



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

PLAY THERAPIST



Chair of Governors: Mr R Scott

Principal: Mr G Gibson

 DIOCESE OF OXFORD

PLAY THERAPIST JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB PURPOSE

To provide a professional and confidential support and counselling/play therapy service to the students at Aylesbury Vale Academy, in order to promote emotional health and wellbeing and enable children and young people to develop a resilience to help them cope with the difficulties they face.

To follow the Academy's Safeguarding policy and procedures and ensure the wellbeing of all students in their care is their highest priority.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Play Therapist is line managed by the Lead School Counsellor. They will work alongside the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other school counsellors, supporting them in their roles in the oversight of student wellbeing.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The overall responsibility of the Play Therapist is to provide daily one to one support for students on a range of issues including, but not limited to: bereavement, school transitions, separation anxiety and depression, anger management, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and eating disorders.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To provide a high quality, professional and confidential psychotherapy/play therapy service for individuals or groups of students age 3-11 who require therapeutic welfare support covering a variety of emotional health issues.
- To liaise with parents where necessary to ensure the young person is supported well.
- To provide an appointment service at the Academy for all students as means of one-off support or self-referral.
- To co-ordinate where appropriate with external agencies such as CAMHs, GPs and Psychiatrists to ensure the young person's well-being and safety.
- To liaise and work closely with the safeguarding team and refer safeguarding concerns to the senior designated person within the Academy.
- To provide weekly updates on students receiving counselling support to the Lead School Counsellor.
- To report back and inform line manager and key staff, on a regular basis, the numbers and types of issues the users of the counselling service are presenting with.
- To provide information on non-confidential issues and support work undertaken to staff, SLT and Governing Body and on occasions, parents, when appropriate to allow colleagues to understand the emotional needs of students.
- To contribute to any reports, meetings and documents as required by the Academy.
- To contribute to the advice and referrals to external professionals eg CAMHS etc.
- To offer advice and guidance including CPD to colleagues when appropriate.
- To regularly review and evaluate the quality of the counselling service.
- To keep confidential case records on each counselling session, in a secure place in accordance with the Data Protection Act.
- To attend regular line management, team meetings and training as required and undertake appraisal in accordance with AVA practice.
- To attend regular clinical supervision and peer supervision.