



# Pastoral Care?

The Schools Outreach Pastoral Care Specialist

REGISTERED CHARITY 516184 & COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE 1144035

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## The Schools Outreach Pastoral Care Specialist

Schools Outreach has over 19 years of experience in recruiting, training and employing full-time pastoral care specialists (PCS) for both primary and high schools across the UK.

The PCS works one-to-one and in groups with children and young people at risk to build self-esteem and help with problems.

Specialists can be based full-time in one secondary school or shared between, perhaps, two primary schools within a community which, in the primary sector obviously reduces the cost to each school.

It is the policy of Schools Outreach never to settle for second best when appointing an individual to work with children and young people, so we establish and maintain exceptionally high standards in both recruitment and training.

It is also our policy not to recruit and train someone until 3 years' full funding has been promised for a local project. Whereas Schools Outreach is prepared to help and advise, schools must be prepared to bear most of the responsibility for raising the necessary funds for a project.

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### The aims of a pastoral care specialist:

- To establish and develop confidential friendships with the pupils and all who care for them
  - To encourage the pupils to understand their potential for wholeness and balance within their personalities
  - To enhance self-worth in each young person, especially in those whose sense of their worth is poor
  - To offer to each young person the precious gift of time and unconditional commitment
  - To fulfil a preventive role by the encouragement of wise decision making
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### Training and expectations:

All Schools Outreach Pastoral Care Specialists are required to successfully complete a four-month, full-time initial training programme at our HQ in Bromsgrove before being placed into a school. The Specialist is also required to attend termly 2-day residential in-service training events.

The initial training programme has two main purposes:

1. to prepare the worker for the role of full-time, school-based pastoral care worker; and
2. to enable Schools Outreach to confirm that the individual possesses the character, commitment, resources, abilities, and attitudes, which are essential to the fulfilment of the role of a pastoral

care specialist.

The programme covers a wide variety of issues, including:

- Understanding pastoral care
  - A young person's basic needs
  - Preventing and remedying problems
  - Counselling skills
  - Communication skills
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### Our expectations of a school:

- Providing a dedicated space for the specialist to meet with pupils for one-to-one support where they can be found by all pupils and staff. The room should be situated next to another occupied room with windows and a connecting door
  - The school should provide a lockable filing cabinet for storage of confidential records
  - Where possible a dedicated phone line
  - A member of the senior management team of the school to act as line supervisor
  - Help the PCS to establish a referral system in the early stages of their placement
  - Provision of stationery and other basic needs for record keeping
  - The school should remember at all times that the worker is employed by Schools Outreach
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