

Last Review: May 2024

Next Review: May 2025



St Laurence's Primary School

VOLUNTEER POLICY

September 2023

The school's volunteer policy is part of the schools safeguarding system and policy.

Introduction

Volunteers at our school bring with them a range of skills and experience that can enhance the learning opportunities of pupils. The Board of Governors therefore, welcomes and encourages volunteers from the local community.

Our volunteers may include:

- Members of the Governing Body
- Parents of pupils
- Ex-pupils
- Students on work experience
- Ex-members of staff
- Local residents
- Friends of the school

The recruitment of new volunteers can take up to half a term and intake of new volunteers will be dependent on the candidate and available spaces within school. The smooth running of St Laurence's School will always be a priority. Senior Management maintains the right to refuse volunteers and also terminate placements.

The types of activities that volunteers engage in, on behalf of the school, include:

- Hearing pupils read
- Working with small groups of pupils to assist them in their learning
- Working alongside individual pupils, as an additional tutor
- Accompanying school visits (including Swimming)

Our School Aims

All adults / Young People who work in our school, whether a paid member of staff, or a volunteer are expected to work and behave in such a way as to actively promote our school aims and educational purpose, as identified below -

School Vision:

St. Laurence's C of E Primary school is committed to ensure that its nature as a church school is more than just words. We work hard to ensure that our Christian character underpins and directs both who we are, and what we do.

Becoming a Volunteer

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer, either for a one off event such as a school visit or on a more regular basis, e.g. hearing pupils read, usually approaches the Class Teacher, Head teacher, senior member of Staff or Class Teacher directly. It is the schools decision to take on volunteers and this will depend on the time of year, the number of volunteers we already have in school and the potential impact on the children.

Volunteers should complete the Volunteer Application Form (appendix 1) with a covering letter requesting interest. (Appendix 1) with their contact details, types of activities they would like to help with, and the times they are available to help.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our priority and we following the safer recruitment guidelines to ensure that we are school are committed to safeguarding pupils, young people and vulnerable adults and expects its volunteers to share that commitment. The process of recruitment of volunteers mirrors the safer recruitment of paid staff to ensure the most suitable adults for our school. A list of volunteers will be kept in the main admin office- this will be kept up to date and the responsibility of the Office Manager.

To ensure the safety of our pupils, we adopt the following procedures:

- All volunteers are given a copy of the Volunteer Policy and asked to sign a *Volunteer Agreement* (Appendix 2)
- All of our frequent volunteers must have been cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). A DBS Disclosure will be issued to the individual to present to the designated member of staff in school.
- Volunteers have a clear job description (Appendix 4) and their supervisors will address any concerns in their work
- Volunteers agree to the visitor's code of practice daily when they sign the visitors book at reception

On-line Safety

Online Safety relates to the teaching and learning of technology and through technology in a responsible and safe environment, focusing on raising awareness of the core messages of safe content, contact and conduct when using it. This can include accessing websites and online content, email, online chat rooms, mobile phones, gaming and games consoles, social networking sites, instant messaging (IM), viruses and spam. Volunteers, like staff are expected to follow the **Acceptable Use Policy** which is available from the main office or the school website

Personal devices including mobile phones and wristwatch phones that connect to the internet should not be used in school during class time. Staff may not make or receive calls during teaching time. Use of phones or phone watches must be limited to non-contact time when no children present. Staff should keep devices out of sight, in a secure place when on school property. Staff must only use school owned devices for capturing, recording, and storing data or photos of children.

Frequent or Intensive Volunteers and Regulated Activity

Activity which is described as 'frequent' or 'intensive' covers the meaning given in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

'Frequent'—once a week or more often on an ongoing basis; and 'Intensive'— three or more occasions in a 30 day period, or overnight (between 2am – 6am).

Volunteers who are frequent or intensive need a DBS. If a volunteer does not have a DBS they should not under any circumstances be left with a child alone.

A Regulated activity is any unsupervised activity including personal care, such as washing, toileting or dressing.

