



Specialist Family & Student Support Practitioner

Peripatetic position will be mostly, but not exclusively,
working in South Derbyshire, Staffordshire and
surrounding areas

Grade 09 (Points 16-19) £25,844 – £28,105 (Pending NJC
Pay Award 2024-25)

(The upper bound of the pay scale is based on continuous service of over 5 years)

Contract: 37 hours per week, term time only

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK



What is included within this pack?

Within this pack you will find both information and advice on applying for a role with Esteem Multi-Academy Trust including:

- Welcome from the CEO
- About Esteem Multi-Academy Trust
- Job advertisement
- Job description and person specification
- Safeguarding and checks
- Application process and timeline

Welcome from Esteem Multi-Academy Trust



Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Esteem Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and the Family and Student Support Team (FASST). The FASST Practitioner position presents a fantastic opportunity for somebody who shares our values and beliefs to join our team at a very important time.

We are eager to appoint an individual with a passion and commitment to improving the lives and opportunities of children and young people with special educational needs and challenging behaviours. Having excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to demonstrate empathy you will be part of a team of FASST Practitioners responsible for delivering the Esteem Early Help Service on behalf of Esteem MAT under the direction of the Director of Safeguarding and Early Help.

If you think you have got what we are looking for, we look forward to receiving your application for consideration.

For further information, please contact Timara Soar-Hamilton, Senior FASST Practitioner, via email at tsoar-hamilton@esteemmat.co.uk or visit our website at www.esteemmat.co.uk/vacancies.

Please use the relevant application form on the MAT website; CVs alone will not be accepted.

I wish you well in your application.

Yours faithfully



Julian Scholefield
Chief Executive Officer

About Esteem Multi-Academy Trust

Esteem MAT was formed in 2018 and now consists of 14 academies from the East and West Midlands. Many of our pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities or are disadvantaged. Therefore, inclusion is our watchword, and our vision is for Esteem to be a learning community of excellence for SEND and alternative provision in the Midlands. However, we want mainstream schools to join us too as they have many pupils with SEND or who are disadvantaged. We want all our pupils to achieve their full potential whatever type of school they attend.

Our vision is to be a Trust that:

- Leads and supports our academies to provide the highest standards of education and development for all our pupils
- Enables academies with a shared sense of purpose to benefit from alignment whilst maintaining individuality
- Provides a strong, collective voice for our academies at a local and national level
- Delivers support and SEND expertise to our academies and to other schools and local authorities

Our vision will be delivered via our three core strategic aims. Everything we do should be ultimately focused on doing these three things well:

- We will provide an ambitious, inspirational, bespoke education, setting the foundation for the future and ensuring our young people are ready for the world.
- We will deliver high standards and value for money from our support services, resources, estate and technology.
- We will invest in and support our people, exploiting opportunities for collaborative, continual professional development, sharing of expertise and best practice

Our people are our most valuable resource. We invest in them by providing high quality specialist training, opportunities to collaborate and develop their careers within Esteem.

We greatly value each school's unique identity, which reflect the diverse needs of the pupils. It is also important to us that our pupils feel they belong to their school community. This is why we believe that our schools need strong leaders and governors who understand their local context. Being part of a family of schools in a trust brings the added benefits of support and collaboration. We know that sharing ideas and working together are the best ways for our schools to continue to improve for the benefit of all our pupils.

About FASST

Welcome to the Esteem Family and Student Support Team (FASST). We are a team of dedicated and skilled Family and Student Support Practitioners supporting young people and their families at Esteem academies across the Midlands. We are part of Esteem Multi-Academy Trust consisting of 1 infant and nursery academy with an enhanced resource provision, 9 SEND academies and 5 alternative provision academies.

We are trained and skilled at delivering a range of group and 1:1 support sessions designed to support families and young people who recognise that change is required.

We only work with families and young people currently on role at an Esteem academy who have consented to the referral. This ensures that positive changes are made with people and not to, or for them.

We offer young people and their family's solution focused support to overcome challenges and hurdles. This support can be family or community based or 1:1 sessions. We understand the challenging role of being a parent or carer and trying to balance supporting young people with managing the everyday demands of being an adult!

We use a holistic and flexible approach to empower families and young people to be increasingly self-sufficient. We will work collaboratively with our education colleagues and those from specialist services to ensure the right service at the right time.

