



Outcomes
First Group

Head of School Job Description

Responsible to: Executive Head Teacher

Job Purpose

The Head of School will provide effective leadership and management of the school that ensures the school meets its aims and objectives and operates within the overall strategy and guidelines of the Acorn Care and Education. Key objectives of the role, that the Head Teacher is expected to achieve:

- Outstanding outcomes for Children and Young People that reflect their needs, abilities and aptitudes.
- A safe environment that protects the welfare of Children and Young People and staff in the school.
- Meeting all statutory requirements as defined by the DfE, Ofsted and other external bodies and achieving the highest inspection ratings possible.
- A motivated staff group that is fully engaged in the goal of achieving excellence in all areas of school life and who are committed to continuing personal and professional development.
- The commercial success of the school as defined by 100% occupancy, the rigorous management of costs and the development and implementation of growth plans as appropriate.
- Effective strategic and operational planning, that includes self-evaluation, school improvement and delivery.
- A shared vision, that fits within the overall Acorn Group strategy, which inspires and motivates students, staff and all other members of the school community.

Key Accountabilities

Outstanding C&YP Outcomes

- The ultimate goal for the school is to admit Children and Young People and assess where they are in terms of their academic and personal development. Develop and implement programmes that result in the C&YP achieving their full potential whilst at school and go on to have a fulfilling life, making a positive contribution to society.
- The Head teacher is responsible for leading on the delivery of outcomes for C&YP, the overall success of the school and line manages all the staff, including volunteers and contract staff.
- To achieve the goal of outstanding pupil outcomes the job holder will need to develop, apply and review several elements that contribute to its success. This work will be done in conjunction with the Acorn Group Education and also using the School Quality Forums.
- The areas contributing to delivering outstanding pupil outcomes include:
 - A highly engaging and relevant Curriculum that meets the needs of the C&YP
 - An understanding of where the C&YP is on a range of academic and non-academic



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criteria and the assessment processes that enable the tracking of progress against this baseline assessment.

- Evidence of outstanding pupil progress, relative to their start point, measured against national guidance, which leads to achievement of appropriate and recognised qualifications.
 - High quality teaching that delivers effective learning.
 - Strategies that result in improved behaviour which in turn increases engagement in learning.
 - Therapeutic programmes which are integral to the education programme.
 - Strategies that improve attendance.
 - Provision of positive experiences which promote the pupil's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.
- The Head of School will build close working relationships with all stakeholders, including pupils, parents, LA staff, to work as a team whose aim is to deliver excellent outcomes for the C&YP.
 - The Head of School will develop and implement systems that regularly monitor the effectiveness of the teaching standards.

Safe Environment

- The Head of School should ensure that the school has in place Health and Safety policies and procedures and that there are structures and systems that ensure the application of these policies and procedures. The establishment of these policies, practices and procedures is done in association with the Acorn Group resources.
- The Head of School should ensure that all elements of Safeguarding are in place at the school, all procedures and practices followed precisely and that the recording of all incidents, and follow up, is completed in full and on time.
- The elements of Safeguarding that must be in place include: safer recruitment, staff induction and training, care and control policies, practices and procedures, Child Protection policy, practices and procedures in line with LCSB, e- safety, anti-bullying, educational visits and activities with appropriate designated responsibilities in place.
- To undertake responsibilities as defined by the School's Health & Safety policy and systems.
- To ensure pupils and staff can work and learn in an environment free from discrimination, bullying or harassment.
- To ensure that safe working and operational practices are in place including risk assessments and PHP's.
- To develop and implement DDA plan.
- To provide quality physical provision that meets the needs of the C&YP and effective delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.



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Statutory requirements

- The job holder must be completely familiar with all the detail in all regulations, statutory instruments and standards which apply an Independent Special School.
- There must be regular auditing and review processes to ensure compliancy at all times. This will be done in association with the Acorn Education and Care Quality Manager.
- To maintain an awareness of the potential changes in legislation and therefore the impact on the School and its status.

Motivated staff group

- Central to the establishment of a highly motivated staff group is a structured rigorous recruitment and selection process which clearly sets out the quality of person and professional skills required.
- To maximise the contribution of staff to improve the quality of education provided and standards achieved.
- To create an effective working environment that establishes positive and trusting relationships are formed between staff and the C&YP.
- Develop and implement a strategic plan for CPD for the entire school workforce that supports the achievement of the school improvement objectives.
- The Head of School is responsible for the development of excellent employee relations and managing all aspects of employment legislation.
- Implementing and sustaining effective systems for the management of staff performance, incorporating performance management and regular supervision.
- The Head of School is an effective role model, and therefore requires the capacity and capability to mentor and operationally manage staff.

