



## **Outdoor learning & food growing practitioner**

Do you have the skills to deliver a wide-ranging and varied schools outdoor learning and food growing programme? Do you share our passion for helping children learn about and care for the natural environment? Do you want to be part of an exciting new team within a growing organisation?

**Location: West Yorkshire**

**Salary: £21,937.50 pro rata**

**Hours: Part time, 18.75 hours per week**

**Contract: 12 month fixed term, term time only contract (potential to extend subject to funding)**

Grow to School CIC is a small but growing community interest company based in Huddersfield. The organisation delivers curriculum based outdoor learning and food growing sessions in primary schools across West Yorkshire.

We are looking for an individual with experience of delivering whole class sessions, ideally in outdoor learning & food growing with an understanding of how this links to the current curriculum. Applicants must be adaptable and able to consult with teaching staff as well as working with parents & carers at community events. As a creative communicator you will be able to enthuse and inspire children & staff whilst building good relationships with schools and communities. You will be capable of working independently as part of a small team and demonstrate a committed, mature and flexible approach to your work.

If you believe that you have the passion, commitment and skills to take this unique opportunity forward then we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this part-time post, please email [ama@growtoschool.co.uk](mailto:ama@growtoschool.co.uk) sending your current CV and a supporting statement explaining how you believe your skills and experience match our requirements for the role, directly addressing the job description and person specification. Include the names and contact details of two people, at least one of whom should be a recent employer or contract holder, who are able to provide references relating to your work and on your suitability for this post

Please use the email title Outdoor learning & food growing practitioner

The closing date for applications is Midnight 14th February 2020

Interviews Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March



## About Grow to School CIC

Founded in 2011, Grow to School (GtS) CIC exists to give children greater access to the outdoors for learning, exploration and discovery.

Based in Huddersfield, GtS works in primary schools across Yorkshire with children from diverse cultural backgrounds providing 'hands on' outdoor learning experiences that link to classroom lessons. To enable this GtS works to:

- support schools to take the curriculum outside & create meaningful learning experiences
- put children in touch with where their food comes from through growing, cooking and eating it
- help children learn about and care for the natural environment
- help schools to make the most of their outside space
- deliver teacher training
- share resources to help teachers take learning outdoors
- support schools' engagement with their wider communities through outdoor activities

As a Community Interest Company (CIC), we provide opportunities to schools and build staff capacity to engage with the outdoor environment as an extended classroom for learning. Alongside opportunities for pupils at risk of poor physical and mental health with emphasis on children from disadvantaged backgrounds to spend time outdoors. We use our surplus to support schools to develop their grounds for the benefit of the environment and children's learning in the areas in which we work and create a social impact by:

- improving educational engagement, social skills and attitudes to learning
- improving physical health and mental wellbeing
- raising awareness and enjoyment of the natural environment

## Job description & person specification:

### JOB OVERVIEW:

Grow to School CIC works with primary schools to deliver excellent sessions across Yorkshire and beyond. The organisation undertakes a wide range of outdoor learning and food growing programmes. GtS practitioners plan & deliver from our menu of topic based and curriculum outdoor learning sessions and from our 'Growbag' resources and supporting materials. Practitioners are expected to act as the public face of the organisation.

<b>Job title</b>	<b>Outdoor Learning and Food Growing Practitioner</b>
<b>Reports to</b>	Ama Chaney – Managing director, Grow to School
<b>Location</b>	Within schools for session delivery days & from agreed place of work
<b>Overall purpose of the role</b>	<p>To plan and deliver exciting and engaging outdoor learning and food growing sessions in primary schools covering EYFS, KS1 &amp; 2.</p> <p>The role will contribute to the development of Grow to school, ensuring we offer a high-quality service that meets the needs of our customers.</p>
<b>Key responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To plan and deliver topic based and curriculum outdoor learning sessions to schools – predominantly for Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes.</li> <li>• To deliver food growing sessions and growing advice to schools.</li> </ul> <p>Sessions are a mix of one off day or half day visits and longer periods of regular activity such as Grow in Residence sessions (one day per week) and Growbag sessions (one day per half term). The postholder will be expected to work independently to deliver activities to classes of up to 37 children at a time. They will not be expected to manage classes of children alone as a teacher &amp;/or teaching assistant from the school will always be present at the sessions.</p>
<b>Other responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support planning and delivery of school community/family events as needed.</li> <li>• To develop and maintain resources (such as activity sheets and props) to support outdoor learning sessions, including monitoring equipment, reporting damages and ensuring safe storage.</li> <li>• To support and run the occasional school garden clubs in collaboration with the school.</li> <li>• To deliver cook and eat sessions to schools to promote healthy eating, use of school grown produce &amp; teach basic cooking skills.</li> <li>• To support GtS programme delivery, through planning, recording, and reporting</li> <li>• To keep thorough records of all projects including, photographic records, risk assessments etc.</li> <li>• Assist with data collection for programme evaluation through collection and collation of session evaluations from children and school staff.</li> <li>• To help write and distribute regular bulletins/newsletters to promote and market GtS</li> <li>• To help promote GtS through attendance at open conferences.</li> </ul>

- To feedback to & network with the rest of the GtS team through half termly meetings.
- To feedback to the GtS team to help ensure the website is up to date with current outdoor learning programmes and to promote sessions through social media.
- To ensure all work is undertaken to GtS policies (e.g. safeguarding, environment and sustainability and health and safety).
- Conduct the role in accordance with the highest levels of customer service and quality ensuring adherence with safeguarding children and young people best practice and organisational policies within schools.
- Work to and promote the GtS's objectives, strategy, policies and procedures, including its Mission Statement.
- Present a professional image of GtS at all times.
- To ensure equal opportunities are considered within working practice.

**Qualifications**

Educated to degree standard or equivalent experience in any of the following sectors: horticulture, education, arts, environmental management or environmental science.

To have experience & knowledge of food growing & gardening.

**Knowledge & experience**

**Essential:**

- A good understanding of safeguarding procedures in a work setting with children and young people.
- Experience in working with children in a school setting or similar.
- Knowledge of schools and / or early years settings.

**Desirable:**

- Experience in delivering gardening, environmental & outdoor learning activities.
- An understanding of how outdoor activities can be used to develop children's skills and learning.
- Experience or able to demonstrate relevant interest of gardening and growing.
- Experience of working with disadvantaged and excluded groups and communities.
- Understanding of the importance of community engagement.
- Pediatric First Aid at Work Certificate.
- Food Hygiene and Safety Certificate.
- Experience of working on outdoor community initiatives/activities
- Knowledge of Health & Safety working practices

**Skills & personal qualities**

**Skills**

- Ability to enthuse, excite and motivate children about the natural world.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills and able to prioritise own workload.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, both verbal and written.
- Excellent presentation skills.
- Basic administration and IT skills and literate in the use of Word, Excel, Publisher & Microsoft 365.

**Personal qualities**

- Ability to work alone and co-operatively as part of a remote team.

- Self-motivated with the ability to work effectively under own initiative.
- Demonstrate commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Commitment to sustainable development and enhancement and protection of the natural environment.
- Empathy with and understanding of the aims and objectives of the Grow to School CIC.

**Other**

Full clean driving license.

Use of own vehicle.

Willingness to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Will need access to own computer for working from home or a device will be available if working from the office.