

Children, Young People and Learners

**Teaching Assistant (Special School) –
Level 2**

Role Profile and Person Specification

CROYDON COUNCIL

Role Profile

Job Title:	Teaching Assistant (Special School) – Level 2
Department:	Children, Young People and Learners
Division:	Education
Grade Range:	Grade 5 – Scp 23 - 25
Hours:	8.30am-3.30pm (8.30am to 4.40pm on Wednesdays)
Location:	Red Gates School
Reports to:	Head of Department
Responsible for:	Supporting teaching & learning through teacher direction
Role Purpose and Role Dimensions:	<p>To work under the instruction/guidance of teaching/senior staff to undertake work/care/support programmes, to enable access to learning for pupils and to assist the teacher in the management of pupils and the classroom. Work may be carried out in the classroom or outside the main teaching area.</p> <p>Duties and responsibilities of the post may change over time as requirements and circumstances change. The person in the post may also be required to carry out such other duties as may be necessary from time to time.</p>
Commitment to Diversity:	As a member of the School Team to take individual and collective professional responsibility for championing the council's diversity agenda and proactively implementing initiatives which secure equality of access and outcomes. Also to commit to continually developing personal understanding of diversity.
Key External Contacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parents/carers▪ Medical, therapy and other multi-agency services
Key Internal Contacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ More experienced teaching assistants▪ Class teachers▪ Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher
Financial Dimensions:	
Key Areas for Decision Making:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ When to share / report concerns regarding pupil's physical or emotional needs▪ Monitoring pupil progress and raise concerns regarding achievement against agreed targets
Other Considerations:	Whilst there are some Statemented pupils in main stream schools, the environment in a special school is far more intense and continuously presents a variety of challenging situations for staff at all levels

Key Accountabilities and Result Areas:

Support for Pupils

Key Elements:

This will involve:

Core Duties

Carrying out the core duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Supervising and providing particular support for pupils with special needs, ensuring their safety and access to learning activities.
- Setting challenging and demanding expectations and promoting self-esteem and independence.
- Providing feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievement under guidance of the teacher.

Additional Duties

Carrying out the additional duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Understanding and supporting the physical needs of pupils. Depending on the specialism of the school this may include:- assisting individual pupils with mobility and independence training or feeding and drinking, in liaison with specialist advice & guidance provided by Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of Individual Education/Behaviour Plans and Personal Care programmes.
- Establishing constructive relationships with pupils and interacting with them according to individual needs.
- Encouraging pupils to interact with others and engaging in activities led by the teacher.

Support for the Teacher

This will involve:

Core Duties

Carry out the core duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Using strategies, in liaison with the teacher, to support pupils to achieve learning goals.
- Assisting with the planning of learning activities.
- Monitoring pupils' responses to learning activities and accurately recording achievement/progress as directed.
- Providing detailed and regular feedback to teachers on pupils' achievement, progress, problems etc.
- Promoting good pupil behaviour, dealing promptly with conflict and incidents in line with established policy and encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Additional Duties

Carry out the additional duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Creating and maintaining a purposeful, orderly and supportive environment, in accordance with lesson plans and assisting with the display of pupils' work.
- Establishing constructive relationships with parents/carers.
- Administering routine tests and invigilating exams and undertaking routine marking of pupils' work.
- Providing clerical/administrative support, e.g. photocopying, typing, filing, money, administer coursework etc.
- Depending on the specialism of the school the postholder may provide individual support such as: annotation of pupil's work; interpret for pupils with speech difficulties; presentation of pupil's work where there are fine motor skills difficulties.
- Taking small groups of pupils for varying types of activity, under the direction of the teacher.

Key Accountabilities and Result Areas:

Support for the Curriculum

Key Elements:

This will involve:

Core Duties

Carry out the core duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Undertaking structured and agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, adjusting activities according to pupil responses.
- Undertaking programmes linked to local and national learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, KS3, early years recording achievement and progress and feeding back to the teacher.
- Supporting the use of ICT in learning activities and developing pupils' competence and independence in its use.

