



Thornhill Primary School

Extended School Playworker Recruitment Pack



'Help Yourself and Others to Learn'

Thornhill Road • Islington • London • N1 1HX



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Letter from the Head Teacher

February 2026

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming an **Extended School Playworker** here at Thornhill. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about our school.

The ethos at Thornhill is encapsulated in our motto: 'Help Yourself and Others to Learn'. We support our children to develop a lifelong love of learning by offering a rich curriculum, including experts in residence such as poets, puppeteers, dancers and sports coaches. Over the last decade, Thornhill has established an impressive record of attainment and achievement, with our greater-than-average number of pupil premium children often exceeding the results of non-pupil premium children nationally. Situated in the heart of Barnsbury in Islington, north London, our children, parents and staff come together from a huge range of cultural and economic backgrounds to create a vibrant, inclusive community.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed **Extended School Playworker** to work in our extended school provisions. You will be required to supervise, engage positive play and ensure the safety of students during extended school hours.

At Thornhill we value professional development and ensure all staff are well supported and developed.

I hope this provides a picture of Thornhill Primary School and the exciting opportunities associated with the position.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Robinson

Acting Head Teacher



Advert

Extended School Playworker

Thornhill Primary School

Required for: **March 2026**

Contract: **CASUAL CONTRACT**

Grade: **Scale 3-5**

Salary: **£19.09 - £22.04 p/hr incl of annual leave**

Hours: **Variable hours**

Thornhill School is a unique community school with a clear vision and passion for learning. We are committed to high quality teaching for all our children and believe that creativity is at the heart of education. Join us in exploring what learning can be like and help us develop the most exciting environment possible.

We are looking to appoint passionate and enthusiastic **Extended School Playworker** for **March 2026** to join our support staff team.

This is a great opportunity for any support staff who:

- Is committed to achieving excellence in playwork
- Is highly motivated and enjoys working with children
- Has a strong commitment to professional development
- Wants to make a difference for all groups of children

In return, Thornhill can offer you:

- Children who are eager to learn and engaged with supportive parents
- A rewarding opportunity to be part of a supportive, motivated and committed team
- Significant professional development opportunities for support staff at all stages of their career
- A vibrant and creative place to work

Closing date for applications: Midnight, Sunday 22nd February 2026

Shortlisting: Monday 23rd February 2026

Interviews: TBC

To apply: Follow the jobs link <https://jobs.islington.gov.uk/vacancies/2519/extended-school-playworker.html>

If you need any assistance, please email the Schools' HR Team at: hr@thornhill.islington.sch.uk
quoting reference: **THOR2519**

Thornhill Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure. Also, this post is likely to come under the requirements of the Childcare (Disqualification) 2009 Regulations and the successful applicant will be required to complete a declaration form to establish whether they are disqualified under these regulations. An online search will be conducted on shortlisted candidates.

Extended School Playworker

School: **Thornhill Primary School**

Responsible to: **Business Manager**

Contract: **CASUAL CONTRACT**

Grade: **Scale 3-5**

Salary: **£19.09 - £22.04 p/hr incl of annual leave**

Hours: **Variable hours**



Job Description

PURPOSE OF THE POST

To provide high standards of care and play opportunities for children between the ages of 3 - 11 years old in a safe and secure environment during the extended school hours.

What you have to achieve:

