**Learning Support Practitioner/Teaching Assistant**

**Job Description**

We are looking for Learning Support Practitioners to have an active role alongside our teachers in shaping the learning journeys of our children. You will have excellent communication skills, a willingness to learn and the desire to be part of the development of high performing team. Supporting and assisting the teaching staff, with the ability to work on your own initiative, you will be required to bring motivation, energy and patience to the role, supporting the children with their educational, physical, emotional and social development. You will be fully committed to establishing and maintaining high levels of confidentiality at all times.

The role of our learning support practitioner is to support the teachers in every respect in order that:

* the curriculum is delivered effectively;
* the children are motivated, happy, stimulated and excited to learn;
* the children are encouraged to behave in a respectful, thoughtful, responsible and considerate manner;
* the organisation of the class / group is smooth and efficient;
* each child is valued and benefits from an increased level of adult support and their individual needs are met;
* effective planning and delivery of appropriate activities is undertaken;
* able to reflect on own practice and make improvements to create a richer learning journey for our children.

Duties will include:

* working with the teacher to deliver the curriculum for the relevant age group;
* working with groups of children under the direction of the teacher, to deliver the curriculum to engage all in an exciting, stimulating and rigorous manner;
* working one to one with challenging or vulnerable children as directed by the class teacher;
* contributing to planning and evaluating of outcomes;
* assessing each child’s learning through observation to ensure children’s next steps are anticipated and planned for;
* updating children’s Learning portfolios;
* organising and delivering the outdoor curriculum;
* covering PPA time by facilitating creative learning opportunities;
* resourcing the outstanding learning environment.
* To carry out the above duties and responsibilities and additional duties if so directed by the Principal

**Other Requirements**

Work to develop a suitable area specialism, with appropriate support and training

The learning support practitioner must be willing to work as part of a team, be flexible in their approach, demonstrate patience and understanding of a young child’s needs and have a sense of humour.

Knowledge of the curriculum and experience of working with children of a relevant age is essential.

Attendance at professional development days or staff meetings will be necessary from time to time during the year. The learning support practitioners will be expected to attend relevant training courses in order to enhance his/her own professional development and to keep up to date with leading edge practice.

The learning support practitioner will participate in the performance management appraisal system, designed to highlight future professional development.

West Herts Community Free School Trust is committed to the safety and welfare of every child and the learning support practitioner will be required to attend appropriate safeguarding (child protection) training.

The learning support practitioner must be aware of the need for confidentiality regarding the pupils in their care.