



BISHOPSGATE
LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Required for September 2024





APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

INTERVIEWS COMMENCE

MONDAY 20TH MAY 2024

 bishopsgate-school.co.uk  recruitment@bishopsgatesch.uk

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Headmaster's Welcome

A very warm welcome to Bishopsgate, a school pulsating with life and opportunities, and I am truly delighted that you are considering joining our exceptional community.

At Bishopsgate, we boast a dynamic and enthralling environment, where childhood is not merely valued but cherished. Our unwavering commitment to exemplary pastoral care ensures that every child thrives, blossoms, and relishes their formative years with us. We wholeheartedly believe in fostering a profound love for learning, nurturing lifelong passions in academics, arts, sports, and culture, while equipping our pupils to embrace the challenges that lie ahead in their academic journey and beyond.

As the appointed Headmaster since September 2022, I stand resolute in my vision for Bishopsgate

- one where innovative teaching and learning are at the core of our ethos. We believe in offering our pupils a full spectrum of transformative experiences, an education that transcends boundaries and empowers them to embark on a path of endless growth and self-discovery. We take immense pride in providing an educational sanctuary where childhood is celebrated, and cherished memories are cultivated to accompany our pupils throughout their lives.

If the prospect of this role excites you and you believe you possess the necessary skills, experience, and attributes, we wholeheartedly welcome your application and I extend my heartfelt wishes for every success in the upcoming interview process.



Mr P Thacker
Headmaster

Ethos & Values

Bishopsgate is dedicated to unlocking the full potential of every child, guided by the unwavering principles embodied in our powerful motto – 'Nil Nisi Optimum' (Nothing but the Best).

Our school's mission revolves around fostering essential qualities in each pupil, with a strong emphasis on independence, collaboration, and leadership. We diligently nurture these qualities by encouraging critical thinking, continuous learning, reflective practice, and effective communication, all while embracing the values of resilience, curiosity, and creativity.

We are committed to preparing our pupils for the challenges that lie beyond the school walls. Our focus extends beyond academics, as we strive to instil in them the personal qualities necessary to embrace challenges, adapt to uncertainty, and navigate complexity with poise and determination.

School Aims

Bishopsgate's vision is to be a thriving and successful 21st century school for our pupils. Our purpose is to provide the highest standard of education delivering academic rigour in an enriched environment, empowering each child to fulfil their potential. To fulfil our vision, Bishopsgate's strategy is:

- Outstanding teaching and learning, inspiring lifelong learners and developing critical and creative thinking, that permeates every area of Bishopsgate life.
- Placing communication at the heart of all that we do.
- A focus on employer brand, attracting, recruiting and retaining the highest calibre staff.
- A centre of excellence for wellbeing, fostering intrinsic motivation in every child, and shaping character through adventure and extraordinary experiences.
- To ensure the estate - as a place of learning and with biodiversity at its heart - keeps evolving and

inspiring our children, with all areas of school facilities up to a common standard and that reflect the outstanding quality of our education.

- Building enduring relationships with our communities, to create a caring and meaningful social and environmental legacy with a powerful sense of responsibility to others.

History & Estate

Nestled on the prestigious Crown Estate, on the edge of historic Windsor Great Park, lies Bishopsgate – a highly-regarded institution encompassing a sprawling 30-acre campus adorned with abundant outdoor play spaces and lush woodland. With a rich heritage dating back to 1896, Bishopsgate stands as one of England's most venerable independent schools. Bishopsgate took its present form in 1996 through the amalgamation of Virginia Water Prep School and Scaitcliffe Prep School, epitomising the pinnacle of the co-educational day-school model. Today, the school thrives as a vibrant and joyous community, nurturing 400 pupils aged 3 to 13.

As a charitable institution, Bishopsgate shrewdly reinvests all funds, propelling a steadfast commitment to its people and resources. An eloquent testament to this dedication was the formal unveiling of a state-of-the-art £4.3 million sports facility in 2022, boasting four badminton courts, a climbing wall, a fully equipped gym, a versatile multi-purpose studio, and an all-weather sports pitch. The School's prowess extends further to a well-appointed 25m 4-lane indoor swimming pool.

The main school edifice, an imposing Victorian residence, is home to the Dining Hall, Medical Suite, Performing Arts Studio, Library, and Food Technology areas. Adjacent to this lies the dedicated music school, a testament to the School's holistic approach to education.

