

JOB DESCRIPTION: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS	Occupational Therapist Lead Teacher
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Senior Leadership team (Principal and Deputy principal)
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	Principal Board of Governors

CLIENT GROUP

The Link Primary School provides specialist teaching and therapy for up to 51 children aged 4 to 11 years whose primary need is Speech, Language and Communication. Many pupils are also on the autistic spectrum and have high level sensory needs.

The Link Primary provides an outstanding education for pupils in terms of effective strategies based on strong practitioner research as well as the holistic curriculum offer that promotes strong personal and social education and cognitive development.

JOB PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

- To provide clinically effective, person centred and evidence based occupational therapy assessment and intervention to children at the Link Primary.
- To provide support and training to all education staff with regard to occupational therapy interventions.

FUNCTIONAL LINKS:

The Occupational Therapist will be expected to work in collaboration with allied professionals and will need to maintain links with a variety of bodies. These will include:

1. Pupils and their parents/carers and advocates
2. School staff
3. Other professionals working with pupils
4. Community Services
5. Relevant Primary Care Trusts

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

CLINICAL

- To provide an Occupational Therapy service to the school, focusing on sensory motor development and functional skills.

- To work as part of the therapy team, assessing pupils OT needs in regards to sensory, physical and self-care using both standardised and non-standardised assessments.
- To use clinical reasoning skills, to analyse and interpret assessment results in order to set appropriate therapy goals and outcome measures.
- To monitor, evaluate and modify intervention in order to measure progress and ensure effectiveness of intervention.
- To provide individual or small group therapy, as required through EHCP allocation and provision maps.
- To liaise with all team members and family/ carers in order to provide a co-ordinated approach and ensure occupational therapy treatment is integrated into children's targets that support learning and skills for daily living. This could include home visits and monitoring phone calls.
- To contribute to and / or provide training to both school staff and parents.
- To work closely with the class team, including the speech and language therapists, to ensure provision is child centred and the environment enables them to realize their potential and maximise their academic, social, physical and emotional development.
- To develop and monitor OT programmes implemented by the Occupational Therapy assistant and the class team.
- To support, advise and supervise the OT assistant.
- To assess for, advise and order specialist equipment being aware of financial implications and restrictions in liaison with reporting relationships.
- To monitor new developments in specialised equipment and communicate with the Principal, school team and manufacturers.
- To instruct those working with children how to correctly use equipment and set guidelines for its use.
- To attend school –arranged meetings for children, including IEP meetings, EHCP meetings and Parents evenings.
- To use IT and other alternative methods of communication to overcome barriers to communication e.g. simple clear language, Makaton, symbols and photographs.
- To prepare for and attend tribunals for children when called by tribunal officers where Occupational Therapy needs are highlighted as significant in the reporting paperwork.

ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

- To manage a clinical caseload and time effectively, prioritising work as required.
- To complete and maintain accurate treatment records in accordance with the BAOT Standards of Practise.

- To write professional reports to be shared at review meetings, and to attend review meetings where appropriate.
- To address issues of confidentiality, consent and sharing information throughout assessment and intervention according to GDPR regulations.
- To utilise standard Academy and School documentation as required.
- To be responsible for equipment used in carrying out duties, including competence to use equipment and to ensure the safe use of equipment by others through teaching, training and supervision of practice.
- To be responsible for accessing regular clinical supervision and ensuring supervision sessions are recorded.

PROFESSIONAL

- To be accountable for own professional action and recognise own professional boundaries, seeking advice where appropriate.
- To be aware of the sensitivity required to work closely, effectively and in a professional manner with children, parents/ carers and other professionals.
- To respect the confidentiality, individuality, values and cultural and religious diversity of pupils.
- To undertake school induction programmes and on-going training, including child protection and safeguarding, health and safety and risk management training.
- To participate in staff meetings, department meetings and liaison meetings with other professionals.
- To promote awareness of the role of occupational therapy within the school and home community.
- To maintain personal development through use of off- site and in-house training, contact and involvement with relevant special interest groups, attendance of in-service training, and review of literature as required.
- To maintain own clinical professional development (CPD) by keeping abreast of new developments within the profession and ensure that practice is based on best available evidence.
- To review and reflect on own practice and performance through effective use of professional and operational supervision and appraisal measures.
- To work within professional standards as stipulated in the Royal Collage of Occupational Therapy and its Code of Conduct.

GENERAL

- To be aware and comply with the Academy and School Health and Safety Policy and Procedures and implement any policies that may be required to improve the safety of the work area, including the prompt recording and reporting of accidents and ensuring that equipment used is safe.
- To comply with and promote the Academy and School Equality and Diversity Policy.

- To be aware of and comply with all other Academy and School policies and procedures.
- To undertake such other duties of a similar nature from time to time as may be required by the Principal.

NOTES

- A number of children have complex emotional or mental health needs and may demonstrate challenging behaviour. The post holder is expected to respond to challenging behaviour in accordance with Academy and School policy and procedure to minimise potential risk.

This is not an exhaustive list of duties and responsibilities and the post holder may be required to undertake other duties that fall within the grade of the job, in discussion with the manager.

This content of the job description will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing service requirements and any such changes will be discussed with the post holder.