Many of the young people we support have challenges regulating their behaviour; this may be due to a diagnosed Special Educational Need, their mental health need, or by their involvement in anti-social behaviour and criminality. In our alternative provision academies there is a high proportion of young people who have been permanently excluded from a main stream provision.

We are trained to deliver HOPE, a project that delivers positive outcomes for young people that have an emotional need for support. This service is well established across schools in Staffordshire and we are really pleased to be introducing it to all of our Esteem academies. We also have licensed Thrive Practitioners who are able to carry out this specialist assessment and support in 1-1 sessions.

We can accept referrals from our Esteem colleagues, parents and carers, young people and other professionals. We hold panel meetings to determine that we are the correct service and allocate to the most appropriate member of the team. The panel is made up of our team and representatives from education and health services; this ensures consistency and multi-agency decision making. If we are not the right service to help, we will endeavour to find the one who is.

For further information about our service, signposting to various support groups and activities available in your area, visit the FASST website at <https://www.fasst-esteem.co.uk/>

The advertisement

Job Title: Specialist FASST Practitioner with a subject matter expertise around Bereavement (Training will be provided on this SME)

Location: Esteem Multi Academy Central Offices are based at Lake View Drive, Sherwood Park, NG15 0DT (this is the main office, you will not be based here) This role is a community based, peripatetic role with the majority of referrals from South Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire

Grade/Scale: Grade 09 (Points 16-19) £25,844 – £28,105 (Pending NJC Pay Award 2024-25)

Start date: ASAP

Contract: 37 hours per week, term time only. There will be requirement for occasional evening work

This key role will be part of a team of FASST Practitioners responsible for delivering the Esteem Early Help Service for academies across the MAT under the direction of the Director of Safeguarding and Early Help.

The successful candidate will report to the Senior FASST Practitioners, who report directly to the Director of Safeguarding and Early Help. You will be allocated a case load of young people and families and be responsible for the assessment of their need and delivering targeted intervention and support. This role involves a lot of lone working with young people and families in their homes, in the community and in different schools.

A minimum level 3 qualification in either childcare, community work, advice and guidance, education, health, social care or youth work is required along with a full driving license, access to a car and relevant business insurance. A working knowledge of services and provision in South Derbyshire and East Staffordshire is desirable. This role would be best suited to someone who lives and is familiar with the operating area.

As a Grade 09 Specialist Practitioner, you will be expected to develop subject matter expertise in bereavement. This role involves providing specialist support to families and young people experiencing grief, as well as delivering workshops and training sessions across schools within our trust. Comprehensive training on bereavement will be provided to equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Experience of delivering support to young people and families in a relevant service area, mentoring, advisory work, coaching and problem-solving with young people and families is essential. The successful candidate will be a confident and competent verbal and written communicator who is self-motivated and assured when lone working. Experience of working with vulnerable families and young people who display challenging and anti-social behaviours is desirable.

Benefits include: LGPS Pension Scheme, mileage allowance paid at 45p per mile, school holidays and Westfield Health membership, access to a range of CPD opportunities, flexible working and opportunities to work from home.

For further information, please contact Timara Soar-Hamilton, Senior FASST Practitioner, via email at tsoar-hamilton@esteemmat.co.uk or visit our website at www.esteemmat.co.uk/vacancies. Please use the relevant application form on the MAT website; CVs alone will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 03 November 2024 (23:59)

Interview date: 07 November 2024 – Interview time will be allocated if candidate is successful through initial process on applying for the role.

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust reserves the right to close this advertisement early upon suitable application

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. We expect all staff, volunteers and agency staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided.

