

JOB DESCRIPTION

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Job Purpose:

To deliver Occupational Therapy using the wave provision of universal, targeted and specialist levels within a multi-disciplinary blended approach to improve outcomes for pupils.

Main Duties and Activities:

To operate under the direction of the Head of Therapy to carry out professional duties in accordance with requirements of the Trust and to be responsible for:

Pupil related:

1. To manage and prioritise a complex and specialist caseload, accessing supervision within an individual performance review framework, and to map the therapy provision for clinical, social and learning needs for pupils and students.
2. To work collaboratively with colleagues using the wave model of universal, targeted and specialist levels
3. To contribute to the development and implementation of treatment for pupils and students using the wave provision model, differentiating the work according to individual pupils' and students' changing needs.
4. To demonstrate a high level of clinical effectiveness by use of evidence-based practice and outcome measures and participate in the development of guidelines informed by evidence for clinical specialism.
5. To demonstrate knowledge and experience of Sensory Integration difficulties in school-aged children.
6. To use clinical reasoning skills to analyze and interpret complex assessment findings from both standardized and non-standardized assessments in order to establish an accurate diagnosis and prognosis and to formulate appropriate therapy goals and make onward referrals to external agencies as appropriate.
7. To contribute to the assessment of pupils and students on admission using formal assessment and clinical observation, interpreting, evaluating and explaining the relevance of assessment outcomes in order to establish the nature of the pupils' and students' difficulties in relation to their performance.
8. To maintain contemporaneous and accurate case notes in line with professional standards and school policy. Due to the sensitive information, distribution of information must be carefully managed.

9. To provide and monitor therapy programmes delivered by other members of school staff.
10. To support pupils and students in understanding why problems / difficulties have occurred, to liaise with staff and to support pupils and students through process of repairing communication breakdown in line with school policy.
11. To attend and contribute to pupil's and students' annual reviews where requested and appropriate, providing reports for annual and interim reviews reflecting highly specialist knowledge.
12. To provide end of term reports for parents, and other reports as required.

Department and school related:

13. To support dissemination of specialist knowledge to the wider staff group and parents through training, case conferences, seminars and informal meetings.
14. To work collaboratively within the school environment with other therapists, education, nursing and care staff and other professionals who are involved with the pupils and students.
15. To contribute to the clinical discussion and the management of individual pupils and students within the therapy, care and teaching teams across the curriculum and within the wave model of blended provision.
16. To communicate clinical observations and assessment of complex specific learning difficulties to parents, carers and relevant professionals.
17. To attend and contribute to staff meetings.
18. To attend Parent Afternoons, Open Days and other events as requested by the Principal.
19. To contribute to the development of the therapy objectives and projects across the Trust to further promote effective practice within an educational setting, including clinical audit, as directed by Head of Therapy.
20. To liaise with and work collaboratively with colleagues in other Trust schools.
21. To assume delegated tasks as requested by the Principal including participating in working groups, policy development groups etc. across the Trust.
22. To contribute to the whole school development by providing input into curriculum planning and initiatives for change as directed by the Senior Leadership Team.
23. To undertake any other duties that may be required which are consistent with the grade and responsibility of the post
24. ICT skills are required for aspects of therapy and training. This includes modification of materials and production of individualised therapy materials and training packages and presentations for staff and parents.

JOB PROFILE		
Person Specification		
Criteria		
<i>Key - Essential = E, Desirable = D, Assessed by Interview – I, Assessed by Application Form = A</i>		
Qualifications and Training		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree in Occupational Therapy or equivalent with licence to practice Member of the College of Occupational Therapists Member of the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC) Post-graduate qualification and experience in Sensory Integration, Levels 1 & 2 Completion of “Is it Sensory or Behaviour?” course (Murray, Slutsky & Paris) 	E E E E D	A A A A A
Knowledge and Experience		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least three years post registration experience with least two years in a Paediatric Therapy discipline Clinical experience including individual and group work Experience of working as part of a multi-disciplinary team Experience of working within an educational environment Experience of working with school aged children with complex learning difficulties Experience of working with ASD/SLCN pupils with challenging behaviour Understanding of the role of therapeutic intervention within a special school Experience of supervising/teaching staff/students/volunteers Knowledge of the National Curriculum across all Key Stages Knowledge and understanding of a contextual, ‘blended’ Curriculum Knowledge and understanding of a Needs-Led Curriculum Understanding the roles of other professionals relevant to the client group Knowledge of national policies and procedures relevant to client group 	D E A D D D E D D D D D D	A A A A A A I A/I I I I I I
Skills and Abilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of wide range of physical, perceptual and sensory difficulties associated with ASD, SLCN and associated behaviours Knowledge of a range of standardised and functional assessment tools relevant to client group Knowledge of a range of therapeutic interventions relevant to the client group Sound knowledge of the standards of record keeping Knowledge of the principles of clinical governance/audit and ability to operate within them 	E E D E E	I I I I I

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can demonstrate highly developed auditory and perceptual skills for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of pupil clients. • An understanding of the management of conflict across a range of challenging situations. 	E	I
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Personal Attributes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maturity and confidence • Genuine commitment to multi-disciplinary 'blended' provision and collaboration with all members of the Education team • Genuine commitment to the ethos and work of the OHCAT Trust 	E	I
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Date produced: July 2026		