

Whitstone School

inspiring futures



LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (LSA)

Letter from our Headteacher

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in joining us at Whitstone School. This is a very exciting time for a highly organised person with excellent communication skills to be joining our staff team. We are looking to expand our team and are seeking Learning Support Assistants to start as soon as possible to join our successful and ambitious school. We are looking for efficient, enthusiastic individuals with excellent communication skills to provide support for pupils, the teacher and the school in order to raise standards of achievement for all pupils. You will be approachable, calm, caring but firm. Previous experience of working with teachers and supporting students is desirable although not essential. A high standard of literacy and numeracy is essential for this post as is the enthusiasm to help raise the achievement of our students. Graduates looking for experience before commencing a PGCE are welcome to apply.

I joined Whitstone School in January 2020 and have thoroughly enjoyed working with our students, staff, parents and governors to improve standards in all aspects of school life, develop teaching and learning and CPD as key areas of school life and forge new and exciting links with the wider community. It is clear that Whitstone School is a wonderful place to work and I am looking forward to seeing the school develop as our student numbers increase considerably over the coming years. Whitstone School is a fully inclusive, comprehensive school which serves the community of Shepton Mallet and surrounding areas. We are proud of our students and of the environment in which they learn, which challenges, supports and cares for them as we prepare them for the next stage of their education.

I expect the successful candidate to work with other members of the school community to develop an inspiring and exciting vision for the students to learn and grow.

At Whitstone School, we are able to offer the successful candidate a wealth of career development opportunities, the chance to join a happy and motivated staff group and free access to our on-site Leisure Centre. I am committed to ensuring that professional development is at the heart of school life and that career development for all staff is highly valued.

The current global pandemic will mean that the interview process will be adapted, with the safety of all those involved in the process a priority. To apply, please submit a covering letter of no more than two sides of A4 setting out the skills and experience you would bring to this role, complete the application form and return it by email to: applications.544@educ.somerset.gov.uk . For further details about the school, please visit our website <http://www.whitstoneschool.org/>. Tours of the school and preliminary conversations regarding the role can be arranged by contacting Ms Lara Schofield at lschofield1@educ.somerset.gov.uk or applications.544@educ.somerset.gov.uk .

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Mr Guy Swallow
Headteacher



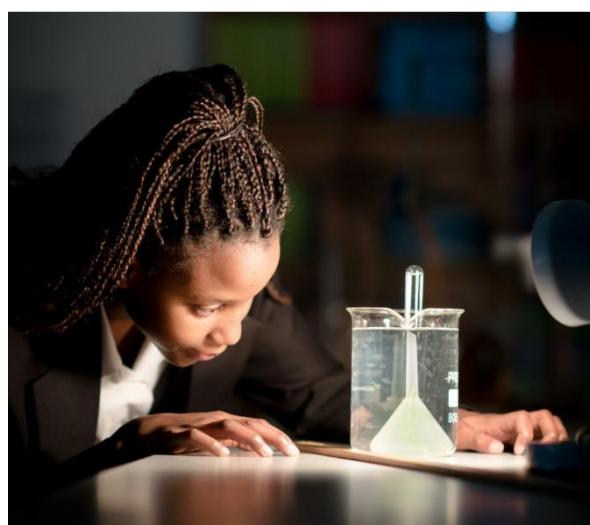
Welcome to Whitstone School

Whitstone School is a thriving comprehensive school offering young people the opportunity of a bright future. Our staff inspire students with their passion for teaching, their care for all learners and the desire they show to help every child to succeed. Our beautiful school site and investment in learning spaces provides an environment in which students excel.

The Whitstone School community is built upon a shared commitment to supporting our students in their goal to achieve high standards in all that they do. We believe that the education we provide equips our young people to be happy, successful adults and gives them the skills and attributes they need to be fully prepared for life after secondary school. Student conduct in lessons and around the school site is excellent. Our students tell us that this helps them to access learning and to feel safe, respected and valued.

At Whitstone School, we firmly believe that the inspiring experience our students receive in the classroom is instrumental in their learning and academic development. We are truly proud of our highly trained teachers and we place great emphasis on their continual development to ensure that the lessons our students receive are at the cutting edge of educational research and thinking. Our highly motivated and skilled staff focus relentlessly on the experience our young people receive in the classroom. We are proud of this focus on learning and see the benefit in the continued academic success of our students.

Our school community is very aware of the importance of a secure, happy and caring school environment in allow young people to succeed. Whitstone School has established an excellent reputation throughout Somerset as an inclusive and caring school; being large enough to offer an innovative and inspiring curriculum to all students, whilst of a scale that ensures all students are well-known and their needs clearly understood. Our House system, complete with student leaders, inter-House competitions and House charities, develops both a sense of belonging and encourages peer support and guidance. The Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre, owned by our school, provides a clear connection with our wider community and also offers our students excellent sports facilities.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Learning Support Assistant (LSA)

Line Manager: SENCo

Salary Scale: Grade 15

Job Purpose:

The post holder will support students' progress in lessons and around the school site, enabling them to have successful engagement with academic commitments and the wider demands of student life.

Responsibilities:

- attend training days and group supervision sessions
- awareness of own and other people's emotions
- development of an increased range of emotional vocabulary
- management of stress, grief, anger and conflict
- development of social interaction skills
- development of the ability to initiate and maintain friendships
- promotion of a realistic self-concept and good self-esteem
- plan and deliver programmes of support to small groups of children to develop social and friendship skills
- write succinct session plans and add subsequent evaluative comments
- liaise with teachers and other support assistants about the needs and progress of children receiving support
- share knowledge and ideas from training/supervision sessions with other school staff as appropriate
- meet regularly with line manager to review work
- work within own competencies and level of development, under the guidance of the line manager
- liaise with parents in line with school policy.
- Work as part of a flexible and committed team and the larger staff body.

Person Profile:

The successful candidate is likely to:

- has a warm personality and is able to stay calm under pressure
- demonstrates good interpersonal skills with children and adults
- is able to gain the confidence of children who may be socially withdrawn
- enjoys learning
- is able to work independently and show initiative
- has good time management and organisational skills
- is able to plan programmes of support that incorporate variety, interest and pace
- is able to keep succinct records of involvement.

This Job description is not necessarily a comprehensive definition of the post it will be reviewed at least once a year and may be subject to modification or amendment at any time after consultation with the post holder.

Application Form

To access an application form, please visit our website at <http://www.whitstoneschool.org/>.

Deadline

Noon on Tuesday 17th May 2022. Interviews will take place Thursday 19th May 2022.