



## **Play Therapist at John Shelton Primary School**

### **Job description and person specification**

#### **Job Title and Level**

Play Therapist (Grade 5)

#### **Main Purpose of the Role**

- To assess primary-aged children at John Shelton and the attached Enhanced Resource Provision (ERP) for their suitability for play therapy.
- To prepare and deliver play therapy sessions for identified children as part of their holistic package of support, including filial play when appropriate.
- To provide advice and support for parents/carers and children to help develop and strengthen parent/carer-child relationships.
- To monitor, review, and evaluate the impact of the play therapy service provided, providing evidence of outcomes to stakeholders.

#### **Key Responsibilities and Duties**

##### **1. Assessment & Suitability**

- Assess children's emotional and developmental needs to determine suitability for play therapy interventions.
- Work closely with school staff and relevant professionals (e.g., Head or ERP) to gather contextual information about each child's needs.

##### **2. Planning & Delivery of Therapy**

- Plan, prepare, and deliver individual or group play therapy sessions for identified children, using developmentally appropriate, evidence-based approaches.
- Adapt methods to meet diverse cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds, ensuring inclusive practice.

##### **3. Safeguarding & Child Protection**

- Maintain a thorough understanding of, and compliance with, the school's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.
- Observe, record, and report any concerns about a child's welfare to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) in a prompt and appropriate manner.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external professionals to ensure that children's safety, well-being, and best interests are always prioritised.

- Keep detailed and accurate records of any safeguarding concerns and actions taken, ensuring confidentiality where required.

#### **4. Record-Keeping & Confidentiality**

- Maintain thorough, accurate, and up-to-date records of play therapy sessions, outcomes, and reviews.
- Ensure that records are stored securely and in compliance with data protection, safeguarding, and professional ethical standards.

#### **5. Advice & Guidance**

- Provide professional advice and guidance to school staff, parents/carers, and the wider ERP team on play-based interventions and emotional support strategies.
- Offer written reports and recommendations at the end of a play therapy intervention and at other key points, ensuring strict confidentiality.

#### **6. Monitoring & Evaluation**

- Use recognised outcome measures and tools to evaluate children's progress, collating data to demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Produce case studies, reports, and presentations to evidence impact and inform continuous service improvement.

#### **7. Training & Collaboration**

- Contribute to training for ERP colleagues and other school staff to support understanding of play therapy principles and techniques.
- Collaborate with the ERP's multi-disciplinary team to identify and implement best practices in therapeutic support for children.

#### **8. Professional Duties & Compliance**

- Comply with the British Association of Play Therapists' (BAPT) Ethical Basis for Good Practice in Play Therapy and uphold professional standards at all times.
- Ensure adherence to statutory frameworks and professional codes of conduct, working proactively to uphold ethical standards.
- Maintain professional registration and undertake regular clinical supervision as required; the school will contribute to supervision costs commensurate with the role.

#### **9. Other Responsibilities**

- Participate in annual appraisal cycles and relevant CPD opportunities in line with school and professional requirements.
- Undertake any other duties aligned with the scope of the role as may reasonably be required by the Head of the ERP or school leadership team.

## Person Specification

	<b>Essential Criteria</b>	<b>Desirable Criteria</b>	<b>Measured By</b>
<b>Education &amp; Qualifications</b>	<p>Play therapy training accredited by BAPT to postgraduate level or recognised equivalent</p> <p>Current member of BAPT or equivalent professional body</p>	<p>Experience of working as a play therapist in an education setting</p> <p>Evidence of continuing professional development</p> <p>Evidence of providing advice &amp; support/ workshops/ groups sessions for parent carers</p>	<p>Application Form</p> <p>Certificates</p> <p>Interview</p>

<b>Experience &amp; Knowledge</b>	Experience of working with primary aged children as a play therapist	Experience of working with primary children in a school environment	Application Form Interview
	Experience of working as part of a multi-agency team and providing advice/ guidance to other professionals	Experience of training/ coaching other professionals	Interview
	In depth knowledge in the field of SEMH and or SEND development and intervention strategies for primary aged children	Knowledge of the education system at a primary level	Application Form Interview
	Experience of recording and reporting on play therapy interventions	Experience of evaluating the impact of play therapy interventions and reporting on this for education professionals	Application Form Interview

	Knowledge and experience of working to relevant educational policies, legislation and guidance in relation to working with, and the protection/safeguarding of children.		Interview
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<b>Skills &amp; Abilities</b>	Ability to assess children's suitability for play therapy intervention		Application Form Interview
	Ability to provide high quality play therapy interventions  Understanding of and commitment to, evidence based practice	To demonstrate a range of therapeutic skills/techniques in order to work creatively and effectively with children	Application Form Interview
	Effective interpersonal and communication skills with children, families and professionals		Application Form Interview
	Ability to work independently and manage own caseload as well as work effectively as part of a team		Application Form Interview

<b>Core Behaviours</b>	<b>Excellence</b> - With enthusiasm, you work to deliver a high quality service to meet customer, organisational and personal expectations. You adopt a 'can do' attitude in all of the work you deliver, ensuring it meets the needs of current and potential customers.		Interview
	<b>Simplicity</b> - You actively seek ways to prevent over-complication or confusion, by adopting the most simplified approach to work. You communicate clearly and concisely, ensuring that the message is understood by all.		Interview
	<b>Trust and Respect</b> -You are aware of your impact on others including confidentiality. You value openness and listen carefully to understand the views of others. You promote the values of diversity and actively work to minimise any harm caused to others in order to foster an environment of mutual trust and respect.		Interview
	<b>Working Together</b> - You work with others to reach a common goal; sharing information, supporting colleagues and searching out expertise and solutions from relevant partners and/or the communities we serve.		Interview

	<b>Responsibility</b> - You take ownership for your work and you use your initiative to deliver. You are accountable for your own performance and development and you take responsibility for your actions and decisions.	Interview
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<b>Compiled/Reviewed by</b>	Head Teacher and Head of ERP
<b>Date</b>	April 2025

