

ASSESSMENT # 1 Total Marks: 30

1. *Provide short answers for the following questions:*

i. *What is a teaching assistant?*

A teaching assistant is an important person for the pupil they work with. They ensure every pupil gains the maximum possible value from their time in the classroom.

ii. *What does a primary teaching assistant do?*

A primary teaching assistant:-

Help pupils develop reading and writing skills

Supervise pupils during break time supervision and school trips

Preparing learning materials

Consulting with parents

Identifying and addressing problematic behavior

iii. *What does a secondary teaching assistant do?*

A secondary teaching assistant supports pupils in a particular subject. Supporting pupils with personal care. Overseeing appropriate feeding and medication use. Supervising break times. Identifying and addressing problematic behavior. Monitoring pupils' general performance and development

2. *"Teaching Assistant responsibilities can be broken into four main areas" - name these four areas and give examples of duties/responsibilities for each.*

4 Main Teaching Assistant responsibilities are:-

Supporting the Pupils

Ensure the personal needs of pupils are met at all times. Provide the support pupils need to gain the maximum benefit from every class. Build relationships of trust with pupils and become an inspiring role model. Encourage every pupil to participate in activities. Support the development of friendships and general relationships between pupils. Get to know the individual learning style. Help pupils understand that it is OK to make mistakes. Continuously monitor the performance and progress of all pupils.

Supporting the Teacher

Prepare all required learning materials/resources for lessons. Continuously monitor pupils' performance and report strengths and weaknesses. Ensure all examples of inappropriate or disruptive behaviour are

noted and addressed immediately. Liaise with parents and caregivers. Help pupils of all ages prepare for tests and exams. Supervise pre-planned lessons and activities in the event of planned or unexpected teacher absence. Provide accurate and objective feedback on a regular basis, both directly to the pupils themselves and to their parents or caregivers. Act in accordance with all internal policies and general conditions as specified by the educational institution itself. Identify strengths and weaknesses in pupils' performance, ensuring additional support is provided where required. Liaise with the SENCO and teaching staff, to identify the needs of the pupils. Assist in the preparation and review of IEPs.

Supporting the School

Play an active role overseeing health, safety, confidentiality and security of the child. Understand that every child has a different learning style and provide appropriate material. Attend meetings and workshops on a regular basis. Supervision of school trips and extra-curricular activities outside normal school times. Supervise breaks. Assist with the training and development of new and existing teaching assistants and other support staff where required. Deliver local and national learning strategies e.g. literacy, numeracy, KS3, early years and make effective use of opportunities provided by other learning activities to support the development of pupils' skills. Be able to work with appropriate technologies. Have the confidence to intervene in disputes and conflicts between pupils. Establish strong working relationships with teachers and support staff throughout the institution. Develop a strong understanding of the school's ethos. Cover planned and unplanned teacher absences. Liaise with parents, caregivers and outside parties in general.

Supporting the Curriculum

Ensure pupils understand requirements of tasks/activities accordingly. Support teachers learning strategies. Use the latest technologies. Ensure the classroom environment and all necessary resources are prepared ahead. Adjust their approach to suit the individual learning styles. Contributes to the planning of extracurricular activities and educational school trips. Encourage pupils to take part in activities that may benefit their education.

3. *"Successful and effective teaching assistants share many of the same qualities" - explain why you think your character/personality makes you a good candidate to become a teaching assistant.*

Working with children is my passion. In my experience of working with young people, every day is different, and the flexibility required really appeals to me. I particularly enjoy seeing the positive results of my interaction when children show more confidence in themselves and make progress in their work. I also find it extremely satisfying to know that I have helped my targeted children to understand key concepts and to achieve success in a field that they have previously been struggling with. I thrive on the excitement of having to adapt to different situations while finding solutions to handle many varied problems as and when they arise. The unpredictability of working with children really keeps me on my toes and keeps me constantly switched on and engaged, making every day a fun and stimulating working experience.