

The **GALLERY TRUST**

A community of special schools



**Orion**  
Academy

**Pastoral Support Worker**

**Candidate Information Pack**

**February 2025**



## ***Welcome***

Thank you for your interest in the post of Pastoral Support Worker at Orion Academy.

Orion Academy currently offers places to 104 students, and the roll of the school will rise steadily over the next three years to cater for 108 students, aged from 10 to 18 years. Students attend from throughout the county, and transfer from our SEND feeder school, Northern House Academy, and from mainstream primary and secondary schools. The Academy moved into new, state of the art buildings in September 2021. The new facilities offer a wide range of exciting curriculum and vocational opportunities to learners, and a fantastic working environment.

All students who attend Orion Academy have an Education, Health and Care Plan, which describes their special needs and drives their educational provision.

Students are taught through a differentiated and bespoke curriculum designed to enhance their personal and social development and academic achievement. We have a strong intent to ensure our students leave with the personal characteristics to thrive in their communities. Classes are taught in stages, not necessarily age, allowing innovation and creative approaches to teaching and learning. The Academy provides support for our students with social and emotional needs through our Academy Community Learning Team, which consists of youth workers, therapeutic and pastoral workers.

Thank you for your interest in Orion Academy. This is an exciting time to join our school and we look forward to receiving your application.

Jessie Shakespeare  
Co. Headteacher

Hannah Shuker  
Co. Headteacher

**Pastoral Support Worker, Orion Academy**  
**Grade 9**  
**Actual Annual Salary: £24,461 to £26,483**  
**(Full time equivalent £33,366 to £36,124)**  
**32 hours per week, 38 weeks per year, term time only.**

**Immediate start. Permanent position.**

If you are committed to enriching and improving the lives of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, if you would like to join a team which delivers an exciting and diverse curriculum, and if you want to work in a vibrant Special Academy – we want to hear from you.

The role of a Pastoral Support Worker at Orion Academy involves setting appropriate boundaries for children, supporting with their education, wellbeing and pastoral care, and liaising with families to get the best possible outcomes. Pastoral Support Workers work across the whole school, including supporting pupils with complex health and medical needs as well as those who may demonstrate challenging behaviour. You will have a good understanding of complex barriers to learning, and will demonstrate a resilient and instinctive approach in meeting our pupils' needs. You will support colleagues within the class environment as well as contributing to specific interventions designed to encourage engagement with learning and development of social and independence skills.

Students are taught through a differentiated and bespoke curriculum designed to enhance academic and social development, with a strong emphasis on independence skills. The curriculum delivers a thematic, cyclical approach to provide a meaningful and interesting context for the development of basic skills, knowledge and understanding while providing the relevant National Curriculum requirements. Classes are grouped into stage, not age, allowing for innovative and creative approaches to teaching and learning and are taught predominantly by one class teacher, supported by additional class adults.

Our unique features include:

- A curriculum model which is designed around our students
- Individual learning pathways which teach the way our students learn and moves away from the “one size fits all” approach
- A flexible, innovative and student-centred approach, which supports not only excellent teaching and learning, but also the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and their individual needs
- An ethos of Restorative Approaches, mutual respect, and social responsibility which creates an inclusive and nurturing community

## **Benefits of working at Orion Academy, part of The Gallery Trust**

### **Career Progression**

- Be a key member of a friendly and supportive staff team who are dedicated to achieving the best for every one of our pupils
- Participate in high quality professional development opportunities which are tailored to your needs and to your career aspirations
- Develop your career in The Gallery Trust, an expanding and successful organisation which offers opportunities for progression, secondments and collaborative working with colleagues across our schools

### **Financial**

- Competitive salaries for teaching and support staff based on School Teacher Pay and Conditions Document and the NJC Green Book
- Perkbox membership
- Access to LGPS pension linked to salary life assurance
- Contribution towards glasses and eye tests for DSE use
- Salary sacrifice schemes, including childcare vouchers and cycle to work

