



Play Leader

Candidate Application Pack

Contents

Page

Welcome from the Headteacher	3
About the School	4
Welcome from our Chief Executive Officer	5
About the Beyond Schools Trust	6
Job Description	7-9
Person Specification	10
Terms & Conditions	11
Benefits	12-13
The Recruitment Process	14-15
Living & working in Medway	16
Advert	17
Our location	18



Message from Mel Ireland-Hubbert, Headteacher

As Headteacher here at Phoenix Primary School, I would like to extend to you the warmest of welcomes and thank you for your interest you have shown in the role of **Play Leader** here at Phoenix Primary School.

Phoenix Primary School is a large, vibrant, and friendly school. We are a proud accredited enhanced VbE, Centre of Excellence and Character Education setting. With VbE at the heart of our curriculum we are developing ethical vocabulary and ethical intelligence, which could be argued is the most important intelligence for the sustainability of our world, enabling Phoenix children to be educated citizens, helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

Step into Phoenix Primary School and you will feel a haven of warmth and a true sense of community, halls filled with children enjoying their day, staff with a profound sense of humour, a leadership team that places importance on family and professional trust. A team that faces the next steps of each journey with resilience, kindness and compassion. A team that supports the children and their families through so much more than their educational journey.

I hope you find this candidate pack informative. If you would like to arrange a visit to see our wonderful school in action, please don't hesitate to contact us here at the school, using the contact details in this pack.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Mel Ireland-Hubbert
Headteacher



About Phoenix Primary School

Phoenix Primary School is nestled in central Chatham.

Chatham is part of the unitary authority of Medway which encapsulates the towns of Chatham, Gillingham, Strood, Rainham and historic Rochester. We are privileged to be surrounded by history and culture from the castle and cathedral at Rochester and the historic dockyard where Nelson's HMS Victory was built, to the Theatres in Chatham and the many state-of-the-art sporting facilities across the towns. We have access to a rich and diverse heritage steeped in tradition and more modern customs and celebrations.

From 2021 Phoenix has become an all-through Primary school who are part of the Beyond Schools Trust. The Beyond Schools Trust is a family of ten schools, serving the educational needs of nearly 7,000 children and young people aged 3 to 19. Within our Trust we collaborate and support each other in many ways for the benefit of the children in our care.

Our team at Phoenix work hard to ensure that each child enjoys their time at our school and leaves ready to start a new chapter in their lives. While attending our school each child will be encouraged to be independent, to persevere, be honest and caring, whilst feeling safe and valued.

At Phoenix we promote an educational philosophy based on valuing self, others and the environment through the consideration of an ethical values vocabulary.

Values are principles that guide behaviour and choices. At Phoenix, adults model values and give time for reflective practices. We believe that this empowers individuals to be effective learners and good citizens. The Values that we teach help pupils develop their character, to know that individual differences should be valued, to be resilient, reflective, to have empathy and respect for one another.

In June, Ofsted visited Phoenix. We are delighted to share Ofsted's opinion on what it is like to attend Phoenix.

Pupils at the school are safe, happy and an active part of their community. The pupils at the school embody the school's philosophy of 'valuing self, others and the environment'. Parents support the school's effective work in securing pupils' mental and physical well-being.

There are high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour. Pupils have warm and nurturing relationships with staff. They show good manners and consideration to adults and peers alike. When pupils become upset or do not behave as they should, they know there is support available. They are also aware of the consequences of any poor behaviour. They are also aware that they get the chance to repair relationships and that everyone is treated fairly. Pupils are enthusiastic about learning, and interactions in class and around the school are positive and caring. They value their learning and the opportunities the school provides. Pupils are proud of their school and what they are achieving.



Welcome from our Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to Beyond Schools Trust

We are an ambitious organisation of 10 schools, serving the educational needs of nearly 7,000 children and young people aged 3 to 19.

Our academies are based in a tight geographical area drawing students and employees from Kent and Medway in the South East of England.

