



## Learning Support Assistant at Thriftwood – Additional Information

Thriftwood School caters for learners aged 5–14 years. All learners have a learning disability and additional complex difficulties – Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, Social Communication Difficulties, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties.

Some pupils require the administration of daily medication and, on occasions, emergency medical support.

The role of the Learning Support Assistant at Thriftwood requires a level of physical fitness and mental agility that may far exceed the demands found in mainstream schools.

All learners undertake part of their learning in a community setting and staff are expected to accompany the learners and take part in any off site activity, eg swimming, horse riding, games, sporting activities and social events.

For our learners with physical needs, the following are extremely important:

- Meeting all personal care needs including intimate care – toileting, changing, showering
- Assisting with feeding

For our learners who are autistic, the following are extremely important:

- The ability to follow all individual personal and social support strategies including consistently applying guidance designed to minimise challenging behaviour that puts themselves or others at risk of physical harm
- The ability to undergo training in the use of physical interventions and to subsequently be able to use any recommended interventions appropriately
- The ability to follow behaviour guidelines including those relating to occasions when learners will use behaviours directed at an adult – hitting, kicking, biting, swearing, spitting
- The ability to react quickly to safeguard the well-being of learners – eg if a pupil were to attempt to run away from the site or whilst on a visit

Due to the nature of their special educational needs, learners can display a range of challenging behaviours for which there may not be any observable triggers, the behaviour may be unpredictable.

All class groups include a range of needs and consequently the expectations and daily responsibilities are the same for all Learning Support staff.