

Context statement

Job title: Specialist Teacher – Communication and Interaction
Directorate/Service/Team: Children's Services, Learning & Belonging

Organisation structure

Reporting to: Principal Educational Psychologist

Context of work

Specialist area focus – Communication and Interaction

The Specialist Teacher for Communication and Interaction provides expertise relating to autism, social communication and interaction differences and the barriers these may present to learning, participation, belonging and educational achievement.

The purpose of the role is to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND by building the confidence, knowledge and capability of the wider workforce. The postholder will work strategically with schools, early years settings, colleges, Inclusion Bases (SRPs) and multi-agency partners to ensure that expertise is shared effectively and that children and young people can access the right support at the right time. Working alongside educational staff and families, the postholder will help develop approaches that promote engagement, reduce anxiety associated with education and strengthen inclusive provision.

The postholder will contribute to the delivery of Dorset's SEND Reform Implementation Plan and support the development of inclusive provision across the county. A key aspect of the role is to transfer specialist knowledge and skills to education professionals, enabling sustainable improvements in practice and reducing reliance on specialist intervention over time.

The role combines strategic support, consultation, workforce development and quality improvement activities and may contribute specialist advice to Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA), annual reviews and wider SEND processes where appropriate.

Through consultation, modelling, coaching and advisory support, the Specialist Teacher may:

- support educational settings to adapt learning programmes to meet individual needs, interests and learning profiles
- model inclusive and communication-friendly approaches within educational settings
- support practitioners to use a blend of teaching, therapeutic and creative approaches to engage children and young people
- promote approaches that build psychological safety, trust and positive relationships as foundations for learning
- support schools, settings and families to adapt provision, reduce the risk of exclusion or placement breakdown and strengthen inclusive practice





Whilst each Specialist Teacher holds a designated area of expertise, all postholders work collaboratively as part of Dorset's Expertise Offer, sharing knowledge and supporting a joined-up approach to inclusion across Dorset's education system.

About Dorset Children's Services

'Dorset Children Thrive' is our locality model to deliver Children's Services. It brings together services and support for children and families into six integrated locality teams. The locality teams include Family help, Children's Social Care and Learning and Belonging. Through our integrated structure, colleagues work in

multi-disciplinary integrated teams, specialist teachers are part of the Learning and Belonging strand.

Other information

Travel requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the Council) to be available on most working days in order to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period.

The ability to converse at ease and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

An enhanced DBS is required for this role.

Context statement prepared by:

Manager Clare Anderson

Date

17/09/2026

