



## Job Description

**Job Title:** Forest School Leader

### Purpose of the Post

To plan, develop and run a Forest School within the school grounds, with guidance and support from the Senior Leadership Team.

### Areas of Responsibility and Key Tasks

- To be responsible for, plan and oversee the day to day delivery, organisation and smooth running of Forest Schools programmes
- To be responsible at all times for high standards of care and education of all group members in accordance with the Forest Schools Association principles and criteria for good practice
- To plan, prepare and deliver a range of Forest School sessions with children aged 4 -11 years old (and pre-school if the school opens a pre-school setting).
- To liaise with volunteers/staff prior to sessions to ensure plans are appropriate and all needs and expectations are met.
- Ensure Health & Safety requirements are met, including Risk Assessments which are continually checked and updated.
- To supervise and support children with varying needs whilst delivering sessions in an age and developmental way.
- To create and maintain an engaging, fun and supportive environment, demonstrating flexibility in planning and running sessions in response to varying/changing needs of children.
- To ensure the health and safety of all participants, including writing and checking risk assessments for the sites, tools and activities used.
- To ensure that all sessions are well prepared, and risk assessed.
- To produce a Forest School Hambrook Guide and keep updated with relevant information, policies and procedures.
- To read and comply with all school Policies and Procedures.
- To participate in training and other learning activities/meetings as required.

- To administer basic first aid as the need arises and maintain a first aid box with appropriate equipment for forest school.
- To ensure the Forest School area and resources are safe at all times and immediately report any concerns/repairs needed.

### Physical Demands

The work requires moderate levels of physical effort. It involves lifting and handling of equipment and other resources and to be involved in practical activities and physical care of learners and the physical outdoor environment. The role is almost exclusively out of doors and will require working on uneven surfaces and in all weather conditions.

## Forest School Leader- Person Specification 2025

		Essential	Desirable
QUALIFICATIONS	Forest School Leader Level 3		√
	Experience in Forest School and a strong desire to complete the qualification	√	
	HLTA qualification		√
	Desire to complete HLTA qualification alongside role ( <i>this will be in the candidates own time</i> )		√
	Teaching Assistant Qualification or significant experience working with children (minimum 3 years' experience)	√	
	GCSE Grade C or higher in English & Mathematics	√	
	Current first aid certificate		√
EXPERIENCE	Recent and significant experience in leading Forest School/outdoor education sessions with children of a range of ages	√	
	Full working knowledge of current statutory and regulatory guidelines related to outdoor learning and education	√	
	Understand dynamic risk assessing	√	
	Experience of promoting positive behaviour, conducive to learning, which is focussed on raising standards	√	
	Experience of developing positive relationships with teachers and other teaching assistants	√	
	Experience of taking responsibility for the co-ordination and oversight of support staff and volunteers		√
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING	Good understanding of what constitutes quality and high standards in learning and teaching	√	
	Good understanding of a range of teaching styles/pedagogies and assessment for learning	√	
	Good understanding of and commitment to, safeguarding	√	
	Good understanding of the role of parents and the community in school	√	
	Assessment and how it informs future teaching	√	

COMMUNICATION	Ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written forms	✓	
	Ability to develop good professional relationships within a team, making an effective contribution to high morale	✓	
	Someone who is prepared to liaise closely with colleagues listening to feedback and being proactive in their own development	✓	
JOB RELATED SKILLS AND APTITUDES	Ability to create a happy and challenging learning environment in which to motivate and inspire pupils	✓	
	Ability to use effectively use teaching and organisational styles and resources, including IT, to engage and challenge pupils of all abilities	✓	
	Ability to target support and intervention, matched to the needs of pupils	✓	
	Become involved in wider school life	✓	
PERSONAL QUALITIES	Flexible approach, adaptable to changing circumstances and new ideas	✓	
	Proactive and enthusiastic	✓	
	Warmth, care and sensitivity in dealing with children	✓	
	Commitment to own professional development and ability to reflect upon experience	✓	