

GROW TO SCHOOL



Outdoor education practitioner application pack

Do you have the skills to deliver wide-ranging outdoor learning and food growing programmes in schools? Do you share our passion for helping children learn about and care for the natural environment? Do you want to be part of an exciting new team within a growing organisation?

Location: West Yorkshire

Salary: £23,034.37 pro rata

Hours: Part time, initially 11.25 hours per week (potential to increase)

Contract: 6 month fixed term contract (with real potential to extend), PAYE or freelance

Grow to School CIC (GtS) is a small but growing community interest company based in Huddersfield. We deliver curriculum based outdoor learning and food growing sessions in primary schools across West Yorkshire.

We are looking for an individual with experience of delivering in schools and with communities, ideally in outdoor learning & food growing and with an understanding of how this links to the current curriculum. Applicants must be adaptable and able to work with whole classes of children, consult with teaching staff as well as working with parents & carers at community events. As a creative communicator you will be able to enthuse and inspire children & staff whilst building good relationships with the people you work with. There will be opportunities to experience and work in other aspects of GtS such as project development and operations. You will be capable of working independently as part of a small team and demonstrate a committed, mature, and flexible approach to your work.

If you believe that you have the passion, commitment, and skills to take this unique opportunity forward then we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this part-time post, please email ama@growtoschool.co.uk sending your current CV and a supporting statement explaining how you believe your skills and experience match our requirements for the role, directly address the job description and person specification included in this pack in your statement. Please include the names and contact details of two people, at least one of whom should be a recent employer or contract holder, who are able to provide references relating to your work and on your suitability for this post.

Please use the email title Outdoor education practitioner

The closing date for applications is Midnight 28th May 2023

Interviews 6th June 2023

Room LG12, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade, Huddersfield. HD1 5JP

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www.growtoschool.co.uk

Grow to School is a Community Interest Company registered in England and Wales No. 8390034.

About Grow to School CIC

Founded in 2011, Grow to School (GtS) CIC exists to give children greater access to the outdoors for learning, exploration, and discovery.

Based in Huddersfield, GtS works with primary schools and communities providing 'hands on' outdoor learning experiences that link to classroom lessons. To enable this GtS works to:

- Deliver outdoor learning programmes as a means of enhancing the curriculum
- Delivers teacher training and provide resources that help schools take learning outside
- Support schools and communities to grow, cook and eat fresh healthy food and engage with the natural environment
- Support schools and communities to engage with the natural environment and understand their place within it

Evidence from our work over the past 10 years shows that outdoor learning can raise attainment, improve behaviour, build resilience and confidence, and make learning more accessible to all. There is little doubt that being outdoors increases wellbeing for children and teachers, not to mention GtS staff! We see these and more impacts every day and believe that everyone should be given these opportunities.

To find out more about what we do have a look at our [Grow to School](#) website. This will also link you to our [Teach it Outside](#) lesson plan site.

Job description & person specification:

JOB OVERVIEW: Grow to School (GtS) CIC partners with primary schools and charity and social enterprise partners to deliver excellent outdoor sessions and lessons across Yorkshire and beyond. The organisation undertakes a wide range of outdoor learning and food growing programmes.

Job title	Outdoor education practitioner
Reports to	Ama Chaney – Managing director, Grow to School
Location	In school and community settings for session delivery days & from agreed place of work.
Overall purpose of the role	<p>To plan and deliver exciting and engaging outdoor learning and food growing sessions in schools covering key stages 1, 2 & EYFS as well as SEND activities as required.</p> <p>The role will contribute to the development of GtS, ensuring we offer a high-quality service that meets the needs of our clients.</p>
Key responsibilities	<p>To work with and nurture the schools you work with, offer advice and support them to sustainably develop their outdoor learning and/or food growing programs across the school.</p> <p>To work as part of the GtS team to develop the potential of the organisation.</p>
Other responsibilities	<p>The postholder will be expected to work independently to deliver activities to classes of up to 35 children as well as smaller groups. They will not be expected to manage whole classes alone as a teacher &/or teaching assistant from the school will always be present at the sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support planning and delivery of school community/family events as needed.• To develop and maintain resources (such as activity sheets, props and materials) to support outdoor learning lessons, including monitoring equipment, reporting damages and ensuring safe storage.• To support and run occasional school garden clubs in collaboration with the school.• To deliver occasional cook and eat sessions to schools to promote healthy eating, use of school grown produce & teach basic cooking skills.• To support GtS programme delivery, through planning, recording, and reporting.• To keep thorough records of all projects including, photographic records, risk assessments etc.• Ensure data collection for evaluation and monitoring from children and school staff.• To operate within and promote the GtS mission and values.• To promote GtS through attendance at open conferences.• To participate with the rest of the GtS team through half termly meetings.• To share the successes of in school sessions through regular social media posts.• To ensure all work is undertaken in line with GtS policies and procedures (e.g. safeguarding, environment and sustainability and health and safety).• Conduct the role in accordance with the highest levels of customer service and quality ensuring adherence with safeguarding children and young people best practice and organisational policies within schools.• Present a professional image of GtS at all times.• To ensure equal opportunities are considered within all working practice.

Qualifications	<p>Educated or equivalent experience in any of the following sectors: horticulture, teaching or QTS, arts, environmental management, or environmental science.</p> <p>To have experience & knowledge of food growing & gardening.</p>
Knowledge & experience	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good understanding of safeguarding procedures in a work setting with children and young people. • Experience in working with children in a school setting or similar. • Knowledge of schools and / or early years settings. • Horticultural knowledge. • Experience &/or understanding of the current primary curriculum. • Experience &/or understanding of planning content for sessional delivery. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in delivering gardening, environmental & outdoor learning activities. • An understanding of how outdoor activities can be used to develop children's skills and learning. • Experience of planning for curriculum delivery & creating and writing lesson plans. • Experience of working with disadvantaged and excluded groups and communities. • Understanding of the importance of community engagement. • Experience of working on outdoor community initiatives/activities. • Knowledge of Health & Safety working practices.
Personal qualities	<p>Personal qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and understand the values and ethos of GtS. • Ability to work co-operatively with the team and clients. • Self-motivated with the ability to work effectively under own initiative. • Bring a helpful, caring can do attitude. • Demonstrate commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. • Commitment to sustainable development and enhancement and protection of the natural environment.
Skills	<p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to enthuse, excite and motivate children about the natural world. • Excellent organisational and time management skills and able to prioritise own workload. • Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, both verbal and written. • Excellent presentation skills. • Basic administration and IT skills and literate in the use of Word, Excel, Publisher, Microsoft 365 and social media.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full clean driving license. • Use of own vehicle. • Willingness to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. • Will need access to own computer for working from home or a device will be available if working from the office.