# SEND Support Assistant- Wellbeing and Engagement (Secondary)

We are seeking a compassionate and proactive SEND Support Assistant to join our team and support students facing challenges with attendance and engagement in lessons. This role involves working closely with students, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to help them access learning, manage their emotions, and return to lessons. You will also play an important role in supporting students to develop their emotional resilience, while liaising with other staff members to ensure coordinated support.

**Key Responsibilities:**

* **Student Support:**
  + Provide tailored support to students who struggle to attend lessons or need time out of class due to emotional or anxiety-related challenges.
  + Work with students on a one-to-one or small group basis to help them re-engage with learning and gradually reintegrate them into the classroom.
  + Provide emotional and practical support to students during times of stress or anxiety.
  + Help students access online learning platforms, ensuring they continue their education during periods of absence from class.
* **Intervention Delivery:**
  + Lead interventions aimed at supporting students with social, emotional, and mental health difficulties.
  + Design and implement strategies that help students build confidence, manage their emotions, and reduce anxiety.
  + Regularly assess the progress of students within interventions and adjust strategies accordingly.
* **Record Keeping and Reporting:**
  + Maintain accurate records of all student support interactions, ensuring that all data is logged in accordance with school policies.
  + Contribute to the review process of student progress and collaborate with teaching and pastoral staff to track students’ overall wellbeing and academic development.
* **Team Collaboration:**
  + Work closely with the SEND team, pastoral staff, teachers, and other colleagues to ensure a coordinated approach to student support.
  + Attend regular meetings with key stakeholders to share insights and updates on student progress.
* **SEND Knowledge and Awareness:**
  + Demonstrate a strong understanding of SEND and how it affects learning and emotional wellbeing.
  + Stay updated with best practices in SEND support and mental health provision for young people.
* **Additional Responsibilities:**
* Undertake any other responsibilities as requested by the Principal.

**Person Specification**

**Essential Criteria:**

* **Experience & Qualifications:**
  + Experience working with students, particularly those with SEND, in an educational or similar setting (e.g., youth work, mental health support).
  + Knowledge and understanding of SEND and the challenges students with SEND face in terms of learning, emotional wellbeing, and behaviour.
  + Experience of delivering or supporting interventions aimed at improving emotional regulation, anxiety management, or engagement with learning.
  + Strong understanding of safeguarding practices and maintaining confidentiality.
* **Skills & Abilities:**
  + Excellent communication skills, with the ability to relate to students, staff, and parents/carers.
  + Ability to manage sensitive situations and de-escalate emotional or challenging behaviours with patience and empathy.
  + Strong organisational skills with the ability to keep accurate and detailed records.
  + Ability to adapt and respond to the individual needs of students, including those with complex emotional and behavioural challenges.
  + Proficient in using online learning platforms and educational technologies to support student learning.
* **Personal Attributes:**
  + A compassionate, non-judgmental approach to working with young people.
  + A proactive, solutions-focused attitude to problem-solving.
  + Resilience and the ability to stay calm under pressure.
  + Ability to work both independently and as part of a collaborative team.

**Desirable Criteria:**

* A relevant qualification in Special Educational Needs, Psychology, Mental Health, or a related field (e.g., Level 3 Teaching Assistant qualification, Youth Work qualification, or similar).
* Training in Mental Health support frameworks, such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Mindfulness, ELSA or Mental Health First Aid.
* A current first aid qualification.
* Experience using student information management systems or online record-keeping tools.