

Lowton

Church of England High School

Role: Teaching Assistant Level 3 – SEN Sensory Support Specialist (Visual Impairment)

Contract: Part time – working between 26.7 to 32.5 hours\week
(with a minimum of 27 hrs\week)

Hours of work will be one of these shifts: by agreement

8.30 am – 3.30 pm (32.5 hrs\week)

8.00 am – 3.00 pm (32.5 hrs\week)

8.30 am – 2.50 pm (26.7 hours\week)

Monday – Friday, Term time plus one INSET Day

Term time working means you will only work when the school is open and you will work 1 day at the start of each new Academic Year, which is a training day (called INSET). Please contact us for an informal discussion and more information.

Salary: £16,919 – 22,680 Actual (range FTE is 27,708 – 30,514)

Grade 5 NJC Pt 8-14





Introduction

Thank you for your interest in this position. I started as the new Headteacher at Lowton Church of England High School in January 2025, with extensive headship and school improvement experience, and I am privileged to hold the post here. Through this applicant pack, I am proud to welcome you to our school and hope it provides a very clear insight into 'Life at Lowton' and into what makes it such a special place to work and learn.

Lowton Church of England High School is a 'Good' school in all areas (Ofsted, March 2023) and we are on a mission – to provide an exceptional education for every young person that we serve in our school community so that their life chances are transformed.

Lowton's most recent inspection report talks about the 'transformative improvements' in the school in the last few years, reflected in our culture, ethos, quality of education, outcomes and behaviour. You can read the full 'Good' report here: [LCEHS Ofsted Report](#)

Our school values are at the heart of everything we do and of everything we ask of ourselves, of our pupils and parents and of our wider community. Everyone is valued in our school and we focus daily on creating a sense of belonging, of high aspiration and of personal excellence and achievement for every pupil, every member of staff and for every family we serve. We believe that our collective ambition, care and commitment are demonstrated through the challenge we offer to everyone to work hard to be the very best they can be and be truly proud of their identity, their school and their community.

You will hear us use the phrase 'ruthlessly compassionate', meaning each and every day we have the resolve, commitment and highest of expectations to do the right thing for every child, because every child has the right to an exceptional education.

Our school is underpinned by its Christian values of *Caring, Learning and Succeeding*. They define the culture of the school. We test all we do through the lens of what is right for each child. We are committed to ensuring that each young person we work with can '*let their light shine*' and understands their potential and the positive impact they can have on themselves and others.

Lowton is not just a secondary school, it is a family; where all of our pupils are nurtured and cared for while being challenged and supported to be resilient, confident and successful learners and human beings who are ready to make a valuable and positive contribution to society.

The future at Lowton is exciting! The conditions are perfect for us to continue our journey towards being exceptional in all we do. We are now looking for a committed and aligned individual to become part of our Site Team. The Team is very much part of the school and is seen as being an essential part of Lowton Church of England High School's success and overall mission.

We have a high-quality curriculum, a dedicated and highly skilled staff team and a values-driven leadership team. In applying for this role, you could be part of our exciting journey.

Before applying, please take a minute to watch my video message:

[Headteacher Welcome Message](#)

If you are interested in applying for this role and committed to our mission and values, I look forward to receiving your application.

Jane Galbraith

Headteacher



About us

We are an 11-16 comprehensive school of around 800 pupils, with an established reputation as a welcoming and forward-thinking learning community.

We pride ourselves on our high expectations in a culture in which pupils can flourish, thrive and succeed. Our staff surveys and inspection surveys outline that staff are proud to work here.

Being located on the Warrington/Wigan border gives us a Warrington postcode but we are part of Wigan Local Authority. We serve our community with most pupils living locally in the town of Leigh and the village of Lowton. Our pupil intake is broadly average in terms of prior attainment and pupil deprivation. The vast majority of pupils speak English as a first language but you will work in a school that has exceptional pupils from all walks of life and staff who truly care about the impact of their work.

