



Counsellor/ Play Therapist/ Creative Arts Therapist Job Description

LOCATION OF ROLE: Allocated School (see advert for details)

RESPONSIBLE TO: Service Manager

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Our mission is to bring hope and positive change to children and families. Through complementary and creative early intervention services we seek to build resilience and improve children's life chances.

To achieve this we deliver a range of services. The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is one of the largest providers of mental health services to schools in London and the Southeast. Our Connect-Ed mental health services operate in approximately 80 primary, secondary and special schools providing professional therapeutic services for thousands of children and young people each year.

We also provide outstanding early years education and family support, including offering emergency assistance for families in crisis. We work with children and families of all faiths and none; our sole aim is to help those in greatest need so they can overcome the challenges they face and achieve their potential. Our work is underpinned by our core values of integrity, compassion, inclusion and partnership.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

To provide professional therapeutic support for children and young people experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties. In this role you will deliver a unique service which is tailored to each child's individual needs and work creatively to enhance their wellbeing. This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference and ensure young people can access life-changing support at an early stage, helping them to achieve their full potential and have hope of a brighter future.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To work with schools to receive referrals for the service and assess the suitability of the pupil referred; to provide a formulation of support for the pupil, supporting onward referral where the pupil is not suitable for the Connect-Ed service.
2. To work proactively and in line with policy to safeguard children and young people; to maintain up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding and child protection legislation and practice, attending training as required.
3. To provide individual counselling/ play/ creative arts therapy sessions. Group interventions may also be delivered, depending on the needs of the school.
4. To manage a case load, working with school staff and families to develop strategies to support pupils experiencing difficulties.
5. To demonstrate a range of therapeutic skills/techniques in order to work creatively and effectively with children/young people.
6. To undertake termly reviews and consultations with parents/carers of pupils accessing counselling or therapy where appropriate.
7. To develop effective working relationships with teachers and support staff as well as parents/carers and other professionals. This may include attending relevant staff meetings and consultations as necessary.
8. To undertake clinical supervision in accordance with BACP guidelines and participate in regular line management meetings.
9. To attend continuing professional development training as required.
10. To keep accurate client records and data using the digital database.
11. Write and contribute to reports as required.
12. To liaise with and support referrals to other relevant bodies, such as local authority, health visitors, social care, CAMHS, and other agencies when appropriate.
13. To attend case conferences / planning/strategy/pastoral support meetings when appropriate and provide written reports as required.
14. Maintain confidentiality whilst promoting the safety and welfare of the child, working within professional ethical frameworks and organisational policy.
15. To maintain registration and membership of BACP, BAPT, BADth or equivalent and to work within the ethical guidelines of the relevant professional body.
16. To respect the Catholic ethos that underpins the work of CCS (please note there is no religious aspect to this therapeutic service and no requirement that the post-holder is Catholic).
17. Such other analogous duties as may be required from time to time.

Person Specification

All candidates:

1	Recognised Counselling, Play Therapy or Creative Arts Therapy qualification.	Essential
2	Membership of an appropriate professional body (BACP, BAPT, BADth, BAMT, BAAT etc.)	Essential
3	Where applicable to your qualification/training, HCPC registered or professionally accredited (or actively working towards accreditation).	Essential
4	Experience of completing a minimum of 100 clinical hours	Essential
5	Working knowledge of relevant safeguarding legislation/guidance and child protection procedures.	Essential
6	An understanding of child development	Essential
7	Experience of working with primary and/or secondary aged young people, whichever is relevant to the post being applied for	Essential
8	Experience of working with children who have experienced trauma.	Essential
9	A good understanding of educational settings.	Essential
10	A willingness to deliver individual, group and drop-in services.	Essential
11	An ability to work in a creative and engaging manner suitable for children.	Essential
12	Ability to liaise as appropriate with a range of professionals and agencies as well as pupils and parents.	Essential
13	Ability to write concise and accurate case reports, handling sensitive information ethically at all times.	Essential
14	Experience of working independently and as a team member, including working as part of a multidisciplinary team.	Desirable

Candidates applying to work in secondary schools:

1	A qualification in CBT or DBT (or the willingness to obtain this qualification as this training will be provided).	Essential
2	Experience of working with risk, particularly around self-harm and suicidal ideation.	Essential

Candidates applying to work in special schools:

1	Knowledge of special educational needs.	Essential
2	Experience of working with children/young people who have additional needs or complex needs.	Essential