects of role
10. Be responsible for delegated administration tasks and management of resources relevant to therapy within the school, e.g. appropriate equipment safety checks, liaison with the Wheelchair Service, cleaning and maintaining equipment.
11. To demonstrate an understanding of Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy and apply this to implementing individual and group sessions.
12. Facilitate and manage planned group work and individual activities
13. To be responsible for the preparation, maintenance and care of tools, materials and equipment, ensuring a safe environment for clients and staff as appropriate.

Leadership

1. Inspire others to be positive in their support of continuous improvement
2. Take responsibility for their own and others' health and safety in the working environment
3. Actively promote St Ann's Rights Respecting Schools ethos
4. Support a leadership style which is underpinned by strongly held values around equality, diversity and openness: effectively build and maintain relationships with team members
5. Demonstrate resilience when responding to challenge, change and complex or difficult situations
6. Demonstrate clinical leadership in everyday practice through identifying creative and innovative ideas in order to develop quality service provision. Supporting initiatives as an active member of the team.

Learning and Development

1. Undertake any training required to develop or maintain their competence within the clinical area
2. Ask questions on an ongoing basis as needed
3. Reflect on and evaluate own practice and identify areas of development by setting appropriate objectives via appraisal and clinical supervision
4. Contribute to clinical audit or research activities relevant to the area of practice

Partnership and Team Working

1. Actively work towards developing and maintaining effective working relationships in a range of contexts
2. Actively contribute to the multi-disciplinary team, internally and externally, supporting the young person and acting as a credible source of information for other agencies/professionals involved in the care, if competent to do so

Innovation and Quality

1. Work with the School Leadership Team, School Physiotherapist and colleagues to continually improve the quality of services

2. Work with the School Leadership Team, School Physiotherapist and colleagues, to identify manage and minimise risks. This includes understanding and applying knowledge of clinical role in safeguarding and incident management.
3. Act as an advocate for students and their families/carers, recognising the boundaries of their clinical knowledge; liaising and referring on to other services and agencies as required
4. Actively contribute to St Ann's best practice standards in order to deliver an effective, high quality service

In addition to these functions and following appropriate training and guidance the post holder will also be required to

1. Gain an understanding of how to operate the Smart Platform and set it up and run it for students in accordance with the schedule issued by the school physiotherapist.
2. Learn to use standing frames and walking frames and help students get into them.
3. Check the safety of standing frames
4. Gain an understanding of postural management so as to be able to help with positioning students and advise others on positioning.
5. Gain an understanding of orthotics and be able to check and advise physiotherapist re any problems.
6. Gain an understanding of wheelchairs, contact the wheelchair service re faults and keep a log of problems with wheelchairs.
7. Help to carry out physiotherapy programmes as needed and help with taking photographs for programmes as needed
8. Liaise with the school physiotherapist and NHS physiotherapy team
9. Keep brief notes of all activities carried out
10. In agreement with line managers carry out such other duties as may be reasonably expected in accordance with the grade of the post

May 2024