We employ around 900 people in a range of roles designed to support children to be successful when they leave the Trust. We also rely on the time and commitment of over 100 volunteer Trustees and Governors, who share our ambitions for our schools and our students. These are expressed in our vision, our mission, and our values.

We have a strong belief in the value of lifelong learning and in our strategic plan, we set out to develop a Trust that fully prepares children so they have the skills, knowledge, values and character to be successful in the world beyond our doors. We also believe that our greatest asset as an organisation, is our people, and we are privileged to be involved with such courageous, committed and child-centred employees. Everything we do is aimed at providing our staff with the resources and leadership to achieve their best. We believe that a supported and motivated staff create the best environment and the best opportunities for students to achieve their full potential.

Welcome to Beyond.

Andrew Minchin
Chief Executive Officer



About the Beyond Schools Trust

Our vision is simple:

To be the most respected family of schools - trusted to provide the highest quality of educational experiences in our communities.

We believe that by working together, rather than in isolation, we can accelerate school improvement and embed our vision in our academies. In working and collaborating towards our common strategic objectives, we can create more opportunities for lifelong success for our students.

The fundamental philosophy behind the Beyond Schools Trust's vision and strategic plan is all about thinking beyond the present day; looking at what is right for our students and staff both now and in the longer term.

Put simply we strive to:

- Develop and retain the best employees that know how to provide the best educational experience
- Support, motivate and reward our employees to go above and beyond for our students
- Be responsive to our students' and employees' needs so they are prepared for a rapidly changing world.

Our Values

Everyone in our Trust has a part to play in bringing the ethos and culture of our values alive. We are committed to ensuring everyone knows why we should value each other and how we should value each other, so we can create a community where we all aspire to succeed. Our values are not the static states of play but things we are always striving to develop and uphold as part of our culture.



Our Mission

To provide opportunities for everybody to be the best they can be.

We want every one of our students, teachers, or Governors to be the best that can be.
We will work tirelessly to support them to reach their potential.



Beyond Schools Trust, Fort Pitt Grammar School, Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent ME4 6TJ



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Job Description – Play Leader

Reporting to: Play Coordinator
Salary: Trust Salary Scale Point 3
Location: Phoenix Primary School, Glencoe Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5QD

Job Purpose

Working as a member of the play team, you will ensure that all our children have meaningful lunchtime play every day. You will work as a member of the play team to create a safe and stimulating outdoor environment providing social, active and creative play experiences for all. The play team is also responsible for ensuring that all our children have a pleasant eating experience at lunch time, whilst maximising the time they can spend outside playing. You will support all our children as they visit the dining hall.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Work as part of the play team to cover all lunchtime tasks daily. This will include sessions outside and also sessions in the dining hall.
- Work with the play coordinator to ensure all children have access to exciting play opportunities every lunch time.
- Facilitate play opportunities and act as an ambassador for play.
- Work with the site manager, play coordinator, and play leaders to ensure that all our children have a safe site for play.
- Coordinate and communicate between play zones and dining hall to ensure all children visit the dining hall and eat their lunch.
- Assess play areas for risks daily and communicating/implementing any changes required.
- Assist with putting out and packing away of play equipment/kit.
- Record and report incidents of note that occur during lunchtime – e.g. site issues, behaviour, first aid.
- Assess and deliver first aid to pupils (if trained). Assist with first aid reporting.
- Coordinate and communicate with the play coordinator, play colleagues and the catering team to ensure that all children visit the dining hall in a scheduled manner, to minimise queuing and maximise play time outside.
- Assist children at lunch, eg with queuing, getting seated, opening packets, spillages, disputes, clearing plates / cutlery and encouraging good eating and social skills.
- Clear and clean the hall during service (eg spillages, assisting with waste food, trays and cutlery).
- Clean, pack down and store all dining hall furniture at the end of lunch. Sweep the floor ready for use in the afternoon.
- Offer care, support and advice for children during lunchtime.
- Contribute ideas and suggestions to improve the team practices and performance.
- Promote and safeguard the safety and welfare of children in accordance with school child protection and behaviour management policies.
- Support and uphold the school's values system, our four school rules and reward pupils with verbal praise for positive attitudes and behaviours.
- Attend periodic team meetings and/or training for professional development.
- Assist with training new team members.



