Occupational Therapist

Job description, 14 October 2026

Ambitious about Autism

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Job description

Job title	Occupational Therapist	**Team**	Educational Services
Job band	Band 6 £44,000 - £49,000 (depending on skills and experience)	**Reporting to**	Senior Occupational Therapist
Hours	Full Time: 37.5 hours	**Line manages**	N/A

Role purpose

To improve outcomes for children and young people through the application of expertise in occupational therapy and provide occupational therapy for pupils / students through devising and implementing individual and group intervention programmes. You will also write and support the fidelity of occupational therapy programmes for others to deliver as well as review, refine and develop the universal occupational therapy offer within the setting in which you are based.

You will also support learners throughout the preparation for adulthood process by addressing and resolving occupational performance barriers and delivering the above in line with the Ambitious Approach.

Key accountabilities and dimensions

Occupational Therapist

Practitioner Duties and Responsibilities

- Have a sound knowledge and use of a wide range of occupational therapy methods and interventions for children and young people with autism, learning disabilities and other special educational needs.
- Provide high-quality occupational therapy advice within all 3 tiers of support (universal, targeted and intensive).

- Support students, teachers, parents and others to prevent or resolve problems with students' learning, behaviour, communication and social and emotional development.
- Be proactive in strengthening in effectiveness of the occupational therapy team by bringing knowledge and insight into service design.
- Contribute to and evaluate the training and development of teachers, parents and other professionals.
- Have knowledge of and work within the framework of the setting's policies and procedures.
- Enable Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) to be implemented within agreed resources and for outcomes to be evidenced.
- To have sound knowledge and awareness of issue relating to the educational achievements of pupils from ethnic and linguistic minorities.
- Employ a critical appreciation of recent developments in occupational therapy.
- Organise own workload balancing case management, team responsibilities and time allocation.
- Contribute to effective team development and monitoring, evaluating and improving service delivery.
- Maintain high-quality records, according to professional standards of work undertaken in all aspects of the job.
- Participate in supervision and continuing professional development in line with the AaA policy and professional guidelines and recommendations.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge about developments within the profession and adhere to professional standards and guidelines as outlined by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and the Health Care Professional Council (HCPC).
- Maintain registration with the Health Professionals Council as a practising Occupational Therapist.
- Actively contribute to efficient, integrated support; working closely with other professionals to pool knowledge, skills and resources across disciplines.
- To, when working as the lead interventionist: facilitate and promote discussion among team members to ensure alignment of strategies; encourage discussion to identify recommendations that promote the integration of services; foster sharing and learning across disciplines; receive coaching and support from other professionals; and integrate differing approaches into assessment and intervention plans.

- When supporting the lead interventionalist: provide profession specific advice; provide coaching and support based on own professional specific advice; provide within own area of expertise and qualifications.
- Assist the charity to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.
- Such other duties as the Lead Occupational Therapist may require.

Interpersonal and Communication Duties and Responsibilities

- Communicate in a clear, concise and culturally appropriate manner to students, staff and family members.
- Demonstrate sound, balanced judgment, decisiveness and flexibility.
- Apply problem solving skills and contribute to generating solutions within the setting in which you are based.
- Effectively motivate students and staff to engage with the assessment and intervention programmes you develop by utilising a range of activities, strategies and techniques.
- To apply a person-centred approach.
- Demonstrate integrity and sensitivity, affording children and young people with dignity and respect.
- Be open and flexible in developing methods of practice.
- To work with others in an empathetic and supportive way.
- Work effectively under pressure, prioritising and meeting deadlines.
- Be flexible to the demands of the environment including unpredictable events and frequent interruptions.

Safeguarding and Safety

- Maintain up-to-date knowledge and skills in safeguarding.
- Safeguarding incidents; medication errors; other incidents and accidents errors are appropriately responded to and reported.
- Accurately record personal data and maintain integrity of those records in line with data protection.

- Follow safe and effective processes and procedures for the involvement of autistic young people.

Other Duties

- Follow safe and effective processes and procedures for the involvement of autistic young people.
- Demonstrate a continual commitment to the promotion of diversity initiatives and the sharing of best practice in line with Ambitious about Autisms Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and procedures.
- Ensure the highest degree of confidentiality and data protection of all materials.
- Demonstrate the vision and values of Ambitious about Autism in everyday work and practice.
- Any other duties commensurate with the role.

This job description is not exhaustive and reflects the type and range of tasks responsibilities and outcomes associated with the role. The post holder will be expected to also complete any tasks, as requested by the Heads of departments.

Person specification

Role and band competencies

Specific knowledge, experience and technical skills	Essential
1. BSc in Occupational Therapy.	X
2. HCPC registration.	X
3. Member of Royal College of Occupational Therapists.	X
4. Effectively applies specialist occupational therapy skills and knowledge with children and / or young people who have learning disabilities and / or neurodevelopmental disorders to improve outcomes.	X
5. Designs and implements impactful intervention programmes and works effectively with those who implement them to ensure fidelity.	X
6. Applies the latest research evidence and evaluative thinking to practice.	X
7. Maintains professionalism in the face of emotive and distressing problems, verbal abuse and the threat of physical abuse.	X
8. Manages a complex caseload and prioritises and delegates effectively.	X
9. Able to work autonomously to promote the progression of the OT service in line with the Ambitious Approach.	X
10. Ensures all practice is person-centred.	X
11. Works collaboratively as part of a trans disciplinary team, motivating and working positively and constructively with other team members.	X
12. Uses advance skills in building and maintaining positive relationships with children and young people, professionals and parents / carers.	X
13. Communicates complex and sensitive information in a manner appropriate to the individual and situation.	X
14. Competently identifies and effectively assesses risk.	X
15. Ambitious about Autism is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.	X

Personal attributes

16. Treats service users with respect and dignity at all times.	X
17. Promotes a positive image of the speech and language therapy service.	X
18. Self-aware and committed to professional and personal development.	X
19. Reflects critically, appraising own performance, accepting and responding positively to feedback from supervision.	X
20. Travels independently in accordance with Ambitious about Autism's policies and service need.	X
21. Good appreciation of health and safety in the workplace, data protection principles and equal opportunities.	X

How to apply

Stage	Timescale
Closing dates for applications	8 November 2026
Candidates informed of outcome of application	Week of 9 November 2026
Interviews	TBC

If you would like to find out more about this exciting opportunity, need any further information or wish to have an informal discussion, please contact the Recruitment Manager, Stephen Vickers on svickers@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk.

Equal opportunities monitoring

Ambitious about Autism is fully committed to equality of opportunity and diversity and we warmly welcome applications from all suitably-qualified candidates. We welcome applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, disability, or age. All applications will be considered solely on merit.

Ambitious about Autism is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and successful candidates will be subject to an Enhanced DBS check. As part of our Safer Recruitment checks, an online search maybe carried out in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Safeguarding responsibilities of the post as per the job description and personal specification.

Whether the post is exempt from the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendment to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2021. This means that when applying for certain jobs and activities certain spent convictions and cautions are ‘protected', so they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Further information about filtering offences can be found in the DBS Filter Guidance.

We are Ambitious about Autism

Our vision is acceptance and opportunity for every autistic child and young person.

We are the national charity helping autistic children and young people to learn, thrive and achieve in a world where they belong.

We work with autistic children and young people and those who support them to build the evidence of what works, deliver services and solutions, and influence change.

Contact us

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Ambitious about Autism is a registered charity in England and Wales: 1063184 and a registered company: 03375255.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is an exempt charity in England and Wales and a registered company: 08335297.