The heart of academic endeavours reside in two principal buildings. The Jubilee Building, catering to Upper and Middle Prep (Years 5 to 8), houses cutting-edge amenities like Digital Learning, state-of-the-art Science Laboratories, and well-resourced departments for Classics and Modern Foreign Languages. The equally impressive Windsor Building,





dedicated to Prep Prep and Lower Prep (Nursery through Year 4), also proudly accommodates a purpose-built Design and Technology Suite, enhancing pupils' practical skillsets.

As an embodiment of academic excellence and a bastion of charitable values, Bishopsgate remains steadfast in its mission to nurture future generations, preparing them to embrace the challenges and opportunities of an ever-evolving world.

Candidate search

Bishopsgate School is seeking a dedicated and caring Learning Support Assistant to work with our teachers to support the learning, educational progress and inclusion of a child with a visual impairment, with the aim of narrowing any attainment gap they may have with their fully sighted peers.

As a Learning Support Assistant you will be working as part of the SEN team, to ensure that the well-being and personal, social and emotional development of the pupil to enhance their learning opportunities and life skills. The successful candidate will be a team player who is positive and proactive with good interpersonal skills and a willing, caring approach.

You will be working with and assisting a child with a visual impairment so that they can access the curriculum, participate in learning, experience a sense of achievement and develop independence in learning and other aspects of school life.

While prior experience in a school setting is not a prerequisite, it would be advantageous for this role. Experience of visual impairments is however essential and experience of technologies that support those with visual impairments would be a significant advantage.

Working hours are 8.00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday during term time, which includes 1 to

2 days at the beginning or end of each term. Occasionally, you may also be required to go beyond the usual end of your working day.

In recognition of the skills, qualifications, and experience of the successful candidate, a competitive salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position is offered. Moreover, you will be joining a team that places the utmost importance on Safeguarding. Your vigilance and attention to detail will ensure that any concerns are promptly reported to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, guaranteeing the safety and well-being of our students.

If you are seeking an opportunity to contribute to a prestigious educational environment and play a vital role in education and wellbeing of our schools youngest children, we invite you to apply for the position of Learning Support Assistant at Bishopsgate

Salary & Benefits

- The school has its own generous salary and pension scheme.
- Freshly-cooked lunch and snacks are provided at no cost during term-time.
- The School operates a Cycle to Work Scheme.
- Staff swimming sessions are available in our indoor swimming pool.
- Bishopsgate has its own wellbeing programme of activities and support and free membership of our onsite fully-equipped gym.
- Professional Development opportunities.
- Outstanding access to resources, including modern facilities, technology, and learning materials.
- A close-knit and supportive work environment, allowing staff to collaborate and share best practices
- There is on-site parking at School.



Job Description

Key Accountabilities

- Assist in the support and inclusion of a child with a visual impairment (under the direction of the SENCo)
- Raise pupil achievement by working with individual pupil or groups of pupils within and outside the classroom

Tasks

TEACHING & LEARNING

- Clarifying and explaining instructions
- Ensuring that the pupil is able to use equipment and materials provided
- Motivating and encouraging the pupil
- Adapting the set work to meet the needs of the moment

- Putting effective support strategies in place
- Assisting the child during their daily routine
- Helping the child to work effectively as possible both in groups and independently.
- Contribute ideas and suggestions to aid planning and topic work
- Assist with the preparation of learning materials to support professional development

RECORDING & ASSESSMENT

- To use agreed systems for identifying, assessing, monitoring and reviewing pupil progress
- To assess pupils as directed at an appropriate time
- To provide regular feedback to Class Teachers and SENCo regarding pupils' educational and emotional progress
- To keep accurate and detailed records
- To maintain confidentiality





PUPILS

- To help manage pupil behaviour, including undertaking break time duties, playground monitoring and intervention to remind children of school rules and behaviour codes; this does not cover disciplinary matters which are for the teaching staff.
- To establish supportive relationships with pupils to establish the trust and respect of individuals and groups within the school.
- To develop methods of promoting/reinforcing pupils' self-esteem.
- To supervise pupils, on a rota basis, during break times and lunch.

Technology

- Use technology to support the child's learning
- Check that any equipment used by the child is functioning properly
- Develop skill in the use of specialist equipment used by a child including software application
- Take steps to ensure any problems with equipment are dealt with as quickly as possible
- Promptly inform the teacher/systems support if there are any problems
- Encourage the child to use technology independently

Terms & Conditions

Safeguarding

- Bishopsgate School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The safeguarding responsibilities of the post include:
- Promoting and safeguarding the welfare of pupils and young persons for who you are responsible and with whom you come into

contact

- Following all codes of practice in relation to the safeguarding of the pupils's welfare: discipline; health and safety regulations; child protection; and the reporting of accidents
- If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of pupils in the school, s/he must report any concerns to the School's Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) or to one of the Deputy DSLs
- All posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the School is therefore permitted to ask job applicants to declare all convictions and cautions (including those which are "spent" unless they are "protected" under the DBS filtering rules) in order to assess their suitability to work with pupils.

