



VOLUNTEERS POLICY

Signed (HT):

Date agreed: Term 1 2020

Signed (Chair of GB):

Review date: Term 1 2023

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

Introduction

Our school benefits from developing well planned, active parental and community links. Participation by adults in the activities of the school on a voluntary basis helps to achieve this. Castlefield School believes that volunteers are a welcome resource for helping to raise children's achievement by supporting the work of teaching staff in delivering the curriculum to all pupils.

Volunteers bring with them a range of skills and experience which can enhance the learning opportunities of all children at Winston Way without encroaching on the professional teaching responsibilities of the class teacher.

Aim

The aim of this policy is to establish expectations for both staff and volunteers regarding the work undertaken by volunteers and their conduct whilst in school.

Categories of Volunteers

Volunteers could include any of the following (this list is not exhaustive):

- Members of the Governing Body
- Parents, carers, guardians, elder siblings or Grandparents of Pupils
- Students on Work Experience or Placement
- University Students
- Ex-members of staff
- Local residents
- Staff family members

Types of Activities

Activities volunteers may be engaged in could include any of the following:

- Hearing children read
- Working with small groups of children
- Working alongside individual children
- Undertaking art and craft activities with small groups of children
- Preparing resources for a future lesson
- Accompanying school visits
- Supporting/Running social activities e.g. Funday
- Helping at lunchtime

Becoming a Volunteer

Anyone wishing to work as a volunteer who will be in school on a regular basis or a one-off occasion completing a work placement should request a Volunteer Application Pack from the school office. This should be completed and returned with the necessary original Identity documents to facilitate an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance check if required. Where the volunteering is a placement linked to a course of study the cost of the DBS (if required) will be met by the volunteer (or his/her college).

The Headteacher (or staff member with delegated responsibility) will interview the potential volunteer and an appropriate placement will be agreed. This will be in a class which has no family connection to the applicant. A regular day and time will be agreed and the applicant will be expected to sign all relevant documentation (appendix to this policy).

The Headteacher (or staff member with delegated responsibility) will make the final decision as to whether to accept the offer of support from the applying volunteering and reserve the right to terminate the offer of support at any time, without notice. Where the school is unable to accept a volunteer or needs to terminate the volunteering, the reason will be communicated to the individual. Possible reasons for rejection/termination might include (but not exhaustively):

- Unsuccessful DBS check
- Incomplete application process
- Behaviour of volunteer, including the failure to adhere to the school's policies
- Lack of necessary skill set
- Too many volunteers at moment
- Lack of staff capacity to have a volunteer.

The headteacher's decision with regards to the above matter is final.

An entry will be made on the school's Single Central Record and a file maintained with the confidential details of the volunteer which will be retained by school for 7 years after the volunteer resigns from their volunteering responsibilities.

The exceptions to this are:

- Work Experience Students or University Placements who apply via their educational establishment as it is expected that all necessary safeguarding checks have been carried out by the educational establishment before arriving at Castlefield School. The student will be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement and will not be placed in a class with any family connection.
- One-off volunteers i.e. assisting with a school walk, a fund raising event or a school visit will not require a DBS. Care should be taken to ensure these volunteers do not have sole responsibility for a group of children or provide any form of intimate care.

If there is any doubt as to the level of checks required, a decision should be sought from the Headteacher.

Volunteers' Expectations from School

Volunteers in school should expect to:

- be recognised for their valuable contribution to the learning experience for the children they support
- be assigned worthwhile tasks
- access to any school policies or procedures that are relevant to their role

School's Expectations from Volunteers

School expects all volunteers to:

- Adhere to the name protocol for staff – Mr/Mrs/Miss ...
- Adhere to the school's Health & Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Data Protection Policy, Confidentiality Policy and ICT Acceptable Use.
- Work under the supervision and direction of employed staff.
- Be role models for the children they work with.
- Adhere to the dress code.
- Refer any behavioural or safeguarding concerns to the class teacher and not to attempt to deal with any such issues themselves.
- Use the staffroom but be reminded of school policies as stated above.
- Commit to a regular window of time to allow teachers to plan activities to include the volunteer.
- Advise school as soon as possible when it is not possible to attend.
- Be familiar with school evacuation procedure and follow staff instruction.

Security

All volunteers must sign in and out on Inventory and wear a visitor badge for the duration of their volunteering session.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints made by a volunteer or about a volunteer will be referred to the Headteacher (or a delegated staff member) for investigation.

The Headteacher (or delegated staff member in her absence) reserves the right to take the following action:

- To speak with a volunteer about the complaint or behaviour and seek reassurance it will not be repeated.
- Offer an alternative placement or activity for a volunteer.
- Inform the volunteer that the placement has been withdrawn.

Use of personal devices in school (e.g. phones, laptops, tablets etc)

- Visitors should not be using any personal devices in school, without prior consent from the Headteacher.
- If it is agreed and appropriate, access to the school's wifi will be provided on the 'Guests Login'.
- For longer term projects requiring regular access to IT infrastructure, the school may consider providing a device and login to the volunteer.
- Visitors who are provided with IT access, should read the E-safety policy.



Application to volunteer at Castlefield School

Name of Volunteer:

Date of Birth:

Other names known by (including maiden names):

Address:

Phone:

What skills / areas would you like to help with in school?

Are there any particular age groups / classes you would like to work with?

Do you have any disabilities / other needs we need to take into account when working as a Volunteer in school? *(please give details)*

For Office use only:

Interview

References

DBS

Year group

Commitment

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Thank you for offering your services as a volunteer at Castlefield School. Your offer of help is greatly appreciated and we hope that you will gain much from your experience here.

Please read and sign this Volunteer Agreement Sheet and hand it in at school. You will receive a copy of it for your records.

- I have received a copy of the School's Volunteer Policy
- I agree to treat information I learn from being a Volunteer in School as confidential
- I understand that if necessary, I will undergo a DBS check to advise the school of my suitability as a volunteer

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____