

Briefing Pack for Applicants Professional Support Assistant



The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The school will undertake stringent and rigorous checks of identity and qualifications to ensure that we maintain the very highest standards of child protection for our students.



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May we take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your application. If, however, you have not heard from us by the proposed date for the interview you should assume that on this occasion your application has not been successful. In that event we wish you every success in any future applications you make.

Section 1: Post Advertisement

Post: Professional Support Assistant
Location: Handsworth Grange Community Sports College
Pay scale: NJC Grade 4, Scale Point 07: £20,444 to 12: £22,571 gross per annum pro rata
Actual Annual Salary: £15,359-£16,957(Under 5 Years of Service)
Contract: Full-time, Permanent – 32.5 hours per week x term time (39 working weeks)
Start date: As soon as possible

Minerva Learning Trust is an expanding Sheffield based multi-academy Trust with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. The Trust is passionate that all students should see their time at school as happy and fulfilling with their potential developed to the utmost. Handsworth Grange Community Sports College is an Ofsted rated Outstanding School. We are above average nationally for pupil progress. We have been nationally recognised for our work with Pupil Premium. We regard all staff and pupils as part of our family and whilst we have really high expectations of everyone, we maintain a caring and supportive ethos. We are the founding school within the Minerva Multi Academy Trust. We strongly believe in work life balance and we work with our staff to actively promote and improve wellbeing.

Handsworth Grange Community Sports College are seeking to appoint an efficient, friendly, and self-motivated Professional Support Assistant with well-developed interpersonal skills to:

- Provide cover teaching for classes by delivering set work in the absence of their scheduled teacher.
- Be able to liaise with teachers to discuss cover work set for planned absence and to provide feedback about student progress and behaviour following the covering of lessons.
- Be able to support the use of ICT in delivering lessons and learning activities.

The successful candidate will have a flexible approach and the confidence and presence to manage whole classes in a professional manner. Applicants should have very good literacy and numeracy skills and the ability and desire to work with young people. Training and support will be provided to enable you to carry out your duties successfully.

Candidates are encouraged to have an informal discussion about the role with Kate Grapes – Assistant Headteacher via e-mail: kgrapes@hgcsc.co.uk

The closing date is 9am on Monday 05 September 2022 and interviews will take place week commencing 05 September 2022.

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Further information is available by contacting Kate Grapes – Assistant Headteacher via e-mail: kgrapes@hgcsc.co.uk

The application form and information pack are available on the school website www.hgcsc.co.uk
Please ensure that you do not fill in a Sheffield City Council application form in respect of this vacancy as your application may not be considered.

Section 2: Letter from the Chief Executive – Bev Matthews

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in this role within Minerva Learning Trust. Minerva Learning Trust was established in October 2014 with the vision of providing outstanding education for pupils who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield. During 2017-18 the Trust expanded and brought together four secondary schools across Sheffield to create a new partnership of schools which supports the education of over 5000 pupils. In September 2020, Chapeltown Academy joined the Trust and enhanced the post-16 provision within the Trust in the north of the city and in September 2021, we were delighted that Woodthorpe Community Primary School became the first primary school to join the Trust. We resolutely believe that we are stronger together and that each school within the MAT has individual strengths and we celebrate the diverse and unique qualities of each particular school.

As a Trust our mission, vision and values are central to our work and are the driving force behind all that we do. Our vision of Outstanding Together, Working Together and Learning Together is underpinned by our core values of Inclusion, Independence, Respect and Success. Through our values we foster an ethos of collegiality, we ensure inclusion is at the heart of all we do and we work hard to ensure that every child succeeds, no matter what their background or circumstance.

We recognise that the commitment and care shown by all our staff is fundamental to the success of our young people. As such, we work hard to ensure that staff are supported, encouraged, developed, respected and listened to within an enjoyable and rewarding working environment. Our culture is one of professional trust, respect, honesty and integrity and we want our staff and students to work and learn within an environment that enables them to flourish and to work at their best.

The professional development of staff, including opportunities for research, is a key priority of Minerva Learning Trust. As such, we seek to enrich employee capability and maximise the strength and contribution of each individual who works with us. The Trust believes in investing in the learning and development of its employees through a range of opportunities which are aligned to the needs of the organisation and its young people.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Trust. If you choose to apply you will be choosing to work alongside a team of dedicated professionals who passionately believe in the power of education to change the life chances of young people.

If you believe you have the experience, skills and ambition to support our aims and contribute to the delivery of the very best for our pupils then we look forward to receiving your application.



Bev Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

Section 3: Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in this role at our school. Handsworth Grange Community Sports College is a popular 11-16 comprehensive school located in the South East of Sheffield. Our mission is to provide an exceptional education for every student, every day. To achieve our mission, we will:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that challenges everyone.
- Provide care and support to break down barriers to learning.
- Improve our students' vocabulary, comprehension and reading skills.
- Demand high levels of progress and achievement from all students.