Whole Staff Responsibilities

- All staff must be prepared to work outside these hours occasionally to meet the requirements of the post
- Adhere to and promote all school policies, including those on code of conduct, whistleblowing, dignity at work and equality and diversity
- Comply with school policies and procedures with regard to absence and dress code
- Undertake such additional duties as may be consistent with the purpose of the post as defined in this job description

Training

- All staff must attend INSET which is one or two days prior to the start of each term
- Undertake training appropriate to the role and keep up to date with emerging best practice
- Participate in the evaluation of job performance through the Professional Development Policy

Health & Safety

All employees must be aware of the responsibilities placed upon them under the Health & Safety Act 1974, to ensure that the agreed safety procedures are carried out to maintain a safe working environment for pupils, visitors and staff.



Data Protection

Bishopsgate School processes information about its current, past or prospective employees, applicants, current, past and prospective pupils; and their parents, carers or guardians and others who are defined as data subjects under the Data Protection Act 2018. Anyone who works for, or acts on behalf of, the school (including staff, volunteers, governors and service providers) should also be aware of and comply with the school's Data Protection Policy, which also provides information about how personal data about those individuals will be used. The School takes the protection of all personal information extremely seriously and is committed to a policy of protecting the rights

and freedoms of individuals with respect to the processing of their personal information.

This job description is intended to provide guidance on the range of duties associated with the post. It is not intended to provide a full and exclusive definition of the post. It may be subject to modification and amendment from time to time and the post holder may be required to undertake additional duties, as required, by the Headmaster. This Job Description will be reviewed annually by the Headmaster.





Personal Specification

QUALIFICATIONS

- Desirable - NVQ level 3 appropriate training
- Evidence of further relevant study or professional qualification relevant to the role

EXPERIENCE

- Essential - Experience of working with visual impairments
- Desirable - Experience of working with SEN pupils. Experience of working in an technologies associated with visual imopairments. Experience of working in a School

KNOWLEDGE

- Essential - Understanding of the range of needs learners may have and confidence in providing strategies and support. Understanding of the importance of Safeguarding
- Desirable - Understanding of assessment techniques and pupil target setting. Knowledge of school procedures. Understanding of the Prep School curriculum.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Essential - Enjoy working as part of a team. Supportive of colleagues. Patience. Empathy. Flexible. Calm.
- Desirable - Outgoing personality : Positive attitude and approach : Ability to understand and work with a range of different personalities.



The Application Process

- Applicants are asked to provide the Headmaster with a letter of application (no more than two sides of A4). The letter of application should offer a personal insight into the skills and aspirations of the candidate.
- Applicants are required to complete the Application for Employment form available on the School website.
- The successful applicant will be required to undergo Enhanced Disclosure clearance (DBS) from the Criminal Records Bureau.
- If you are currently working with pupils on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences relating to pupils or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and, if so, the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. If you are not currently working with pupils, but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about these issues. Where neither your current nor your previous employment has involved working with pupils, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with pupils, although they may, where appropriate, answer 'not applicable' if your duties have not brought you into contact with pupils or young persons.
- You should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or in summary dismissal, if the applicant has been selected, and possible referral to the police and/or the Department for Education Pupils's Safeguarding Operation Unit.

Invitation to Interview

- If you are invited to interview, this will be conducted in person and the areas which it will explore will include suitability to work with pupils.
- References will be requested before interview unless there is a valid reason not to do so.
- All candidates invited to interview must bring documents confirming any professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post (e.g. the original or certified copy of certificates, diplomas, etc). Where originals or certified copies are not available for the successful candidate, written confirmation of the relevant qualifications must be obtained from the awarding body.
- Candidates may be invited for interview upon application.
- All candidates invited to interview must also bring with them three forms of identification. Either three from Group A or two from Group A and one from Group B:
- Group A
 - A current driving licence together with paper licence,
 - A passport,
 - A full birth certificate,
 - Marriage certificate (if applicable).
- Group B
 - A utility bill or financial statement showing the candidate's current name and address (dated within the last three months).
 - Where appropriate, any documentation evidencing a change of name.
 - Please note that originals of the above are necessary. Photographs or certified copies are not sufficient.

