



Sheffield Springs Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Briefing Pack for Applicants

Specialist Learning Coach – ASD and Social Communication and Interaction

December 2024

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Section 1 - Post Advertisement



Job title:	Specialist Learning Coach – ASD and Social Communication and Interaction
Location:	Sheffield Springs Academy, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield, S12 2SF
Starting salary:	FTE £31,000 gross per annum (actual of £26,749.42 for 39 weeks)
Start Date:	As soon as possible
Contract:	Permanent, Full-Time, 39 weeks (term-time only)

Sheffield Springs Academy is seeking to appoint a dynamic and enthusiastic Specialist Learning Coach – ASD and Social Communication and Interaction. The role will provide an innovative and stimulating education for all students at Sheffield Springs Academy, which ensures all are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The academy is part of United Learning, a national group of schools and academies. Sheffield Springs Academy is an 11-16 secondary school serving the Park, Manor and Castle wards of Sheffield. As part of United Learning our aim is to bring out ‘the Best in Everyone’ and we continuously strive to ensure that students and staff have every opportunity to succeed, with their potential developed to the utmost.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an Ofsted rated ‘Good’ academy. The academy is part of United Learning, a national group of schools and academies. Our school has motivated, ambitious students with a high percentage of our students going on to attend Russell group universities.

United Learning is one of the largest and most successful Trusts in the country who offers unrivalled Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and training, including opportunities for nationwide networking.

The city of Sheffield itself is a vibrant place to live and work with two universities and a range of entertainment opportunities alongside the access to the beautiful Peak District within a 20-minute commute. Quality of life is routinely ranked highly, and it is one of the greenest cities in Europe: [Welcome to Sheffield](#)

We are looking for someone who:

- Is reliable, highly motivated and self-driven.
- Shares our moral purpose of ensuring that all our young people receive the best education possible in a supportive environment from people who care about them.
- Someone who is resilient, dynamic, and passionate about improving the life chances of all children in our community but also displays humility and a reflective approach to improvement.
- A team player with strong communication skills.

We will offer you:

- Highly competitive salary. We pay an average of 5% above national scales, the best rates of pay in the sector.
- Excellent facilities and resources.
- Access to an outstanding professional development programme.
- At least one personal leave day a year.
- Polite, respectful and dedicated students who want to learn and fulfil their potential.
- Colleagues who are supportive, friendly and who are committed to each other's professional development.
- A chance to become part of one of the largest groups of academies in the country.
- Opportunities to work collaboratively with colleagues in other schools within the Yorkshire cluster and across United Learning.
- Excellent employee benefits which include a highly sought-after pension scheme with high employer contributions.
- Access to training through the Apprenticeship Levy.
- Generous staff discount scheme.
- We are open to requests for flexible or part-time working; and we encourage open and regular conversations about work-life balance.

If you possess these qualities and share the academy's vision, then we will be delighted to hear from you. Please refer to the job description and person specification for further details.

To apply, please click the 'Apply Now' button at the top of the advert on our website using the following link to our vacancies page: [Sheffield Springs Academy Vacancies](#) and complete our online application form. Please note that CVs are not accepted. **The closing date for this post is Friday 10 January 2025. Interviews will take place Friday 17 January 2025.**

If you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity, please contact hr@unitedlearningyorks.org.uk

United Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Employees will, in accordance with statutory guidance, be subject to a comprehensive checking process including references from current and previous employers, health, right to work in the UK, an Enhanced DBS check and a further check against the appropriate barred list.

Section 2 – United Learning

Sheffield Springs Academy is part of United Learning which is a large and growing group of schools aiming to offer a life changing education to children and young people across England.

Our schools work as a team and achieve more by sharing than any single school could. Our Subject Specialists, Group-wide Intranet, our own curriculum and online learning portal all help us share knowledge and resource, which supports simplifying work processes and managing workloads for an improved work-life balance.

As a Group we can reward our staff better, we provide good career opportunities, better pay, employee benefits and ultimately, the satisfaction of helping children to succeed. We invest in our staff wellbeing. Our academies each have at least eight INSET/training days per year (with three of those solely dedicated to planning) and an ongoing group-wide wellbeing programme. It is an ethos we call ‘the Best in Everyone’.

We are working hard to become a more diverse organisation, which is key to our commitment to bringing out ‘the Best in Everyone’. We welcome applications from everyone committed to this ethos and would particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates who are currently under-represented in the Group as a whole. We always appoint on merit. We are open to discussing flexible working options.

