

Forest School Practitioner

(Consultant role, April 2025 start)

Responsible to: Forest School Lead

School: Dame Bradbury's Junior School, Saffron Walden

Role Description:

The successful candidate will be working one day a week during term time, as a Forest School Practitioner across our sites in Saffron Walden. Our Forest School practitioner will work within Key Stage 1 as an important part of our provision. They will plan and run stimulating and high-quality sessions and are responsible for directing the other adults throughout the session to support the pupils.

This role will work with children from age 5 to 7 across a privately owned Forest School area. The post holder will oversee Forest School for Years 1 and 2 and related administration related to the role. This includes the overarching documentation for Forest School, such as: site risk assessments, lesson planning, sharing of information with the school staff. They will also share any progress through our media channels and on our outward facing website. The role may also involve working with some of our staff and parents in developing our community's understanding of Forest School.

This role is to start in April 2025.

Main Responsibilities:

- To lead the sessions, working with the adults responsible for the children to deliver high quality outdoor learning experiences.
- To liaise with and be part of an amazing team of passionate outdoor learning enthusiasts who are child centred, understand and commit to our ethos of Stephen Perse.
- Plan for and deliver high quality, practical and stimulating Forest School sessions that complement and support the thematic and weekly planning for each key group that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensure the progression of Forest School skills for the 5–7-year-olds building on the Early Years Framework and Curriculum wheel with reference to other subject skills progression where applicable.
- Share news, information and progress for our media channels and website.
- Develop the way in which the Forest School ethos and approach is used within the classroom as well as in the outdoors.
- Set up the camp and session and pack away afterward.
- Through sensitive and careful interactions (talking, listening, teaching, observing) support the children in setting and achieving their own aims, and extend and challenge their understanding and knowledge in all areas of learning.
- Demonstrate high expectations of the children in all aspects of their development, from self-care to communication and language.
- Undertake all the practical aspects of looking after 5–7-year-olds and ensure their wellbeing - e.g., helping them change, ensuring hands are washed, helping them at lunchtime, making sure they are warm enough and that they undertake aspects of personal hygiene.
- Ensure safeguarding and health and safety policies and procedures are adhered to and applied at all times.
- Complete necessary written risk assessments for the primary site and activities used and undertaken in Forest School sessions.

- Liaise with Stephen Perse Forest School Lead to ensure consistency and common shared documentation.
- Support and input into the Forest School Handbooks and website content.
- Support a community understanding of Forest School with all stakeholders.
- Liaise with the SPF Forest School Lead to inform the Estates team, with respect to maintaining and sustaining the Forest school site. To support the site owners to keep the site safe and clear.
- Be the responsible person in supporting the school with oversight of the Grove Forest school sites guiding and informing of any site information.
- Keep informed through liaison with the Forest School Lead through shared Continued Professional Development (CPD) training about Forest School to develop awareness and practise.

Job Purpose

- To teach Forest School skills as required by the Forest School Lead and in line with the expectations of the School for the age group of children.
- To encourage students to gain Outdoor Learning knowledge and Forest School skills through learning in lessons and through the experience of group activities.
- To foster the self-discipline and social skills necessary for Forest School
- To enrich the education of each student through the provision of appropriate outdoor learning experiences and to provide skills that will serve the student for future.
- To inspire a lifelong love and enjoyment of the outdoors and an understanding of nature and looking after the natural environment.

This job description is not necessarily comprehensive and the position holder will be required to carry out such other duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

Safeguarding and welfare of children

The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with Stephen Perse's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy statement at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the role-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School, s/he must report any concerns to the School's Designated Person or the Stephen Perse Designated Safeguarding Lead.

All employees of Stephen Perse adhere to the Safer Working Practices guidance and all teaching staff are required to adhere to the Teaching Standards which can be [found on the government website](#).

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Qualifications	<p>Demonstrate an ability to work well with young people of varying ages across the Junior School</p> <p>Forest School Qualification</p> <p>Forest School First Aid Qualification</p>	Any qualifications linked to working with children.	<p>Application Form</p> <p>Production of the Applicant's certificates at interview</p>
Knowledge & Experience	Experience of working in a similar setting with a similar age group	Understanding and knowledge of the Independent School sector	Application Form
Skills & Aptitudes	<p>Due to our statutory obligations in respect of safeguarding, the ability to read, understand and communicate in English to a sufficient standard to understand these obligations is required</p> <p>Friendly and professional attitude.</p> <p>Excellent written communication skills</p> <p>Excellent organisational and IT skills</p> <p>Positive, enthusiastic and proactive in their approach</p> <p>Ability to inspire pupils to perform to their best ability</p>	Ability to link to other areas of the curriculum.	Interview
Personal Attributes	<p>Approachable, open and honest</p> <p>Dedicated, conscientious and hard-working</p> <p>Self-motivating with a positive attitude and a logical approach to work</p> <p>A commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and to follow the child protection systems</p> <p>Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children</p>		Interview

Terms and conditions

All appointments for Stephen Perse are subject to satisfactory reference and disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks, proof of identity and eligibility to work in the UK, completion of a medical questionnaire and proof of qualifications.

Hours of work

The role would be based at our Forest School Site in Grove Wood, Elmdon. The role would be from 8.00am -11.30am and 12.30pm-4.00pm every Tuesday in term time. This includes time to prepare and put away equipment available at the site. The children will be transported to and from the venue and supported by school staff at all times. This totals 7 hours per day.

Remuneration is dependent on each candidate and an hourly rate will be agreed with the right candidate. This will be discussed in line with the application process for the role. As this is a consultancy role, the candidate will invoice for their time on an agreed basis.

Privacy notice

Please see our privacy policy which is available on the recruitment page.
<http://www.stephenperse.com/recruitment>

Application process

Please apply directly through our online recruitment page at www.stephenperse.com/recruitment and download an application form. Please send completed application forms to recruitment@stephenperse.com.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept CVs.

The closing date for applications is **9am on Thursday 13 March 2025**. Interviews will take place week commencing **Monday 17 March 2025**.

References may be taken up before the interview.

Invitation to interview and recruitment arrangements

Stephen Perse is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils. Stephen Perse has a statutory duty to apply for DBS clearance and shall ask the successful candidate to complete an online form

which must be cleared before the applicant can commence work. Such checks may take up to 8 weeks to complete.

Stephen Perse has a legal responsibility to ensure that all its employees have the legal right to live and work in the UK. Therefore, you will need to bring original documents verifying that you are eligible to work in the UK to the interview. Details of these will be provided in the invitation to interview.

All candidates invited to interview must bring the original documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post.