

School Counsellor Role Description

Salary:	£24,187.80 p.a. actual salary
Full/Part-time:	35 hours per week term time (39 weeks) + 1 week flexible
Fixed period:	Until end of July 2024 (if further funding is received an extension may be considered)
Annual holidays:	25 days plus bank holidays pro - rata
Location of workplace:	The Deanery Church of England High School and Sixth Form College
Disclosure and Barring	
Service Certificate:	Due to the nature of the work this post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check
Expenses:	Paid in line with Wigan Deanery Trust policy
Reports to:	Wellbeing Lead at The Deanery Church of England High School & Sixth Form College

Purpose of role:

Wigan Deanery Trust wants young people in Wigan aged 11-19 to thrive, not just survive, in these difficult times. We are looking for a Counsellor to work in our partner school, The Deanery Church of England High School and Sixth Form College, where the School Counsellor will be based. You will deliver therapeutic interventions to secondary students and work closely with the Church Wigan Head of Youth and the school's Wellbeing team. Our vision is to extend counselling provision to other secondary schools throughout Wigan on conclusion of a successful pilot.

Responsibilities:

You will deliver one-to-one, short-term, therapeutic interventions to secondary school and sixth form students. The exact nature of the therapeutic work will depend on the presenting issues, and on your theoretical orientation. However, we are looking for capability to perform intervention at the medium-high level, including trauma intervention around things like sustained, long-term self-harm, PTSD and expertise to deliver CBT to a higher level of need. You will work closely with the Wellbeing and Pastoral teams, who include the School Chaplain/Head of Youth and the school's Wellbeing Lead.

The duties and responsibilities of the post will include:

- Delivery of short-term (normally 6 to 8 sessions), evidence-based individual interventions to young people who are referred through the school's referral process, with the Wellbeing Lead and Chaplain aware of the Counsellor's caseload and referrals made.
- Liaising with school staff on referrals, assessing and determining the need for intervention with students.
- Holding a caseload of children and young people (aged 11 to 18) at any one time.
- Providing intervention at medium-high level, where there needs to be a greater level of skill and expertise. This would include trauma intervention around things like sustained, long-term self-harm and PTSD, as well as experience around OCD and other related issues.
- Delivering CBT to a higher level of need who can intervene when the low-level intervention of the school team isn't going to be effective.
- Providing some small group interventions where deemed appropriate, but the main focus being on 1-1 therapeutic intervention.

- Perform duties within the codes of practice and ethical framework of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) or equivalent professional body Ethical Framework, and specifically BACP's Good Practice Guidance for Counselling in Schools.
- Work collaboratively with the Wellbeing and Pastoral teams to work with specific referrals, and provide supporting information for onward referrals into specific CAMHS pathways.
- Liaise with parents/families as necessary - signing off and communicating at the end of a course of intervention, appropriate liaison with any other agencies the family are working with if applicable.
- Support staff as needed within the structures of the existing wellbeing provision.
- Ensuring that all records are kept confidentially, in line with Wigan Deanery Trust and school procedures and the service provided adheres to current legislation and any new developments.
- The post holder must be in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Church of England and to fully support the Mission and Values of the Wigan Deanery Trust.
- Committing fully to the safeguarding of pupils.
- Any other duties as required by the evolving nature of the pilot.

Continuing Professional Development

- Undertake any necessary professional and personal development to improve or acquire knowledge and skills appropriate to the post.
- Membership of a professional association (e.g. BACP), self-funded.
- Contribution of £ per month toward continued appropriate supervision.

General

- The School's Wellbeing Lead will provide regular line-management supervision. You will also be part of the Wigan Youth Team.
- Work will be provided in appropriate therapeutic spaces.
- Travel expenses will be provided in line with the WDT expenses policy.

Person Specification

Attribute	Essential	Desirable
Training and Qualifications		
To be a registered member of a relevant professional body with a minimum of 2 years post qualification experience	✓	
Sound educational background including GCSE's Maths and English (A*-C) or equivalent	✓	
Level 4 Counselling Diploma or Degree course	✓	
Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling or similar relevant Qualification		✓
Full First Aid Certificate		✓
Church connection		
The post holder must be in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Church of England and to fully support the Mission and Values of Wigan Deanery Trust	✓	
Previous experience		
Previous experience in working therapeutically with children and young people	✓	
In an educational setting		✓
Experience in crisis intervention and management	✓	
Professional knowledge and understanding		
Skilled in the use of methods of psychological assessment, intervention and management with a solid understanding of the emotional, social and development issues facing children and young people	✓	
Knowledge of a wide range of evidence based therapeutic interventions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma informed • CBT • OCD 	✓ ✓ ✓	✓
Knowledge of The Children's Act and other relevant legislation	✓	
Behavioural competencies		
Demonstrate excellent, positive communication and interpersonal skills	✓	
Build and maintain effective relationships	✓	
Able to work independently and manage caseloads	✓	
Able to work as part of a team	✓	
Remain professional and focused during stressful situations	✓	
Display patience, tolerance, empathy and sensitivity, whilst remaining non-judgemental	✓	
Maintain professional boundaries	✓	
Manage conflict	✓	
Prioritise, plan and organise themselves	✓	
Think creatively to anticipate and solve problems	✓	
Listen to and reflect on feedback	✓	

Continuing Professional Development

Take responsibility for ongoing personal and professional development, keeping up-to-date with research and developments in the field of counselling and Psychotherapy	✓	
Ensure regular monitoring of the service provided, apply changes or adaptations to enhance service delivery	✓	

Closing date for applications: Sunday 18th June 2023

Interview Date: Week commencing 26th June 2023

For an informal chat for further information, please contact Head of Youth, Lisa Holt, at head.of.youth@churchwigan.org.