

Status:	Temporary 12 month position (Term time only) 20 hours, spread across 5 days With a view to extend subject to student availability and associated funding
Commencement date:	Term 1, 2024
Area of appointment:	Inclusive Education Department
Position Reporting to:	Inclusive Education Coordinators
Pre-requisites: (Please provide a copy with your application)	These qualifications/certificates are required prior to commencing employment at HILLS and must be updated for the duration of employments at HILLS:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Working with Children’s Check • Current Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse & Neglect Certificate (RRHAN-EC) • Current First Aid Certificate • Current Driver’s Licence

Introduction

Hills is seeking an enthusiastic and compassionate Support Educator with the skills and attributes to foster a positive and inclusive learning environment for a student with complex physical and communication impairments (Spastic Cerebral Palsy).

The ideal applicant will demonstrate patience, creativity, and adaptability, working collaboratively with a co-educator, teachers and other professionals to provide personalised support that meets the student’s unique learning requirements. This is an opportunity to meaningfully impact a student’s educational journey while contributing to a supportive and dynamic team.

Support Educators are required to work closely with teachers, parents and leadership as a part of a team to achieve individual outcomes for each student. We are specifically looking for a candidate who has the personal qualities of empathy and compassion and is able to demonstrate patience and persistence at all times.

All members of staff of The Hills Christian Community School Inc. are expected to uphold and demonstrate personal qualities and behaviours which are consistent with the School’s Statement of Aims and Objectives, and its Statement of Belief. These include:

- A personal Christian faith, which is reflected in his/her daily living
- A love of children and teaching
- Acceptance and respect for people from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints
- The ability to work co-operatively and harmoniously as part of a team
- Being supportive and encouraging to children, colleagues and parents
- Having positive relationships and open communication with the whole school community
- A positive outlook on life which enhances relationships
- Who is able to be flexible and capable of fulfilling a variety of student-centred roles.

Role Description

Student Support Officers will support individual student/s both inside and outside the classroom, with a range of needs, under the direction of the Director of Teaching and Learning, Inclusive Education Coordinator and classroom educators. The successful candidate will be working in tandem with the co-support educator.

Communication Skills

Educators must be adept or willing to develop skills at using various communication methods to effectively interact with the student, particularly given his complex communication needs. This includes proficiency or willingness to work towards using assistive communication devices such as his PODD system, as well as being able to simplify language and provide clear verbal descriptions.

Adaptability and Flexibility

Given the dynamic nature of the student's needs, especially concerning health and comfort, educators should be flexible. They must be prepared to adjust plans based on his daily condition and preferences, ensuring that learning experiences are accessible and engaging.

Knowledge of Health and Safety Practices

Understanding safe work practices is crucial. Educators should be willing to undergo training in handling emergencies related to the student's medical conditions and be knowledgeable about his health care plans, including safe transfer techniques and proper nutrition support. These include:

1. Training in Manual Handling

Willingness to undergo training in safe manual handling techniques to ensure the student's comfort and safety during transfers and other physical interactions, as well as first aid, including seizure management and medication administration.

2. Awareness of Medical Needs

Commitment to stay informed about his medical conditions and plans. This knowledge helps them recognise potential health concerns and respond appropriately.

3. Creating a Safe Learning Environment

Commitment to understand how to design a classroom in collaboration with the classroom educator and allied health professionals that minimizes risks and supports the student needs. This may involve arranging furniture for safe and flexible mobility while ensuring that materials are accessible and safe to interact with.

Key Selection Criteria

- A demonstrated faith background and ability to share in the school's commitment to Christian values, particularly recognising the uniqueness of the individual child in the eyes of God
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and establish positive working relationships with all members of the HILLS community
- Experience in implementing strategies to support students with social/emotional/developmental issues and needs.
- Experience in using assistive augmentative and alternative communication is desirable.
- Successful completion or working towards a Certificate II or III in Education Support and/or Disability (or equivalent) would be an advantage.