



Riverside Community Special School Forest School Leader Job Description

Main purpose

To plan, deliver, and evaluate high-quality Forest School provision for primary-aged pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Forest School Leader will create a safe, nurturing, and inclusive outdoor learning environment that supports pupils' physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development through child-led, nature-based experiences.

Key Responsibilities

1. Planning and Delivery of Forest School Provision

- Design and deliver a progressive Forest School curriculum tailored to pupils with a wide range of SEND, including autism, SEMH, and complex needs.
- Facilitate child-led learning that encourages exploration, creativity, resilience, and independence.
- Adapt activities to meet individual EHCP targets and learning needs.
- Create a total communication approach within the curriculum and sessions.
- Incorporate seasonal and environmental awareness into sessions.

2. Pupil Support

- Build positive, trusting relationships with pupils to support emotional regulation and wellbeing.
- Use therapeutic and trauma informed approaches to support pupils with regulation, sensory, and communication needs.
- Work closely with class teachers and support staff to ensure continuity of learning and support.
- Share in joint planning with class teachers to ensure best outcomes for children.
- Promote pupil voice, choice, and independence in all sessions.

3. Health, Safety, and Risk Management

- Maintain a safe outdoor learning environment in line with Forest School principles and school policies.
- Carry out and regularly review risk assessments for activities and the site.
- Ensure all safeguarding procedures are followed at all times.
- Maintain appropriate staff-to-pupil ratios and supervise pupils effectively.

4. Site Management and Development

- Develop and maintain the Forest School site, ensuring it is safe, sustainable, and engaging.
- Manage tools, equipment, and resources safely and responsibly.

5. Assessment, Recording, and Reporting

- Observe, assess, and record pupil progress in relation to EHCP outcomes and personal development, in conjunction with class teachers.
- Contribute to reports, reviews, and multi-agency meetings where appropriate.

- Reflect on and evaluate sessions to inform future planning.

6. Training and Collaboration

- Work collaboratively with teaching staff, therapists, and support staff.
- Provide guidance and training to staff supporting Forest School sessions.
- Engage in ongoing professional development related to SEND and outdoor learning.

7. Wider School Contribution

- Support whole-school wellbeing and enrichment initiatives.
- Promote the value of outdoor learning within the school community.
- Engage with parents/carers where appropriate to share pupil progress and experiences.

This job description should be read in conjunction with the role profile attached. Please note that this list of duties is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the Forest School Leader will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role, as directed by the headteacher.