Job Context

The post holder will work under the general direction of the play coordinator. The play coordinator is directed by the headteacher/governing body who will take the lead on the strategic direction of the school, setting its philosophy and its vision. The post holder will have an important role in working directly with our children; working alongside the play coordinator and other play team members to deliver a programme of activities that is appropriate to the age and needs for the children in their care.

Supervision and Work Planning

The play team member will not be required to supervise staff within the setting but will need to work with the play coordinator on planning activities for the children. It will be incumbent on the Play team to supervise children at all times. Please note: this supervision may be at some distance depending on the school's play policy (methods of supervision could include direct, remote and roaming).

Problems and Decisions

The play team member will be required to resolve day to day issues of a practical or routine nature amongst the children, but issues of an operational or organisational nature should be referred to the play coordinator.

Staff Development

- To participate in appropriate and targeted In-Service Training and attend meetings where possible
- Engage in our **Professional Growth Model**—a continuous development approach that replaces traditional appraisals with regular, structured feedback and support.
- Benefit from **ongoing professional development**, clear career progression pathways, and a culture that values collaboration and innovation.
- Be part of a **high-performing, empowered workforce** focused on improving outcomes for all pupils through shared learning and growth.

Other Specific Duties

- To undertake any other duty as requested by the Head Teacher if not mentioned in the above
- To play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its distinctive aim and ethos and to encourage staff and students to follow this example
- To comply with the School's Health and Safety policy and undertake risk assessments as appropriate
- To adhere to the School's Dress Code – smart/professional
- To ensure confidentiality and comply with Data Protection Regulations
- To comply with Trust policies and procedures

Generic duties relevant to all members of staff

It is expected that all staff work collaboratively as members of the Trust to share good practice, resources, and ideas and realise the Trust's visions and aims. All staff should act with professional integrity at all times, following the "Code of Conduct".



Equality and Inclusion

The Trust is dedicated to creating an environment free of bullying, harassment, victimization, and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of ALL staff are recognised and valued. It is therefore the responsibility of staff to conduct themselves to help the Trust provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination. All staff, as well as the Trust, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation, and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against colleagues/staff, pupils, contractors, stakeholders and members of the public.

Safeguarding

Beyond Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and all staff must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations put in place. All staff are to have due regard for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection procedures as set out by Beyond Schools Trust. Any safeguarding or child protection issues must be acted upon immediately by informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the site where you are located.

ICT

All staff will be expected to utilise ICT and to improve communication and reduce paper use where possible. Security procedures must be followed when using ICT systems and particular care and attention should be taken with any communications that may result in a breach of GDPR.

All staff are expected to follow (and ensure students follow) the procedures as laid out in the Trust's Acceptable Use Policy. Staff are also expected to ensure that they follow Trust policies with regard to professional conduct when using ICT systems or Trust ICT equipment.

Health and Safety

Employees are required to work in compliance with the Trust's Health & Safety Policies and under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (as amended), ensuring the safety of all parties they come into contact with, such as members of the public, in premises or sites controlled by the Trust.

In order to ensure compliance, procedures should be observed at all times under the provision of safe systems of work through safe and health environments, including information, training, and supervision necessary to accomplish those goals.

Teaching and Learning

This is our core business and therefore it is an absolute priority. Although this role is not a direct teaching role, you are expected to support all teaching staff, irrespective of seniority, to ensure they concentrate on the core business. This may mean undertaking tasks outside of your area of responsibility where required.

This job description forms part of the contract of employment of the person appointed to the post. The duties, responsibilities and accountabilities highlighted in this job description are indicative and may vary over time at the discretion of the Trust and the the Director of Human Resources. This job description will be reviewed annually and is an integral part of the Appraisal and line management process.



