



Job description: special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO)

Lincewood Primary School is committed to creating a diverse workforce. We'll consider all qualified applicants for employment without regard to sex, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, age, disability, marriage or civil partnership.

Job details

Job title: Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO)

Salary: Mainscale/UPS plus SEND Allowance

Contract type: Full Time Permanent

Reporting to: Headteacher

Responsible for: Learning Support Assistants

Main purpose

The SENCO, under the direction of the headteacher, will:

- Determine the strategic development of special educational needs (SEN) policy and provision in the school
- Be responsible for day-to-day operation of the SEN policy and co-ordination of specific provision to support individual pupils with SEN or a disability
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues, working closely with staff, parents and carers, and other agencies

The SENCO will be expected to fulfil the responsibilities of a teacher, as set out in the STPCD.

While the SENCO will have responsibility for the oversight of provision for pupils with SEN or a disability, class teachers will hold responsibility for the day-to-day education and support of pupils within their classroom.

Duties and responsibilities

Strategic development of SEN policy and provision

- Have a strategic overview of provision for pupils with SEN or a disability across the school, monitoring and reviewing the quality of provision
- Contribute to school self-evaluation, particularly with respect to provision for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Make sure the SEN policy is put into practice, and its objectives are reflected in the school development plan (SDP)

- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of national and local initiatives that may affect the school's policy and practice
- Evaluate whether funding is being used effectively, and suggest changes to make use of funding more effective

Operation of the SEN policy and co-ordination of provision

- Maintain an accurate SEND register and provision map
- Provide guidance to colleagues on teaching pupils with SEN or a disability, and advise on the graduated approach to SEN support
- Advise colleagues on applying differentiated teaching strategies tailored for individual pupils with SEN
- Advise on the use of the school's budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively, including staff deployment
- Be aware of the provision in the local offer
- Work with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals and other external agencies
- Be a key point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA)
- Analyse assessment data for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Implement and lead intervention groups for pupils with SEN, and evaluate their effectiveness

Support for pupils with SEN or a disability

- Identify a pupil's SEN
- Co-ordinate provision that meets the pupil's needs, and monitor its effectiveness
- Secure relevant services for the pupil
- Ensure records are maintained and kept up to date
- Review the education, health and care (EHC) plan with parents/carers and the pupil
- Communicate regularly with parents/carers
- Ensure that if the pupil transfers to another school, all relevant information is conveyed to that school, and support a smooth transition for the pupil
- Promote the pupil's inclusion in the school community and access to the curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities
- Work with the designated teacher for looked-after children (LAC), where a looked-after pupil has SEN or a disability

Leadership and management

- Play an active role within the senior management team (SMT), by working with the Headteacher and governors to ensure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 in terms of reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Prepare and review information the governing board is required to publish
- Contribute to the SIP and whole-school policy
- Identify training needs for staff and how to meet these needs
- Lead INSET training for staff

- Share procedural information, such as the school's SEN policy
- Promote an ethos and culture that supports the school's SEN policy and promotes good outcomes for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Lead and manage learning support assistants (LSAs) working with pupils with SEN or a disability
- Lead staff appraisals and produce appraisal reports
- Review staff performance on an ongoing basis

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Responsibilities

- To support the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead for safeguarding and child protection within the school, assisting the Lead to act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff within the school for child protection and safeguarding.
- Be familiar with, understand and apply the school's Child Protection Policy appropriately.
- Refer cases (or support staff making referrals)
 - o of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care
 - o where there is a radicalisation concern to the Channel programme.
- Refer cases to Disclosure and Barring Service or Police as required
- Liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher, local authority officers and other relevant agencies/parties in relation to child protection and safeguarding issues and concerns.
- Undergo and regularly update safeguarding training (at least every 2 years) to ensure the appropriate level of knowledge and skill is maintained.
- Keep up to date with developments relevant to the role in line with Keeping Children safe in Education (Annex B) as amended from time to time.
- Assist the Designated Safeguarding Lead with raising awareness of child protection policies as appropriate in line with Keeping Children safe in Education (Annex B) as amended from time to time.
- Provide cover for the Designated Safeguarding Lead as required.
- Remain alert to the fact that pupils with SEN may be more vulnerable to safeguarding challenges

The SENCO will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and follow school policies and the staff code of conduct.

Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the SENCO will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role, as directed by the Headteacher.

Person specification

CRITERIA	QUALITIES
Qualifications and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified teacher status • National Award for SEN Co-ordination, or a willingness to complete it within 3 years of appointment • Degree
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching experience • Experience of working at a whole-school level • Experience of working with children with a range of SEN • Involvement in self-evaluation and development planning • Experience of conducting training/leading INSET • Experience of managing a team of support staff
Skills and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice • Understanding of what makes 'quality first' teaching, and of effective intervention strategies • Ability to plan and evaluate interventions • Data analysis skills and the ability to use data to inform provision planning • Effective communication and interpersonal skills • Ability to build effective working relationships • Ability to influence and negotiate • Good record-keeping skills
Personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to getting the best outcomes for pupils and promoting the ethos and values of the school • Commitment to equal opportunities and securing good outcomes for pupils with SEN or a disability • Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively • Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times • Commitment to safeguarding and equality

Notes:

This job description may be amended at any time in consultation with the postholder.