Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School

Volunteer Policy

Approved by:

	Headteacher	Date:	08/10/26
	Chair of governors	Date:	08/10/26

Last updated: 3 October 2024

Contents

1. Introduction and aims 2
2. How we use volunteers 3
3. How to apply to volunteer 3
4. Appointment of volunteers 3
5. Safeguarding 4
6. Induction and training 5
7. Confidentiality 5
8. Conduct of volunteers 5
9. Expenses 5
10. Insurance 5
11. Data protection and record keeping 6
12. Monitoring and review 6
13. Links to other policies 6
Appendix 1: volunteer application form 7
Appendix 2: code of conduct for volunteers 11
Appendix 3: requesting a volunteer (information for staff) 14

---

1. Introduction and aims

At Ravensdale Infant & Nursery School (RINS) 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 RINS 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 statutory safeguarding guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

2. How we use volunteers

At RINS volunteers may:

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

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.

3. How to apply to volunteer

To apply to be a volunteer at our school you need to in the first instance:

- Email the School Business Manager at sbm@ravensdalei.derby.sch.uk to request a Volunteer application form.

4. Appointment of volunteers

Volunteers are appointed by the Curriculum Lead and School Business Manager.

Appointment and induction of new volunteers can be approximately 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 headteacher reserves the right to terminate a placement at any time.

Volunteers and regular visitors carrying out teaching, training, instructing, caring for, or supervising children are now classed as engaging in regulated activity if they do so on **more than three days in any 30-day period**

Enhanced DBS Checks: Where volunteers or regular recurring visitors fall into regulated activity under these new rules, school must obtain an **enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information**

5. 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 will:

- Conduct enhanced DBS checks with a barred list check on volunteers who:
    - Work 1-on-1 with pupils unsupervised
    - Work with groups of pupils unsupervised
- 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 volunteers **prior** to them beginning work at the school dependent on the area of school they are volunteering in.
- ask volunteers to confirm that they have read and understood part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- require volunteers to agree and adhere to our Volunteer code of conduct (see appendix 2) and to read, and adhere to, the school's policies on:
    - Safeguarding
    - Use of mobile phones
    - ICT and internet acceptable use
    - Online safety
    - Relational Behaviour
- Ensure that volunteers without an enhanced DBS check are always supervised, and are never left alone with pupils

We legally cannot carry out a DBS check on a child under the age of 16 who is volunteering at our school. We will ensure that children who are volunteering are always under an appropriate level of supervision and conduct a risk assessment to consider any potential safeguarding issues.

- Details of all volunteers in school will be added to our single central record (SCR)

6. 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.

Some volunteers must have safeguarding training and this is dependent on their volunteer role.

Other training requirements will be based on the nature of the work the volunteer will be doing.

7. 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 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.

8. Conduct of volunteers

Volunteers must comply with the volunteer code of conduct (Appendix 2).

9. Expenses

The school will not be able to cover any expenses for Volunteers apart from admission fees if supporting on a school trip.

10. 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.

11. Data protection and record keeping

Our privacy notice – common for all explains what information we collect about volunteers and why we collect it. A copy of this can be found on our website.

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

12. Monitoring and review

This policy has been approved by the governing board and will be reviewed regularly.

13. Links to other policies

This volunteering policy is linked to our:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Confidentiality policy

Appendix 1: volunteer application form

Complete the application form in full.

Please note that the school may not be able to accommodate all preferences.

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE
Throughout this form, we ask for some personal data about you. We'll only use this data in line with data protection legislation and process your data for 1 or more of the following reasons permitted in law: • You've given us your consent • We must process it to comply with our legal obligations You'll find more information on how we use your personal data in our privacy notice for volunteers which can be found on our website under GDPR.

PERSONAL DETAILS	
Name:	
Date of birth:	
Gender:	
Telephone number:	
Email address:	
Home address:	

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) INFORMATION	
The school is legally obligated to process an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before making appointments to relevant posts. The enhanced DBS check will reveal both spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings, and any other information held by local police that's considered relevant to the role. Any information that is "protected" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 will not appear on a DBS certificate. Volunteers working in regulated activity will also require a barred list check. Any data processed as part of the DBS check will be processed in accordance with data protection regulations and the school's privacy notice.	
Do you have a DBS check? (please circle)	Yes/No

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) INFORMATION	
If yes, what type of check do you have? (please circle)	Basic DBS / Standard DBS / Enhanced DBS / Enhanced DBS with barred list information
Date of check:	
Certificate number:	

AVAILABILITY					
	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
AM					
PM					
Before school					
After school					
Lunchtimes					
How many hours per week/month can you volunteer?					
Can you commit to at least 1 term?					

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
Do you have experience working as a volunteer, especially with children? If yes, please include details in the box below.
Why would you like to volunteer at Ravensdale Infant & Nursery School?

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
Do you have any particular skills, employment experience or hobbies you would like to share with the school? (For example, languages spoken, sports, scouting, etc.)
Do you have any relevant qualifications?

PREFERENCES	
What key stage/area in school would you prefer to work?	
Would you prefer to work 1-on-1 or with a small group?	

REFERENCES

Your placement as a volunteer may be subject to satisfactory references. Please give the details of 2 referees who can comment on your suitability (e.g. employers, colleagues, teachers, etc.).