As a Church of England School, the Christian faith shapes everything we do. We strive to demonstrate to pupils that each one of them is of infinite worth as a child of God and they are the 'lights of the world', who can make a positive difference to the school and the community in which we live and serve. Our admissions policy does not require pupils to attend Church, rather we pride ourselves on being a mission-led school in the community for our community.

In considering this role, *you* do not need to be Christian to work here, but we expect staff to be fully supportive of the values that underpin all we do as they are central to our approach in all things.

In a recent parent survey, our parents told us...

- **97%** would consider recommending Lowton to another interested parent.
- **94%** agree that their child is getting the appropriate amount of work.
- **93%** agree that communication from the school is informative and helpful
- **92%** agree that their child is well supported in their learning



About the role

We are a school that places the quality of learning at the heart of everything and we have an opportunity for a dynamic, caring and dedicated individual to join our SEND team in supporting our young people to realise their full potential. The successful candidate will be able to provide support to children with visual impairments to allow them to access all aspects of the curriculum and ensure positive outcomes. In particular you will prepare and adapt teaching materials and support and promote effective communication.

At the heart of the job, you will be a committed and caring person who as a teaching assistant will support students with visual impairments on a one to one basis or in a small group in or out of the classroom.

We are a very welcoming and supportive department where teamwork is at our core. You will be supported by the Specialist Sensory Education Team at Wigan LA as well as the school SENDCo.

The successful candidate will benefit from a strong induction programme which will be tailored to their professional needs and experience.

Term time working means you will only work when the school is open and you will work 1 day at the start of each new Academic Year, which is a training day (called INSET). Please contact us for an informal discussion and more information.



About you

Above all we are looking for individuals who have a commitment and passion for raising the achievement of all students regardless of their ability. You will care about student wellbeing and have a sense of purpose; a vibrant and energetic individual who wants to make a difference to the lives of our students and wants to be a part of our team. Are you:

- passionate about promoting a culture of educational excellence and improving the life chances of our students
- able to demonstrate the ability to support the learning of students in the classroom
- able to lead by example and act as a strong role model to students
- positive with a 'can do' attitude
- able to demonstrate excellent organisational skills
- an effective team player aligned to our missions and values
- an active learner, who constantly strives to improve, with the desire to progress.

We are committed to delivering the highest standards and our staff are proud to belong to the school; we believe that Lowton Church of England High School is a great place to be. This post offers you the opportunity to work in and with:

- A caring school where you can make a real difference to the lives of young people.
- A school with a strong will and determination to be excellent.
- A school that has high expectations of all who work here.
- A school that places the quality of learning at the heart everything.
- Supportive and cooperative staff who are committed to their roles.
- An opportunity to develop extracurricular activities, if you so desire.
- Term time working.
- A school that is driven by strong values, invests in its staff and students and has a high regard for their welfare.
- An opportunity to develop extracurricular activities, if you so desire.
- Term time working.
- A school that is driven by strong values, invests in its staff and students and has a high regard for their welfare.



Safeguarding at Lowton Church of England High School:

Lowton Church of England High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Suitability checks will be undertaken in accordance with KCSIE, including identity, Right to Work, qualifications, Prohibition check, two references and enhanced DBS check including Children's Barred List.

In addition, as part of the shortlisting process Lowton Church of England High School will carry out an online search as part of their due diligence on *shortlisted* candidates.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. Self-declaration is subject to Ministry of Justice guidance on the disclosure of criminal records, further information can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

This role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to children and applicants are reminded that it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.



Guidelines on AI usage:

We appreciate your participation in our selection process and as part of our commitment to fairness, integrity and authentic evaluation, we ask that you refrain from using artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other automated writing assistants in your application or assessments.

Our selection process is designed to assess your individual skills, creativity and qualifications. The use of AI-generated content may compromise the authenticity of your application. Any detected use of AI in responses, may result in disqualification from consideration.

We encourage you to rely on your own experience, knowledge and personal expression throughout the process. If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to contact the school business manager Mr Rostron via recruitment@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk



Interested?

