



BENTON DENE PRIMARY SCHOOL
'National School of Creativity & National Support School'



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE POST

Headteacher: Ms Jill Wraith
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Application pack for post of Level 2 Teaching Assistant

Closing Date: Friday 2nd July 2021

Interviews: w/c Monday 5th July 2021

Dear Applicant

We are looking to appoint an **outstanding Teaching and Learning Assistant to work in Reception to support a child with additional needs**. The successful candidate will be joining a highly skilled and committed team of staff and governors who together with our parents and carers, will work unstintingly to provide the very best that education can offer for our diverse range of children. Experience of working with children who exhibit communication, social, emotional and behaviour difficulties is essential although appropriate training for the successful candidate will be provided.

Benton Dene Primary school is a large, vibrant and outstanding primary school which is co-located with Benton Dene School within the Benton Dene Schools' campus. This is an innovative building housing both schools and is recognised as a flagship 'pathfinder' school at the forefront of developing inclusive practice. We are looking for candidates who are highly motivated and challenged by the prospect of working in this well regarded and high profile school. We are a school that expects extremely high standards from all staff and pupils and if successful, you will be provided with an excellent CPD package to prepare you for your role.

It is important that **e-mail contacts of referees** are included with your application because of the tight timescales between short-listing and interviews.

Visits to our school are currently restricted. Applicants can contact Jill Wraith by phone for an informal discussion about the post.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Benton Dene Schools' Campus

In June 2010, we moved into a new £15.2 million pathfinder school on the site of Longbenton Community College, co-locating with Benton Dene School.

Benton Dene School is a special school for children from Reception to Year 6 with over 100 pupils who have moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and / or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school has a track record of excellent provision for its pupils. All pupils have a statement of special educational need/EHCP and attend the school from across the local authority. Staffing levels are high to ensure that the children's needs are effectively met. The school also manages the Language and Communication Team and is the location for Dene Communication Centre.

Other Services at Benton Dene Schools

An out of school club known as 'Benton Dene Out of School Club' provides popular wrap-around care for nursery age pupils and before/after school childcare for children aged between 3 – 11 years. In its last inspection in June 2015, it was graded as outstanding. The OOSC team work in partnership with our nursery staff to extend our nursery offer beyond the 15 hours statutory entitlement and support our 30 hours provision.

A 'breakfast club' provision open to all pupils operates from 8.15am which is managed by the school and funded by Pupil Premium.

Benton Dene Primary School

Our mainstream school is a thriving 3-11 primary school, serving a very mixed catchment (approximately 25% Free School Meals) with nearly 500 pupils currently on roll including a 67 place Nursery Unit staffed by 2 teachers and 5 teaching assistants. In addition to the nursery, the school is organised into 14 classes (2 form entry). The mainstream school has 24 FTE teaching staff including the Headteacher. Support staff at the school includes 3 caretakers and an administration team together with 3 HLTAs and 16 Teaching Assistants. We employ a Family Liaison Officer to work with children and families in order to reduce barriers to learning. The school also accommodates a Communication Support Base (CSB) for 12 pupils with specific speech, language and communication difficulties. These pupils are integrated into most activities within the school, and are withdrawn from their classes for specialist support in the Base. A specialist teacher, 3 teaching assistants and a speech therapist support pupils in the CSB and when mainstream based.

The Senior Management Team comprises 4 TLR point holders, 2 Phase Leaders, SENDCo, a Deputy Headteacher, 2 assistant headteachers and the Headteacher. The Headteacher is a National Leader of Education and the Deputy is a Local Leader of Education. Local Authority regularly brokers school to school support using our staff.

We were selected by HMCI as one of 50 primary schools in the UK to provide SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), in a school of outstanding practice. The school had an outstanding Ofsted report in December 1997, in May 2002, January 2007 and again in June 2012. In February 2005 we appeared in the HMCI Report as one of the most effective schools in the UK and in 2006/07 and again in 2011/12 we appeared in the OFSTED 'Outstanding Providers List'. Our school was selected as a School of Creativity in 2009; one of only 26 schools across the country, and as a National Support School in 2013.

The Staff and Governors are extremely interested in continuing to develop the tradition of community involvement and to encourage further links with the Community in the life and work of the school. The staff organise many extra-curricular clubs during the lunch hour and after school. Details of these are in the school prospectus. The extra curricular activities were graded 'excellent'

in our Ofsted reports and we are proud of the commitment of our school staff to these voluntary activities.

Benton Dene Primary is considered an 'open' school and visitors - particularly parents and carers - are always welcome. Parental help and support in the classroom is greatly encouraged throughout the school. There is a range of community facilities for use by parents/carers and the community.

School Organisation

Our school has been designed to support children's identity and way-finding. There are 5 main zones that are colour-coded to support children's way-finding. All areas are used by staff and pupils in both schools with staff working closely across the school day.

The Yellow Zone accommodates Nursery, Reception classes, Dene Communication Centre, Benton Dene Out of School Club and the Community Room.

The Green Zone accommodates Y1/2 pupils in 8 classes from Benton Dene School and Benton Dene Primary School.

The Red Zone accommodates Y3/4 pupils in 8 classes from Benton Dene School and Benton Dene Primary School.

The Blue Zone will accommodate Y5/6 pupils in 8 classes from Benton Dene School and Benton Dene Primary School.

Specialist facilities include 2 dining halls, a sensory/dance studio, 2 sports halls/gymnasiums with changing rooms, 2 ICT suites tailored to meet the needs of different age groups, an art/design/technology room, a food technology room, a music room and several small group rooms/meeting rooms and health/ therapy rooms.

External areas can be accessed from all classrooms where there is a range of hard and grassed play areas, quiet play areas, multi use games areas (MUGAS), pond area, allotment area, sensory area (Foundation Stage) and football pitch.

Access to the school is strictly monitored to ensure the safeguarding, health and safety of all pupils and visitors to the site.

Thank you for your interest in the vacancy advertised. I hope the brief information provided about the school whets your appetite to apply for the post. Everyone at Benton Dene Primary is extremely supportive, committed and hardworking. We have a philosophy of team work and vision for the continued success of this proactive school. If you feel you could contribute to this forward looking and innovative school, then we would welcome your application.

Benton Dene Primary School is within 10 minutes walking distance of either FOUR LANE ENDS or BENTON Metro Stations.

Yours sincerely

Jill Wraith
Headteacher