

Thorpe Hesley Primary School – Volunteer Policy

To be reviewed: as required

Thorpe Hesley Primary School Volunteer Policy

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 / Parent Teacher Association members

The types of activities that Volunteers are engaged in include:

- Working with children in class
- 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

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer must meet with the Head teacher in the first instance. Volunteers must read the Volunteer Guidelines (Appendix 1).

Before starting to help in school, volunteers must sign 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.

Our School Vision

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 vision.

Confidentiality

Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality.

Any concerns that Volunteers have about the children they work with and come into contact with should be voiced with the Class Teacher and NOT with the parents of the child, other parents helping in school or 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 (Designated safeguarding Officer) or Deputy Head Teacher. In the case of a concern being about the Head Teacher, volunteers should contact the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors. (Contact details available from the school office.)

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Supervision

All volunteers work under the supervision of the Class Teacher of the class to which they are assigned or under instruction from the Head Teacher. Teachers retain responsibility for children at all times, including the children's behaviour and the activity they are undertaking.

Volunteers should have clear guidance as to how an activity is carried out and 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 or problem regarding children's understanding of a task or behaviour.

Health & Safety

The school's Health and Safety Policy is 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 in the first instance.

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 this Volunteer Policy and asked to sign the Volunteer Agreement (Appendix 2)
- New Volunteers are asked to complete the New Volunteers Sheet (Appendix 3)
- To ensure the safety of our pupils at all times, all Volunteers must be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS). A DBS check is issued to the individual, the school is notified of the clearance by the DBS and a central record is maintained in school.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints made about a Volunteer will be referred directly to the Head Teacher for investigation. Any complaints made by a Volunteer will be referred to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher.

The Head Teacher 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 available from the school office

Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be reviewed as required and updated in the light of new guidance from either the DfE or LA.

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Appendix 1

Thank you very much for volunteering to help at Thorpe Hesley Primary School.

The following are a set of guidelines which we hope will help to establish a successful partnership between staff and volunteers at the school.

- Teachers work hard to plan lessons and direct learning in advance. If you are unsure of the purpose of the activity you have been asked to assist with please clarify it with the teacher or teaching assistant at the start of the session.
 - If you are committed to helping on a regular basis and for any reason is unable to attend on a day when you are expected, please inform the teacher or the school office in advance. Similarly if your help is not required on a particular day (due to a trip or other school activity) then the teacher will provide you with advance notice of this.
 - Helping in the school that contains your own child will give you an insight into his or her education. Should you have any questions that arise out of this please direct them to the class teacher privately on a separate occasion, through Parent/Teacher evenings, or through the other channels that already exist within the school.
 - When you are working with the children it is important to create an atmosphere that makes the children want to learn. Enthusiasm and encouragement are extremely important in helping with development.
 - Should a child or children spoil an activity in which you are participating for others, please give one warning before asking the teacher or teaching assistant to intervene.
 - Under the Children Act 1989 relating to child protection, if a child tells you something that you feel is of concern but you might not know the relevance of, you should discuss this privately with the teacher or Head Teacher and no further.
 - Confidentiality regarding what might be seen, heard or discussed within the class by children or adults is extremely important. School staff are bound by the rule of confidentiality that as a volunteer will also apply to you. Please do not discuss any issues that might arise in class with anyone other than the class teacher who is best placed to decide on the correct course of action. You may be aware that legislation requires all people working with 'vulnerable members of society', whether in a professional or a voluntary capacity, have to apply for a "Disclosure" from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). DBS checks are not 'portable' therefore, even if you have one already, you will need to fill in a new form. Forms are available at the school office.
- Thank you very much for volunteering, your time, effort and enthusiasm to help in school. You can be assured that your help is greatly appreciated and will be of genuine help to both children and staff alike.

Yours sincerely

Trudi Toms
Headteacher



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Appendix 2

Volunteer Agreement

Thank you for offering your services as a volunteer at Thorpe Hesley 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 to the school office.
You will receive a copy of it for your records.

- I have received a copy of the School's Volunteer Policy and have read the Volunteer Guidelines
- I agree to support the School's Aims and 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 Disclosure and Barring Service check to advise the school of my suitability as a volunteer

Signed: _____
 Name: _____
 Date: _____

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Name of Volunteer:

Address:.....

Telephone:

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 very much appreciated.

Email: office@thorpehesleyprimary.rotherham.sch.uk
Website: http://www.thorpehesleyprimary.rotherham.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mrs Trudi Toms
Chair of Governors: Mrs Kerry Hattersley
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Rawlinson

