



**Judith  
McClure**

**Band 6 Paediatric  
Occupational  
Therapist**

### Introduce yourself. Where do you work? What is your job role?

My name is Judith McClure, and I work as a Band 6 Paediatric Occupational Therapist in Fleming Fulton School.

### What does your job entail?

I work with children aged 3-19 with physical and learning disabilities. Our role is to assess and treat children, enabling them to engage in their childhood occupations such as school activities, play, and self-care. Therapy involves a combination of group work within and outside the classroom, individual sessions, and providing advice for both home and class. Additionally, we assess and provide wheelchairs and equipment that enable pupils to participate in school and home life.

### How did you get into this line of work?

I wanted to be an OT after attending some sessions with my great aunt who had multiple sclerosis. In those days, they got to make baskets and bake soda bread. I always enjoyed working with children, and so I was particularly keen to get onto the Greenpark rotation, which included a rotation through special schools.

### Outline your career to date?

I started in a basic grade rotational post in Greenpark, where I worked in orthopaedics, rheumatology, schools, neurology rehabilitation, spinal rehabilitation, and care of the elderly. I then got a Senior II post, followed by a Senior I post in special schools. Since then I have worked in Mitchell House and Fleming Fulton Schools adapting to a changing profile of pupils and means of delivering our service.

### Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I studied at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, for four years, which included periods of placement in hospitals and community settings in both physical and mental health. I have attended numerous training events during my years of working in areas such as wheelchairs and equipment, postural management, upper limb management, and sensory processing. So much is learned from working with others and learning from experience.

### What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

I think we need to be compassionate and patient, with creative and organisational skills. It helps to have a sense of humour too!

### What is the best advice you have ever received?

Seeing people go through painful experiences in life can be challenging, and I remember a more experienced OT who worked in Oncology telling me that illness/injury will always happen, and we can't prevent this, but we can help make life better for people when they do.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to spend time with family and friends and enjoy travelling, walking and Pilates.