The Sunnywood Project

Job Description: Educational Pathways Lead

Job Title: Sunnywood Educational Pathways Lead
Organisation: The Sunnywood Project
Location: Burrs Country Park, Bury, and other outdoor, school and community settings
Hours: 20 hours per week (part-time)
Salary: £16,000 per annum
Reports to: Director of Education & Youth Services
Works alongside: Sunnywood Directors, DofE Coordinator, sessional staff and volunteers

Role Purpose

The Educational Pathways Facilitator will support the delivery and development of The Sunnywood Project's education, targeted intervention and youth development programmes.

Working under the direction of the Director of Education & Youth Services, the postholder will plan and deliver engaging outdoor and experiential learning opportunities for children and young people, particularly those experiencing educational barriers, social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) challenges, additional needs or disadvantage.

The role will focus on four principal areas:

- **Outdoor Education:** Delivering curriculum-linked school visits, outdoor learning and personal development activities.
- **SPACE Interventions:** Facilitating targeted six-week programmes designed to build confidence, resilience, relationships, emotional wellbeing and engagement.
- **One-to-One Support:** Providing individualised outdoor mentoring and targeted support for young people requiring additional intervention.
- **Youth Development:** Supporting inclusive youth activities, school holiday outdoor adventures, assisting with DofE expeditions, and progression opportunities that encourage young people to develop skills, confidence and independence.

The postholder will also contribute to the development of school partnerships, evaluation of outcomes and the financial sustainability of Sunnywood Educational Pathways.

Key Responsibilities

1. Outdoor Education & School Sessions

- Plan, organise and deliver high-quality outdoor educational sessions for primary and secondary schools.
- Facilitate curriculum-linked activities, including environmental education, local geography, heritage, outdoor exploration and experiential learning.
- Adapt activities to accommodate different ages, abilities, learning styles and additional needs.
- Create engaging experiences that encourage curiosity, teamwork, problem-solving, independence and confidence.
- Support the development of new educational resources and school programmes.
- Maintain positive working relationships with teachers, school staff and other education professionals.

- Ensure activities are appropriately prepared, risk assessed and evaluated.

2. SPACE & Targeted Interventions

- Deliver Sunnywood's SPACE programmes, primarily through structured six-week interventions.
- Work with small groups of young people experiencing SEMH challenges, school disengagement or other barriers to learning.
- Develop supportive relationships and create safe, inclusive environments in which young people feel valued and able to participate.
- Plan activities that encourage emotional regulation, resilience, confidence, communication and positive relationships.
- Adapt interventions to respond to individual needs, referral information and agreed outcomes.
- Record attendance, engagement, observations and progress.
- Contribute to initial assessments, reviews and end-of-programme reports.
- Liaise appropriately with schools and referring professionals under the guidance of the Director.

3. One-to-One Mentoring & Support

- Plan and deliver individual outdoor mentoring and personal development sessions.
- Support young people experiencing emotional, behavioural, social or educational difficulties.
- Use outdoor experiences and practical activities to encourage communication, reflection, self-confidence and emotional wellbeing.
- Establish achievable personal development goals with young people and referring professionals.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries and a consistent, supportive approach.
- Monitor progress and provide meaningful feedback to schools, families and commissioners through agreed reporting arrangements.
- Identify opportunities for young people to progress into other Sunnywood activities.

4. Youth Development & Community Engagement

- Support the planning and delivery of Sunnywood's wider youth programmes, including outdoor adventures, holiday activities and youth development opportunities.
- Facilitate inclusive activities that encourage social interaction, physical activity, creativity and personal achievement.
- Support young people to develop practical skills, leadership, teamwork and independence.
- Encourage progression from targeted interventions into wider participation, volunteering, DofE and other personal development opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with volunteers and sessional staff to deliver safe and enjoyable activities.
- Assist with Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions where necessary.
- Contribute ideas for new activities responding to the needs and interests of young people.