### **Wellbeing**

- 24/7 access to a free Employee Assistance Programme to provide confidential advice and guidance
- Excellent induction processes, and strong line management structures to promote your wellbeing at work
- A culture which is open to employee ideas and encourages open dialogue
- Regular staff surveys to gain feedback on wellbeing and to drive improvements
- The opportunity to join colleagues for social events
- Family friendly policies, which promote your wellbeing
- The opportunity to work in a new, purpose-built school building, which offers an exciting environment in which to teach and learn, located just a short drive from Oxford's ring road
- Free car parking and cycle storage
- On-site catering

## **Application Process**

Please submit your application form by **24th February 2025** to [recruitment@orionacademy.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@orionacademy.co.uk) or by post to Recruitment, Orion Academy, Knights Road, Oxford OX4 6DQ.

Please ensure you detail any gaps in employment and use the selection criteria when you prepare your application, as shortlisting for interview will be based on how closely you demonstrate your ability to fulfil the essential criteria. We do not accept CVs.

If you are shortlisted, we will take up written references before your interview so please provide permission for this and provide accurate phone and email contact details for your referees. One of your referees must be your current or last employer, and if you are employed in a school, must include your current Head Teacher.

The Gallery Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment with The Gallery Trust is subject to verification of ID and qualifications, satisfactory evidence of the right to work in the UK, health clearance, and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Check. The Gallery Trust is an equal opportunities employer, and we welcome applications from candidates from all ethnic and community backgrounds.

The Gallery Trust is a Special Multi Academy Trust which is dedicated to improving outcomes for SEND learners in Oxfordshire. We strive to provide the best possible specialist learning experience for all pupils.

### **Our Strategic Aims**

- **Places where innovation drives learning** – our schools have a clear purpose, they educate the whole child and prepare them for adulthood. Everything we do, from our curriculum offer to our pastoral care, is meaningful and driven by the needs of learners.
- **Places where relationships drive engagement and achievement** – our schools are built around exceptional relationships. We provide excellent experiences, growth, and opportunities for pupils and staff, and specialist working environments and resources.
- **Places which provide exceptional knowledge and support** – our schools are supported by a skilled and experienced central team which provides high quality school improvement and central support services.
- **Places which inspire and influence** – our schools are committed to collaborating with our local and national partners and communities to ensure that children and young people with SEND receive the education and opportunities they deserve.

As we enter the next phase of our development and build on our many successes, we want to embrace future challenges and opportunities. The Trust is on a continuing journey of expansion, growing from a Multi Academy Trust based on a single academy in 2013, to its position as the largest Special Trust in Oxfordshire. There are currently six special academies in the Trust located throughout Oxfordshire, with an additional academy opening in January 2024, and a further academy scheduled to open in 2026. The Trust's vision is to continue to expand over the next five years, supporting a community of converter academies, free schools and sponsored academies, and providing outreach and other opportunities. All academies collaborate to share SEND expertise and best practice, and work in partnership with peers who are committed to common aims and goals.

The Board of Trustees believes that by providing the support of highly experienced and specialised school improvement and business teams, school leaders are empowered to focus on the standards of teaching and learning, and in meeting the operational and strategic demands of running their schools.

## **Pastoral Support Worker Job Description**

### **Introduction**

This job description describes in general terms the normal duties which the postholder will be expected to undertake. However, the job or duties described may vary or be amended from time to time without changing the level of responsibility associated with the post.

The performance of all the duties and responsibilities shown below will be under the reasonable direction of the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher, or other Senior Manager if appropriate, will be mindful of her/his duty to ensure that the employee has a reasonable workload and sufficient support to carry out the duties of the post.

The job description will be reviewed at least annually and any changes will be subject to consultation. The academy's grievance procedure will be used to resolve any disagreement arising out of the job description. Other relevant policies may be the Stress at work policy and Dignity at work policy.

### **Job Purpose**

To assist and support the Head Teacher and teaching staff in providing high standards of pastoral care and teaching and learning across the curriculum and to promote The Gallery Trust's vision and ethos.

