Primary School Counsellor

PRIMARY SCHOOL / SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING



INQUIRE · INSPIRE · IMPACT

Dear prospective colleague, Thank you for your interest in joining Nagoya International School. We want classrooms where students do more than answer questions: they question the answers, make connections and discover what matters. Our values of Safety, Growth, Belonging and Responsibility shape how we teach, learn and care for one another. Academic ambition and a sense of belonging go hand in hand; every child deserves to be known, challenged and supported.

We are seeking a compassionate, collaborative and skilled Primary School Counsellor to support the social, emotional, behavioral and psychological wellbeing of children from Early Childhood through Grade 5. Working alongside families, homeroom teachers, the School Nurse and our Student Services team, you will provide individual and small-group counselling, early intervention and coordinated student support. You will help develop a proactive, school-wide approach to wellbeing through classroom learning, co-teaching and professional learning with staff and families. We value strong knowledge of child development, trusting relationships, inclusive and restorative practice, and sound professional judgement in safeguarding and child protection.

Key responsibilities

Counselling and proactive wellbeing support

- Provide individual and small-group counselling and early intervention for social-emotional and behavioral needs, helping children develop identity, self-awareness, resilience and psychological wellbeing.
- Co-plan, deliver and co-teach proactive wellbeing lessons with classroom teachers, integrating social-emotional learning into PYP inquiry, class activities and wider school life.
- Partner with parents and caregivers to support children's wellbeing, and design and facilitate professional learning and information sessions for teachers, families and the wider school community.

Collaborative student support and professional practice

- Collaborate with classroom teachers, Student Services colleagues and the School Nurse on individual support plans, maintaining accurate, timely records and appropriate team confidentiality.
- Respond appropriately to disclosures and concerns about student safety, following safeguarding and child-protection procedures and sharing information responsibly; work with external counsellors, psychologists and other specialists when needed.
- Contribute to school-wide wellbeing and school improvement through reflective practice, ongoing professional learning, clear professional boundaries and sustainable approaches to the counselling workload.

Essential requirements

- A degree and relevant professional qualifications or certification in school counselling, psychology, social work or a related mental health field.
- At least two years' experience providing counselling or mental health support to Primary-aged children in a school setting.
- A strong understanding of child development, including the social-emotional and behavioral needs of Primary-aged children.
- Experience providing individual and small-group counselling, including early intervention and support for students with diverse social-emotional and behavioral needs.
- Ability to collaborate with teachers, parents/caregivers and student support teams on wellbeing strategies, including planning, delivering and co-teaching proactive wellbeing lessons.
- Experience designing and facilitating professional learning for teachers, parents/caregivers and other members of the school community.
- A proven commitment to inclusive education, including LGBTQIA+-affirming, anti-racist and culturally responsive practice with diverse children and families.
- A commitment to positive relationships, restorative approaches and NIS's values of Safety, Growth, Belonging and Responsibility.
- Sound professional judgement in safeguarding and child protection, responding to disclosures, accurate and timely record keeping, confidentiality and appropriate information-sharing.
- A proven commitment to ongoing professional development and its application to counselling and student wellbeing practice.
- The ability to provide/consent to clear police/background and medical checks.

Desirable attributes and experiences

- Experience working in international education or supporting third culture children and families.
- Experience within the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) or another inquiry-based educational setting, ideally with knowledge of the IB learner profile.
- A master's degree or higher in School Counselling, Psychology, Social Work or a related field.
- Additional training or experience in trauma-informed practice, crisis intervention or supporting children with complex social-emotional and behavioral needs.
- Ability to communicate verbally in Japanese.

How to apply

Teaching candidates should ordinarily apply through Search Associates. If you are a local candidate and/or you are only looking at schools in and near to Nagoya, you may also apply directly to jobs@nis.ac.jp with a CV and cover letter explaining your circumstances. For current vacancy and application details, and more about working at NIS, visit **www.nis.ac.jp/careers/vacancies**