Job title: Development Manager

Reports to: Director of Information Services

Responsible for: Data Analyst and Developer

Overview of SSAT

SSAT (The Schools Network) Ltd is a private limited liability company incorporated to continue the UK business of the old Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. The company operates with the same broad education objectives. Management and employees own the company shares – there are no external investors.

SSAT stands for the Schools, Students and Teachers Network. SSAT's work in helping transform education in England started in 1987. SSAT pioneered the principle of 'by schools for schools' ethos, and this laid the foundations for many of our activities today…the innovative leadership and teacher CPD programmes, the commitment to thought leadership and research and, of course, the network of school leaders and innovative teachers which still drives all that we do.

SSAT is committed to:
- putting customers first and knowing our members well
- a membership offer that is relevant and value for money for all schools
- providing high quality professional development
- developing a high-performing staff team that utilises the knowledge and skills of all colleagues

Staff must commit to:
- working together to achieve SSAT's objectives
- following SSAT processes and systems to enable us all to put customers first

The role of Development Manager

SSAT operate a wide range of applications, comprising a mixture of SAAS, third-party customisations and locally-created applications. At the time of writing the core platforms are Microsoft CRM Online and WordPress CMS, with a range of integration APIs, mostly using ASP.Net. Extensive use is made of Azure cloud services. The Office365 suite is used internally. We are implementing an extended range of web-based services for customers and delivering a single customer identity integrated with back-office systems.

The main responsibilities of this role are to provide senior support to the Director of Information Services in the design of application technical architectures, lead implementation of technical features working with both in-house and partner resource, and to take overall responsibility for the quality of code and configuration across the estate.

Key Accountabilities

- Working with the Director of Information Services design effective solution architectures and roadmaps that implement the required business architecture and roadmaps for both internal and external products.

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- Leading technical realisation of new services, including the work of contractors and tech integration between partners.
- Ensure that modern code and solution quality practices are used effectively, including version control, automated testing, continuous integration and timely refactoring.
- Manage technical debt across the estate, including forecasting the impact of deprecated services.
- Ensure that significant technical debt issues are escalated into the roadmap planning.
- Develop a culture of technical quality with both in-house and partner developers, and lead by example through the quality of your own code and other work.
- Maintain knowledge of developments in key technologies and relevant practices.
- Working with Director of Information Services champion modern flow-based working practices to deliver frequent internal and external customer value.
- Maintain a culture of continual improvement in all aspects of application development and operation to ensure best value from the allocated resources.
- Facilitate meetings within the team and with other stakeholders.
- Support Director of Information Services in technology evangelism for the platforms and services we develop.
- To record business information in SSAT systems of record (e.g. CRM) in line with agreed SSAT protocols.
- Line management of the junior developer and data analyst.
- To work within the relevant legislation, policies and procedures.

Person Specification

- Deep technical capability in at least one of the technologies we use, evidenced by significant project contributions.
- A "can do" attitude to taking on unfamiliar technologies and using them to generate value for internal and external customers.
- Passionate about how technology can improve the working experiences of our customers and colleagues, and able to generate enthusiasm among team members.
- Proactively seeks opportunities to serve in leadership roles.
- Acknowledges and appreciates each team member's contributions.
- Communicates effectively with colleagues across the business to identify needs and evaluate alternative solutions.
- Experience managing teams and contractors.

This job description is not exhaustive and you may be required to undertake other tasks as required.