Full Job Description

At OFG, we work smarter so you can spend more time doing what makes you happy!

Job Title: Deputy Headteacher
Location: Garden Court School, Kirkby Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 2DZ
Hours: 40 hours per week | Monday–Friday
Salary: Up to £60,000.00 per annum (depending on experience, *not pro rata*)
Contract: Permanent | Term Time Only
Start: April 2026
UK applicants only – no sponsorship available

We are delighted to invite an ambitious, forward-thinking, and inspirational Deputy Headteacher to join the exceptional new school at Garden Court. This is a rare opportunity to step into a role with real influence, meaningful leadership responsibility, and the chance to positively shape young lives every day.

About the Role

As Deputy Headteacher, you will help deliver a high-quality, inclusive education service that reflects both company values and regulatory standards. Working closely with the Principal, you'll co-create the school's ethos, strategic direction, and educational excellence ensuring that the new school creates an environment where every pupil can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

This is a role that calls for vision, collaboration, and a genuine passion for transforming lives and ensuring outstanding outcomes for all students.

Your Key Responsibilities

- Lead and coordinate the school curriculum, ensuring quality, consistency, and continuous development.

- Monitor student progress and outcomes, ensuring each learner achieves their individual targets and planned success.
- Work closely with the clinical team to oversee Behaviour Support Plans, providing guidance, consultation, and ensuring plans remain effective, reviewed, and up to date.
- Promote a culture of care, ambition, and belonging through trauma-informed practice.
- Ensure all pupils have personalised learning pathways tailored to their strengths and needs
- Act as a senior leader, deputising for the Principal where required
- Build strong partnerships with parents, carers, external professionals, and the wider community.

Who We're Looking For

You will be a resilient and compassionate leader with the vision and drive to inspire both students and colleagues. Passionate about inclusive education, you will combine strategic thinking with hands-on leadership and a genuine commitment to improving lives

Essential:

- UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or equivalent
- Educated to Degree Level
- A successful track record of senior leadership in a school setting
- In-depth understanding of curriculum development and quality assurance in education
- A commitment to inclusive, person-centred education
- Excellent communication, collaboration and leadership skills
- Experience as a Senior Leader, e.g.: Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Six Form, Whole School etc.

Desirable:

- Experience working within a specialist or SEN setting
- Knowledge of trauma-informed, therapeutic or neurodiversity-affirming approaches

- Open to working in Primary and Secondary settings
- A flexible, creative and emotionally intelligent leadership style
- We are open to considering experience gained in any education setting

This is an incredible opportunity to help build a school where every child is understood, supported, and celebrated for who they are. If you're ready to lead with purpose, inspire excellence, and make your mark on a brand-new chapter in specialist education — we'd love to hear from you.

About Us

Garden Court is a brand-new schoola, opening in September 2026 in Kirkby Lonsdale. The school will support up to 40 pupils aged 9–16, offering a safe, structured, and inclusive environment tailored to meet a wide range of needs. The school is an Acorn Education school, a leading UK provider of specialist education for children and young people with special educational needs, and part of Outcomes First Group. We deliver innovative, evidence-based approaches that support measurable progress and lasting impact.

Acorn Education offers rewarding careers and meaningful challenges while making a real difference in young people's lives.
Our schools are unique environments, each one having its own special atmosphere and range of opportunities and resources. Our teachers enjoy becoming part of their school's 'family', exploring the potential of the building and environment and getting to know the brilliant pupils in our care.
For over 19 years, Options Autism has provided specialist care and education for children, young people, and adults with autism, complex needs, and learning difficulties. As part of Outcomes First Group, we are pioneering innovative, evidence-based approaches that deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes for everyone in our care.
We are really proud to say that in 2025, Outcomes First Group were officially certified as a 'Great Place to Work' for the sixth year running.

Why Join Us?

We place pupils and vulnerable young adults at the heart of everything we do, so every day brings the satisfaction of making a real difference. We are committed to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people. All applicants will be subject to social media checks and successful applicants to a fully enhanced DBS.

- Life Assurance
- Pension scheme with options to increase contributions
- “Your Wellbeing Matters” – mental health support and physical health checks
- Flexible Benefits Platform (Vista), including:
    - Health, wellbeing and insurance benefits
    - Hundreds of UK and international discounts
    - Cycle to Work Scheme & Electric Car Purchase Scheme
    - Critical illness cover
    - Family Growth Support, including enhanced maternity/paternity leave and paid fertility treatment support

We reserve the right to close the vacancy early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

Outcomes First Group is committed to carrying out a fair, thorough and efficient recruitment process in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. Whilst we aim to keep applicants informed throughout, Outcomes First Group does not accept liability for any loss of earnings or other associated costs incurred by applicants as a result of delays or changes in the compliance process. All stages of the compliance process are subject to necessary safeguarding checks and compliance with statutory requirements, which may affect timescales.