<https://unitedlearning.org.uk/>

Section 3 – Letter from the Regional Director

Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the role within the Yorkshire United Learning Cluster. The cluster itself is a close-knit group of three Secondary Academies: Barnsley Academy, Sheffield Park Academy and Sheffield Springs Academy, who work alongside a number of local Primary Academies; all from within the United Learning Trust.

The cluster is well-established and has excellent support from locally based cluster central services. These cover Business Management, HR, IT and Site/Estate Facilities. They are led by an Executive Business Manager. This provides our Academies with excellent trained advice and support in these areas; this benefits the leadership and wider staff of every Academy.

United Learning Trust is a national organisation serving Primary and Secondary Academies, all-through Academies and Independent Schools. Our ethos is, “the Best in Everyone”. This is a useful phrase that sums up the work and focus of the organisation. Every decision taken is done with this aim in mind: for staff, for students and for the community. The Trust values of Respect, Determination and Ambition are driven through the Character Programme, which each Academy has carefully interpreted in their own way. The Trust attributes of Creativity, Confidence and Enthusiasm are demonstrated at every level.

United Learning, and Academies within the Yorkshire Cluster, demonstrate a strong commitment to staff CPD and staff wellbeing. If you join our schools you will be inducted, supported and developed in a deliberate way from before you even take up post. Our status as an Academy Trust enables highly competitive rates of pay progression and our employee schemes, such as Perkbox, are an attractive feature of employment.

Above everything, we put young people first and seek to recruit adults who share this view. We work with students, parents and families to provide a structured, supportive experience that enables them to achieve as well as they possibly can and become excellent scholars and rounded individuals. We insist on classrooms and corridors that are respectful, orderly places where everyone is expected to display positive and mature attitudes.

Applying for a new job is a huge investment of time and emotional energy. The recruitment decision has to be right for employee and employer. I would encourage you to seek out any information you need in order to make the important decision to apply and we welcome visits to our schools in advance of applications wherever this might be helpful.

I do wish you the very best with your application and thank you again for considering us.

Best wishes,

Laura Moore
Regional Director
United Learning

Section 4 – Letter from the Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy



Dear Candidate

Thank you very much for your interest in the role at Sheffield Springs Academy. The school itself is a fantastic place to work and a brilliant place to learn. Our values are respect, excellence, ambition and pride; if you join our academy, you will see these demonstrated in all aspects of academy life and by all members of our wonderful team.

The team

I am extremely proud to be the Principal of Sheffield Springs Academy, I have worked at the academy for over 15 years and many colleagues have been here longer than this still; I believe this shows the team ethos and community-feel of our academy. The team are deeply invested in our students and new employees are warmly welcomed into this team.

Where we are and where we're going

Sheffield Springs Academy is an outward-facing school, learning from outstanding schools both within the group and beyond. We are unapologetic about our high standards and unashamedly ambitious for all our students and our staff team, we are embarking upon a journey towards becoming a great school. As part of this journey, we are creating an academic culture that is warm, disciplined and joyful and ensures impeccable behaviour. We aim for a culture that means teachers can teach and students can develop their knowledge.

We are committed to staff wellbeing and have a wide-reaching wellbeing programme in place, we listen to the views of our staff team, and we strive to make Sheffield Springs a brilliant place to work. We hold celebration briefings, ensure early finishes on INSET days, have a realistic marking policy, calendar in meeting-free-weeks and host a range of wellbeing activities to make sure staff have the time and support they need to fully support our pupils.

Location

Our academy is located at one of Sheffield's highest points, with incredible views across our catchment area directly to Stanage Edge, Hathersage and beyond into the Peak District. We are less than 30 minutes from the beautiful Peak District National Park, only 15 minutes away from the M1 motorway network and just a 5-minute walk to the nearest Supertram stop which provides efficient links to all areas of the city. Sheffield is a vibrant and diverse city; we are incredibly lucky to be in such a fantastic location which offers so much.

Applying for a new job is a huge investment of time and energy. I would encourage you to seek out any information you need in order to make the important decision to apply, and I welcome visits to our school in advance of applications wherever this might be helpful.

I wish you the very best with your application and thank you for taking the time to consider Sheffield Springs Academy as a place of employment.

Best wishes,

Claire Cartledge
Principal
Sheffield Springs Academy

Section 5 – Job Description



Job Description

Post title	Specialist Learning Coach – ASD and Social Communication and Interaction
Salary	Band 3 FTE £31,000 gross per annum (actual of £26,749.42 for 39 weeks)
Responsible to	SENDCo
Responsible for	No line management responsibilities involved in this role.
Role purpose	To provide an innovative and stimulating education for all students at Sheffield Springs Academy, which ensures all are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.
Relevant qualifications	GCSE or equivalent in English and Maths (minimum grade 4 or equivalent) Level 3 or equivalent qualification in a relevant field.

