OPAL Play Team Member

Job purpose and content

Working as a member of the play team, you will ensure that all our children have meaningful lunchtime play every day. You will create a safe and stimulating outdoor environment providing social, active and creative play experiences for all. The play team is also responsible for ensuring that all our children have a pleasant eating experience at lunch time, while maximising the time they can spend outside playing.

Responsibilities and role

- Work as part of the play team to cover all lunchtime tasks daily.
- Work with the play coordinator to ensure all children have access to exciting age-appropriate play opportunities every lunch time.
- Facilitate play opportunities and act as an ambassador for play.
- Work with the site Manager, play coordinator, and play team members to ensure that all our children have a safe site for play.
- Assess play areas for risks daily and communicate/implement any changes required.
- Assist with putting out and packing away of play equipment/kit.
- Record and report incidents of note that occur during lunchtime – eg site issues, behaviour, first aid.
- Assess and deliver first aid to pupils (training provided). Assist with first aid reporting.
- Offer care, support and advice for children during lunchtime.
- Contribute ideas and suggestions to improve the team practices and performance.
- Promote and safeguard the safety and welfare of children in accordance with school child protection and behaviour management policies.
- Support and uphold the school's values system and school rules and reward pupils with verbal praise for positive attitudes and behaviours.
- Attend periodic team meetings and/or training for professional development.
- Assist with training Play Rangers.
- Complete school-based induction and any subsequent training required to improve performance and take part in the school performance management system (where relevant).

Knowledge, experience and training

- Previous experience of playwork or working with children is highly desirable.
- Literacy and numeracy: ability to follow written guidance and procedures.
- Problem solving: ability to identify and resolve straightforward problems and refer complex problems to an appropriate member of staff.
- Verbal and written skills: play team members will be required to record incidents swiftly and add to appropriate central school records. Ability to give clear verbal instructions to children and team members. Ability to follow good protocol.

Skills and personal attributes

- Enjoy working with young people (all ages in the primary school range 4 to 11 years).
- Positive and supportive attitude towards young people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Confident in working with and able to influence and negotiate with children from Reception (4 years old) to Year 6 (11 years old).
- Strong teamwork skills; enjoy being part of a team, supportive, flexible and reliable.
- Practical, solutions driven.
- Friendly, approachable and caring manner.
- Dependable, with good time keeping.
- Willingness to try new things and work outside comfort zone.

Physical effort and/or strain

Working with children is demanding and requires stamina and resourcefulness. This post will require physical effort, such as initiating active games, demonstrating safe play, walking on uneven surfaces (slopes, sand) and moving 'loose parts' materials, containers and furniture.

Working environment

The working environment will be part, or all, of the school premises or accommodation selected by the school. Areas of high use are the outdoor play spaces (playgrounds, field, MUGAs, outdoor seating, den building areas, sand pits, mud kitchen, digging area) and the dining hall, but are not restricted to these.

Equipment

- Play materials (eg scrap materials, loose parts, sports kit, storage containers, logs) will be in regular use.
- Whistles & Radios are used to communicate when a year group can go in for hot lunches /packed lunches.
- Cleaning equipment (brooms, bags, sprays, cloths etc).
- Folding tables/chairs.
- First aid kit.

General

This job description only contains the principal accountabilities relating to this post and does not describe in detail all the tasks required to carry them out. Duties may vary from time to time without changing the character of the post or the level of responsibility.

Special notes or conditions

The post-holder will be subject to a full police and suitability check to satisfy child protection requirements. The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and all convictions or cautions must be declared.

The post-holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the safety and welfare of children in accordance with the school's child protection and behaviour management policy.

Notes

1. The school expects all staff to be flexible. This means that a play team member can be expected to carry out duties that are not specified in this job description but that are within the scope of responsibilities of the post.

2. This job description will be reviewed after one year and any review will include discussion with the post-holder.