

St Joseph's Specialist Trust, Cranleigh, Surrey

Graduate Therapy Assistant (Pathway to Therapy Careers)
36 hours per week, term time only (including 5 INSET days)

Actual salary range £23,337 - £25,632 per annum, depending on experience
(FTE salary: £27,209 - £29,884 based on 36 hours / 52 weeks)

*Plus £1,000 Retention Bonus***



Start your career in therapy in a specialist setting

Have you recently graduated and now considering a career in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy or a related field?

This is an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on, practical experience within a specialist setting, working alongside a highly skilled, multidisciplinary Therapy team.

The role is ideal for graduates looking to build meaningful experience before progressing to a Master's degree, vocational therapy qualification or future therapy apprenticeship pathway.

At St Joseph's, we take an embedded approach to therapy, meaning our therapists work closely with education staff within the classroom. As a Graduate Therapy Assistant, you won't simply observe – you'll actively support and deliver therapeutic interventions, giving you valuable, relevant experience that can help you progress towards your future career.

About St Joseph's

St Joseph's Specialist Trust is a Catholic community providing education, therapy and care for children and young people with complex learning disabilities, autism and communication needs.

Our specialist school and college provide a nurturing and supportive environment for students aged 5-19. Our multidisciplinary Therapy team works closely with education staff to ensure therapy is integrated into everyday learning and development.

About the role

Working under the guidance of qualified therapists and teaching staff, you will support students with a range of complex learning disabilities, autism and communication needs.

Your role will include:

- Supporting individual and group therapeutic activities.
- Working within classroom environments alongside therapists and teachers.
- Helping students develop communication skills, including through AAC such as iPads, Makaton and visual supports.
- Supporting the delivery of therapeutic strategies and interventions.
- Contributing to a consistent, supportive and structured learning environment.
- Building positive relationships with students and helping them develop their independence and confidence.

Some of our students are non-verbal and require creative, patient and adaptable approaches to communication and engagement.

No previous therapy experience is required – full training and support will be provided.

Who would this role suit?

We would particularly welcome applications from:

- Recent graduates in Psychology, Health & Social Care, Education or related subjects

- Graduates hoping to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy or a similar profession.
- Individuals looking to gain relevant clinical or therapeutic experience before postgraduate study.
- Those interested in exploring future apprenticeship pathways within therapy.
- Candidates with a positive, proactive attitude and a genuine interest in supporting young people with additional needs.

What are we looking for?

This is a rewarding role, but working in a specialist setting can also be challenging. You will need to demonstrate:

- Strong mental, emotional and physical resilience.
- Empathy, patience and a positive approach.
- A genuine motivation to make a difference to young people's lives.
- A strong team-focused approach.
- The ability to communicate effectively and build positive relationships.
- The flexibility to respond positively in a dynamic environment.

You will be supported by a skilled and experienced team, with comprehensive training in areas including safeguarding, autism and positive behaviour support.

Working pattern

36 hours per week during term time:

- Monday: 8:30am – 4pm
- Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30am – 4:15pm
- Friday: 8:30am – 3:45pm
- Plus 30 minutes worked flexibly

Why join St Joseph's?

- £1,000 retention bonus - £250 after 1 month, £250 after 1 year and £500 after 18 months
- Valuable hands-on therapy experience in a specialist setting.
- Structured training and mentoring to support your early career development.
- Funded CPD opportunities and support with career progression.
- Potential future therapy apprenticeship pathways.
- Free hot lunch during term time.
- Life insurance and Medical Cashplan.
- Employee Assistance Programme with 24/7 wellbeing support.
- Free on-site parking.
- Beautiful 23-acre site on the edge of the Surrey Hills.

Interested in a career in therapy?

Our Director of Therapies would be happy to discuss the role and potential career pathways with you.

If you would like an informal conversation before applying, please contact our Recruitment Team and we can arrange a call.

How to apply

Shortlisting is based on a fully completed application form in line with our safer recruitment procedures.

To request an application pack or for further information, please contact: Recruitment@st-josephscanleigh.surrey.sch.uk or 01483272449. We will interview suitable candidates as applications are received, so early applications are encouraged.

Please note: we are unable to offer sponsorship for overseas applicants.

*St Joseph's Specialist Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
This position requires an enhanced DBS disclosure and satisfactory references.*