The postholder must, at all times, carry out their duties and responsibilities within the spirit of United Learning Trust and academy policies and procedures, and within the legislative framework applicable to academies.

Role Summary

To provide an innovative and stimulating education for all students at Sheffield Springs Academy, which ensures all are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Key Responsibilities

General:

- Work within the Academy as part of a team, under the general direction of the Principal, who will be responsible for the overall policy of the educational programme and for matters of control and discipline within the Academy.
- Undertake activities with either individuals or groups of children to ensure their safety and facilitate their physical, emotional and educational development.

- Carry out planned activities to support the development of students with autism spectrum disorders or social communication and interaction needs following the graduated response.
- Work to establish a supportive relationship with the children and parents concerned.
- Encourage acceptance and inclusion of children with special educational needs.
- Promote and help build students' self-esteem.

Role Tasks:

- Assist in students' educational and social development under the direction and guidance of the Principal, SENCo and other professionals.
- Assist in administrative duties to support the Student Support department.
- Provide support for individual students to participate fully in all Academy activities.
- Conduct lesson observations on students with potential ASD and SCI difficulties issues and give feedback to the SENCo to support the plan-do-review process.
- Observe students with ASD and SCI difficulties in their lessons to identify their areas of strength and areas for development in their ongoing intervention plan, which will contribute to student passports.
- As necessary, work with other professionals and external agencies, such as SALT, Educational Psychologists, outreach workers, and CAMHs, offering feedback and implementing recommendations.
- Regularly review and analyse behaviour & safeguarding data to support appropriate selection of interventions.
- Support students with emotional and/or mental health needs in collaboration with other relevant Academy departments and external agencies.
- Plan, carry out, and review interventions with small groups and/or individuals to provide high-quality tutoring in the targeted area of need.
- Complete tracking data and records of involvement with each student, evidencing the graduated response.
- Promote resilience and harness students' independence to prepare them for learning post-16 and adulthood.
- Attend whole Academy, department briefings and INSET training sessions to improve your practice and share best practices continuously.
- Liaise with other educational settings, parents, and students to deliver effective transitions from primary to post-16 settings.
- Utilise the Academies' Arbor management system, 4 matrix, provision map and class charts to analyse student achievement, attendance, behavioural logs, and rewards, plan suitable interventions, and mentor students.

- Contribute feedback to the teaching and learning agenda within the Academy to support the progress of students with ASD and SCI needs.
- Stay up to date with relevant research and findings on ASD and SCI needs among young people and how best to support students with these needs academically and socially.
- Liaise and work in partnership with other learning coaches to provide a well-rounded range of support for students to reach their true potential.
- To collect feedback, contribute, review EHCP outcomes and attend the EHCP annual reviews for students within your specialism.
- Provide evidence to support relevant access arrangements for exams. Work directly with students to facilitate access arrangements, such as acting as a reader/scribe.
- Provide relevant updates and continuous CPD to stakeholders on effective classroom support for students with Social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Undertake appropriate training to support students with physical needs and carry this out as required.
- Set an excellent example regarding professional dress, punctuality and attendance.

Safeguarding

- Undertake regular safeguarding as required.
- Ensure that statutory and Ofsted requirements for Safeguarding are met
- To promote the safeguarding of young people.

General

- Develop excellent working relationships with colleagues internally, centrally and externally.
- Be an effective and flexible member of the team.
- Ensure any documentation produced is to a high standard and is in line with the in-house style.
- Participate in training and other learning activities as required.
- Participate in the Performance Management process.
- Provide appropriate guidance and supervision and assist in the training and development of staff as appropriate.
- To represent the academies at events as appropriate.
- To support and promote academy and United Learning's ethos, playing a part in strengthening relationships between academies and with central office.

- To be aware of, and comply with, United Learning’s policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality, and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
- To actively participate in continuous professional development and act as a positive role model across the academies and Trust.
- 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 Executive Business Manager and Human Resources.
- This job description will be kept under review and may be amended via consultation with the individual, Executive Business Manager and Human Resources as required.

Information

This post may require the post-holder to have a degree of flexibility and willingness to work outside of normal working hours.

The information contained above is to help staff understand and appreciate the work content of their post and the role they are to play in the organisation. However, it should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to outline all the duties and responsibilities of the post, a document such as this does not permit every item to be specified in detail. Broad headings have therefore, been used in which case all the usual associated duties are included in this job description.

This job description will be reviewed annually as part of the performance management process and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post-holder.

Elements of this job description and changes to it may be negotiated at the request of either the post-holder or the incumbent of the post.

