

Job Summary:

In particular, Bramblewood Team Members will:

- Uphold, and continue to develop their own understanding of, the consent-based, self-directed education approach used at the Bramblewood Project. For more info visit <https://sophiechristophy.com/media/>
- Attune to children's needs to best inform how to most effectively facilitate their well-being, development of secure attachments and their learning.
- Be eager and willing to play, making fools of themselves if necessary!
- Work collaboratively with children, their families, colleagues & professionals working for other organisations.
- Uphold Bramblewood's policies & working practices, including its Safeguarding & Whistleblowing Policies, as well as its Woodland Handbook.
- Use reflection, others at Bramblewood, and training to develop their own continuous professional development relating to their role, including Forest School skills & supporting children's development and needs.

Working conditions/context:

- Our Tuesday community comprises 4-6 young people aged 7-12 who are accessing Bramblewood from 10am-3pm, as an 'Alternative Provision' to their school. This community has a higher proportion of adults, to allow as much support as possible for the young people in attendance.
- Our Friday sessions currently host our community of home educated children, currently aged 4-12. This is a community of around a dozen young people and runs 10am-3pm..
- On Saturdays we host two alternating communities: The Buzzards & The Badgers- both are aged 4-12 years old, and both comprise around 20 young people. These sessions are open access to any young people and run from 10am until 2pm.
- *On Wednesdays we are exploring the possibility of extending the scope of our Tuesday community, to enable more young people to benefit; currently the community is not active.*
- Work involves working outdoors in all weathers, on sometimes uneven ground, for 5 hours at a time, with the possibility of only occasional sitting breaks. Team Members supply their own outdoor clothing; PPE for tool work is provided.
- As with all work where young people are having fun, sometimes the environment will be quite loud!
- There are some physical elements of the work e.g. crouching/kneeling for periods of time, lifting or carrying reasonable loads, playing games with children involving running, chasing, hiding etc.
- On every session The Bramblewood Project accesses a woodland containing trees, nettles, birds, occasional foxes, fungi, and of course, lots of brambles.

Supervision/Support:

- On each session, Bramblewood Team Members work within a small team (normally 3-4 adults in total). Together they hold the space, using everyone's strengths to best support the children who make up the community on that day.
- Paid time is provided each week for reflection & planning, to best enable Team Members to meet children's needs in subsequent sessions.
- Regular supervisions and training is available to give Team Members more opportunities for focussed growth.

Person Specification:

Essential

- Experience and enjoyment of working with children.
- Willingness to work in the workplace setting, as described above
- Able to relate well to, and communicate with, children and adults, both in playful way and professional manners where necessary.
- Firm commitment to protecting and safeguarding children at all times, including understanding the importance of healthy risk-taking, as per the Forest School guiding principles.
- Have sufficient understanding and use of the English language to ensure the well-being of children in their care.
- Able to work as part of a collaborative team.
- Able to maintain confidentiality.
- A curiosity to reflect and learn from experience.
- Willingness to participate in development and training opportunities.

Desirable

- Experience in working with vulnerable children and/or those with complex needs.
- A Forest School Qualification / experience.
- A First Aid Qualification.
- An understanding of children's development.
- An understanding of consent-based, self-directed learning.

Applying for the Position:

- Candidates wishing to visit The Bramblewood Project prior to applying can arrange a visit by email via hello@thebramblewoodproject.org.uk
- Other questions or queries prior to application can either be sent by email, or a phone call can be arranged, again by emailing the above address first.
- Candidates wishing to apply for the position should submit a written application to hello@thebramblewoodproject.org.uk or The Bramblewood Project Offices, 34 Vendeen Crescent, Worcester, WR5 2FB. An individual's application should outline their reasons for applying for the position, as well as detailing why they feel they would be able to meet the requirements of the role (paying close reference to the Person Specification above)

Shortlisting for this role will take place on 19th August 2024, so applications should be sent in order to arrive by then. Candidate/s who have been successfully shortlisted will then be invited to an interview, probably within a week or so of the shortlisting process.

Following the interview process, candidate/s may be given a conditional job offer; this offer would be conditional upon the subsequent receipt of 2 satisfactory references, a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check (including children's barred list information), other background checks and a successful trial shift. Realistically, this process can take several weeks, and so a likely start date for a successful candidate/s might be some time in September.

At all stages of the recruitment process, candidates who have been unsuccessful on this occasion will be notified as soon as possible, with the opportunity available to receive feedback if desired.

Safeguarding Statement

The Bramblewood Project is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This role requires the post-holder to protect and safeguard children at all times. As such, safeguarding checks will be made on potential candidates prior to their appointment. It is an offence to apply for the role if an applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.