

Job Advert: Freelance SEND Education Officer



**Brockwell Park
Community
Greenhouses**

Registered Charity no. 1140590

1. About Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses

Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses (BPCG) is a community garden in the centre of Lambeth's Brockwell Park. The site includes an orchard, a series of demonstration gardens, a walled herb garden, two large greenhouses and Brockwell Barn, including a kitchen and classroom space.

BPCG has a vibrant and committed community of volunteers who contribute to helping people grow through learning and learn through growing. A small team of five staff run the garden volunteering scheme, school visits, family events, courses and workshops.

Visitors, volunteers and members learn about conserving the environment and wildlife, appreciating nature, and understanding organic gardening and food growing – all within a friendly community atmosphere.

We recently finalised a new [five-year strategy](#) and [volunteer engagement plan](#) that will guide our work and growth in the coming years.

2. About the Role

We are looking for an experienced **Freelance SEND Education Officer** to develop and deliver engaging, inclusive, nature-based learning experiences for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with complex needs and high support needs.

Working closely with the Education Programme Manager and Education Officer, you will plan and deliver two regular weekly sessions for local schools during term time. These sessions are for two different groups: one primary school group and one secondary school group.

The regular sessions currently take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9.30am to 11.30am. Each booking includes one hour of activity delivery, with 30 minutes before and after for preparation and packing away. You must be able to commit to delivering both regular weekly sessions, although some flexibility around the days and times may be possible for the right candidate.

School groups attend with their own teachers and/or one-to-one support staff, as appropriate, who remain responsible for participants' personal care, behaviour support and medical needs. Your role is to facilitate engaging activities and support children and young people to explore, learn from and connect with the gardens in a safe, accessible and enriching way.

There may also be opportunities to deliver one-off SEND sessions, including activities in schools, and to contribute to new initiatives as our education programme develops. This additional work is optional and offered on a flexible, sessional basis according to programme needs and your availability.

We are particularly interested in hearing from people with substantial practical experience supporting children and young people with complex SEND needs. **Previous experience in outdoor education, gardening or horticulture is desirable but not essential.** Your SEND expertise, creativity, adaptability and ability to create inclusive learning experiences are what matter most.

3. About You

You are an enthusiastic, compassionate and confident educator with substantial experience working directly with children and young people with SEND, including those with complex needs and high support needs.

You understand that every young person is different and are skilled at adapting activities, communication approaches and learning environments to support individual needs. You have experience working with children and young people who may require significant support with communication, sensory processing, emotional regulation or participation.

You are confident facilitating group activities while working collaboratively with teachers, teaching assistants and one-to-one support staff. You can create a welcoming, supportive environment in which children and young people feel comfortable, included and able to participate in ways that are meaningful to them.

You are organised and proactive, able to plan and deliver sessions independently while managing preparation, administration and record-keeping effectively.

You understand the importance of safeguarding, health and safety, and inclusive practice when working with children and young people, particularly in outdoor environments.

You don't need to be an expert gardener or have previous experience delivering outdoor education. However, you should have a genuine enthusiasm for nature, food growing and the environment, and be keen to develop your knowledge and confidence in using gardens and outdoor spaces for learning.

4. Responsibilities and Duties

Session Delivery and Facilitation

- Plan, prepare and deliver engaging, accessible nature-based learning sessions for children and young people with SEND, including those with complex needs and high support needs.
- Adapt activities, communication approaches, resources and learning environments to meet participants' individual needs, abilities and interests.
- Facilitate activities that enable children and young people to engage safely and meaningfully with the gardens, plants, wildlife and natural environment.
- Liaise with accompanying school staff to understand participants' needs, learning objectives and appropriate support arrangements.
- Work collaboratively with teachers, teaching assistants and one-to-one support staff, who retain responsibility for personal care, behaviour support and medical needs.
- Create a positive, supportive and inclusive learning environment that encourages participation, curiosity and confidence.
- Support education volunteers assisting with sessions, where appropriate.
- Manage session preparation, delivery, packing away and associated administration.
- Contribute to the ongoing development of the SEND education programme in consultation with the Education Programme Manager.

Programme Development, Monitoring and Promotion

- Keep accurate records of sessions delivered, including relevant observations, data and feedback, to support monitoring, evaluation and programme development.
- Contribute ideas and feedback to improve the accessibility, quality and reach of the SEND education programme.
- Assist with promoting education services to local schools and community organisations, where agreed.

