



Job Title: SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)

Location: Wessex Lodge School, Somerset

Reports to: Headteacher

Salary: Competitive and dependent on experience

Contract Type: Full-time, Permanent

About Wessex Lodge School

Wessex Lodge School is a nurturing, therapeutic educational setting dedicated to supporting children and young people aged 8–18 with social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs, autistic spectrum conditions (ASC), and associated learning differences. We pride ourselves on a personalised, trauma-informed approach that promotes holistic development and academic progress relevant to each learner.

Job Purpose

As SENCO, you will play a key strategic and operational role in ensuring high-quality provision for all pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). You will work collaboratively with teaching staff, therapists, families, and external professionals to coordinate inclusive education and tailored support, helping pupils achieve their full potential. This role could be an SLT position overseeing parts of the Inspection framework for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Develop, implement, and evaluate the school's SEN policy and provision in line with current legislation and best practice.
- Provide leadership and vision to embed an inclusive ethos and ensure SEN is a key part of whole-school development planning.
- Advise the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on SEN funding and resourcing priorities.

Pupil Support and Progress

- Oversee the identification, assessment, and support of pupils with SEN, ensuring the use of appropriate tools and strategies.
- Monitor and track progress of pupils with SEN, using data to drive personalised intervention and outcomes.
- Lead on the development and review of EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans), ensuring statutory compliance and meaningful involvement of young people and their families.

Staff Support and Training

- Support, guide, and train staff in effective SEN teaching strategies and approaches.
- Coordinate CPD related to SEND, trauma-informed practice, and inclusive pedagogy.
- Promote collaborative working between education, care, and therapy teams.

Partnership Working

- Liaise with external agencies (e.g. educational psychologists, CAMHS, social care) to ensure coordinated and holistic support.
- Act as a key point of contact for parents and carers, providing advice, support, and regular communication.

Person Specification

Essential:

- National Award for SEN Coordination (or willingness to complete within 3 years)
- Proven experience supporting pupils with a range of complex needs, particularly SEMH and ASD
- Knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice and current legislation
- Excellent communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills
- Commitment to safeguarding, inclusion, and pupil wellbeing

Desirable:

- Experience working in a specialist or therapeutic school setting
- Understanding of trauma-informed and attachment-aware approaches
- Experience leading multi-agency meetings and writing EHCP contributions

Why Join Wessex Lodge School?

- A supportive and child-centred environment
- Strong multidisciplinary collaboration (education, therapy, and care)
- Opportunities for professional growth and development
- A genuine chance to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable young people

Safeguarding Statement

Wessex Lodge School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to enhanced DBS clearance and satisfactory references.