5. Safeguarding, Safety & Professional Practice

- Follow Sunnywood's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures at all times.
- Recognise, record and promptly report safeguarding concerns through established organisational procedures.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries and confidentiality.
- Follow risk assessments, operating procedures and relevant outdoor activity safety guidance.
- Carry out appropriate dynamic risk assessments during activities.

- Ensure young people are appropriately supervised and supported according to their individual needs.
- Maintain accurate attendance, incident and activity records.
- Participate in required safeguarding, first aid and professional development training.

6. School Partnerships & Programme Development

- Support the Director of Education & Youth Services in developing positive relationships with schools, inclusion teams, SEND professionals and referring organisations.
- Promote Sunnywood's educational services through professional communication and high-quality delivery.
- Identify opportunities for schools to commission additional interventions, mentoring or educational visits.
- Support enquiries, programme planning and arrangements for new bookings.
- Encourage repeat engagement through positive relationships and demonstrable outcomes.
- Contribute ideas for improving and expanding Sunnywood's educational provision.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact

- Maintain accurate records of participation, attendance and engagement.
- Contribute to baseline assessments, progress reviews and outcome reporting.
- Gather appropriate feedback from young people, schools and referring professionals.
- Support evaluation of outcomes including confidence, resilience, emotional wellbeing, relationships and educational engagement.
- Identify and record examples of positive progression and achievement.
- Provide timely information to support reports for commissioners, funders and organisational development.

Working Arrangements

The role is contracted for 20 hours per week, with working patterns arranged according to programme delivery requirements.

Working hours may include school-day sessions, outdoor interventions, occasional school holiday activities and agreed youth activities outside normal school hours.

The postholder will be expected to work flexibly within their contracted hours, with arrangements agreed in advance by the Director of Education & Youth Services.

The role will involve regular outdoor working in varying weather conditions and travel to different delivery locations.

Person Specification

Essential

- Experience of working directly with children and young people in education, youth work, mentoring, outdoor learning or a related setting.
- An understanding of the needs of young people experiencing SEMH difficulties, additional needs or barriers to education.
- Ability to plan, organise and deliver engaging, inclusive activities.
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills.
- Ability to establish positive professional relationships with young people and education professionals.
- Understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and professional boundaries.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a small team.
- Good organisational skills, including maintaining records and completing reports.
- A commitment to inclusion, wellbeing and positive youth development.
- Willingness to work outdoors in a variety of conditions and settings.

Desirable

- Teaching, youth work, mentoring, outdoor education or relevant therapeutic-support qualifications.
- Experience delivering SEMH interventions or alternative education provision.
- Experience supporting children and young people with SEND.
- Outdoor learning, forest school, outdoor leadership or relevant activity qualifications.
- Experience of curriculum-based educational visits.
- Experience working with schools, local authorities or referring professionals.
- Relevant first aid qualification.
- Experience contributing to programme development or commissioned educational services.

Appointment will be subject to appropriate safer recruitment checks, including an enhanced DBS check and children's barred-list check where the duties meet the eligibility requirements.

Key Measures of Success

Performance will be reviewed against the following objectives:

1. Deliver high-quality SPACE, one-to-one, school and youth programmes.
2. Support an increasing number of children and young people through Sunnywood's educational provision.
3. Build positive relationships with schools and encourage repeat commissions.
4. Demonstrate meaningful educational, emotional and social outcomes.
5. Maintain excellent safeguarding, safety and professional standards.
6. Support progression into wider Sunnywood opportunities, including youth activities, DofE, volunteering and leadership.
7. Reduce reliance on the Director of Education & Youth Services for routine programme delivery, enabling greater focus on strategic development and partnerships.

Role Vision

The Sunnywood Educational Pathways Facilitator will play an important part in helping The Sunnywood Project become a recognised provider of outdoor education, targeted intervention and youth development.

Through positive relationships, engaging outdoor experiences and individualised support, the postholder will help children and young people to explore new opportunities, learn valuable skills and grow in confidence, resilience and aspiration.

EXPLORE. LEARN. GROW.