



The Island Learning Trust

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Forest School Lead

SALARY: KSC
32.5 hours per week
38 weeks per year

1. PURPOSE OF JOB

To lead and deliver high quality Forest School provision that promotes outdoor learning, wellbeing and personal development for all pupils, including those with SEND and additional needs. Alongside this, to provide targeted learning mentor support for individual pupils and nurture groups, helping them overcome barriers to learning, develop positive relationships and thrive emotionally and academically.

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Forest School Lead Responsibilities

- Plan, deliver and evaluate Forest School sessions that promote resilience, independence, teamwork and a love of the outdoors.
- Ensure the Forest School environment is safe, well-maintained and appropriately resourced, conducting risk assessments and daily site checks.
- Adapt activities to meet the needs of SEND pupils and those requiring additional emotional or behavioural support.
- Promote outdoor learning across the school, working with teachers to link Forest School activities to curriculum objectives where appropriate.
- Model and encourage safe use of tools, fire lighting and outdoor equipment in line with Forest School principles and school policies.
- Maintain accurate records of pupil participation, progress and wellbeing, sharing information with staff and parents as required.
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Whole-School Responsibilities

- Manage the behaviour of pupils whilst they are undertaking work.

- Be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety, security and confidentiality reporting all concerns to an appropriate person to ensure pupils' wellbeing.
- Undertake training and other learning activities and attend relevant meetings (within contracted hours) as required to ensure own continuing professional development.
- Follow all safeguarding, child protection, health and safety, and confidentiality procedures, reporting concerns promptly.
- Contribute to the wider aims and ethos of the school, supporting colleagues and participating in whole school initiatives.
- Engage in training, professional development, and relevant meetings within contracted hours.
- Undertake any reasonable task requested by the Head of School.

3. NECESSARY EXPERIENCE

- Good standard of general education (NVQ Level 2 or equivalent) with strong literacy and numeracy skills.
- Forest School Level 3 qualification (or willingness to work towards it).
- Previous experience (1–2 years) working with primary-aged children, including those with SEND or SEMH needs.
- Experience delivering outdoor learning or supporting pupils in an outdoor environment.
- Ability to use basic technology
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to build positive relationships with children, staff and parents.
- Knowledge of procedures for supervising pre-prepared learning activities, providing feedback.
- Ability to apply behaviour management policies and strategies which contribute to a purposeful learning environment.
- Must be able to work calmly under pressure and have the ability to adapt quickly and effectively to changing circumstances/situations.
- Have the ability to relate well to children and adults, understanding their needs and being able to respond accordingly.

4. SCOPE FOR IMPACT

The Forest School Lead plays a key role in supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing, resilience and engagement with learning.

High quality outdoor learning and targeted mentoring can significantly improve behaviour, attendance, confidence and academic progress.

5. JOB CONTEXT

The post holder will work both independently and as part of a wider team, delivering Forest School sessions, mentoring pupils and contributing to plans to ensure the school meets its aims. They will contribute to planning, monitoring, assessment and behaviour management and will work closely with the SENDCo,

teachers and pastoral staff. Strong communication skills are essential for motivating pupils, supporting colleagues and providing feedback to staff and parents. The role requires a commitment to safeguarding, inclusion and the school's values and development priorities.

The Island Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding. The Trust is committed to ensuring the highest levels of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and we expect all our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.