



## Volunteering in School Policy September 2023




### **Our Vision**

"Together we Sparkle and Shine" is the vision for our school and this principle underpins all the work of the school.

We aim to create an outstanding, caring school community where everyone is valued and developed to their full potential as individuals, learners and as members of communities where they will play a part now and in their future lives.

### **Our Values**

These are the key values that underpin all the work of the school;

-  Kindness
-  Respect
-  Honesty

### Introduction and Aims

We believe that volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the school's work, and that they enrich the school through the breadth of their knowledge and experience.

We are committed to using volunteers in a way that supports the school's strategic aims and vision, as well as its development plan.

The aim of the Carrington Infant School volunteer policy is to:

- Encourage the wider community to engage with the school, thereby enhancing the curriculum, raising achievement and promoting community cohesion
- Ensure that volunteers support the school's vision and values, and adhere to our policies
- Provide staff, volunteers and parents with clear expectations and guidelines
- Set a clear, fair process for recruiting and managing volunteers

This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education (DfE)'s statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#).

### How we use volunteers

- Hear children read
- Accompany school visits
- Work with individual children
- Work with small groups of children
- Support specific curriculum areas, such as ICT or art

This isn't an exhaustive list.

Volunteers may be:

- Members of the governing board
- Parents
- Former pupils
- Students on work experience
- Local residents
- Friends of the school/members of the PTA

This is not an exhaustive list.

Members of the governing board working at the school in their capacity as governors (for instance, conducting school monitoring visits or attending meetings), are not covered by this policy. They are covered by our governor code of conduct.

### How to apply to volunteer

For those that wish to volunteer at the school, please contact the school office or a member of staff to express your interest

### Appointment of volunteers

Volunteers are appointed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Appointment and induction of new volunteers can take often 2-6 weeks, and is dependent on the candidate and available spaces within the school.

All appointments are conditional upon the completion of an enhanced DBS check (if appropriate) and other appropriate safeguarding and recruitment checks, and relevant training.

The Head Teacher reserves the right to terminate a placement at any time.

Enhanced DBS checks for volunteers working in the school through other organisations will be conducted by the relevant organisation, if needed. The school will ask for written confirmation that enhanced DBS checks have been carried out before a volunteer is allowed to start work at the school.

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding our pupils is of paramount importance, and our volunteers must share our commitment to child protection.

To ensure we're upholding our responsibility to keep our pupils safe, we ensure that we:

- 📌 Always conduct enhanced DBS checks with a barred list check on volunteers
- 📌 Consider the results of any DBS checks that return with unspent and spent listed convictions, and assess these on a case-by-case basis, with regard given to the nature of the conviction and the nature of the work the volunteer will be involved in.
- 📌 Provide safeguarding training to all volunteers **prior** to them beginning work at the school, including ensuring that they have read and understood part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (see appendix 1)
- 📌 Require volunteers with a school DBS to agree and adhere to our staff code of conduct (see appendix 2) and to read, and adhere to, the school's policies on:
  - 📌 Safeguarding – attached
  - 📌 Use of mobile phones - attached
  - 📌 ICT and internet acceptable use/online safety – attached
  - 📌 Online safety - attached
  - 📌 Behaviour Policy - attached
- 📌 Ensure that volunteers without an enhanced DBS check are always supervised, and are never left alone with pupils.
- 📌 Conduct a risk assessment to determine whether a volunteer who isn't working in regulated activity needs an enhanced DBS check. The risk assessment will consider:
  - 📌 The nature of the work they will be doing
  - 📌 What we know about them
  - 📌 References from employers or other voluntary roles
  - 📌 Whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check
- 📌 Add all volunteers to the Single Central Record (SCR)

### Induction and Training

Volunteers must complete appropriate training prior to beginning work at the school.

Training requirements will be determined by the headteacher, or the appropriate member of staff.

**All volunteers** must have safeguarding training. Other training requirements will be based on the nature of the work the volunteer will be doing.

### Confidentiality

Information about pupils, parents and staff is confidential. Volunteers are not permitted to discuss issues related to pupils, parents or staff with those outside of the organisation.

If volunteers have concerns, they should raise these with the appropriate member of staff. They shouldn't discuss them with pupils or parents.

This doesn't prevent volunteers from adhering to the school's safeguarding policy (with regard to reporting safeguarding concerns or disclosures).

If concerns relate to safeguarding, volunteers must follow the guidance in our child protection and safeguarding policy, and inform the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

If concerns are related to whistle-blowing, volunteers must follow the guidance in our whistle-blowing policy.

### **Conduct of volunteers**

Volunteers must comply with the staff code of conduct (provided on induction)

### **Insurance**

The school's insurance policy does cover volunteers in the event of an accident or emergency.

If a volunteer is working at the school through another organisation, we will also check that organisation's insurance arrangements.

### **Data protection and record keeping**

Our privacy notice for volunteers explains what information we collect about volunteers and why we collect it.

We will:





- Retain records relating to volunteers in line with our records retention schedule
- Remove details of volunteers from the single central record (SCR) once they no longer work at our school

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy has been approved by the governing board and will be reviewed every three years.

### **Links to other policies**

This volunteering policy is linked to our:

-  Child protection and safeguarding policy - attached
-  Staff code of conduct policy - attached
-  Whistleblowing Policy - attached
-  Behaviour Policy - attached

## **Appendix 1**

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 DfE policy](#)

**Use this link to refer to part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education**