

Position Information - Speech and Language Therapist (SLT)

Fairhaven School is a specialist school for students with neurodiversity, learning challenges, and physical disabilities. Fairhaven School has a roll of approximately 100 students. Our school is an innovative organisation, always seeking new and superior ways to support our students to learn and achieve. We have a commitment to working meaningfully with whānau, and with our local schools who host our off-site satellite classes.

We employ a range of staff including teachers, therapists, specialists, and support staff, and work in a transdisciplinary way to meet the holistic needs of each student. Our transdisciplinary approach also includes whānau as we recognise their expertise and knowledge of their children.

The SLT will determine our students' skills and abilities, plan for intervention and the method of therapy delivery in consultation with the transdisciplinary team. The SLT will implement suitable intervention strategies as needed and evaluate programme effectiveness regularly. Our therapy team also takes a coaching role, upskilling our teaching staff, whānau and wider community.

Position:	Full time – Permanent
Starting date:	Negotiable
Responsible to:	Directly – Principal, Deputy Principal, Specialist Services Coordinator Indirectly – Fairhaven School Board
Working relationships:	The Principal, Teachers, Therapists, Support Staff, Students and their whānau, families and caregivers, health professionals, agencies, equipment providers
Remuneration:	Salary based on experience and qualifications in line with NZEI Collective Agreement

Key tasks:

- Identify priorities for intervention, based on student needs
- Provide assessments / programmes / intervention / resources as needed
- Record assessments, write therapy plans, & record ongoing progress notes
- Contribute to the Personalised Learning Programme (PLP) process to support the learning outcomes for students
- Share intervention strategies with teaching staff, coach, and model where appropriate
- Refer to, and collaborate with other agencies as needed e.g. Child Development Services, Needs Assessment Service, Talklink, and MoE
- Take part in professional development, both discipline-based and education/school related. We expect new staff to join our schools core values and beliefs around neurodiverse affirming, culturally responsive, and trauma informed practice
- Engage and collaborate regularly with whānau across the year, during assessment, programme planning, implementation, and reviewing of goals. We also offer home visits, support whānau in meetings with outside agencies, and share our knowledge in whānau hui.

Person Specification: The Appointee will:

- Have a degree in Speech and Language Therapy or equivalent qualification
- Be a registered member of the NZSTA
- Have interest, experience, or qualifications in working with young people with intellectual and/or complex disabilities in a school setting
- Have an interest and understanding of Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Have an understanding and a desire to learn more about safe eating and drinking practices and neurodiverse affirming feeding support
- Have an understanding of and high commitment to transdisciplinary teamwork
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, be a team player
- Be able to communicate with parents and caregivers in a supportive manner
- Have energy, resilience, adaptability, humour, and initiative
- Have a full drivers licence and access to own vehicle