Stepping Stones Short Stay School

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Dear Applicant

Thank you for taking interest in our wonderful job opportunity at Stepping Stones. Stepping Stones (Short Stay) School is a Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) based in Lancaster. The school provides full time education for primary aged pupils aged from 5-11 years old, who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school. We also offer placements to schools through an admissions process to prevent children from permanent exclusion. The school has places for up to 32 pupils however; numbers do fluctuate through the year. Children who attend Stepping Stones are from the schools in the districts of Lancaster, Fylde and Wyre.

The children that attend Stepping Stones have very complex and challenging emotional, social and mental health difficulties, which leads to them displaying challenging behaviour. The school has an Inclusion Support Team which works across Lancaster, Fylde and Wyre preventing exclusions, supporting pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties and promoting inclusion. The children come from a variety of social backgrounds, although a significant number do come from the lower socio-economic groups. There is a wide range of special educational needs in school which are catered for by the highly differentiated curriculum, outstanding teaching and targeted support.

Staff that work at our school develop a range of skills, need to be resilient and accept support and guidance. All teachers are involved in providing a highly differentiated and personalised approach to teaching the National Curriculum. Assessments are used to ensure work is pitched appropriately and secures good progress. We aim to inspire and reengage the most vulnerable pupils. The Committee is supportive of the school and we work closely with other school and professionals.

We are very proud of our school and pupils. *We have high expectations and expect the very best for all the children in our school.* We strive to provide the best education possible for our pupils re-engaging them with learning, ensuring we meet their special educational needs and enabling them to be successful. We expect all our children to make good academic progress.

We are a school that is keen to move forward and achieving the best for our children is of central importance. We wish to appoint a full time Key Stage 1 teacher who is inspirational, creative, outstanding classroom practitioners to teach within our school and give our children the best possible educational opportunities.

The successful applicant must demonstrate a child centered approach, be nurturing but focused on improving behaviour through firm structures, routines, boundaries and high expectations. They must be able to demonstrate the ability to teach across age ranges and ability groups; by building trusting relationships with our children and providing genuine positive reinforcement. The successful teacher must also have a good understanding of why children display challenging behaviour and use effective, positive strategies to support vulnerable pupils. The teacher must be able to have a good sense of humour and be resilient. The teacher must be able to see beyond the behaviour and support the child regardless.

We have a well-established system to support children with Special Educational Needs. We aim to ensure full inclusion for all our children. The continued support of these children is important to us. We cannot emphasis enough our high expectations of all our staff as we firmly believe that our children deserve the best.

Visits to the school are welcome and if you need any further information please contact us. Thank you for the interest you have shown in the vacancies for these posts.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hooper

Headteacher