

JOB DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION PACK

Learning Advocate



Branches Education Group

Welcome to Your New Beginning

Inspiring Growth. Nurturing Potential.
Transforming Futures.

A Warm Welcome

Welcome to Branches Education Group — a dedicated family of Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools where every young person is celebrated, supported, and empowered. Joining us means becoming part of a team that believes in unlocking potential, embracing individuality, and shaping brighter futures together.

Whether you're joining The Willows School or Silver Birch School, your role is vital, valued, and truly impactful. We're thrilled you're considering taking your next professional step with us.



Who We Are

Branches Education Group is home to two specialist schools:

The Willows School

A nurturing, play-led environment supporting children ages 5–16 with a range of special educational needs.

At The Willows, curiosity is celebrated, small achievements are big victories, and childhood is embraced wholeheartedly.

Silver Birch School

A dynamic, supportive school providing tailored learning for young people ages 11–16. Here, students discover their strengths, independence grows, and the path to adulthood becomes a journey of pride and possibility.

Together, our schools create a continuous, connected support system from early childhood to adolescence.



Our Vision

To create safe, stimulating, and inclusive learning environments where every learner can grow confidently, learn joyfully, and flourish fully — academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our Values

Compassion

We meet every child where they are.

Consistency

We build trust through structure, routine, and strong relationships.

Creativity

We think beyond traditional teaching, finding what works for each learner.

Collaboration

We grow stronger when we work together — as colleagues, families, and communities.



“Every small breakthrough feels like a huge achievement. The students inspire me daily.”

“I’ve grown professionally and personally more here in one year than in any previous job.”

“You feel part of a team from day one — everyone supports each other.”



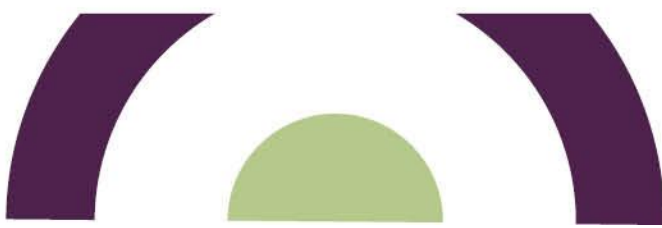
What We Offer

Career Growth & Opportunities – We're expanding, which means more pathways for you to grow too!

- Comprehensive Induction & Training – Including Safeguarding, First Aid, CPI, PACE, Attachment & Trauma training
- Supportive Team – You'll be working with a skilled, encouraging, and friendly staff group
- Refer a Friend Bonus
- Blue Light Card – Enjoy discounts on lots of everyday favourites!
- Company Pension Scheme
- Free On-Site Parking

SIX Reasons Why to Join Our Team

- 1) Inspirational management team that genuinely cares about both pupils and staff wellbeing.
- 2) Opportunities for personal growth and development due to the family size feel of the school and its independent structure.
- 3) A real chance to build a work/life balance in what can be a challenging profession with reduced paperwork and bureaucracy.
- 4) Small class sizes ensure more focused learning with pupils to really be able to make a difference to their attainment.
- 5) About to achieve transformational outcomes for families through innovative practice that is based a holistic approach.
- 6) Genuine professional autonomy.



Our Schools



The Willows School

- Warm, sensory-rich classrooms
- Play-focused learning
- Daily emotional regulation support
- Strong links with families
- A safe space for little learners to thrive

Address: The Willows School, Henry Street,
Rishton, Lancashire, BB1 4JJ

T: 01254 360 807

E: info@thewillowsschool.com



Silver Birch

Empowering Every Learner, Building Skills for Life

Silver Birch School

- Bespoke curriculum pathways
- Life skills and independence-building
- Vocational opportunities
- Specialist therapeutic support
- A community where teens feel seen, heard, and supported

Address: Silver Birch School, Briercliffe Road,
Briercliffe, Burnley, BB10 2HA

T: 01282 798764

E: info@silverbirchschoo.org



Learning Advocate

Role Type: Permanent, Term Time

Reports To: Headteacher

Location: The Willows School, Rishton or Silver Birch School, Brierfield

Salary: £23,656-£24,077 per year FTE - Pro-rata for Term Time working

Hours: Monday-Friday 8.15-4.15

Job Specification

Are you passionate about helping young people achieve their full potential? Do you want a role where every day brings new opportunities to make a real difference? The Willows School and Silver Birch School are searching for a dedicated, energetic, and compassionate Learning Advocate to join our growing team!

At The Willows and Silver Birch, we support pupils aged 5-16 with a diverse range of needs, talents, and challenges. Our students may have Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) or Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, or Autism. We are committed to creating a learning environment where every child feels valued, understood, and inspired.

As a **Learning Advocate**, you'll play a crucial part in shaping the learning experiences of our students. This role sits somewhere between supporting learning in the classroom and assisting with behaviour that challenges.

You'll be:

- Working alongside teaching staff within classroom setting
- Supporting students both in small groups and occasionally 1:1
- Helping pupils to develop personal, social, and emotional skills
- Encouraging positive behaviour through patience, consistency, and understanding
- Making learning accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for every child.

Your work will directly boost students' confidence, independence, and aspirations. There's nothing more rewarding than watching a young person achieve something they never thought they could – and knowing you helped make it happen.

We want someone who's creative, adaptable, and ready to bring positivity into every lesson. If you love the idea of making school a place of success and excitement, we want to hear from you! **No Teaching Assistant qualification required**, just **GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above (or equivalent)**, alongside the right attitude, eagerness to learn, and a genuine passion for supporting young people. You'll need patience, flexibility and be confident in supporting behaviour that may challenge and you'll be committed to helping young people grow, learn and thrive.

Safeguarding

The Willows School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an **Enhanced DBS check** (we'll cover the cost) and an online search. We welcome applications from all backgrounds and are proud to be an equal opportunities employer.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

All staff at The Willows School and Silver Birch School share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to:

- Complete an Enhanced DBS check (school-funded)
- Undergo an online search as part of safer recruitment
- Follow all safeguarding policies and attend regular training
- Immediately report any safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If your application form is shortlisted, all references will be requested prior to interview.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential/Desirable
GCSE English and GCSE Maths Grade C/4	Essential
Genuine passion for supporting young people	Essential
Patient and Flexible	Essential
Confident in supporting behaviour that may challenge	Essential
Experience in supporting young people with SEMH needs	Desirable

Ready to Grow With Us?

If you're passionate, patient, and excited to help children with unique learning needs reach their full potential... you'll feel right at home here. We can't wait to meet you and watch you grow — just as we help our students grow, one brilliant step at a time.

If you think you'd be a great fit, please complete our Application Form and email it to:
emily.baker@prosperitychildrensservices.co.uk along with your CV.