We are fully inclusive and have a strong family ethos. Our student population is diverse and we celebrate our beliefs and cultures which creates a rich, vibrant atmosphere. We have high expectations of everyone, staff and students alike, and work hard to develop positive relationships to create a firm sense of togetherness. In doing so we promote the following values:

Together we:

- Care for each other
- Laugh with each other
- Learn from each other
- Celebrate with each other
- Are safe, responsible and respectful

We have a tradition of strong academic performance, in particular in English, Mathematics and Technology. For the last 4 years we have achieved above average Progress 8 scores and we are currently ranked 4th highest in Sheffield. We are proud of the achievements of our disadvantaged students who have the highest levels of progress in the City.

In October 2017 we were judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and as a result we founded the Minerva Learning Trust. As part of that role we work collaboratively and share best practice with other schools in the Trust.

Our students are approachable and friendly. Please come and see for yourself; we welcome visitors to the school.

If you believe you have the necessary skills and experience to join our organisation and help us achieve our mission then we look forward to receiving your application.



Nick Parker
Headteacher

Section 4: About Handsworth Grange Community Sports College

Handsworth Grange Community Sports College's Cultural Fit

Working in a school where you are not aligned with the culture and ethos can be a challenging and often miserable experience. So.... we both need to have alignment if you come to work here!

- We live by the values of caring for each other, laughing with each other, learning from each other and celebrating with each other.
- We believe that the needs of children come first.
- We believe that every child has ability, character and potential to improve.
- We believe that we all have a professional obligation to improve so that we can provide the best educational experience possible for our children.
- We believe that every child deserves a hero and that for some of our students "if we won't, who will?"
- We believe in a culture of the possible, where we can all make progress beyond what anyone could have imagined.
- We believe that hard work and positive relationship are the key to success for staff and students.
- We believe in growing our own staff through quality support and CPD.
- We believe that truly great teaching is that which improves students' progress.
- We believe an evidence informed approach to teaching and learning helps us identify what works best in the classroom.
- We believe that feedback should be timely and respond to the needs of individual students.
- We believe that good literacy and numeracy skills are essential to students making progress and that we have a duty to teach these skills as part of our curriculum.
- We acknowledge that we all make mistakes and learn from them to make us better.
- We are dedicated to preparing our children to thrive in the next stage of their education.

Section 5: Job Description



Minerva Learning Trust Job Description



Minerva Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

POST TITLE

Professional Support Assistant

GRADE/SALARY

Grade 4, Point 7-12

HOURS/WEEKS

32.5 hours x 39 weeks

LOCATION

Handsworth Grange Community Sports College

RESPONSIBLE TO

Cover Supervisor

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To provide a professional classroom support service to the school.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The post-holder, must at all times, carry out his/her duties and responsibilities within the spirit of Minerva Learning Trust and School policies and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

MAIN DUTIES

Curriculum Support

- To provide structured, purposeful and appropriate short term cover to support learning activities.
- To deliver pre-prepared programmes of study provided by curriculum staff in the event of staff absence.

- To understand the aims, content, teaching strategies and intended outcomes for lessons.
- Recognise own strengths and areas of expertise and use these to advise and support others.
- Identify pupils with Special Needs and work appropriately with Learning Support.
- Implement agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, adjusting activities according to pupil responses/needs.
- Monitor and evaluate pupils' responses to learning activities through observation and planned recording of achievement against pre-determined learning objectives.
- Support the use of ICT in learning activities and develop pupils' competence and independence in its use.
- Provide objective and accurate feedback and reports as required, to the teacher on pupil achievement, progress and other matters, ensuring the availability of appropriate evidence.
- Be responsible for keeping and updating records as agreed with the curriculum staff, contributing to systems/records as requested.
- Promote positive values, attitudes and good pupil behaviour, dealing promptly with conflict and incidents in line with established policy and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Provide general support e.g. administer coursework, produce worksheets for agreed activities etc.

Pupil Support

- Establish productive working relationships with pupils, acting as a role model and setting high expectations.
- Promote the inclusion and acceptance of all pupils within the classroom.
- Support pupils consistently whilst recognising and responding to their individual needs.
- Encourage pupils to interact and work co-operatively with others and engage all pupils in activities.
- Promote independence and employ strategies to recognise and reward achievement of self-reliance.
- Provide feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievement.

Other

- With support, develop your skills to manage pupil behaviour and promote effective learning in line with the school's behaviour policy to promote a positive learning environment.

