

# **Brant Broughton Church of England & Methodist Primary School**



## **VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL POLICY**

**September 2021**

# Volunteers Policy

## 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:

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

The types of activities that Volunteers are engaged include:

- Hearing children read
- 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

## 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 Headteacher directly.

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.

All adults 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 ethos which are underpinned by the schools aims and values.

## Vision and Values

Our school has a Methodist and Church of England foundation, this means that all members of our school, including volunteers, are expected to uphold the values of our school and their basis in Christianity. Our values are: thankfulness, respect,

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honesty, responsibility, friendship and endurance. Our vision is: All believe; All achieve; All create; All a family. Our vision is where our school is aiming to be! All children and adults aim to have this vision in their sights and to aim to impart it in interactions with others. As a volunteer you are part of our school community, and we would request that you share in this with us.

## **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 Headteacher.

## **Supervision**

All volunteers work under the supervision of the Class Teacher of the class to which they are assigned. Teachers retain responsibility for children at all times, 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. 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.

## **Health & Safety**

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 / Headteacher.

## **Safeguarding**

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 ensure the safety of our pupils at all times, all of our Volunteers must have been cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) if they are visiting the school on a regular basis (three times within thirty days). A certificate is issued to the individual to produce in school.
- Where a Volunteer is engaged in a 'one-off' activity e.g. helping supervise a group of children as part of a class visit, no formal checks are carried out on these volunteers. These volunteers, who are under constant

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supervision of school staff, must read and sign our *Off-site visit agreement* (Appendix 3).

- All Volunteers are asked to sign an 'Acceptable Use Agreement' regarding the use of mobile phones, internet and social media while on the school site or attending a school event or trip.

## **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints made about a Volunteer will be referred to the Headteacher for investigation. Any complaints made by a Volunteer will be referred to the Headteacher.

The Headteacher reserves the right to take the following action:

- To speak with a Volunteer about a breach of the Volunteer Agreement and seek reassurance that this will not happen again;
- Offer an alternative placement for a Volunteer, e.g. helping with another activity or in another Class;
- Inform the Volunteer that the school no longer wishes to use them. The full Complaints Procedure is set out on the school website or from the school office.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This Policy has been approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed regularly and updated in the light of new guidance from either the DfE or LA.

Approved by the staff & Governing Body:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors: \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Review: September 2024

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## **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET** – FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Name of Volunteer:

Date of Birth:

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 Headteacher / Classteacher via the School Office.

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

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## VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Thank you for offering your services as a Volunteer at Brant Broughton CE & Methodist Primary 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 support the School's Ethos, Aims and Values
- I agree to treat information I learn from being a Volunteer in School as Confidential
- I understand that I may be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check to advise the school of my suitability as a volunteer.
- I understand that if I have any concerns regarding safeguarding I will report these to Mrs Bedford (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Simeoli (Deputy Safeguarding Lead). I will seek further advice from a member of staff if I am unsure how to proceed and know that safeguarding is confidential beyond those who 'need to know' for the safety of the child.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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 well being 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
- comply with school expectations of modelling courteous and polite behaviour to children
- Volunteer helpers are not permitted to take photographs of children.
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to give/buy their group treats e.g., ice cream, biscuits, sweets, gifts – before, during or after the school trip.



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- Volunteer helpers are not to use their mobile phones while on the trips. Photographs are only to be taken with school devices and the permission of the teacher.

### **Safeguarding**

- I understand that if I have any concerns regarding safeguarding I will report these to Mrs Bedford (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Simeoli (Deputy Safeguarding Lead). I will seek further advice from a member of staff if I am unsure how to proceed and know that safeguarding is confidential beyond those who 'need to know' for the safety of the 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 unless it is your 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 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 : \_\_\_\_\_