Where a volunteer –is engaged in a ‘one-off’ activity e.g. helping supervise a group of pupils as part of a class visit, no formal checks are required. However, such volunteers, who will be under the constant supervision of school staff, must read and sign our Off-Site Visit Agreement (Appendix 3).

Volunteers for school visits

School visits are an integral part of learning at our school and afford many pupils opportunities which are outside their usual experiences. The class teacher or staff member leading the visit will brief the volunteer regarding the risk assessment, daily schedule and any other important pieces of information. The visit lead, who will be a staff member, has ultimate responsibility for the pupils. Pupils should never be left with a volunteer unsupervised.

Process for recruiting Volunteer who will be working frequently/ intensively or in a regulated activity

- A) Volunteers will be directed to the school office and will be given the volunteer policy. They will be asked to complete Appendix 1 with a supporting covering letter and return.
- B) References will be requested
- C) A responsible officer will identify the need and role for volunteers
- D) Candidates will be attracted by means of a local advert/school communications system
- E) The candidate/s attend the school for an informal discussion to ensure the applicant is suitable for the role
- F) Enhanced DBS check undertaken
- G) The volunteer will be made aware of the role and responsibilities they will be undertaking
- H) Volunteer records to be kept in a central place within the school

Before starting to help in a school, a volunteer should complete the Volunteer Agreement (Appendix 2), which sets out the school’s expectations of its volunteers and to confirm they have received a copy of this Agreement. The school will seek DBS clearance for a volunteer before they come into school, to make an informed decision when accepting volunteers to work with children. This is not required where a volunteer is engaged in a ‘one-off’ activity.

Work Experience/ Placement Students

St Laurence's School has a long-standing relationship with various local secondary schools, colleges and universities. We are happy to take students on placement if we have suitable experiences available based on the smooth running of St Laurence's School. Secondary schools, colleges and universities wanting students to be placed with us need to formally make contact with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teachers outlining the aims of the placement and duration.

If the placement is as part of a teaching course the Deputy Head Teacher will deal with further correspondents/ details. If the placement is just for work experiences purposes the school/ college is asked to provide the reference for the student and the student is requested to complete the volunteer's paperwork. St Laurence's School retains the authority to refuse or terminate a placement to ensure the smooth running of St Laurence's School.

Confidentiality

Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality. Any concerns that volunteers have about the pupils they work with/come into contact with should be voiced with the designated supervisor and NOT with the parents of the child/persons.

Volunteers who are concerned about anything in the school, which may affect their work should raise the matter with the Head teacher or appropriate senior member of staff. Any information gained at the school about a child or adult should remain confidential.

Supervision

All volunteers work under the supervision of a teacher or full-time member of staff. Teachers retain ultimate responsibility for pupils at all times, including the pupils' behaviour and the activity they are undertaking.

Volunteers should have clear guidance from the designated supervisor as to how an activity is carried out/what the expected outcome of an activity is. In the event of any query/problem regarding the pupils understanding of a task, behaviour or their welfare, volunteers must seek further advice/guidance from their designated supervisor.

Health and Safety

The school has a Health & Safety Policy and this is made available to volunteers working in the school. An appropriate member of staff will ensure that volunteers are clear about emergency procedures (e.g. Fire Alarm Evacuation) and about any safety aspects associated with particular tasks (e.g. using D T equipment/accompanying pupils on visits).Volunteers need to exercise due care and attention and report any obvious hazards or concerns to the designated Supervisor/School Business Manager. Volunteers are covered by Shropshire Health & Safety Statement and indemnity and Public Liability Insurance.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints made about a volunteer the person concerned must follow the schools complaints policy which is found on the school website.

Monitoring and Review

This policy has been approved by the Governing Body and will be regularly reviewed and updated.

APPENDIX 1

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM – FOR NEW VOLUNTEER

Name of Volunteer:

Date of Birth:

Address:
.....

Home phone:..... Mobile:

What activities/areas of the school’s work would you like to help with?