Job description and person specification

Job Description: Specialist FASST Practitioner

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust

Post Title:	Specialist FASST (Early Help) Practitioner with a focus on Bereavement
Location:	<p>Esteem Multi Academy Central Offices are based at Lake View Drive, Sherwood Park, NG15 0DT. (This is just the central team office and not the base you will be working from) This role is a community based peripatetic role.</p> <p>FASST Practitioner – the majority of referrals will come from Staffordshire, South Derbyshire, Worcestershire and Derby City</p>
Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To effectively assess the needs of the young people and families allocated to their case load 2 To provide targeted support to referred families and young people by delivering coordinated, time limited, outcome focused and high-quality interventions and support 3 To ensure the voice of the child and family are actively sought and included in all planning, intervention and outcome 4 To support the academies within their geographical area and across the MAT by developing a SME and a local expertise 5 Engage fully in all Quality Assurance and Development opportunities to assure the service we are delivering now is of high quality and that we continue to deliver the right support at the right time; to young people, families, Esteem academies and other stakeholders 6 To ensure that appropriate information is shared with all stakeholders, effectively, efficiently and within established expectations
Reporting to:	Senior FASST Practitioner
Responsible for:	<p>Supporting young people and families allocated to their case load</p> <p>Direct support to Leadership in key Schools around Early Help</p> <p>Direct support across the Trust in the identified area of Subject Matter Expertise</p>
Liaising with:	<p>Headteachers</p> <p>FASST Colleagues</p> <p>Family Support/Liaison staff within academies</p> <p>Local authority safeguarding, education and social care services</p> <p>Other agencies – public, voluntary and community sector</p>
Working Time:	37 hours per week, term time only.
Salary/Grade:	Grade 09 (Points 16-19) £25,844 – £28,105 (Pending NJC Pay Award 2024-25)
Disclosure level	Enhanced

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

To Achieve the Above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputising in the absence of the Senior Practitioner and having the knowledge, skills and confidence to support these aspects within Esteem, as part of a wider School Improvement offer. • Assess and identify levels of risk, vulnerability and safeguarding need using prescribed assessment tools, operating within agreed models and in line with agreed frameworks and protection plans, ensuring that the pupil's or families' voice is captured throughout the whole assessment and intervention process. • To lead or support academies to 'step up' to a more specialist service if required • To support families and young people who are 'stepped down' to embed the
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	<p>positive steps they have made working with a specialist service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and deliver targeted activity working either on a 1-1 basis or in groups using a holistic approach • Effectively manage and progress a caseload to achieve positive outcomes based on a solution focussed approach • Participate in conferences, reviews, meetings and other forums as required to engage, empower and enable positive steps towards change • Deliver protective, supportive and needs led plans in line with case management standards, record all agreed steps to closure and manage cases within the prescribed time limits • Signpost parents to activities within the community to build resilience within the family • Increase parent/carer engagement to strengthen family relationships and support children's education • Develop highly effective communication skills that ensure the voice of the child and family are sought and included in decision making • where required and appropriate, advocate on behalf of the young person or family in a range of forums with a range of professionals • Ensure stakeholder feedback is sought and used to assess the impact of the intervention • Ensure that you effectively develop your skills and knowledge, in Early Help practice, your identified area of subject matter expertise and your identified locality • Share this information across a range of stakeholders and service users using a variety of platforms • Develop and utilise appropriate marketing techniques and platforms to promote awareness of the service and represent the service at events as required • Follow all appropriate quality assurance frameworks, legislation, regulations, policies and procedures, which are central to good practice • Engage with the development of the Early Help Service and Continued Professional Development through service meetings, events and supporting raising awareness sessions across the MAT on key and emerging issues • Maintain accurate records of all assessments, plans, actions, reviews, and outcomes using specified systems • Work co-operatively with colleagues and partners to share information, ensuring a joined-up approach. • Use IT systems to evidence change through recording and maintaining accurate case notes, family interactions and other records in line with policies and procedures • Ensure that client information data is lawfully gathered, accurate, up to date and only divulged in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR legislation
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Other Generic Responsibilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent and promote the ethos and values of Esteem Multi-Academy Trust • To take and be accountable for all decisions made within the parameters of the job description • Participate with performance management and training and activities that contribute to personal and professional development. • Actively promote and act at all times in accordance with the policies of the MAT eg. Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities • Provide a high standard of customer service in all dealings internal and external to the MAT 	

- Whilst every effort has been made to explain the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified.
- Employees will be expected to comply with any reasonable request from a manager to undertake work of a similar level that is not specified in this job description
- The MAT will endeavour to make any necessary reasonable adjustments to the job and the working environment to enable access to employment opportunities for disabled job applicants or continued employment for any employee who develops a disabling condition

This job description is current at the date shown, but, in consultation with you, may be changed by the CEO to reflect or anticipate changes in the job commensurate with the grade and job title