Person Specification

CRITERIA	QUALITIES
Qualifications and training	• First aid Training – basic first aid training will be provided • Awareness of health and safety • Expectation to uphold personal development within the Opal scheme – training will be provided.
Experience	• Experience of play work or working with children is highly desirable. • Knowledge and/or understanding of the Playwork principles is desirable. • Previous first aid experience is desirable (basic First Aid training will be provided). • Experience working in a school environment or other educational setting • Experience working with children / young people
Skills and knowledge	• Ability to advise, instruct, negotiate, and explain to children • Ability to build effective working relationships with pupils • Strong teamwork skills; enjoy being part of a team, supportive, flexible and reliable. • Ability to respond to everyday situations • Ability to communicate effectively with others. • Active listening skills • Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children
Personal qualities	• Enjoy working with young people (all ages in the primary school range 4 – 11 years). • Positive and supportive attitude towards young people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. • Confident in working with and able to influence and negotiate with children from Reception (4 years old) to Year 6 (11 years old). • Strong teamwork skills; enjoy being part of a team, supportive, flexible and reliable. • Practical, solutions driven. • Friendly, approachable and caring manner. • Dependable, with good time keeping. • Willingness to try new things and work outside of their comfort zone.

Beyond Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as its number one priority. The commitment to robust recruitment, selection and induction procedures extends to organisations and services linked to the Trust.

This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS Disclosure, Children's Barred List and where applicable Disqualification under the Childcare Act check



Summary of Terms & Conditions

Start date:	September 2026
Contract Type:	Part-time, Permanent
Place of Work:	Phoenix Primary School, Glencoe Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5QD
Hours & days of work:	8.75 Hours Per Week / Monday – Friday
Salary:	Trust Salary Scale - Point 3 £24,796 full-time Actual salary £4,903 per annum
Holiday:	Entitlement of 25 days annual leave rising to 29 days after five years of service – this, together with bank holidays is included in your annual salary as no entitlement to take holiday on a term time only contract
Induction Period:	This post has a 6-month induction period.
Pension:	Eligible to join the Local Government Pension for support staff
Notice period:	One month to be worked during term-time
Car insurance:	Trust employees who use their private vehicles in the course of their duties must be covered with their insurers to cover business liability



Benefits

Care First

Access to **Care First** Employee Assistance Programme. Care First provides independent and professional employee support services from qualified counsellors and information specialists designed to help you with a wide range of work, family and personal issues.

Benenden Healthcare

Non-contributory membership of Benenden Healthcare Scheme, which includes immediate family access to 24/7 GP service.

Professional Growth

We don't appraise. We grow We believe professional growth is not a once a year event but an everyday commitment. That's why we've replaced the traditional annual appraisal with our **Professional Growth Model**, designed to foster meaningful, continuous development for all staff.

The Professional Growth Model promotes:

- Continuous learning
- Regular feedback,
- Collaborative development

All through collaboration, constructive dialogue and structured meetings with line managers.

Key benefits for staff include:

- Ongoing support for personal and professional development
- Clear pathways for career progression
- Regular, constructive feedback to enhance performance
- Opportunities to contribute to team and Trust-wide improvement
- A culture that values collaboration, innovation, and growth

We believe this approach helps build a high-performing, empowered workforce focused on improving outcomes for all pupils.

Continuing Professional Development

A comprehensive induction programme for all staff with a commitment to continuing professional opportunities across the Trust.

We invest in our staff by encouraging continuing professional development and enabling opportunities for career progression. An example is that staff have access to collaborative coaching across the Trust. Feedback from staff (May 2023) includes the following:

"It has been brilliant to speak to people who are in a similar position and have similar expectations in regards to the whole educational environment"

"The time to speak to our colleagues across the Trust and to go on this journey together has been welcomed".



"I have learned so much during these workshops and I am extremely grateful for them"

"Learning the skills to become an effective leader for when I become a middle leader"

"I feel more confident in my people skills and how I motivate and converse with my team in order to achieve our shared goals".

Staff Wellbeing:

Whole Trust approach to well-being.