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 or adjustments we need to make to allow you to work as a Volunteer in School? (Please give details)

Please provide details of two people who can provide professional references for you:
(If this is a work experience placement from a secondary school you only need to provide one reference from the school that you attend)

Name: Address: Phone number:	Name: Address: Phone number:
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Thank you for taking time to complete this Volunteer Application Form
Please hand it to the School Office, marked for the attention of the Head teacher. Your offer of help is greatly appreciated and we will be in touch as soon as possible.

APPENDIX 2

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Thank you for offering your services as a volunteer at school.

Your offer of help is greatly appreciated and we hope that you will gain much from your experience.

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 will follow the St Laurence's School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- I have received a copy of the School's Volunteer Policy
- I agree to support the School's Aims
- I will follow the Visitors Code of Conduct
- I agree to treat information obtained from being a Volunteer in School as **Strictly Confidential**
- I understand that an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be undertaken
- If you already have a DBS Certificate, please hand it to the school, the number will be recorded and checks made with the issuing body. A new enhanced DBS check must be undertaken.
- I have been made aware of who is my designated supervisor e.g. Class Teacher, Year Teacher, Head of Department
- I agree to follow the Acceptable Use Policy

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX 3

Off-Site Visits Volunteer Agreement

School visits are an integral part of learning at our school and afford many pupils opportunities which are outside their usual experiences. We are pleased that you have come forward as a volunteer helper; you will have an important role to play in the success and safety of this school visits.

Please read and return this appendix, and sign and return the helpers slip. This is part of our school's risk assessment planning and safeguarding.

Role of the Volunteer Helper

- To be responsible and look after, in equal measure, all of the pupils in your group under the instruction of the Leader of the school trip
- To stay with your allocated group of pupils, ensuring that their wellbeing and safety is maintained for the total duration of the school trip
- To promote polite, respectful and courteous behaviour towards each other and members of the general public. We all go as ambassadors of our school!
- To ensure that your group keep up with the body of the school visit party, be it walking, entering or exiting from transportation or following speakers for the trip.
- To contact your child's class teacher/member of staff if there are issues with first aid, safety and/or behaviour.
- To follow the schools Acceptable Use Policy on the use of mobile phone procedures.

Working alongside school staff

School staff expect volunteer helpers to:

- Comply with all of the above whilst being under the direct supervision of school staff.
- Show a commitment to their group, an interest in the focus of the visit and assist pupils in their learning by helping them to read signs/labels/information, asking questions that encourage pupils to think about the task and help to explain the areas of interest
- Follow guidance from the school staff

What is not permitted:

- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to bring additional children e.g. siblings or children in the care of the volunteer on the school trip
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol or engage in any illegal practices whilst undertaking their volunteer duties
- Volunteer helpers are not permitted to take photographs of pupils
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to give/buy their group treats e.g. ice creams, biscuits, sweets –before, during or after the school trip

First Aid

You will be informed if any child in your group has medication/needs. If medicine needs to be administered, this will be done by a member of staff unless you are the Parent/ Carer of the child who requires medicine, in which case you will be asked to administer this and be responsible for carrying the medicine.

All other medicines and first aid boxes) will be carried by staff.

Emergencies

You are expected to inform a member of staff as soon as possible.

If you have become separated from the rest of the school party, please telephone one of the members of staff on your contact list or telephone the school.

I have read the Volunteer Policy

I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in the policy

I will support the young people in enjoying the trip and actively contribute to the smooth running of the event.