Person Specification: Specialist FASST Practitioner Esteem Multi-Academy Trust

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of level 3 qualification in one of the following: childcare, community work, advice and guidance, education, health, social care, youth work • Practical and procedural experience of delivering support to young people and families in a relevant service area • Mentoring, advisory work, coaching and problem-solving with young people and families • Experience of safeguarding practices and procedures • Designing and delivering targeted 1-1 or group activities to achieve agreed outcomes • Identifying levels of risk, vulnerability and needs • Full, clean driving licence • Current working knowledge of the provision and services in South Derbyshire / East Staffordshire area
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing case management plans based on prescribed assessments • Working with/in the special school and/or alternative provision sectors • Experience of behaviour management techniques and practices • Experience of supporting young people and families that may display challenging and anti-social behaviour
KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A demonstrable, passionate commitment to improving the lives and opportunities of children and young people with special educational needs and challenging behaviours • Procedural and policy knowledge related to assessments, case management and safeguarding • Ability to assess, design and deliver activity within the MAT early help offer as the main point of contact • Knowledge and awareness of issues which may have an impact on families whose children attend special schools or alternative provision • Knowledge of the processes, agencies and legislation related to children and young people attending special schools or alternative provision • Ability to manage casework and use case management methodologies • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to demonstrate empathy, be non-judgemental and build trust • Accurate record-keeping and the ability to use IT systems to support efficient and organised working • Ability to work as part of a team delivering a co-ordinated response • Personal energy and resilience in the face of challenge • Ability and willingness to work flexibly, travel and work occasionally into an evening • Interested in Bereavement for SME
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of local support services and provision – public, private and voluntary sector – that can be accessed by children, young people and their families at special schools and alternative provision

Safeguarding and checks

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. We expect all staff, volunteers and agency staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided.

Esteem Multi-Academy Trust's Safeguarding Policy applies to all adults, including volunteers and agency staff, working in or on behalf of the MAT. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found on the Esteem MAT website: <https://www.esteemmat.co.uk/policy-documents/>

Each student's welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse e.g. those with special educational needs and disabilities, those living in adverse circumstances. We recognise that children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world positively. We recognise that some children who have experienced abuse may harm others. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all students within our academies.

The MAT pays full regard to the DfE 'Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024' guidance. We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works for the MAT who is likely to be perceived by the students as a safe and trustworthy adult including volunteers and agency staff. As part of our safer recruiting practises, we scrutinise applicants; verify their identity, academic or vocational qualifications, obtain professional and personal references, check full employment history and ensure the applicant's health and physical capacity is suitable to undertake the role. Interviews and DBS checks are also undertaken.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those regarded as "spent" must be declared.

If you are currently working with children, either paid or voluntary, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including those related to children or young people (whether disciplinary sanction is current or time-expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and, if so, the outcome of any investigation or disciplinary proceedings.

If you are not currently working with children, but have done in the past, that previous employer will be asked about these issues.

Where neither your current or previous employment has involved working with children or young people, your current employer will be asked about your suitability to work with children and young people, although it may be answered "not applicable", where appropriate, if your work has not brought you in to contact with children or young people.

Application process and timeline

Application forms are available on our website at www.esteemmat.co.uk/vacancies.

After the closing date, shortlisting will be conducted by a panel who will match your skills and experience against the criteria in the Person Specification. You will be selected for interview purely on your application form, so please ensure that you read the Job Description and Person Specification carefully before you complete your application form.

All candidates invited to the interview and assessment day must bring the following documents; original documents only, copies will not be accepted:

- Documentary evidence for your right to work in the UK
- Documentary evidence of identity which meets the DBS requirements i.e. current photocard driving licence including a photograph and/or a passport and/or a full birth certificate
- Documentary proof of current name and address i.e. utility bill, financial statement etc.
- Where appropriate, documentation evidencing a name change
- Educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Further information relating to DBS check documentation requirements can be found on the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/documents-the-applicant-must-provide>.

If you are not the successful candidate, all your personal information will be destroyed, in a secure way, in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR May 2018) guidelines.

References will be sought for shortlisted candidates for any central positions and we may approach previous employers for information to verify experience or qualifications prior to interview. Any relevant issues arising from references will be discussed at interview.

Your completed application form and supporting letter should address and evidence the essential and desired criteria in the Person Specification.

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