- Find out more about the school on our website and Facebook page.
- Speak to a member of staff about the school. We encourage people to visit or phone school with any questions that they may have about the role.
- We welcome applications from those seeking long-term permanent roles, but would be open to discussion around a fixed-term year where the role may support future training for roles within education.
- If you would like to have a conversation or arrange a visit please email: recruitment@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk with your details and a member of staff will get in touch.
- **Closing date:** **Midnight Sunday 11th October**
- **1st Interview by Zoom:** **TBC** (after school hours)
- **Formal Interview Date:** **TBC**

The closing date for all applications is Midnight Sunday 11th October 2026

Early applications are encouraged and we reserve the right to close the vacancy early if a suitable candidate is found. We reserve the right to interview suitable candidates before the application deadline.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer feedback on individual applications that are not shortlisted for interview.



LOWTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL
JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Teaching Assistant – Level 3 SEN Specialist – Visual Impairment
Reports To:	SENDCo/Headteacher/Head of Adaptive Curriculum and Lead for Inclusion
Staff Responsibility for:	None
Liaising with:	Governing Body, Headteacher, Business Manager, Senior Leadership Team, Head of House, teachers and support staff, students, DCSF, LA and other external agencies, parents, community and business representatives
Salary Scale:	G5 8-14
Term:	27.5 – 32.5 hours Term Time plus 1 INSET Days
DBS:	Enhanced

Job Purpose:

1. Under the direction of the SENDCo/Head of Adaptive Curriculum and Lead for Inclusion undertake work/care/support programmes to enable access to learning for students and to assist the teacher in the management of students and classroom.
2. To give support for SEN students providing particular help for those students with learning difficulties and/or behavioural, social or physical disabilities, as required.
3. Actively demonstrate the vision and values of Lowton Church of England High School.
4. Lead the support for pupils in school with a visual impairment under the direction of the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion and SEND, and in collaboration with the Sensory Support Education Team from Wigan Local Authority
5. Provide in-class support for pupils with visual impairments to ensure that pupils are fully able to access the curriculum
6. Support with the adaptation of resources to ensure that pupils with visual impairments are able to fully access the curriculum
7. Monitor progress of pupils with visual impairments and to share this information with staff and other professionals as required.
8. Work with the Assistant Headteacher – Inclusion and SEND, teaching staff, and other professionals to ensure that the needs of pupils with visual impairments are met.
9. Advise staff about how to meet the specific needs of pupils with visual impairments
10. Liaise with outside agencies and parents as required.
11. Undertake training relating to your lead area and disseminate information to teachers and support staff.



Support for Students:

1. Provide support for a student or small group of students with additional needs, whilst employing teaching strategies to encourage students to work with increasing independence within a group and class.
2. Adapt or modify materials and resources to ensure full access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
3. Support student access to the curriculum by adapting learning activities where appropriate.
4. Develop a positive relationship with students to support progress and attainment and promote self-esteem and independence.
5. Support students as part of planned inclusion programmes and provide intervention strategies and programmes as requested.
6. Provide feedback to students on their progress, achievement and attainment.
7. Support the use of ICT in learning activities.
8. Deliver intervention and support strategies for specific students as directed by the SENDCo

Support for Teachers:

1. Provide advice and support to teachers and other support staff as to the most effective methods of support for pupils with learning needs.
2. Liaise with outside agencies as requested to receive and disseminate advice given to effectively support the student across curriculum areas.
3. Liaise sensitively and effectively with parents and carers.
4. Assist the SENDCO in the development, monitoring and review of students' pupil passports.
5. Attend specific training as and when required or requested by the SENDCo.
6. Assist in student supervision and management of student behaviour, in line with school procedures.
7. Be responsible for keeping and updating records as agreed with the SENDCo, contributing to the reviews of records and systems as requested.
8. Report on student achievement, progress and issues in a suitable format.
9. Administer and contribute to the invigilation of examinations as required.