Pension Scheme:

Support staff with a contract of more than 3 months will be automatically enrolled in the **Local Government Pension**. Contribution bandings are based on actual salary. Contribution rates from 1st April 2025 are as follows:

Annual Salary Rate	Member contribution Rate
Up to £17,800	5.5%
£17,801 to £28,000	5.8%
£28,001 to £45,600	6.5%
£45,601 to £57,700	6.8%
£57,701 to £81,000	8.5%
£81,001 to £114,800	9.9%
£114,801 to £135,300	10.5%
£135,301 to £203,000	11.4%
£203,001 and above	12.5%

Employee Referral Scheme

Up to £500 payable for a new employee referral across the Trust

Family Friendly Policies

The Trust offers generous family friendly policies including maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoption.

Cycle Scheme:

The Trust is a member of the Cycle to Work Scheme.

Catering:

On site catering at affordable prices

Employee Discounts include:

20% discount off membership for Avenue Tennis
[Medway Gym & Fitness Centre | Avenue Tennis](#)

Access to Civil Service Sports Council, by becoming a member you start enjoying thousands of exclusive discounts, including free, unlimited, year-round family entry to English Heritage and Kew Gardens, a Tastecard and many more discounts.

Free will writing service provided by Accord Legal Services

Blue Light Card discount scheme [Blue Light Card](#)



The Recruitment Process

Closing date: Friday 14th August 2026 at 9:00am

Interview date: Week commencing Monday 10th August 2026

We reserve the right to bring forward the closing date where interest and applications received are high, therefore we encourage early applications.

To apply please complete an application form which can be found on the school's careers page [Our Vacancies | Phoenix Primary School](#)

If you wish to discuss the role, please contact **Jo Penn** via email at jpenn@phoenixprimary.com

The application form

Please complete the application form as fully as possible. Gaps in employment do need to be explained, therefore please provide as much information as possible. For example, if you undertook a gap year or had a period of unemployment, please state this. You will be unable to submit your application if there are any gaps.

All applications will be acknowledged, and you will be contacted thereafter of next steps.

Right to work in the UK

Unfortunately, if you do not have right to work in the UK, we are unable to process your application. If you are invited to attend an interview, you will be asked to produce original and up-to-date documentary evidence of your right to work in the UK.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our highest priority; therefore, pre-employment checks will be undertaken prior to a successful candidate joining. This includes references from current or most recent employer, an enhanced DBS with children's barred list check, and original certificates of qualifications will also need to be provided. It is an offence to apply for a role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children. If you are shortlisted for interview, you will be required to complete a self-disclosure form this will be sent with your invite to interview and must be completed, signed, and returned prior to interview. The Trust will also undertake an online search as part of its safeguarding duties at offer stage.

The schools safeguarding Policy can be found [here](#)

CV

We do not wish to see your CV so please do not include it.



Supporting Statement

Your supporting statement is important and will be the basis of our shortlisting and progressing your application, therefore you need to ensure you answer the following as concisely as possible:

- Why you believe you are a strong candidate for the position.
- Set out impact you have made in your current/previous positions.
- Make reference to the job description and person specification to set out how you meet the criteria.

Additional skills:

Aside from your professional skills relevant to the role you are applying for we are interested in you as an individual, therefore do share with us any additional skills, hobbies, and abilities that you would like us to know about

References:

Do provide referee details as outlined, please ensure you indicate whether references can be taken up before interview.

Equal opportunities monitoring:

This will be kept separate from your application and used only for monitoring purposes by the HR department.

Special arrangements:

Please do set out in the application form any special arrangements we should try to make if you are invited to interview.

Retention of Personal Information:

Any information supplied by an unsuccessful candidate will be destroyed six months after date of shortlisting.

Any data about you will be held securely with access restrict to those involved in dealing with your application in the selection process. By signing and submitting your application form, you are giving consent to the processing of your data.

Our Privacy policy is available on our [here](#)

Equality and Diversity:

We recognise the benefits of a diverse workforce. We are committed to eradication discrimination in the workplace, becoming an employer of choice, for all staff to believe that they have a voice and be empowered to make a difference.

