

## **Occupational Therapist.**

The Occupational Therapist will provide expertise, advice and intervention for a varied caseload, working both discreetly and embedded within the educational environment across the academy.

### **Job Purpose**

- To assess and manage a specialist Occupational Therapist (OT) caseload using developed clinical skills and innovative practice.
- To identify, assess and manage children with occupational therapy needs linked to their diagnosis (for example sensory needs, emotional regulation needs, fine and gross motor skills) and contribute to a Multi-Agency Assessment Team.
- To identify and assess occupational therapy needs and select appropriate types of therapy/intervention for occupational therapy support.
- To provide expert advice to the Education and Therapy Team in interpreting other professional reports for Admissions, Tribunals, Annual Reviews and Banding.
- To develop and deliver specific training courses relating to occupational therapy needs.
- To work with parents and carers and children in a supportive and person centred partnership towards agreed goals and outcomes.

### **Main Duties**

- To support and develop the skills of pupils with occupational therapy needs arising from autism, social communication needs and/or developmental delays/disorders.
- To implement and monitor a whole academy autism enablement strategy to establish an autism friendly environment and support for sensory needs.
- To work with a wide range of professionals in a variety of multidisciplinary teams across external agencies in a consultative, advisory and collaborative capacity.
- To provide specialist assessment and analysis of occupational therapy needs and the impact advising on appropriate intervention.
- To work with the Head of Therapy and wider Therapy Team to help ensure that changes to interventions are based on high quality and proven research leading to evidence based practice.
- To work in partnership with pupils, using high levels of insight, skill and experience, to determine an intervention programme that balances all aspects of their needs within a holistic pupil centred approach, while working towards a specific therapeutic goal.
- To deliver Occupational Therapy specificity as identified in pupils EHCP's and to advise and support colleagues with regards to Physical and Sensory outcomes on all pupils EHCP's through focussed solution surgeries, team around the child approaches and direct referrals.

<b>Occupational Therapist –Person Specification</b>		
	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>		
Degree in Occupational Therapy (or equivalent qualification).	x	
Registration with Health Care Professions Council.	x	
Membership of British Association of Occupational Therapists, and evidence of own professional development.	x	
Have additional and/or a commitment to partaking in specialist training and advanced professional qualifications in specialty areas.	x	
<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>		
To have a working knowledge of the development of a functional autism friendly environment, including sensory input.	x	
Have knowledge of the wide range of autism presentations and how this impacts daily functioning and independence.	x	
To have an understanding of the use of visual strategies, and symbol systems e.g. Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS).		x
To have good knowledge and understanding of (or a commitment to developing and understanding of) TEACCH approaches.	x	
To have good observation skills and to use the insight from observation to inform practice.	x	
To have a detailed knowledge/experience of the sensory needs pupils with autism may have and the impact of this on daily functioning and independence.	x	
Highly skilled in the selection and use of Occupational Therapy assessment; including formal and informal assessments.	x	
To be able to write detailed Occupational Therapy reports as required.	x	
Experience of evaluating Occupational Therapy interventions and monitoring their effectiveness and outcomes	x	
Experience of multi-agency working	x	
Has knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice (2015)		x
To be able to manage an Occupational Therapy caseload effectively	x	
Able to deliver 1:1 and small group therapy	x	
To co-deliver therapeutic approaches within the classroom	x	
<b>Safeguarding</b>		
Full understanding of the safeguarding requirements and how staff promote the welfare of children	x	
Eligibility to work in the UK	x	
Recent safeguarding training		x
<b>Personal Qualities</b>		
A self - motivated and resilient practitioner	x	
Ability to engage with, motivate and adapt for students who find learning a challenge	x	
Ability to quickly build and sustain effective working relationships with a range of stakeholders, including parents, education staff, care staff, other therapists, Local authority officers, health professionals.	x	
A flexible, innovative and consistently positive attitude	x	
Excellent communicator, both orally and written	x	
An ability to retain a sense of perspective and humor to motivate all pupils and colleagues.	x	