**JOB TITLE:**Classroom Assistant – Special Educational Needs

**REPORTS TO:**The Headmaster, through the class teacher

**WORKING HOURS:** 22.5 p/w to be discussed with the Headmaster and Class teacher

**PAY:** £10.0126 p/h

**JOB PURPOSE**

Under the direction of the class teacher, assist with the educational support and the care of a pupil with special educational needs who is in the teacher’s care in or outside the classroom.

**MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The precise duties of the post will be determined by the Headmaster and school.

**SPECIAL CLASSROOM SUPPORT**

* Assist the teacher with the support and care of pupil with special educational needs e.g. enable access to the curriculum
* Develop an understanding of the specific needs of the pupil to be supported.
* Assist with authorised programmes (e.g. Education Plan), participate in the evaluation of the support and encourage pupil participation in such programmes.
* Contribute to the inclusion of the pupil in mainstream schools under the directions of the class teacher.
* Assist with operational difficulties pertaining to pupil needs.
* Support in implementing behavioural management programmes as directed.
* Assist pupil in moving around school.

**GENERAL CLASSROOM SUPPORT**

* Assist pupil(s) learn as effectively as possible both in group situations and on their own by assisting with the management of the learning environment through:

- clarifying and explaining instruction;

- ensuring the pupil is able to use equipment and materials provided;

- assisting in motivating and encouraging the pupil as required;

- assisting in areas requiring reinforcement or development;

- promoting the independence of pupils to enhance learning;

- helping pupil stay on work set;

- encouraging independence.

* Be aware of school policies, procedures and of confidential issues linked to home/pupil/teacher/school work and to keep confidences appropriately.
* Establish a supportive relationship with the pupils concerned.
* Prepare and produce appropriate resources to support the pupil
* Supervise groups of pupils, or individual pupils on specified activities including talking and listening, using ICT, extra-curricular activities, and other duties, as directed by the class teacher.
* Under the direction of the teacher, and following an appropriate risk assessment, assist with off-site activities.
* Provide continuity of adult care of e.g. supervising play and cloakrooms including hand washing, toileting etc.
* Ensure as far as possible a safe environment for pupils.
* Report to the class teacher any signs or symptoms displayed which may suggest that a pupil requires expert or immediate attention.

**ADMINISTRATION**

* Assist with classroom administration.
* Assist the class teacher and/or other professionals with the implementation of the system for recording the pupil’s progress.
* Contribute to the maintenance of pupil progress records.
* Provide regular feedback about the pupil to the teacher.
* Duplicate written materials, assist with production of charts and displays, catalogue and process books and resources.

**OTHER DUTIES**

* Attend relevant in-service training.
* Assist work placement students with practical tasks.
* Such other duties as may be assigned by the Headmaster within the level of the post.

This job description will be subject to review in light of changing circumstances and is not intended to be rigid and inflexible but should be regarded as providing guidelines within which the individual works. Other duties of a similar nature and appropriate to the grade may be assigned from time to time.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), the post-holder is expected to promote good relations, equality of opportunity and pay due regard for equality legislation at all times.

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| **SECTION 1 - ESSENTIAL CRITERIA** |

The following are **essential** criteria which will initially be measured at the shortlisting stage and which **may also be further explored during the interview/selection stage**.  You should therefore make it clear on your application form how, and to what extent you meet these criteria. Failure to do so may result in you not being shortlisted.

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| **Factor** | **Essential Criteria** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Qualifications/ Professional Membership** | Hold a minimum of a Level 2 childcare qualification as approved by EA (A list of approved qualifications is available to download from the EA website www.eani.org.uk) | Shortlisting by Application Form |
| **Experience** | Have a minimum of six months’ experience of working with a child/children in a formal learning environment e.g. school, nursery or playgroup  Experience of children with an ASD profile | Shortlisting by Application Form |
| **Skills / Abilities** | Evidence of a working knowledge of information technology systems including:   * Microsoft Word and Outlook, and/or * C2K schools IT systems | Shortlisting by Application Form |

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| **SECTION 2 - ESSENTIAL CRITERIA** |

The following are **additional** **essential** criteria which will be measured during the interview/selection stage.

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| **Factor** | **Essential Criteria** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Knowledge** | Demonstrable knowledge of the following:   * The requirements of a Classroom Assistant (special educational needs) specifically ASD * Child development issues * Health and safety requirements, relevant to the role | Interview |
| **Skills / Abilities** | Evidence of an ability to work flexibly and creatively to help ensure a child-centred learning experience  Highly effective interpersonal and communication skills  Proven team working and collaborative skills  Evidence of effective planning and organising skills to ensure work is completed on time to the required standard | Interview |
| **Values Orientation** | Evidence of how your experience and approach to work reflect the school’s values/ethos. You will find information about the school’s values/ethos on our school website | Interview |

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| **SECTION 3 - DESIRABLE CRITERIA** |

Some or all of the desirable criteria may be applied by the Selection Panel in order to determine a manageable pool of candidates. Desirable criteria will be applied in the order listed. You should make it clear on your application form how, and to what extent you meet the desirable criteria, as failure to do so may result in you not being shortlisted.

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| **Factor** | **Desirable Criteria** | **Method of Assessment** |
| **Qualifications / Experience** | Have a minimum of one years’ experience of working with a child/children with special educational needs  Have a minimum of six months’ experience working as a Classroom Assistant with a child/children with special educational needs | Shortlisting by Application Form |