Support for the school:

1. Support the maintenance and enhancement of the school's ethos and mission through their own outstanding professional conduct and high expectations of others.
2. Be aware of and comply with policies relating to child protection, health and safety, confidentiality and data protection.
3. Assist in providing an atmosphere in which effective learning can take place.
Support the promotion of positive relationships with parents and outside agencies.
4. Work within school policies and procedures.
5. Attend and participate in individual and team meetings as required.
6. Undertake personal development and improve own practice through training, observation, evaluation and discussion with colleagues including performance management and use this to support others.
7. Accompany teaching staff and students on visits, trips, out of school activities and enrichment programmes and take responsibility for a group under the supervision of a teacher.
8. Assist with the supervision of students out of lesson time.
9. Work as part of a team and support the role of other people in the team



School Ethos:

1. Play a full part in the life of the school community, to support its distinctive mission and ethos and to encourage and ensure staff and students to follow this example
 2. Support the school in meeting its legal requirements for worship.
 3. Promote actively the school's corporate policies.
 4. Adhere to and support the school's dress code for staff.
 5. Adhere to and support the school's Code of Conduct.
-
1. The school will endeavour to make any necessary reasonable adjustments to the job and the working environment to enable access to employment opportunities for disabled job applicants or continued employment for any employee who develops a disabling condition.
 2. This job description forms part of the contract of employment of the person appointed to this post and is current at the date below but will be reviewed on an annual basis and, following consultation with you, may be changed to reflect or anticipate changes in the job requirements which are commensurate with the job title and grade.



LOWTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Person Specification

				Assessed by:
No:	Categories:	Essential\Desirable	App Form	Interview\Task
Qualifications:				
1.	NVQ 2 or evidence of the equivalent QCF credit value or equivalent qualification or experience in teaching assistance or the care sector	D	✓	
2.	Training in the relevant learning strategies, e.g. literacy, numeracy	E	✓	
3.	GCSEs in Maths & English (grade 4 or equivalent)	E	✓	
4.	Evidence of commitment to own professional development	E	✓	
Knowledge & Skills:				
5.	Ability to use ICT & technology in the classroom to deliver to support learning	E	✓	✓
6.	Proven experience of use of relevant equipment/resources	E	✓	✓
7.	General understanding of the national curriculum and other basic learning programmes/strategies	E	✓	✓
8.	Basic understanding of child development and learning	E	✓	✓
9.	Previous experience of working with children of a relevant age	E	✓	✓
10.	Experience of working with children with SEN	D	✓	✓
11.	Understanding of relevant policies, codes of practice and awareness of relevant legislation, including Safeguarding	E	✓	✓
12.	Up-to-date knowledge and experience of Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures	D	✓	✓
Personal Qualities:				
13.	A strong belief in the value of education in developing citizens	E	✓	✓
14.	Highly organised, literate and articulate	E	✓	✓
15.	Highest levels of professional and personal integrity	E	✓	✓
16.	A strong commitment to inclusion and overcoming barriers to learning and achievement	E	✓	✓
17.	Personal resilience, persistence and perseverance	E	✓	✓
18.	Commitment to the pursuit of continuous professional development by oneself and others	E	✓	✓
19.	Able to maintain confidential issues within the working environment	E	✓	✓
20.	Actively demonstrate the vision and values of Lowton Church of England High School	E	✓	✓
21.	Commitment to support the school's policies on safeguarding & equality & diversity	E	✓	✓

Privacy Notice – Job Applicants

Lowton Church of England High School

Lowton Church of England High School *is the owner of this document and is responsible for ensuring that this policy document is reviewed in line with School's policy review schedule.*

A current version of this document is available to all members of staff and job applicants on the job opportunities section of our website.

This privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about you during and after your work relationship with us, in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Following Brexit, Regulation (EU) 2016/679, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is retained EU law and known as UK GDPR. The UK GDPR sits alongside an amended version of the Data Protection Act 2018 that relate to general personal data processing, powers of the Information Commissioner, and sanctions and enforcement. The GDPR as it continues to apply in the EU is known as EU GDPR.

Successful candidates should refer to our privacy notice for staff for information about how their personal data is stored and collected.

Who Collects This Information

Lowton Church of England High School is a "data controller." This means that we are responsible for deciding how we hold and use personal information about you.

Under data protection legislation we are required to notify you of the information contained in this privacy notice. This notice does not form part of any contract of employment or other contract to provide services and we may update this notice at any time.

It is important that you read this notice, together with any other policies mentioned within this privacy notice. This will assist you with understanding how we process your information and the procedures we take to protect your personal data.

Data Protection Principles

We will comply with the data protection principles when gathering and using personal information, as set out in our data protection policy.

Categories of Information that We Collect, Process, Hold and Share

We may collect, store and use the following categories of personal information about you up to the shortlisting stage of the recruitment process: -



- Personal information and contact details such as name, title, addresses, date of birth, marital status, phone numbers and personal email addresses;
- Emergency contact information such as names, relationship, phone numbers and email addresses;
- Information collected during the recruitment process that we retain during your employment including proof of right to work in the UK, information entered on the application form, CV, qualifications;
- Details of your employment history including job titles, salary and working hours;
- Information regarding your criminal record as required by law to enable you to work with children;
- Details of your referees and references;
- Details collected through any pre-employment checks including online searches for data;
- Your racial or ethnic origin, sex, and sexual orientation, religious or similar beliefs.

We may also collect information after the shortlisting and interview stage in order to make a final decision on where to recruit, including criminal record information, references, information regarding qualifications. We may also ask about details of any conduct, grievance or performance issues, appraisals, time and attendance from references provided by you.

How We Collect this Information

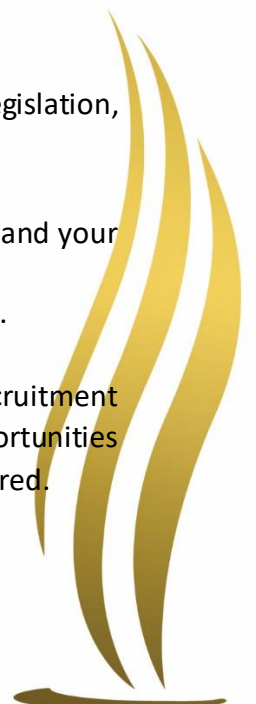
- We may collect this information from you, your referees, your education provider, by searching online resources, from relevant professional bodies the Home Office and from the DBS.

How We Use Your Information

We will only use your personal information when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we will use your information in the following circumstances:

- Where we need to take steps to enter a contract with you;
- Where we need to comply with a legal obligation (such as health and safety legislation, under statutory codes of practice and employment protection legislation);
- Where it is needed in the public interest or for official purposes;
- Where it is necessary for our legitimate interests (or those of a third party) and your interests, rights and freedoms do not override those interests.
- Where you have provided your consent for us to process your personal data.

Generally, the purpose of us collecting your data is to enable us to facilitate safe recruitment and determine suitability for the role. We also collect data to carry out equal opportunities monitoring and to ensure appropriate access arrangements are put in place if required.



If you fail to provide certain information when requested, we may not be able to take the steps to enter a contract with you, or we may be prevented from complying with our legal obligations

We will only use your personal information for the purposes for which we collected it, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose.

How We Use Particularly Sensitive Information

Sensitive personal information (as defined under the UK GDPR as “special category data”) require higher levels of protection and further justification for collecting, storing and using this type of personal information. We may process this data in the following circumstances: -

- In limited circumstances, with your explicit written consent;
- Where we need to carry out our legal obligations in line with our data protection policy;
- Where it is needed in the public interest, such as for equal opportunities monitoring (or in relation to our pension scheme);
- Where it is necessary to protect your interests (or someone else’s interests) and you are not capable of giving your consent.

Criminal Convictions

We may only use information relating to criminal convictions where the law allows us to do so. This will usually be where it is necessary to carry out our legal obligations. We will only collect information about criminal convictions if it is appropriate given the nature of the role and where we are legally able to do so.

Where appropriate we will collect information about criminal convictions as part of the recruitment process or we may be notified of such information directly by you in the course of working for us.

Sharing Data

We may need to share your data with third parties, including third party service providers where required by law, where it is necessary to administer the working relationship with you or where we have another legitimate interest in doing so.

These include the following:

- Academic or regulatory bodies to validate qualifications/experience (for example the teaching agency);
- Referees;
- our Local Authority in order to meet our legal obligations for sharing data with it ;
- Other schools;
- DBS; and



- Recruitment and supply agencies.

We may also need to share some of the above categories of personal information with other parties, such as HR consultants and professional advisers. Usually information will be anonymised but this may not always be possible. The recipients of the information will be bound by confidentiality obligations. We may also be required to share some personal information with our regulators or as required to comply with the law.

Retention Periods

Except as otherwise permitted or required by applicable law or regulation, the School only retains personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes they collected it for, as required to satisfy any legal, accounting or reporting obligations, or as necessary to resolve disputes.

Once we have finished recruitment for the role you applied for, we will then store your information in accordance with our Retention Policy. A copy can be requested by emailing dpo@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk

Security

We have put in place measures to protect the security of your information (i.e. against it being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way). In addition, we limit access to your personal information to those employees, agents, contractors and other third parties who have a business need to know. Details of these measures are available in our information security policy.

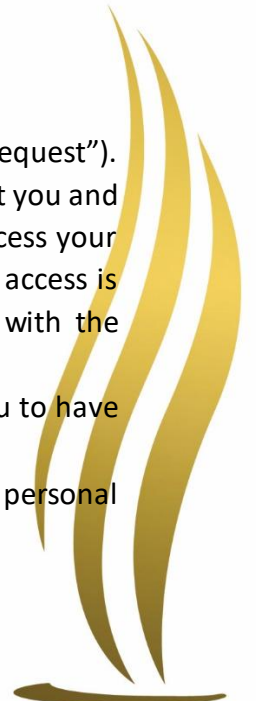
You can find further details of our security procedures within our Data Breach policy and our Information Security policy, available on request.

Your Rights of Access, Correction, Erasure and Restriction

It is important that the personal information we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal information changes during your working relationship with us.

Under certain circumstances by law you have the right to:

- Access your personal information (commonly known as a “subject access request”). This allows you to receive a copy of the personal information we hold about you and to check we are lawfully processing it. You will not have to pay a fee to access your personal information. We may charge a reasonable fee if your request for access is clearly unfounded or excessive. Alternatively, we may refuse to comply with the request in such circumstances.
- Correction of the personal information we hold about you. This enables you to have any inaccurate information we hold about you corrected.
- Erasure of your personal information. You can ask us to delete or remove personal data if there is no good reason for us continuing to process it.



- Restriction of processing your personal information. You can ask us to suspend processing personal information about you in certain circumstances, for example, if you want us to establish its accuracy before processing it.
- To object to processing in certain circumstances (for example for direct marketing purposes).
- To transfer your personal information to another party.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact the Headteacher in writing.

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights).

Right to Withdraw Consent

In the limited circumstances where you may have provided your consent to the collection, processing and transfer of your personal information for a specific purpose, you have the right to withdraw your consent for that specific processing at any time. To withdraw your consent, please contact the Network Manager (dpo@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk) . Once we have received notification that you have withdrawn your consent, we will no longer process your information for the purpose or purposes you originally agreed to, unless we have another legitimate basis for doing so in law.

How to Raise a Concern

We hope that the Network Manager can resolve any query you raise about our use of your information in the first instance.

We have appointed a data protection officer (DPO) to oversee compliance with data protection and this privacy notice. If you have any questions about how we handle your personal information which cannot be resolved by the Network Manager then you can contact the DPO on the details below:

Data Protection Officer: Judicium Consulting Ltd

Address: 72 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE

Email: dataservices@judicium.com

Web: www.judiciumeducation.co.uk

Lead Contact: Craig Stilwell

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office, the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues.