I will treat any information I may hear about pupils as confidential and will not discuss or disclose it out of school.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name:

Designation:

Appendix 4

JOB SPECIFICATION

Title of Job: Volunteer Teaching Assistant

Section: Schools

Last Revised: February 2021

JOB DESCRIPTION

PERSON REPORTS TO: Member of school management or Senior Teaching Assistant, with work directed by class teachers

PURPOSE OF JOB: To support the education and welfare of pupils as directed by class teachers, having due regard to the school's aims, objectives, schemes of work and policies, and relevant national requirements. To share in the corporate responsibility for the well-being and discipline of all pupils.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

The Council has a strong commitment to achieving equality of opportunity in both services to the community and the employment of people and expects all employees to understand and promote its policies in their work.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To take every opportunity to develop pupils' language, reading, numeracy and related skills as directed by class teachers.
2. To assist in monitoring and recording the progress of individual pupils in accordance with school procedures, and reporting to class teachers.
3. To give oral and written feedback to pupils on their attainment in order to promote further progress.

4. To work with teachers to identify and respond appropriately to pupils' individual needs, assisting pupils in areas of specific difficulty.
5. To assist the teacher in setting appropriate learning and behaviour expectations of pupils and supporting pupils appropriately to achieve these.
6. To help promote and reinforce pupils' self-esteem, encouraging inclusion of pupils with special educational needs.
7. To help create and maintain a purposeful, orderly and supportive environment for pupils' learning, ensuring that pupils are able to use equipment and materials provided.
8. In the presence of the teacher, present agreed learning tasks in a clear and stimulating manner to help maintain pupils' interest and motivation; to work with pupils individually and collectively by contributing to decisions about the most appropriate learning goals and strategies.
9. Outside the classroom, to work with groups of pupils. The number of pupils included will reflect the nature of the task, the pupils concerned, the location involved and the length of time to be supervised. At all times a named teacher will have ultimate responsibility and be available to be called to give support and take appropriate decisions. Volunteers will always be supervised.
10. To provide information that supports the preparation and review of Individual Education Plans and to action appropriate tasks from IEPs.
11. To use a range of supporting techniques, including computers and other resources, and consider in consultation with the teacher when and how to deploy them.
12. To produce and maintain classroom resources, displays and classroom layout in consultation with the teacher.
13. To help train pupils in the individual and collaborative study skills necessary for learning.
14. To work alongside other adults, including teachers, trainee teachers, and other support staff.
15. To supervise pupils during breaks and/or lunchtimes if required.
16. To maintain confidentiality at all times with regard to both supported pupils and the wider school.
17. Other appropriate duties relevant to the purpose of the post, as reasonably required by the teacher/head teacher.

Safeguarding

Volunteers are required to undergo safeguarding training and have the same responsibility as staff in relation to child protection and safeguarding, this will be arranged on the first day as part of the induction process.

St. Laurence's C of E Primary School

Visitors Code of Conduct

Visitors to the school are requested to read and understand the following rules and regulations:

- You must show appropriate identity to the reception staff who will initial the appropriate column in the visitors books once they are satisfied with your identity and will issue you with a visitors badge which you must wear at all times during your visit.
- Regular visitors or those involved in 'regulated activity' must produce evidence of an enhanced DBS check. (Regulated activity will include being unsupervised whilst being involved in activities with children or the possibility of being on your own with children during your visit. Regular visitor at St. Laurence's C.E. Primary School means more than once per half term).
- Signing in confirms that you have read this code of conduct. **Only sign in after you have read this.**
- Value and respect different racial origins, religions, cultures and language and do not promote your own political or religious beliefs.□
- Use appropriate language and behaviour with children.
- If you feel any way uncomfortable about the behaviour of a young person please discuss this with the teacher and staff present.
- Only use staff toilets and rooms.
- No photographs may be taken at any time without the consent of the headteacher.
- Mobile Phones must not be used in any part of the school building or grounds apart from in the designated area (staffroom).
- Do not smoke on the school premises.
- Should you have concern about the safety or welfare of any child you MUST inform the Designated Lead for Child Protection (The Headteacher/ Mr McKeon – Class 6 Teacher)
- In the event of first aid being required please contact a trained member of staff.
- In the event of the fire alarm sounding you must leave the building in an orderly manner and follow instructions given by staff members.

- At the conclusion of your visit you must hand in your visitor's badge and record the time of your departure.

In signing the visitors' book you are agreeing to the above code of conduct.