Criminal Convictions:

All education establishments in the UK are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. In practice, this means that all applicants must inform on all spent and unspent convictions on the application form and when completing a Discloser and Barring form. Failure to provide this information may result in dismissal. A Children's Barred List check is also obtained on anyone who will be working on or coming into contact with children; and must be received by the school before employment can commence.



Living and working in Medway

On the banks of the River Medway from which it takes its name, Medway is the second largest conurbation (after Brighton) between London and continental Europe. This combined with its comprehensive transport links, makes Medway a gateway to the capital, the county of Kent and the continent.

With its regeneration programme providing a variety of new homes and growth for all, Medway is already one of the South East's fastest growing areas. Its ambitious vision provides economic and housing opportunities across all five major towns – all of which act as a magnet for a diverse range of businesses, property hunters and investors.

“Its comprehensive transport links make Medway a gateway to the capital, the county of Kent and the continent.”

Families and commuters are attracted to Medway by the choice of accommodation and facilities in Medway and can live close to schools, railways, and town centres, including Rochester's historic high street. Not only does Medway boast the biggest regeneration zone within the Thames Gateway, but it is surrounded by award-winning green spaces and world-renowned heritage sites.

Living in Medway

Medway's housing landscape is very diverse – from Victorian period properties and cottages to newly-developed modern builds and suburban developments. There is something for everyone from families big and small to couples and individuals wanting to find their perfect home.

Medway has the lowest council tax in Kent and one of the lowest rates in the M25 corridor.

A multi-million-pound regeneration programme is currently transforming Medway's landscape bringing 29,000 new homes, many of them stunning riverfront developments.

Medway is a place in which you can enjoy both living and working. A thriving business location but also within an easily commute to London and yet beautifully green with seven green flags accredited parks. It's a great place to put down roots and make a life.

More than 80% of Medway schools have an OFSTED rating of good or better and is home to four universities.



Advert – Play Leader



Salary: Trust Salary Scale - Point 3 £24,796 FTE
Actual Salary: £4,903 per annum
Start date: ASAP
Hours: 8.75 Hours Per Week /Term-time Only
Location: Phoenix Primary School, Glencoe Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5QD
Closing date: Friday 14th August 2026 at 9:00am
Interview date: Week commencing Monday 10th August 2026

We are seeking a passionate team member to help ensure that every child enjoys a meaningful lunchtime play experience each day! As part of our team, you will contribute to creating a safe and stimulating outdoor environment, offering social, active, and creative play opportunities for all children.

The play team is also responsible for ensuring that all our children have a pleasant eating experience at lunch time, whilst maximising the time they can spend outside playing. You will support all our children as they visit the dining hall. The successful applicant will share the school's passion in supporting our children and their families through so much more than their educational journey.

The role will be on a casual basis, required as and when by the school.

In return we offer:

- A comprehensive induction programme.
- Growing well-being team with Mental Health Lead supporting children and staff
- Holiday Pay
- A Healthy Work-Life Balance and a committed SLT
- A happy and caring community.
- Care First employee assistance programme
- Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme
- Cycle to work scheme

For further details on this role and to apply please visit the school's careers page [Our Vacancies | Phoenix Primary School](#)

Visits to the school are strongly encouraged. For further information and to arrange a school visit, please contact **Jo Penn** on **01634 829009** or via email jpenn@phoenixprimary.com

We reserve the right to bring forward the closing date where interest and applications received are high, therefore we encourage early applications.

Safeguarding Commitment

Beyond Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. All post holders in a regulated activity are subject to appropriate vetting procedures and a satisfactory "Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced check".

Equality & Inclusivity Statement

At **Beyond Schools Trust** we strive to be a diverse and inclusive workplace where we can ALL be ourselves. We particularly encourage applications from under-represented communities, including but not limited to those who identify as Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic background.



Our Location

Phoenix Primary School

Glencoe Road
Chatham
Kent
ME4 5QD

Tel: 01634 829009

Email: office@phoenixjuniors.co.uk

www.phoenixprimary.com

<https://w3w.co/pinch.hurls.chef>