- High standards of care and play opportunities.
- Compliance of all regulatory requirements in Food Standards.
- Positive working relationships with staff members, outside professionals, parents and carers.
- Happy, supported and engaged children.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- To provide and encourage all pupils to eat but especially assist those with special needs or disabilities, and to assist children with cutting up food, opening tubs, pouring water etc. where appropriate to e.g., age of child, needs of child, as necessary.
- To provide for the play needs of 3–11 year-olds by offering a range of play opportunities, social education/recreation programme of activities, which are value for money, in a safe and secure environment.
- Abiding by food hygiene regulations and ensuring the environment is safe
- To encourage social skills, positive play and good table manners
- Dealing with any misbehaviour that may occur in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- Addressing issues calmly and politely and in doing so being a role model to the children.
- Working within the policies of the, the school especially those concerned with Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety.
- Carrying out administrative duties on computer terminals in accordance with school procedures such as registers, logging first aid, safeguarding concerns etc.
- Preparation and presentation of the relevant information required by the Headteacher, School or Governors
- Meeting any other requirements of the borough.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Keeping informed of current legislation, local and national issues and the implementation in daily work practice.
- Addressing professional boundary issues in their relationships with children and young people.
- Assisting in the efficient daily running of extended school activities, to include on and off-site safety, registration and documentation, charging system for the school
- Developing and sustaining positive relationships with the whole School community, other staff, parents, carers, volunteers and other relevant agencies.
- Exercising a general duty of care in accordance with the School's Health and Safety Policy and legislation, ensuring that a safe working environment exists in the designated area.
- To carry out such other minor and/or non-recurring duties, appropriate to the post, as may be directed.
- Where appropriate, to organise pupils from classroom, or the playground, and secure movement around the school as needed.
- Collaborate and show a flexible and enthusiastic approach to the role to improve the extended school experience.
- Consider individuals and groups of children of all levels of ability when organising play activities.
- Establish an exciting, purposeful and safe extended school environment, to enable children to feel secure and happy.

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- To carry out the duties and responsibilities of the post, in accordance with Thornhill's Health and Safety Policy and relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- To promote the safeguarding of children
- To undertake training as appropriate.
- To undertake other minor and/or non-recurring duties appropriate to the post that may reasonably be required from time to time.

Extended School Playworker

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Responsible to: **Business Manager**

Contract: **CASUAL CONTRACT**

Grade: **Scale 3-5**

Salary: **£19.09 - £22.04 p/hr incl of annual leave**

Hours: **Variable hours**



Person Specification

CRITERIA

You must demonstrate on your application form that you meet the following essential criteria.

REQUIREMENTS		ESSENTIAL CRITERIA
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE	E.1	Have a minimum of 6 months experience of supervising children in a paid or unpaid capacity.
	E.2	Have or willing to obtain a Level 2 Diploma in Playwork or equivalent.
	E.3	Have or willing to obtain a Level 2 Food Hygiene certification & First Aid
SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES	E.4	Must have the ability to assist in the organisation and deliver of a quality programme of activities e.g. arts/crafts, drama, sport, homework clubs, literacy and any other activity which reflects Council and Young People's Services priorities.
	E.5	Have the ability to relate to pupils, in particular SEN children, to deal with them patiently and firmly.
	E.6	Must demonstrate the ability to work effectively with children who present challenging and discriminatory behaviour.
	E.7	Have the ability to relate both to support staff and teaching staff at the school and to work co-operatively with other people as part of a team.
	E.8	Must be able to use or be willing to learn computer systems as required by role
	E.9	Must demonstrate their ability to adhere to and maintain effective relationships with children and young people, staff, parents, carers and other colleagues within appropriate professional boundaries.
	E.10	Have the ability to judge when advice/assistance is needed to meet pupils' needs and to react calmly and quickly in any emergency.
	E.11	Have an understanding of and the ability to deliver services within an Equal Opportunities Framework.
	E.12	Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people.
PERSONAL QUALITIES	E.13	Positive attitude towards the school and working with others
	E.14	Professionalism in all actions



How to Apply

Application Deadline

Completed application forms must be received by **Midnight, Sunday 22nd February 2026**

To apply, follow the jobs link <https://jobs.islington.gov.uk/vacancies/2519/extended-school-playworker.html>

If you need any assistance, please email the Schools' HR Team at: hr@thornhill.islington.sch.uk quoting reference: **THOR2519**

Please note that CVs and hard copy applications will not be accepted.

Completing your application

Candidates are asked to complete all the standard information required on the application form, and to submit a supporting statement, addressing all of the criteria identified at application stage.

Visits

Informal visits to the school are welcome and encouraged and can be arranged with the School Office. Please email hr@thornhill.islington.sch.uk or call 020 7607 4162.