### **Key Tasks**

- Manage and deliver pastoral and therapeutic support to pupils and be responsible for preparing children emotionally and physically to engage with teaching and learning
- Address the needs of pupils who need particular help to overcome barriers to learning
- Provide support for pupils within the class
- Provide behavioural support for pupils on an on-call basis
- Manage and provide accurate and detailed feedback, reports and data linked to pupil achievement, progress, behaviour and other matters using a range of ICT packages
- Support restorative practices
- Attend and contribute to internal and external meetings, representing the school in a professional manner and taking minutes
- Prepare specific documentation relating to students (for example, Positive Response Plans, Positive Handling Plans, Risk Assessments)
- Use Team-Teach and model this to colleagues across the school with the support of lead practitioners in this area at the Academy
- Deliver, review, evaluate and record pupil interventions, assessing pupil response and progress
- Manage the supervision and support of pupils who are unable to work in class, who are not working to the usual timetable and to work with colleagues to reintegrate them back into class
- Use creative, innovative and imaginative ideas to engage students during free association
- Provide support to parents, carers and families, including making home visits
- Attend to pupils' personal needs and care, and provide advice to assist in their social, health and hygiene development
- To be responsible for first aid and medical treatment of students, including risk assessments and liaison with medical professionals, disseminating medical protocols and ensuring that emergency first aid is carried out

- To be responsible for key working specific children, supporting with their education, liaising with parents/carers and being a point of contact for external professionals.
- Observe The Gallery Trust's Safeguarding Policy and other policies to ensure compliance with school and statutory procedures
- Administrative support, e.g. completing paperwork, correspondence, filing and communicating with stakeholders through email, telephone, etc.
- Attend meeting and reviews
- Manage record keeping systems and processes

### **Standards and Quality Assurance**

- Support the aims and ethos of the Academy
- Set a good example in terms of dress, punctuality and attendance
- Attend team and staff meetings
- Be proactive in matters relating to health and safety
- Participate positively in training and professional development
- Taking a share of supervisory duties as part of the weekly routine and as necessary
- Take part in support staff appraisal

### **Specific Responsibilities**

In addition to the duties outlined, you may be responsible for the following:

- Driving and supporting pupils in school vehicles
- Supporting pupils on a range of offsite educational visits
- Undertake tasks and duties as requested by the Head Teacher

### **General Responsibilities**

- Taking appropriate responsibility for one's own health, safety and welfare and the health, safety and welfare of pupils, visitors and work colleagues in accordance with the requirements of legislation and locally-adopted policies; including taking responsibility for raising any concerns with an appropriate manager and for reporting accidents and incidents appropriately
- To carry out other duties as may be reasonably assigned by the Head Teacher
- Be aware of and support difference and ensure equal opportunities for all
- Be aware of and comply with the Academy's policies and procedures

**Selection Criteria  
Pastoral Support Worker, Orion Academy**

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Professional Qualifications</b>	Level 2 qualifications or equivalent	Level 3/4 qualifications Qualifications linked to SEND Team Teach experience
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience of working with children and young people in an educational or therapeutic context</p> <p>Experience of working with children and young people in 1:1 and group situations</p> <p>Experience of liaising with external professionals and agencies</p> <p>Experience in preparing and delivering learning activities to children and young people</p>	<p>Previous experience working with children and young people with special needs</p> <p>Previous experience working in a therapeutic role</p> <p>Previous experience of restorative practice</p> <p>Delivering specific interventions to children and young people</p> <p>Delivering training on specific areas</p> <p>Mentoring children and young people</p> <p>Experience of preparing risk assessments</p>
<b>Professional Knowledge and Skills</b>	<p>Ability to respond flexibly to situations and to demonstrate good judgement</p> <p>Knowledge of or willingness and ability to be trained in Team Teach (restrictive physical interventions RPI)</p> <p>Resilient personality with the ability to work with children and young people who demonstrate challenging behaviour</p> <p>Ability to comprehend and observe the Academy's policies and procedures as well as relevant legislation</p> <p>Ability to engage with academic research and communicate findings at a professional level</p> <p>Understanding of child development and learning</p> <p>Willingness to undertake First Aid training and to attend to the medical, first aid and personal needs of pupils</p>	<p>General understanding of the National Curriculum</p> <p>First Aid trained</p> <p>Ability to work restoratively</p>