I accept my job description and job title as detailed above.

Name (print)	
Sign	
Date	

Section 6 – Person Specification



Person Specification

Post title	Specialist Learning Coach - ASD and Social Communication and Interaction		
Salary	Band 3 FTE £31,000 gross per annum (actual of £26,749.42 for 39 weeks)		
		Essential	Desirable
Education/Qualifications			
Educated to degree level or at least Level 4 with both English and Maths GCSE at Grade C or 5 or above		X	
Knowledge and Experience			
Experience of working with students with specific learning difficulties		X	
Experience with working with students with moderate learning difficulties		X	
Experience of working with students with SEMH needs		X	
Experience of working with students with communication and interaction needs.		X	
Experience of working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.		X	
Experience of knowledge of the national curriculum, United Learning strategies and relevant intervention or 'catch-up' programmes.		X	
Skills, Behaviour and Qualities			
Ability to identify and analyse the underlying issues that may lead to underachievement and barriers to learning and participation.		X	
Ability to prioritise, plan, organise and manage work life balance.		X	
Ability to work as an effective team player, understanding the strengths and weakness of others to help team development.		X	
Excellent time management and organisational skills.		X	
Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills, both written and spoken.		X	
Ability to be resilient and flexible and to try different approaches with students whose needs may be very different.		X	
Ability to plan, monitor, evaluate and review all interventions with students.		X	
Committed to the personal professional development of yourself and others.		X	
Commitment to safeguarding and welfare of all students.		X	
Teamwork			
Recognises the contribution and achievement of colleagues.		X	
Keeps colleagues, stakeholders and/or customers informed of progress.		X	
Treats others fairly, openly and consistently.		X	

Expresses disagreement or challenges views calmly, constructively and tactfully.	X	
Supports and co-operates with colleagues.	X	
Personal Attributes		
Maintains confidentiality and discretion	X	
Able to make connection between their work and the benefits to students.	X	
Good written and verbal communication skills.	X	
Ability to prioritise and manage workload while maintaining a flexible response to urgent requests.	X	
Establishing and maintaining high standards and expectations.	X	
Good interpersonal skills and ability to work with staff and stakeholders at all levels.	X	
Organised and good attention to detail.	X	
High expectations of self.	X	
The ability to act on advice and be open to coaching.	X	
A commitment to extra-curricular activities.	X	
A continued interest in developments in teaching and learning.	X	
The ability to motivate others.	X	
The ability to establish effective working relationships with individuals, groups and organisations.	X	
The ability to remain calm and diffuse situations.	X	
The demonstration of a concern for excellence in one's professional work and the achievement of students.	X	
A commitment to support the school's aims, vision and ethos.	X	
Adaptability and resilience, with the ability to cope with periods of work pressure with good humour and a sense of proportion.	X	
Energy and commitment to professional responsibilities and to the betterment of all students.	X	
A willingness to contribute to the wider life of the school.	X	

Section 7 – The Appointment Process

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

The Application Form

The application form is accessible via the 'Apply' link on the job advertisement. Please complete the application form neatly, fully and accurately, including exact dates. You are requested to submit a concise application. CVs are not accepted.

Education and Training

State your qualifications and any training you have undertaken relevant to the post.

Present Appointment

Make it clear what your present post is, which establishment you work in and who your employer is.

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.

Referees

Suitable referees are people who have direct, recent experience of your work and who are in responsible positions. Reference will be taken if the candidate is successfully short-listed for interview. We may need to contact them at short notice so please be specific with regard to contact addresses including e-mail and telephone numbers.

The Supporting Statement

The supporting statement is regarded as a very important part of your application. You should make statements that demonstrate how your qualifications and experience match the post.

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 support staff posts. We would ask that all shortlisted applicants read the safeguarding information on the school website/s prior to attending the interview.

The Interview

Candidates will be invited to interview at the school during which time they will have the opportunity to meet staff and students and see the school at work.

Feedback

Feedback is offered to those candidates who are shortlisted, interviewed and not recommended for appointment. It is hoped that this information will help you with future applications.

Section 8 – Visitors/Contacts for Sheffield Springs Academy

The academy is located in a thriving town close to the beautiful Peak District



Sheffield Springs Academy
Hurlfield Road
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S12 2SF

Website: www.sheffieldsprings-academy.org

Email: enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org

Telephone: 0114 2392631

Sheffield Springs Academy is an 11-16 secondary school and is Ofsted rated 'Good'. As part of United Learning, our aim is to bring out 'the Best in Everyone'. Our values are Respect, Excellence, Ambition and Pride, and these are demonstrated in all aspects of academy life and by all members of our wonderful team.