Selection procedure

The selection will be made by a panel of senior leaders. Candidates will be notified immediately after this has taken place. Please would all applicants ensure that their preferred means of urgent contact (phone, mobile phone or e-mail) are clearly identifiable from the application form, so that your confidentiality is maintained.

The selection process will take place on the **Monday 23rd February 2026**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on with the date **TBC**.

References

Candidates are advised that references will be taken up immediately after shortlisting. Candidates are asked to ensure that their referees are warned of the need to respond within the timescale set. In all cases at least two professional reference is required.

The post will be offered subject to satisfactory completion of pre-employment checks.

Safeguarding children

Prior to appointment, formal checks will be made in accordance with the current statutory requirements relating to child protection. As part of Safer Recruitment, there will be a **social media check** done on all shortlisted candidates. Information on this will be sent with the invite to interview email.



School Location

School Address:

Thornhill Primary School
Thornhill Road
Barnsbury
London
N1 1HX

Nearby stations:

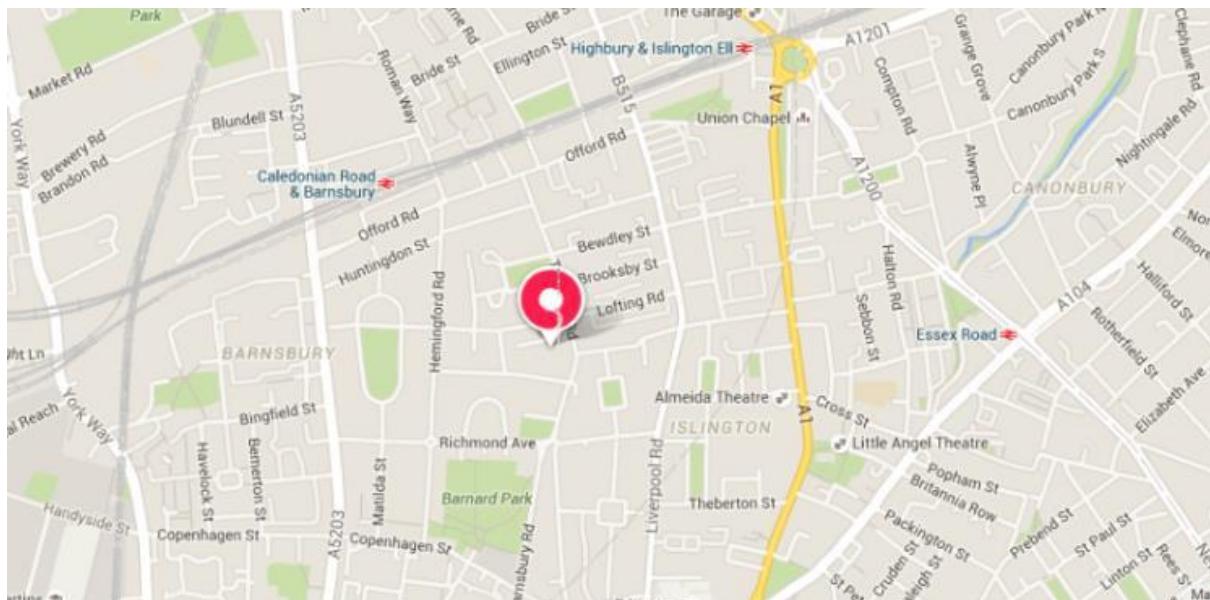
Angel (Northern Line)
Caledonian Road & Barnsbury (Overground)
Caledonian Road (Piccadilly Line)
Highbury & Islington (Victoria Line, Overground)
Kings Cross St. Pancras (Circle, Metropolitan,
Hammersmith & City, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria
Lines)

Website:

www.thornhill.islington.sch.uk

Islington

Further information about Islington borough is available at www.islington.gov.uk





Thornhill Primary School

Thornhill Road, Islington, London, N1 1HX

Tel: 020 7607 4162

Email: thornhill@thornhill.islington.sch.uk

Website: www.thornhill.islington.sch.uk