Name:	**Name:**
Relationship to you:	**Relationship to you:**
Address:	**Address:**
Telephone number:	**Telephone number:**
Email address:	**Email address:**

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

The school is committed to ensuring that applicants with disabilities or impairments receive equal opportunities and treatment.

If you have a disability or impairment, and would like us to make adjustments or arrangements to assist you, please state the arrangements you require:

Appendix 2: code of conduct for volunteers

Code of conduct for volunteers

By signing this form, volunteers agree to the following:

1. School rules and policies

1.1. Volunteers will follow all school rules and policies, including those on:

1.1.1. Child protection

1.1.2. ICT and internet acceptable use

1.1.3. Online safety

1.1.4. Mobile phones

1.1.5. GDPR

1.1.6. Health and safety

1.1.7. Whistle-blowing

1.1.8. Relational Behaviour

1.2. Copies of the school policies are available on our website.

2. Professional conduct

2.1. Volunteers must accept and follow instructions provided by supervisors, and ask for guidance or clarification if required. Questions can be directed to the supervising member of staff, or to the School Business Manager.

2.2. Behaviour management is the responsibility of school staff. If volunteers witness behaviour that is in breach of the school's relational behaviour policy, or are struggling to manage the behaviour of pupils with whom they're working, they should alert the class teacher immediately. Volunteers should not attempt to reprimand pupils or issue sanctions.

2.3. Volunteers must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes:

2.3.1. Dressing in a way that is professional and appropriate to the work they are doing

2.3.2. Refraining from using inappropriate language

2.3.3. Setting an example for pupils by acting in a way that reflects the school's ethos and values

2.3.4. Behaving in a way that is appropriate for the role they are undertaking

2.3.5. Ensuring that comments, including those made on social media, do not bring the school into disrepute

2.4. Volunteers must not accept gifts from, or give gifts to, pupils. The exception is small tokens, such as those exchanged at the end of term or as a way of saying "thank you".

2.5. Volunteers must not transport pupils in their own cars unless specific arrangements have been made with the school, and the pupil's parents have consented.

2.6. Parent volunteers with children at the school must not act in a way that favours their own child and should not approach their child unnecessarily during the school day (for instance, during break times). They may not use their time as a volunteer to discuss their child's education with school staff.

2.7. If a volunteer is unable to come to school when they are expected/scheduled to be in, they must contact the school office as soon as possible on 01332 513862. Inconsistent attendance may result in the placement being reviewed or terminated.

3. Safeguarding

3.1. Volunteers must be familiar with, and adhere to, the school's safeguarding policy. Safeguarding training may be provided to volunteers before they begin their placement. Volunteers must confirm they have read and understood Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1.

3.2. If volunteers have concerns about the welfare of a child, or if a child makes a disclosure, they should speak directly to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy DSL. The Strategic DSL is Lorna Blanchenot, the Operational DSL is Tracy Morris and the deputies are Lucy Gayton and Michelle Hoyle. There are paper forms in the staff room on the Safeguarding Notice board to record any concerns.

3.3. Volunteers should refrain from physical contact with pupils and should use their judgement to determine when physical contact is appropriate. If physical contact with pupils is required, volunteers should ask for a pupil's consent before touching them.

3.4. Volunteers must alert the DSL if a pupil develops an infatuation with them, and must not form personal relationships with pupils, either inside or outside of school, with whom they do not already have a personal relationship. This includes:

3.4.1. Exchanging contact information

3.4.2. Making contact with pupils outside of school, including on social media

3.4.3. Arranging to meet pupils outside of school

3.5. Volunteers should not take or share photos of pupils unless instructed to do so by their supervisor.

3.6. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used in school, apart from in the staffroom.

3.7. Mobile phones must not be taken to the classrooms or any other area around school when the children are present. These should be stored in a locker or in the front office.

4. Health and safety

4.1. Volunteers must abide by the school's health and safety and first aid policies. A copy of these are available on the website or on the staff noticeboard. Volunteers are not to administer first aid, except in an emergency where none of the designated first aiders are available.

4.2. Volunteers must be familiar with the school's fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures.

4.3. Volunteers must sign in and sign out at the beginning and end of every visit on Entrysign and must wear a visitor badge at all times.

5. Confidentiality

5.1. Information about pupils, parents and staff at the school is confidential, and should not be shared with anyone else. Volunteers shouldn't discuss pupils with parents or other children. If parents approach volunteers for information, they should be directed to speak to a class teacher or the headteacher.

Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in the termination of the placement. In more serious cases, misconduct will be treated in line with the school's staff disciplinary procedures.

Please sign and date below:

X	X	X
Volunteer name (please print)	Volunteer signature	Date

Appendix 3: requesting a volunteer (information for staff)

If you'd like assistance from a volunteer in your classroom, or for a specific activity or trip, fill out the form below and submit to the School Business Manager.

Volunteer request form

ACTIVITY DETAILS	
Year group/class	
Activity details	
Date(s) and time(s)	
Is this activity … (circle one)	One-off? Daily? Weekly? Other? If other, please explain:
Will there be any costs for the volunteer (such as entry fees to museums, materials, or travel)?	
Volunteer details	
How many volunteers do you need?	
Do you need your volunteers to have any specific skills or experience?	

Submitted by: