



# Ochil Tower School

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>POST:</b>         | Assistant Gardener                            |
| <b>HOURS:</b>        | 40 hours a week (hours stated include breaks) |
| <b>REPORTING TO:</b> | Head Gardener                                 |
| <b>SALARY:</b>       | £27,976.00                                    |

## JOB PURPOSE

Assist the Head Gardener in maintaining, renovating and conserving the living environments across Ochil Tower School in line with best organic horticultural standards. These environments include herbaceous gardens, mature lawns, extensive hedging, large mixed beds with ponds, a small field, woodlands, and walled gardens with a kitchen garden.

As these environments provide therapeutic and learning benefits to our children, young people, and staff, they play a key role in the delivery of our 24 hour curriculum. The purpose of this job therefore also includes assisting in preparing class and house activities in the gardens and woodlands. The assistant gardener will also help ensure the living environment and related estate facilities are fit and safe for purpose, in line with our sustainability aims and the broader work of the Estate & Facilities Team.

## • MAIN DUTIES

- Promote a positive ethos and culture in the Garden team, working closely with the Head Gardener and the wider Estates and Facilities Team, consistent with Ochil Tower School's vision, purpose and core values.
- To assist in the day-to-day and seasonal care and maintenance of the gardens and woodlands across Ochil Tower School by undertaking weeding, pruning, trimming, barrowing materials, composting, mulching.
- To maintain the lawns by mowing, strimming, edging and other tasks requested by management.
- To maintain the grounds by leaf blowing, sweeping, and power washing, and other tasks requested by management.
- To assist the Head Gardener in working with care and education staff so that they can support the children and young people to engage with: edible garden produce and healthy eating; the natural environmental and outdoor learning; and biodiversity within the different living environments in Ochil Tower School.
- To assist the wider Estates & Facilities Team in tasks which require team-based,

collective effort where necessary, and to report any hazards and remedial issues promptly.

- Work in accordance with all Ochil Tower School policies and procedures, including health and safety procedures and safe use of tools.
- Attend supervision, annual performance review, training and other meetings, as required.
- Undertake any other reasonable duties in line with skill level and experience, as may be requested by management.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Essential:

N/A

### Desirable:

- Formal work-based training or apprenticeship in horticultural practice
- NC in horticulture or equivalent or higher horticultural qualification
- Driving licence
- First Aid qualification
- Safe Ladder training

## KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

### Essential

- Knowledge of Health and Safety practices and a willingness to comply with Health and Safety standards.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, both written and oral, with attention to detail and the ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholders.
- Strong organisational and time management skills, with an emphasis on maintaining order and cleanliness throughout the working day.
- Willingness to learn about machinery, for example, the ride-on mower and hedge trimmers.

### Desirable

- Basic working knowledge of, and passion for, organic horticulture and biodiversity (or a genuine interest in developing this understanding).

- Demonstrable skill in manual tasks including weeding, pruning, hoeing, raking, digging, trimming, mowing and composting.
- Experience of safe use of a range of horticultural hand tools and machinery.
- Experience of growing crops for a kitchen garden.
- Ability to identify and maintain a range of plants according to their habit and seasonal needs.
- Confidence in using and maintaining horticultural machinery.
- Experience of working in a children's additional support needs in education or childcare setting.

Subject to review.