



Forest School Leader Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and training	<p>Level 3 Forest School Leader qualification (or equivalent).</p> <p>Relevant qualification in education, childcare, or outdoor learning.</p> <p>HLTA qualification, or equivalent qualification or experience</p>	<p>Up-to-date First Aid certification (minimum 12-hour outdoor first aid preferred).</p> <p>Safeguarding training</p> <p>Training in therapeutic approaches (e.g. trauma-informed practice, Team Teach, Thrive).</p> <p>Experience working with EHCPs and multi-agency teams.</p>
Experience	<p>Experience working with primary-aged children.</p> <p>Experience supporting children with SEND, including autism and/or SEMH needs.</p> <p>Experience planning and delivering outdoor learning or Forest School sessions.</p> <p>Experience managing behaviour positively and effectively.</p>	<p>Experience working in a special school setting.</p>
Skills and knowledge	<p>Strong understanding of Forest School ethos and child-led learning principles.</p> <p>Knowledge of SEND, including strategies to support communication, sensory needs, and emotional regulation.</p> <p>Ability to adapt teaching approaches to meet diverse needs.</p> <p>Strong risk assessment and health & safety awareness.</p> <p>Excellent communication and teamwork skills.</p> <p>Ability to remain calm, patient, and flexible in a dynamic environment.</p>	

Personal qualities	<p>Passionate about outdoor learning and working with children with additional needs.</p> <p>Empathetic, nurturing, and resilient.</p> <p>Creative and reflective practitioner.</p> <p>Strong organisational skills and initiative.</p> <p>Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.</p>	
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