



Weston Way Nursery School

Forest School Practitioner Candidate Pack

'Home from Home'



“ ‘Home from Home’, where as a family,
we play, learn and grow in our
journey together, shaping the future. ”

Our Vision



Headteacher's Welcome



A warm welcome from me and everyone else involved in the life at Weston Way Nursery School.

Our nursery is at the heart of the Baldock community since 1942 and celebrated 80 years in 2022. We have a strong vision rooted in our 'Home from Home' feel, whereby we offer quality early years provision for 2-4 year olds from 8.00am-5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00am-4.00pm on a Friday. During this time, the children have the opportunity to play and grow in our extensive grounds surrounded by the most wonderful woodland which enables our families to fulfil our 'HOME' aims: Happiness / Opportunity / Magical Moments / Engagement.

Our inspiring staff co-adventurers at Weston Way Nursery School strive to ensure the needs of every child are met through our well thought out curriculum that is unique to us. We value our partnerships which enable us to build relationships as we seek to offer each child the best start in life.

At Weston Way Nursery School, the Forest School Practitioner role is an essential role within our team of co-adventurers. Our new Forest School Practitioner will be someone who recognises the importance of their role ensuring quality outcomes for our children through the various responsibilities in the job description. We work together as a team and there is always someone on hand to help. We have built a culture where no question is a silly question and we seek to find resolve. Each day brings new challenges and we act quickly to meet the nursery's ever-changing needs.

Our website provides an overview of everything we offer but please visit us to feel our warm and nurturing environment for yourself.

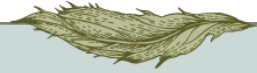
We look forward to hearing from you.

Kelly Nichol

Headteacher

'Home from Home'

Candidates Information



Pay range	MPS/UPS
Start date	03.09.25
Closing date	Saturday 9 August 2025
Shortlisting	Sunday 10 August 2025
Interview date	Tuesday 2 September 2025

Visits to the school	head@westonway.herts.sch.uk 01462 892172
School website	www.westonway.herts.sch.uk
School address	Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6HD
Contact	Kelly Nichol

Candidates Information

Application

Application is via the Teach in Herts online application form only. We do not accept CVs. Please read the attached guidance in the advert and complete all aspects of the form fully. You should include your full work history with no unexplained gaps since leaving education. Please also include all qualifications and details of relevant training.

Personal Statement

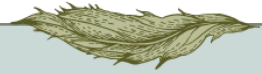
Your Personal Statement is a very important section of the application form and provides the basis for shortlisting of candidates. When writing this, be sure to address each of the requirements in the Person Specification and give evidence of your skills, knowledge and experience. Although there is no set word limit for this, try to keep your statement within two pages (2,000 - 2,500 words).

References

Preferred references are from your last two employers, and you should provide their official organisation email address for us to contact. It will be helpful if you can make them aware of your application.



Key Information



Type of school	Community maintained
Ofsted rating	Outstanding
Age range	3-5 years
Number of children on roll	81
Number of children on SEND register	11
Number of children with EAL	9
Number of children eligible for EYPP	8



Safeguarding

Weston Way Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and visitors to share this commitment.

Appointment to this post will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check, as well as other pre-appointment checks outlined in our Safer Recruitment Policy.

Job Description



Location: Weston Way Nursery School

Pay grade: H3

Purpose of the role: To develop the forest school provision and embed outdoor learning into the curriculum.

Accountability: The post holder is managed by a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Aim:

- To ensure that the provision in Nursery is of the highest possible standard and that all statutory requirements are met
- To be responsible for the care and learning of all children

N.B. The duties listed below are not an exhaustive list of requirements. The specific nature and balance of these responsibilities will vary according to the needs of the school.

