



JOB DESCRIPTION

Schools Worker (Chaplain)

Term time only

Reporting to: SVST Chair of Trustees; working under the supervision of the SVST Team Leader; answering to the Head Teacher within any school context

An SVST Schools Chaplain may be in deployed in one or more school contexts. The opportunities for service may vary between schools. The following description sets out the core values of SVST chaplaincy work and its key components.

SVST Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is an essential part of school life and the SVST Chaplain has an important role in delivering and developing its spiritual and pastoral provision. Whilst distinctively Christian, the chaplaincy is fully inclusive of people from all faiths and none, encouraging an open, honest and friendly dialogue in which all views are respected in a spirit of generous hospitality and mutual learning. An SVST Chaplain will play a critical role in maintaining and promoting this ethos.

The Role

The SVST Chaplain is expected to be a 'resident expert', providing guidance on matters relating to the scriptures and to Christian faith as required. He or she will support the school in three key areas of school life: *spiritual, pastoral* and *worship*. These areas are closely interrelated, not distinct entities. The following descriptions are not exhaustive.

Spiritual

The SVST Chaplain will serve in various aspects of a school's spiritual provision. Specific duties may include:

- Coordinating prayers and assembly. The SVST Chaplain may devise or support the weekly themes to draw in staff and learners.
- Mobilising, encouraging and supporting any groups interested in faith.
- Providing extra-curricular courses on Christian belief including, for example, Bible study for learners or staff as appropriate. (Prayer Club, SU Rooted Hub)
- Connecting the School with other denominations, faiths and organisations as appropriate.
- Contributing to the RE curriculum, as required.
- Supporting charitable projects of the School, if asked (eg Food Bank).
- Offering to work with bereaved learners and their families in the community.

Pastoral

The SVST Chaplain will support the work of the School's Support and Guidance team by offering pastoral care of Learners. Specific duties include:

- Membership of the SVST Team. This group meets weekly to discuss the daily and long-term strategic provision of pastoral care within the schools they support.
- Holding a caseload of vulnerable learners, offering mentoring support.
- Being available to offer a listening ear to learners and staff, as needs arise.
- Being available, on occasion, to discuss with the head teacher the welfare of the school community, forthcoming services and associated chaplaincy events as well as providing a sounding board as required.

Worship

The SVST Chaplain will be responsible for planning, administering and leading a weekly collective worship, either in situ or remotely. The chaplain may choose to use volunteers to support this work or co-ordinate with external organisations on occasion. Specific duties may include:

- Organising and developing worship which forms an integral part of the school week.
- Speaking or drawing in guest preachers for collective worship.
- Developing a good working relationship with the lead for music, in order to include meaningful sung worship in collective worship.
- Organising, supporting and developing occasional services as needed, such as Christmas and Easter services and transitional services for Y6. (SU resources used historically)
- Partnering, where possible, with other school chaplains, offering mutual support.
- Making connections with other faith leaders in the community where possible.
- Offering prayer spaces.
- Being a custodian for the sacred space.

Other Expectations

- Submit a written report of their work to the trustees, via the team leader, on a termly basis.
- Complete paperwork as agreed with the SVST chaplaincy team leader.
- Be willing to be involved in any school inspection to ensure best practice.
- Fully comply with school policies and safeguarding procedures.
- Fulfil any other duties reasonably requested by the head teacher or the Trust.

Training

- Initial chaplaincy training for the job will be undertaken.
- Ongoing training, including Mental Health First Aid and other relevant CPD, will be undertaken.

Experience

- Experience of working with children and young people is desirable.

Personal Qualities

The following personal qualities are essential to the nature of the role:

- Is confident and resilient in their faith.
- Is an able and creative speaker and communicator.
- Is committed to prayer and to offering up the needs of the community.
- Is committed to their own spiritual development and will link to a Spiritual Supporter provided by the Trust.
- Is committed to the spiritual and moral values of the Trust.
- Can command the respect of learners and staff, regardless of their religious affiliation.
- Takes an open, rational and intelligent approach to issues of life and faith.
- Exemplifies sensitivity, integrity and appropriate confidentiality.
- Is able to demonstrate tact and diplomacy in delicate situations.
- Combines gravitas, presence and humour.
- Works well under pressure.

Working for SVST

An SVST chaplain is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he or she is responsible, or with whom he or she comes into contact. He or she must adhere to and always ensure compliance with the school's and Trust's safeguarding policies. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of the children in the school, they must report any concerns immediately to the school's safeguarding team as well as logging the concern and reporting it to the SVST chaplaincy team leader.

Person Specification

All those who work for SVST are expected to be:

- Diligent in promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom they are responsible or come into contact with.
- Committed to the child protection policies of SVST and of the schools in which they work.
- Supportive of the Trust's policies on equal opportunities.
- Mindful of their personal responsibilities relating to health and safety.
- Committed to following the performance management of their role by their line manager through regular meetings.
- Mindful of the need to treat all sensitive information relating to pupils, fellow employees and trustees as confidential.
- Respectful of professional boundaries and understanding when it is appropriate to step back and pass matters on to others.
- Mindful of the need to behave appropriately and professionally at all times with pupils, their parents, peers and other staff.
- Committed to following all other Trust policies and procedures as appropriate and relevant to their post.