

Autism Resource Inclusion, Engagement and Wellbeing Practitioner

We are seeking to appoint an Autism Resource Inclusion, Engagement and Wellbeing Practitioner to support the safeguarding, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement of students within our expanding Autism Resource.

This is an exciting opportunity for a calm, compassionate and highly organised individual to make a meaningful difference to the lives of young people with autism and additional needs, working as part of a dedicated team within a distinctive specialist provision.

Ackworth School, a co-educational boarding and day school, was founded in 1779 by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). It maintains its ethos and traditions and is still governed by the Society. The school is academically non-selective and provides an excellent range of facilities and co-curricular opportunities, recently achieving fantastic feedback in the ISI inspection (January 2026). The Head is a member of both HMC and the Society of Heads.

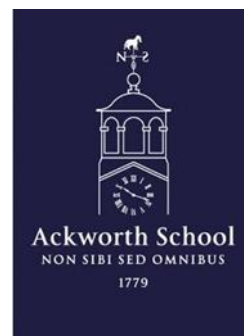
As a non-selective school, we offer a broad education that supports all abilities. Our small class sizes mean that our teachers can dedicate more time to deliver a rich curriculum, allowing all pupils to make progress. Our pupils are one of Ackworth's USP's. Visitors to the school never fail to acknowledge how amazing they are and how positive the encounter is. This is something that makes a career at Ackworth such a rewarding one.

The Autism Resource is a distinct provision within Ackworth School, with its own timetable, resources and curriculum pathways. The provision is expanding to support up to 52 learners aged 9–25, including a dedicated 16–25 pathway with additional facilities and internal and external work placements.

Working under the direction of the Head of AR (Pastoral) and in line with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the successful candidate will play an important role in supporting safeguarding, wellbeing and engagement across the Autism Resource.

The role will involve acting as a key point of contact for safeguarding concerns within the Resource, ensuring concerns are accurately recorded and appropriately escalated, supporting early help processes and contributing to risk assessments. You will also help implement personalised support and regulation strategies, provide key-worker check-ins and support students to engage positively with their education.

An important part of the role will be supporting students who experience barriers to attendance and engagement, including contributing to first-day responses and graded re-engagement plans for anxious or EBSA learners. You will also work closely with families, supporting communication and meetings, and contribute to multi-agency working alongside professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Psychologists and CAMHS.



The successful candidate will have experience of working with children or young people with ASC or additional needs in an education or care setting, alongside an understanding of safeguarding, early help pathways and the additional vulnerabilities of learners with SEND. Strong communication skills, professional discretion, accurate record keeping and confidence using digital systems are essential.

We are looking for someone who is calm, compassionate and student-centred, with a resilient and solution-focused approach. You will need to be highly organised, have excellent attention to detail, communicate proactively and work effectively as part of a team while being comfortable taking direction. A genuine commitment to safeguarding, inclusion, equality and the school's Quaker ethos is essential.

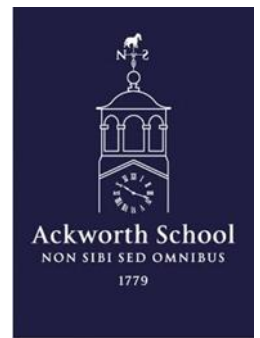
A Level 3 or higher qualification in education, youth work, health/social care or a related field, or equivalent experience, is required. Current safeguarding/child protection training and evidence of relevant continuing professional development are also required. Experience within a specialist/resource setting, experience of 16–25 provision, sensory and communication strategies, online safety or assistive technology would be advantageous.

As a relatively small school, with around 430 pupils, Ackworth enables pupils and staff to become an integral part of our community. Our previous advert describes this close-knit community as one where staff can make an immediate contribution and become a key part of school life.

The actual salary for this role will be £22,841.70 based on working 37.5 hours Monday – Friday term-time only (34 weeks per year).

In return we offer:

- a generous fee remission of 50% for the children of our staff.
- all food and refreshments during the working day.
- free on-site parking.
- flexible pension and wellbeing benefits.
- 34 working weeks
- a supportive and friendly environment based on the Quaker ethos of the school.
- a beautiful working location in an ideal location within easy travelling distance of the main centres of Sheffield, Leeds, Doncaster and York.



Completed school application forms should be submitted with a cover letter of no more than one page and should be sent by email to: jobs@ackworthschool.com

Closing Date: Friday 16 October at 9:00 a.m.

Interviews will be held w/c 19 October. We reserve the right to see candidates prior to the closing date so early application is recommended.

Applicants should read carefully the Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy. Our recruitment privacy notice is also available on our website within "Working For Us".

Ackworth School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and all applicants will undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS and Barred list check with Disclosure and Barring Service. Applicants should also be in sympathy with the School's Quaker ethos.

For an informal and confidential discussion, please contact Ellie Spendlove on 01977 233600 or ellie.spendlove@ackworthschool.com