Commercial success

- The commercial and administrative operation of the school are key to supporting the core pupil outcome and other school goals and will enable further investment and development in the school to take place.
- The Head of School will take an active role in the marketing of the school to parents and local authority customers to ensure that all potential referrals are captured and evaluated by the school.
- The Head of School must also ensure that the school has effective internal processes that move each referral through the pipeline as quickly as possible, meeting standards expected by our customers
- The Head of School has at their disposal the central Acorn marketing and admissions team to support this work.
- The school should have clear and rigorous cost control processes to ensure that expenditure is kept within agreed limits and is reviewed in the light of movements of pupil numbers outside the originally agreed planned levels



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Effective planning and operations within a Continuous Improvement culture

- The Head of School, in association with central Acorn team, should complete an annual review of the school's performance and create an improvement plan which covers all areas of school life. These plans will have clear, concise goals with timed targets, together with supporting action plans.
- The Head of School will ensure that all stakeholders are engaged with the plan and are aligned appropriately to ensure delivery of target outcomes.
- The process of school Self Evaluation will form part of the review of the school's performance, and the cycle of improvement.
- The Head of School will establish clear systems of meetings, e.g. agenda and actions.
- The Head of School will establish and review management structures, roles and responsibilities to ensure strategic and operational effectiveness.
- The Head of School will report progress of the school in terms of achievement of outcomes and the completion of the agreed action plans.
- Progress against these plans and key performance indicators will be reviewed with the School Group Manager each month and revisions made as appropriate.
- Appropriate communication re the progress of the school and pupil progress will be made to other stakeholders, including parents, LAs and Ofsted

Working as part of the Acorn Care and Education

- To act as an ambassador for Acorn Care and Education and actively promote the organisation and its values.
- To positively support and participate in the Strategic Plan of the organisation.
- To engage in professional developments within the organisation.
- To support and mentor colleagues.
- To attend regional/national meetings and conferences.



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Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and Training		
Qualified Teacher Status or equivalent	✓	
Higher degree qualification, postgraduate course, recognised special education qualification		✓
Willingness to extend personal and professional development	✓	
Completion of NPQH		✓
Experience		
At least three successive years experience as a senior leader in special education	✓	
Experience of conducting performance management	✓	
Evidence of management of the curriculum and assessment	✓	
Experience of working with children with challenging behaviours	✓	
Experience of leading INSET activities	✓	
Experience of appointing, managing and inducting staff	✓	
Experience of resource management	✓	
Experience of financial management		✓
Experience of successful marketing and admissions work	✓	
Experience of managing Health & safety in schools	✓	
Experience of successful team leadership	✓	
Experience of implementing strategies to raise pupil achievement and improve pupil behaviour	✓	



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Experience of school improvement planning or action planning	✓	
Experience of planning the curriculum across a range of ages and abilities	✓	
Experience of monitoring and evaluating school effectiveness	✓	
Experience of working with and supporting parents	✓	
Knowledge and Understanding		
Knowledge of Education Acts and other legislation relevant to special education	✓	
Understanding of safeguarding children requirements	✓	
Understanding of OfSTED requirements	✓	
Understanding of, and commitment to, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	✓	
Understanding of the characteristics of an effective and inclusive school	✓	
Understanding of the SEN Code of Practice	✓	
Understanding of the National Curriculum, including assessment, recording and reporting requirements	✓	

Professional Skills		
Ability to lead and provide a clear vision	✓	
Appreciation and understanding that leadership and management of school encompasses processes contributing to pupil outcomes, staff motivation, keeping children safe, filling the school with pupils, managing costs, meeting regulatory requirements and applying growth plans as appropriate	✓	
Ability to enthuse and motivate others	✓	
Ability to manage people and resources to good effect	✓	
High level teaching skills across a range of abilities and ages	✓	



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Ability to create and maintain effective team working	✓	
Clear strategic thinker and ability to solve problems	✓	
Ability to formulate and implement policy change	✓	
Ability to initiate and sustain multi-agency cooperation	✓	
Ability to forge links with parents, the local community and other schools in the area	✓	
Good communication skills including written, oral and listening	✓	
Competent in the use of ICT	✓	
Flexible and approachable	✓	
Decisive	✓	
Resilient under pressure	✓	
Ability to deal sensitively with people and resolve conflict	✓	
Set high expectations for pupils and staff	✓	
Commitment to Continuous Improvement	✓	
Keen interest in meeting the education and care needs of children and young people with complex difficulties	✓	
Sensitivity and understanding of the needs of children and their families	✓	
A positive and energetic approach to work	✓	
Commitment to working with other agencies to support pupils and their progress.	✓	
A desire to fulfil each child's potential	✓	
Commitment to the development of all staff	✓	
Commitment to equality of opportunity	✓	