



Job Description: School Therapist/Counsellor - Part-Time

Professionally responsible to: The Headteacher

Managerially accountable to: The Headteacher

The aim of this role is to promote positive emotional health and wellbeing in the students, and ultimately to enable them to bring about changes for themselves. In doing so, the young people will develop positive self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities and aspirations. At the current time when resources beyond school are so overstretched, we are looking to appoint someone who will be able to contribute to the wellbeing and welfare of our community in such a way as enabling us to keep therapeutic interventions within school whenever possible.

The role of the postholder will be to support a 3-day (days to be agreed) Therapeutic & Counselling Service at Newingate School.

The successful candidate will be required to engage with, and offer a professional and confidential service to, students aged 11 to 18 years old, as well as to school Staff.

Hours: This is a part-time post – FTE of 3 days per week

Availability on Wednesdays is essential for team meetings and supervision sessions.

The majority of the work will be conducted during agreed workdays/hours, including term time; however, if necessary and with agreement the post holder may well be required to conduct/complete work outside of this time eg when families may be more available for support/guidance. Such occasions would be the exception rather than the norm and would only be arranged in agreement with the SLT and the post holder.

Attendance at the start of year and in year inset days and staff meetings is an expectation in order to ensure the better fulfilment of the role.

The postholder will be someone who can think creatively, uses their initiative, can work collaboratively in a team of school staff, and - most importantly - has the best interest of the students at the heart of their work.

Role Requirements:

- The ability to engage with young people and staff who face a variety of personal challenges
- A background in social work, psychotherapy and counselling, or health and social care preferred (other relevant backgrounds may also be considered)
- The ability to offer long-term as well as short-term therapeutic interventions (e.g. solution-focussed therapy; CBT-based interventions, etc)
- Other qualifications in trauma informed work would be very beneficial and welcomed

- Must be committed to offering our young people a stable and containing environment
- Experience of effectively managing your own diary and case load
- The ability to work in a multi-disciplinary context
- The ability and experience in liaising with other professionals
- The ability to apply theory to practice
- Must be literate to collate detailed case reports
- Good listener, approachable, relatable
- Up to date safeguarding training and a willingness to undertake training
- An understanding of the school environment and a willingness to work with the senior leadership team for the better care of both students and staff
- Delivering group sessions for students as well as for staff.

The successful candidate can expect:

- Regular meetings with Headteacher and/or Student Support Manager
- Be an active member of the Senior Leadership Team
- To be an active member of the school staff team and community
- The opportunity to be part of, and grow with, a supportive professional environment
- Commitment to support your career development through experience
- School holidays

Qualifications:

- The applicant is required to hold a qualification in psychotherapy and /or counselling which is recognised by the BACP/BABCP/BPS/UKCP.
- A minimum of two years post qualifying experience is essential.
- Enhanced DBS checks.

Working Relationships

The therapist/counsellor has to work closely with other members of the school and is required to fully co-operate with them. In addition to the regular peer supervision sessions, the therapist/counsellor is expected to maintain their own accredited professional supervision outside of School provision.

Training

The school expects that the therapist/counsellor will undertake relevant training as and when necessary in order to keep professionally updated. Study days will be incorporated within the schedule and such days/costs must be approved in advance by the Headteacher.

Safeguarding

The postholder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding Policy at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the postholder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the school s/he must report any concerns to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of the Designated Safeguarding team.