



## **THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, DUBAI**

### **SEND DEPARTMENT**

#### **LSA Policy (OPTIONAL SERVICES)**

Students with learning difficulties often experience challenges in the mainstream school setting and require the guidance of another professional other than the classroom teacher. Learning Support Assistants, together with the combined team of professionals entrusted with the student's welfare, aim to provide additional guidance and support in order for the student to successfully integrate into the mainstream environment.

The role of LSA's is to guide the student attending mainstream schools to become as independent as possible.

LSAs are akin to a coach, intervening only when necessary. They are trained to identify opportunities for the student to learn to adapt to and face the challenges of his/her environment - while conscious of situations that require their assistance.

Most students with learning difficulties experience social interaction challenges arising from their lack of perspective-taking and social communication skills. LSA's are the student's advocates. They work with the student to become more aware of their peers and environment and in the process build social skills - the goal is to equip the student with the right tools to adjust to social situations as well as to develop and maintain friendships.

Shadow teaching (LSA) programme incorporates a system that aims towards fading off the shadow support as the student's skills improve. Our ultimate goal is to work ourselves out of the job.

**LSAs' duties & Responsibilities are:**

- To help the student display appropriate classroom behavior.
- To provide guidance in completing activities that promote his/her learning environment.
- To help the student achieve goals stated in his/her Individual Educational Plan (IEP) by implementing agreed-upon accommodations for the student.
- To perform regular data collection about the progress of the student.
- To regularly update the parents, the Phase Leader and the SEND team on the student's progress.(weekly reviews)
- The Parent appoints LSA's, after they are selected through a formal interview by the Head of SEND.
- They need to abide by the school rules and adhere to formal dress code at all times.
- Work timings will be decided based on the school timing. (FS : 8am-12pm, Grade 1- 13 : 8am-2.00pm)
- The LSA's will sign their attendance every morning latest by 7.50am in the SEND office.
- Regular attendance of the LSA is required, In case of absence; prior notice is to be given to the parent and to the respective Phase Leader and Head of SEND.
- Parent will not be allowed to work as LSA for their own child or for any student studying in the same Phase.
- LSA's are required to regularly update themselves as part of their Professional development.
- LSA will be paid by the parent and will not be eligible for any other school benefits.
- The contract is between the parent and the LSA and the school holds no liability in this regard.