	<p>Willingness to undertake personal care</p> <p>Knowledge of a range of IT applications including Microsoft Word and Excel</p> <p>Willingness to attend professional meetings and take minutes where necessary</p>	
Personal Skills and Qualities	<p>Ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with key stakeholders, including students, colleagues, parents, carers and external agencies</p> <p>Ability to work collaboratively and constructively in a team</p> <p>Commitment to safeguarding and the welfare of children and young people</p> <p>Good organisational skills</p> <p>Excellent interpersonal and communication skills</p> <p>Ability to remain positive and enthusiastic, including when under pressure</p> <p>Strong commitment to raising standards</p>	Full driving license

Your application should clearly demonstrate how well you meet the above key criteria.



## Aims

At Orion Academy we believe our children and young people are unique individuals and as such we have designed our school curriculum with their learning and SEMH needs at the heart of all we do.

Our nurturing approach seeks to extend our work out into the community; actively supporting, listening and engaging with our families and carers to deliver the best possible environment for our children and young people, thus enabling them to learn effectively, become active and responsible citizens who are well prepared for life after school.

We are committed to delivering this through:-

Our **nurturing approach** that will provide an environment to thrive –

- Where every child or young person is treated as an individual in a safe and nurturing environment that understands that all students can achieve but will require differentiated approaches based on their individual needs.
- With a school-wide family ethos demonstrating our values of empathy, acceptance and mutual respect, so each member of the school community feels valued and supported.

Our focus on **personal development** is designed to –

- Enable our children and young people to become more socially aware and of their responsibilities with a focus on trust and choice.
- Ensure we support our children and young people to make better decisions, coach them how to regulate frustrations, and reflect on their experiences through our restorative practices.
- Help our children and young people to make sense of the changing world and of the importance of diversity and equality of opportunity.
- Enable them to make informed choices and develop the confidence to be successful in their adult lives through our embedded personal, social and health education programme.

Our focus on **celebration and recognition of success** is designed to –

- Encourage and celebrate each student's talents, skills and attributes.
- Develop the confidence and self-belief of the individual – a culture of 'I can' or 'I can't... yet' is ingrained across our school.
- Provide opportunities for our children and young people to be successful and support them in both developing and promoting their individual resilience as well as celebrating the achievements of others.

Our **ambitious curriculum** offer that is designed to –

- Create the capacity to learn and enjoy learning by broadening our students' horizons and extending learning beyond the classroom.
- Use real-world examples and first-hand experience; develop curiosity and a desire to challenge their understanding and deepen learning.

- Prepare our children and young people for their future through our broad and balanced curriculum, providing them with knowledge, core literacy and numeracy skills and experiences as well as a range of qualification pathways.
- Embed key learning and understanding through careful and thoughtful revisiting and reinforcing, whilst increasing student independence.

Our **personalised provision** that –

- Is responsive to the needs of each student but is uncompromising in expectation. We will be relentless in our support for our children and young people to achieve beyond their expectations.
- Understands that whilst a student's needs are recognized and met, they are not confined by them; we do not define a future based on a child or young person's past and we are unapologetic in our approach in wanting our students to continue to push the boundaries of their potential.

Our commitment to **working in partnerships with our parents and carers** which demonstrates that –

- We believe our children and young people will achieve their best when families and our school work together in a partnership.
- Effective working relationships are characterized by open and honest communication in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our **specialist and expert workforce** who –

- Are passionate and committed to working in special education and will know each student as an individual, recognizing their unique talents, skills and interests.
- Have developed strong and positive relationships with our children and young people in order to support them effectively.
- Have expertise, specialist knowledge and an understanding of a child or young person's needs that embraces the most recent and evidence-based research will result in the best possible outcomes for students
- Are committed to working with therapeutic specialists and external agencies to enhance our provision for our students and their families.
- Support children and young people to recognise and value their own learning journey.

February 2025