Responsibilities:

- To be responsible for, plan and oversee the delivery, organisation and smooth running of the Forest School program which develop resilience, perseverance, problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills
- Plan and deliver learning activities that are in line with the ethos of forest school
- To be responsible for setting up Forest School activities and preparing the equipment and materials needed to ensure that all learners enjoy and achieve
- To ensure that Forest School activities promote child-led learning and contribute to the holistic development of all children
- Monitor pupils' responses to learning activities and accurately record achievement/progress where relevant
- To manage support staff and volunteers effectively, ensuring they embrace the ethos of forest school
- To promote learning in the outdoor environment by following the ethos and principles of Forest School along with the school's ethos
- To prepare, implement and keep up to date the relevant risk assessments for Forest School sessions to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff. To carry out dynamic risk assessment during a session ensuring that all staff, or volunteers, involved in Forest School sessions are aware of the relevant risk assessments

Job Description continued



- To contribute to the Forest School seasonal curriculum
- To support the evaluation of the Forest School programme and to continually strive for improvement
- To foster a love of the outdoors and an understanding of nature and environmental issues.
- Attend to pupils' personal needs, including social, health, hygiene, first-aid and welfare matters.
- Awareness of and support for, difference and ensure that pupils have equality of access to opportunities to learn and develop.
- To be responsible for the emotional well-being and learning of children
- To interact appropriately with children and parents, taking into account their individual needs
- To support parents to understand and help their child's learning and development
- To build positive relationships with all staff in the school
- To work with other professionals in order to support the needs of children and their families
- To be responsible for protecting and safeguarding all children
- To ensure up to date knowledge of all policies and procedures and that they are adhered to and implemented
- To contribute to the development of the school, showing commitment to our shared ethos and values

Early Years Practitioner role may also undertake some or all of the following:

- Escort and supervise children on educational out of nursery school activities
- Prepare and present displays
- Assist pupils with eating, dressing and hygiene including intimate care, as required, whilst encouraging independence

Equalities

Be aware of and support difference and ensure that pupils have equality of access to opportunities to learn and develop

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Be aware of and comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection (GDPR); and report all concerns to an appropriate person.

Data Protection (GDPR)

To be aware of and comply with responsibilities under the Data Protection Act (1984) and General Data Protection Regulation (May 2018) for the security, accuracy and significance of personal data held on paper or electronic systems.



'Home from Home'

	Essential	Desirable
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Experience of working with children in a preschool/nursery/school setting <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant qualifications (e.g. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years/HLTA Status/Teaching degree) <input type="checkbox"/> Level 3 Forest Schools Programme Certificate or willingness to work towards it. <input type="checkbox"/> Training or expertise in a relevant curriculum or other learning area (e.g. Early Years Foundation Stage Framework) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working with pupils with a range of special educational needs <input type="checkbox"/> Maths and Literacy GCSE [A-C]
Skills and Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge, understanding and practical experience of Forest School provision <input type="checkbox"/> Know how to use a range of teaching and learning strategies to support children's progress <input type="checkbox"/> Plan effective activities for pupils <input type="checkbox"/> Use therapeutic approach to behaviour strategies in line with policy <input type="checkbox"/> Respond to young children's needs <input type="checkbox"/> Understands the importance of the unique child within a holistic approach <input type="checkbox"/> Work independently <input type="checkbox"/> Able to work effectively as part of a team <input type="checkbox"/> Remain calm under pressure and be able to adapt to change quickly <input type="checkbox"/> Show genuine care and respect for young children and their families and a commitment to working with them <input type="checkbox"/> Have empathy with those facing barriers to their learning <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to a purposeful learning environment <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage children to interact and learn cooperatively with others <input type="checkbox"/> Respond to guidance and proactively seek CPD opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Be a positive role model <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to recognise the importance of confidentiality at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support children's learning through play <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with escorting children on educational visits <input type="checkbox"/> Use ICT effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to children's assessment data

PS



Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Understanding of relevant codes of practice/ and legislation ❑ Understanding of child development and learning ❑ Training in relevant learning strategies ❑ Early Years Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Working within a creative curriculum ❑ Knowledge of health, safety and hygiene practices and requirements ❑ Attends staff training sessions where appropriate
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Has up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation and guidance in relation to working with, and the protection of, children and young people ❑ Displays commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Possession of a current Paediatric First Aid or First Aid at Work certificate ❑ Possession of Level 1 Safeguarding certificate ❑ Willingness to undertake training for these qualifications



Thank you



We look forward to
beginning our
adventure together
with you

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