



Utopia Learning Support Assistant

Job Purpose: Learning Support Assistant
Responsible to: Programmes Manager
Salary: £16,500.00 - £18,500.00
Location: Birkenhead, Wirral
Contract type: Full Time
Directed Hours: Mon-Fri (Term time only)

Utopia Profile

Utopia is a Wirral based education provider currently in the process of becoming an independent special school for boys and girls aged 13-16 with social, emotional and mental health needs, autism and those experiencing emotionally based school avoidance. We are a small setting for up to 20 learners, providing intensive and personalised support for those with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who benefit from a nurturing environment.

Founded in 2014 by directors with a wealth of experience in engaging young people with additional needs, the Utopia model acknowledged that accelerated academic progress could be made by adopting a different approach. For the past 9 years Utopia has supported hundreds of young people with additional needs, gaining outcomes and supporting progression through Alternative Provision. We are now embarking upon an exciting new journey as an independent special school, supporting Wirral's SEND young people. Our mission to provide Accessible, Approachable and Aspirational support in a way that puts learners at the heart of the decision-making process has created a culture and environment of collaboration, with learners and parents alike. It is our responsibility to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment that learners can access with confidence. Our ability to build trusting and meaningful relationships enables us to make long-lasting, positive change that helps young people to realise their potential and creates a sense of belonging for all learners who are part of our community.

Learners enrolled on Utopia Programmes complete qualifications including, BTEC's in Sport, Media, Child Care, Business and Teamwork & Personal Skills, along side other short courses such as; BTEC Home Cooking, Sports Leader Award and First Aid qualifications. Designed to engender a sense of achievement and to raise self-esteem the curriculum model also addresses key skills gaps in young people's education by providing 1:1/small group English and Maths intervention. This enables young people to develop confidence in a smaller setting and work towards GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications. This pioneering strategy has proved massively successful in supporting learners to overcome previous barriers to education and as we move towards independent school status, we are looking to grow our dedicated team of teachers and support staff.

The successful candidate will be an enthusiastic, passionate and resilient professional, with experience of working with young people who have a wide range of complex special educational needs. They will primarily support young people in accessing all aspects of the curriculum, make a significant contribution to the organisations expansion and be committed to our mission statement; *'To be relentless in the pursuit of educational equality'*.

Utopia is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare. All appointments are subject to an enhanced check with the Disclosure Barring Service. The company follows the safer recruiting guidance, and references will be requested prior to interview. For more information please visit our website www.utopiaproject.org.uk.

Visits to the centre are warmly welcomed. To arrange a visit or request an application form please contact Alice McMullen on 0151-647-7587 or 07719084493.

Responsibilities

Professional Duties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support Subject Leaders in the delivery of the curriculum to small groups of young people. • To support all students in learning and raise the attainment of all young people. • To assist in the delivery of high quality, engaging sessions and activities that challenge learners with a wide spectrum of needs. • To be flexible in approach and engage learners in a variety of settings that may include community venues or remotely. • To provide 1:1 emotional wellbeing support as part of our wider service offer • To communicate effectively with young people, parents/carers and referral agency representatives (schools). • To ensure that all young people are safe and to follow Utopia Projects child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures at all times. • Work within the framework of the Utopia Project policies and procedures. 	
Additional Responsibilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make a positive contribution as a member of the Utopia team. • To actively promote the core values, standards and expectations that underpin the Utopia ethos. • Share good practice with and learn from colleagues within the Utopia team. • To attend Utopia meetings and contribute to company development plans (when required). • To support Utopia and present it in the best possible light. • To be committed to continuing professional development. • To adhere to Utopia policies and procedures. • To make safeguarding of young people a priority • To undertake other such duties as may be reasonably required. 	
Utopia Project will provide:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for professional development. • Mentoring and support. • The opportunity to make a genuine difference to the lives of disengaged young people on the Wirral. 	

Please note that the duties stated above may be varied to meet the changing needs and demands of the company as it evolves. This will be at the discretion of the Head of Centre in consultation with you.

Prepared by & date	Chris Black, Director - 18th July 2023
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