Additional Duties

Carry out the additional duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Preparing, maintaining and using equipment/resources required to meet the lesson plans/relevant learning activity and assisting pupils in their use.
- Detailed awareness of the pupil's medical conditions and effect that these can have on their learning, using this knowledge to support the pupil and adapt materials and resources for use in class.
- Understanding strategies for communicating with pupils with a range of needs, signing with individual pupils as required and undertaking training where necessary.
- Following whole-school systems for Makaton signing and other relevant initiatives.
- Supporting the pupil with inclusion links / visits to other schools.

Support for the School

This will involve:

Core Duties

Carry out the core duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Participating in training and other learning activities and performance development as required.

Additional Duties

Carry out the additional duties of Teaching Assistant Special Schools level 1 and in addition:-

- Accompanying teaching staff and pupils on visits, trips and out-of-school activities as required and taking responsibility for a group under the supervision of the teacher.
- Liaising regularly with medical and therapy departments regarding needs of the pupil, attending meetings where relevant.
- Communicating regularly with parents via home / school communication books and telephone conversations where necessary.
- Attending Annual Review for pupils in their class / tutor groups and giving feedback.

Green Statement

This will involve:

- Seeking opportunities for contributing to sustainable development of the borough, in accordance with the Council's Green Commitment. In particular, demonstrating good environmental practice (such as energy efficiency, use of sustainable materials, sustainable transport, recycling and waste reduction) in management of the service provision.

Data Protection

This will involve:

- Being aware of the Council's responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1984 for the security, accuracy and relevance of personal data held on such systems and ensure that all administrative and financial processes comply with this.
- Maintaining client records and archive systems, in accordance with departmental procedure, policy and statutory requirements.

Key Accountabilities and Result Areas:

Confidentiality

Key Elements:

This will involve:

- Being expected to treat all information acquired through your employment, both formally and informally, in strict confidence. There are strict rules and protocols defining employees' access to and use of the council's databases. Any breach of these rules and protocols will be regarded as subject to disciplinary investigation. There are internal procedures in place for employees to raise matters of concern regarding such issues as bad practice or mismanagement.

Equalities

- The Council has a strong commitment to achieving equality of opportunity in its services to the community and in the employment of people. It expects all employees to understand, comply with and to promote its policies in their own work, to undertake any appropriate training and to challenge racism, prejudice and discrimination.

Customer Care

This will involve:

- Ability to demonstrate a commitment to the Council's Customer Care Policy.

Health and Safety

- Every employee is responsible for their own Health & Safety, as well as that of colleagues, service users and the public. Employees should co-operate with management, follow established systems of work, use protective equipment where necessary and report defectives and hazards to management.

To contribute as an effective and collaborative member of the School Team

This will involve:

- Participating in training to be able to demonstrate competence.
- Participating in first aid training as required.
- Participating in the ongoing development, implementation and monitoring of the service plans.
- Championing the professional integrity of the School Service
- Supporting Customer Focus, Best Value and electronic management of processes.
- Actively sharing feedback on School policies and interventions

Person Specification

Job Title:

Teaching Assistants – (Special School) – Level 2

Essential knowledge:

- At least NVQ 2 for Teaching Assistants or equivalent qualifications or experience.
- Training in the relevant learning strategies e.g. literacy.
- First aid training/training as appropriate.
- Awareness of Child Protection procedures, Health & Safety regulations and other relevant policies.
- Knowledge of national/foundation stage curriculum and other basic learning programmes/strategies.
- Sound understanding of child development and learning and National Curriculum requirements.

Essential skills and abilities:

- Good numeracy/literacy skills.
- Good knowledge of using specialist ICT resources / programmes to ensure pupil access
- Use of other equipment technology – video, photocopier.
- Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek learning opportunities.
- Ability to relate well to children and adults.
- Work constructively as part of a team, understanding classroom roles and responsibilities and your own position within these.
- Be able to react constructively to challenging situations involving the care and management of individual children.

Essential experience:

- Working with or caring for children and/or young people of relevant age.

Special conditions:

- Enhanced CRB Check
- Above average exposure to pupils with traumatic, degenerative, terminal conditions, or who have difficult and demanding behavioural problems, will require the postholder to cope with above average levels of emotional stress.
- Close contact with pupils will result in some exposure to bodily fluids.
- Will require Hepatitis B vaccination.
- Particularly in schools that have pupils with behavioural difficulties, postholder can be at risk of physical injury and needs to remain vigilant and observe risk assessment protocols.