

Les Landes School Volunteer Policy



UNCRC Article 3: Everyone who works with children should do what is best for each child.

UNCRC Article 19: You should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.

UNCRC Article 36: You should be protected from doing things that could harm you.

Introduction

Volunteers at our school bring with them a range of skills and experience that can enhance the learning opportunities of children at our school. We welcome and encourage volunteers from the local community.

Our Volunteers include:

- Parents of pupils
- Ex-pupils
- Students on work experience
- University students
- Advance to work placements
- Friends of the school

The types of activities that Volunteers are engaged include:

- Hearing children read
- Supporting maths activities
- Using the library
- Working with small groups of children
- Working alongside individual children
- Undertaking art & craft activities with children
- Working with children on the computers
- Accompanying school visits
- Supporting pupils who need have been identified by the Inclusion Team as needing additional support
- Providing positive role models and one to one support
- Gardening / grounds work

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 children read, usually approaches the class teacher who will forward their request to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head or the Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteers should complete the Volunteer Information Sheet (Appendix 1) with their contact details, type of activities they would like to help with, and the times they are available to help.

Before starting to help in school, volunteers should complete the Volunteer Agreement (Appendix 2), which sets out the school's expectations of volunteers and asks Volunteers to confirm they have received a copy of this policy.

Confidentiality

Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality. Any concerns that Volunteers have about the children they work with / come into contact with should be voiced with the Class Teacher and **NOT** with the parents of the child / persons outside school.

Comments regarding children's behaviour or learning can be highly sensitive, and if taken out of context, can cause distress to the parents of a child if they hear about such issues through a third party rather than directly from the school. Volunteers who are concerned about anything another adult in the school does or says should raise the matter with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head.

Supervision

All volunteers work under the supervision of the Class Teacher of the class to which they are assigned. Teachers always retain responsibility for children, including the children's behaviour and the activity they are undertaking.

Volunteers should have clear guidance from the Teacher as to how an activity is carried out / what the expected outcome of an activity is. Training sessions for regular volunteers will be available during the school year. Volunteers are encouraged to seek further advice / guidance from the Teacher in the event of any query / problem regarding children's understanding of a task or behaviour.

Volunteers will be known to the children by their surname, as staff are.

Health & Safety

When you are helping in school please make sure that you sign the visitor's book when you arrive and leave and wear a visitor's badge when on school premises.

The school has a Health & Safety Policy and this is made available on request to volunteers working in the school. Class Teachers ensure that volunteers are clear about emergency procedures (e.g. fire alarm evacuation) and about any safety aspects associated with a particular task (e.g. using DT equipment / accompanying children on visits). Volunteers need to exercise due care and attention and report any obvious hazards or concerns to the Class Teacher / Head Teacher or Deputy Head.

Child Protection

The welfare of our children is paramount. To ensure the safety of our children, we adopt the following procedures:

- All Volunteers are given a copy of the Volunteer Policy and asked to sign a Volunteer Agreement (Appendix 2)
- To always ensure the safety of our pupils, all of our Volunteers must have been cleared by the **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**. A certificate is issued to the individual to produce in school. Volunteers who have not completed a DBS

check are still able to work with school as "one off help" under the supervision of the class teacher. Without a DBS certificate volunteers are unable to be left alone with children at any time.

- If a child discloses something which may be a child protection concern, you must pass this on the class teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (Head or Deputy) immediately.

APPENDIX 1

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET - FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Name of Volunteer:

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)

Thank you for taking time to complete this Volunteer Information Sheet.

Please hand it to the School Office.

Your offer of help is appreciated and we will be in touch shortly.

APPENDIX 2

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Thank you for offering your services as a Volunteer at Les Landes 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 to the school office. You will receive a copy of it for your records.

- I have received a copy of the Les Landes School Volunteer Policy
- I agree to support the School's Aims and Core Values
- I agree to treat information I learn from being a Volunteer in School as confidential
- I understand that I am required to undergo a DBS check to advise the school of my suitability as a volunteer.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX 3

OFF-SITE VISITS VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

School trips are an integral part of learning at our school and afford many children 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 trip.

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

Role of the Volunteer Helper

- to be responsible and look after, in equal measure, all of the children in your group
- to stay with your allocated group of children, 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

Working alongside school staff

School staff expect volunteer helpers to:

- comply with all of the above whilst being under the direct line management of school staff
- show a commitment to their group, an interest in the focus of the visit and assist children in their learning by helping them to read signs/labels/information, asking questions that encourage children to think about the task and help to explain areas of interest
- follow guidance from the school staff

Not permitted

- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to bring additional siblings on the school trip.
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to re-organise school visit groups.
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol or engage in any illegal practices.
- Volunteer helpers are not permitted to take photographs of children.

- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to give/buy their group treats e.g., ice-creams, biscuits, sweets - before, during or after the school trip.
- Volunteers are not allowed to touch or reprimand children but should speak to a school staff member if there are any difficulties.
- ***If you need to move a child or gain a child's attention we always use their name and under no circumstances are we to come into physical contact with a child.***

First Aid

For each class on the school visit, there will be at least one qualified first aider. 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. Under no circumstances will a volunteer be asked to administer medication of any kind. All other medicines and first aid box(es) 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 occasion.

Signed : _____ Date : _____