

Phoenix Progress – Job Description

Teaching Assistant

We are looking for someone warm, outgoing and practical who enjoys working with young people, is happy to get involved and wants to be part of a small team doing something genuinely worthwhile.

A little about Phoenix Progress

We are a small alternative provision based at The Gatehouse near Ipswich, set within five acres of land. This gives us space to learn both indoors and outdoors. We work with young people in Years 5 to 11 who may have SEND, anxiety, gaps in education or simply find a mainstream school environment difficult. Our groups are small and our days combine learning with outdoor activities, sport, cooking, gardening, creativity and practical projects.

Relationships are at the heart of what we do. We want our young people to feel safe, understood and able to succeed, while still having clear routines and expectations.

Who we are looking for

We are less interested in a long list of qualifications than we are in finding the right person. You might already have experience in a school, youth work, sport, care or another role with children and young people. What matters most is that you are reliable, calm when things are difficult, able to have a laugh and willing to join in rather than stand at the side.

What the role would involve

- Supporting young people with English, maths and other learning in very small groups.
- Helping pupils settle, stay engaged and build confidence without doing everything for them.
- Joining in with outdoor learning, sport, cooking, gardening, creative work, trips and practical projects.
- Building positive relationships while keeping clear and consistent boundaries.
- Preparing simple resources and helping the day run smoothly.
- Working closely with the teacher and pastoral team and sharing anything important about a pupil's progress or wellbeing.

Why it is a little different

You would be working with very small groups and would have time to get to know the young people properly. The pupil day is usually 9.30am to 2.30pm, so the role offers a better balance than many traditional school jobs.

The practical bits

The role is based at The Gatehouse near Ipswich. Hours would usually be 9.00am to 3:00pm during term time, although we can be flexible for the right candidate. We expect the post to be fixed term initially, with the opportunity for it to grow as Phoenix Progress develops.

Interested or know someone who might be?

Please get in touch with Jonathan at Phoenix Progress for an informal conversation – 07715536998

As we work with children and young people, the appointment will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, references and the usual safer-recruitment checks.