- To work flexibly on a day-to-day basis and work on a support basis when not required for cover purposes.
- To use administrative systems for registration, monitoring and assessment purposes.
- To actively participate in the school's pastoral system and cover registration as required.
- To carry out duties as required.
- To accompany field trips and visits as required

Support for the School

- Work within an established discipline policy to anticipate and manage behaviour constructively, promoting self-control and independence and employing strategies to recognise and reward achievement.
- Participate in and contribute to in-school professional development programmes and undertake own research about appropriate and effective intervention strategies.
- Become familiar with and implement staff codes of conduct and relevant school policies including those for child protection, equal opportunities, inclusion, behaviour and homework.
- Attend and contribute to meetings which relate to the role.
- Comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting concerns to an appropriate person.
- Work closely with the school staff to ensure that the regulations and requirements of the external examination boards are met.

SAFEGUARDING

- To be aware of and work in accordance with the school's child protection policies and procedures in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and to raise any concerns relating to such procedures which may be noted during the course of duty.

OTHER SPECIFIC DUTIES

- To play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its mission and ethos and to encourage staff and students to follow this example.
- To actively promote the school and Trust's policies.
- To be courteous and provide a welcoming environment.

GENERAL

1. To be aware of, and comply with, Trust and school policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
2. The above duties are not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake tasks, roles and responsibilities as may be reasonably assigned to them by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body.
3. This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Headteacher and Local Governing Body as required. Trade Union representatives will be welcome in any such discussions.

Section 6: Person Specification



Minerva Learning Trust Person Specification



Post title: Professional Support Assistant

Minimum Essential Requirements	Method of Assessment
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE	
Previous experience of working in a school	AF/I
Experience of working as a Professional Support Assistant or equivalent	AF/I
Experiences of working with students with special/additional education needs	AF/I
Understanding of special educational needs and associated social, emotional and behavioural impact.	AF/I
Ability to provide clear expression both verbally and in writing	AF/I
Working in an environment where literacy and numeracy skills have been demonstrated	AF/I
Ability to demonstrate sensitivity to the pupils needs	AF/I
QUALIFICATIONS	
NVQ Level 3 qualification e.g. GCSEs Grades 4-9, or evidence of the equivalent level of knowledge gained through work experience	AF/I
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS	
Understanding of pupils' needs in order to support them effectively by personalised and differentiated learning.	AF/I
Knowledge of issues and needs that affect behaviour and strategies to support.	AF/I
Knowledge of the range of ways that pupils learn and how to motivate them.	AF/I
Full understanding of the range of multi-agency support required and available to pupils.	AF/I
Full working knowledge of relevant safeguarding, equality and health and safety policies, codes of practice and legislation	AF/I
QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES	
Ability to relate well to children and adults and to build positive relationships.	AF/I
Ability to use a range of strategies to support positive behaviour and self-regulation.	AF/I
Ability to work constructively as part of a team, understanding school roles and responsibilities and your own position within these.	AF/I
Ability to deliver pre-planned programmes of work to children using personalised strategies to support reluctant learners to engage and achieve learning goals/objectives.	AF/I

Ability to respond calmly and use initiative, responding effectively to unexpected or unplanned situations or reactions throughout the school day.	AF/I
Ability to use correct English in spoken and written communication.	AF/I
Ability in the use of IT.	AF/I
Flexible and able to adapt to change. Ability to support colleagues as and when required.	AF/I
A pleasant disposition and ability to stay calm under pressure.	AF/I
Demonstrate a positive team approach to work.	AF/I
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SAFEGUARDING	
An understanding of safeguarding issues and promoting the welfare of children and young people.	AF/I
A commitment to safeguarding students.	AF/I
Suitability to work with children.	AF/I
A commitment to equal opportunities.	AF/I
Ability to recognise discrimination and willingness to put Equality Policies into practice.	AF/I

Key: AA = Assessed activity
AF = Application form
I = Interview
R = Reference

Section 7: The Appointment Process

These notes are intended to guide you when making an application.

1. The Application Form
Complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. The form may be typed or handwritten but if you do write it by hand please make sure that it is legible and that you use black ink. Indicate clearly on the front page the post you are applying for. You are requested to submit a concise application.
2. Education and Training
State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.
3. Present Appointment
Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is.
4. Previous Appointment
When completing this section, it is important that you offer a continuous record, or an explanation of any gaps to allow full account to be taken of your experience, for example, child raising, voluntary work.
5. Referees
Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.
6. The Supporting Statement/Letter of Application
The supporting statement or letter is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post. You should take particular care to demonstrate how you meet the person specification included as part of these details. **Please limit your supporting statement to two sides of A4 in size 11 font.**
7. Arrangements for Interview
Shortlisted applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after the closing date. Referees are contacted prior to the interview stage for teaching and some support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website prior to attending the interview.
8. The Interview
Candidates will be invited to spend a day visiting the school during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the school at work. Interviews are likely to take place in the afternoon.
9. Feedback
Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.
10. Selection for Appointment
Selection is made conditional upon the successful candidate meeting the Trust's requirements for health, physical capacity and conduct.
11. Arrangements for Applications
When you have completed your application, the completed form and covering letter should be e-mailed to akeeton@hgcsco.co.uk by the closing date.