Health, Safety and Safeguarding

- Take responsibility for the safe planning and facilitation of activities, working in accordance with relevant risk assessments and BPCG policies.
- Identify and respond appropriately to risks associated with outdoor learning, including environmental, sensory and accessibility considerations.

- Work collaboratively with school staff and the Education Programme Manager to ensure appropriate support arrangements are in place.
- Comply with safeguarding and health and safety policies and procedures, reporting any concerns promptly and appropriately.
- Keep resources, equipment and learning areas clean, organised, accessible and safe to use, reporting any issues or resources requiring replacement or replenishment to the Education Programme Manager.
- Support participants to engage with the gardens and growing spaces respectfully and sustainably.

General

- Undertake other reasonable duties directly related to the agreed SEND education work, in consultation with the Education Programme Manager.

5. Person Specification

Essential Criteria

- **At least one year's substantial practical experience working directly with children and young people with SEND, including those with complex needs and high support needs,** in an educational, specialist or community setting.
- Experience planning, delivering and adapting activities for children and young people with SEND, including those requiring significant additional support.
- Practical knowledge of approaches to supporting different communication styles, sensory needs, emotional regulation and participation.
- Ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with children and young people with a wide range of abilities, needs and communication styles.
- Ability to create safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments, responding confidently and appropriately to individual needs.
- Enthusiasm for nature, wildlife, gardening or environmental learning, and willingness to develop knowledge and skills in these areas.
- Good problem-solving skills and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, including participant needs, weather conditions and changes to the learning environment.
- Strong organisational skills and the ability to plan and deliver activities independently.
- Good record-keeping and administrative skills, including confidence using email and shared digital systems such as Gmail and Google Drive.
- Commitment to safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion.
- **Availability to deliver both regular weekly sessions, currently Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am–11.30am, during school term time.** Some flexibility around days and times may be possible, but commitment to at least two regular weekly sessions is essential.

Desirable Criteria

- A degree, diploma or professional qualification in SEND education, teaching, childcare, youth work or a related field.
- A teaching qualification such as PGCE, BEd, QTS, HLTA or EYTS.
- Experience working in specialist schools or alternative education settings.
- Experience using augmentative and alternative communication approaches, such as Makaton, PECS or communication aids.
- Experience supporting children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).
- Experience delivering outdoor learning, gardening or nature-based activities.
- Level 3 Forest School Leader Award or similar outdoor learning qualification.
- Experience supporting or supervising volunteers in educational or community settings.
- Current first aid qualification.
- Current food hygiene qualification.

6. Additional Details

Pay: £19 per hour. Each regular session is a two-hour paid booking, comprising 30 minutes' preparation, one hour of activity delivery and 30 minutes' packing away. Additional planning, preparation and administrative time will be paid at the agreed hourly rate where authorised in advance by the Education Programme Manager.

Contract: Ongoing freelance, sessional contract. The successful candidate will be responsible for invoicing for their work and managing their own tax and National Insurance obligations.

Working Location: Primarily Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses, with occasional optional opportunities to deliver activities in schools or other community settings.

Reporting to: Education Programme Manager.

Regular Hours: Two regular weekly sessions during school term time, currently Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am–11.30am. Applicants must be able to commit to both weekly sessions, although some flexibility around the days and times may be possible for the right candidate.

Additional Hours: Optional, ad hoc SEND education sessions and other agreed programme work may be offered according to programme needs and the freelancer's availability. Education activities generally take place Monday to Wednesday between 9am and 3pm.

7. How to Apply

Please email a one-page cover letter and CV to education@brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk by **midnight on Sunday 25 October 2026**.

We also invite applicants to complete our voluntary [equality and diversity monitoring form](#). This information is collected separately and is not used in shortlisting or selection decisions.

In your cover letter, please tell us about your experience working directly with children and young people with complex SEND needs, including how you adapt activities to support different abilities and support requirements.

You are welcome to get in touch before applying if you have any questions.

Interviews: Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28 or Thursday 29 October 2026.

Training: Monday 2 November 2026.

Proposed start date: Tuesday 3 November 2026.

We can be flexible with the training and start dates for the right candidate. If these dates don't work for you, please still apply.

The successful candidate will be required to provide contact details for a referee who can comment on their experience working with children and young people with SEND.

BPCG is committed to celebrating and promoting diversity. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and encourage you to apply even if you don't meet every desirable criterion. Please let us know if you require any reasonable adjustments to support your application or interview.

BPCG is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. This role is subject to an enhanced DBS check, with a children's barred list check where the role is eligible, and satisfactory safeguarding checks before work with children begins.