

Volunteer and Visitors Policy

*Children and adults are at the heart of our school;
Our school is at the heart of our community.*



Approved by:

Megan Holmes

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1. Introduction and aims

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 Lakeview's 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 Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

2. How we use volunteers

At Lakeview 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 art

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
- › Local clergy or members of the congregation

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

- › By emailing a named member of staff, or a specific inbox
- › Approaching senior leaders
- › Completing an application form (see appendix 1)

4. Appointment of volunteers

Volunteers are appointed by Jackie Normanton (Head Teacher)

Appointment and induction of new volunteers can take 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.

Enhanced DBS checks for volunteers working in the school through other organisations will be conducted by the relevant organisation, if needed. The school will ask for written confirmation that enhanced DBS checks have been carried out before a volunteer is allowed to start work at the school.

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

- Supervise or accompany groups of pupils on overnight residential visits
- 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 all volunteers **prior** to them beginning work at the school, including ensuring that they have read and understood part 1 and Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Require volunteers to agree and adhere to our 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
 - Behaviour
- Ensure that volunteers without an enhanced DBS check are always supervised, and are never left alone with pupils
- Conduct a risk assessment to determine whether a volunteer who isn't working in regulated activity needs an enhanced DBS check. The risk assessment will consider:
 - The nature of the work they will be doing
 - What we know about them
 - References from employers or other voluntary roles
 - Whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check

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.

All volunteers must have safeguarding training. 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 child protection and safeguarding policy, and inform the designated safeguarding lead.

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 staff code of conduct set out in the appendix to this policy.

9. Expenses

Volunteers cannot claim expenses at Lakeview School

10. Data protection and record keeping

Our privacy notice for volunteers explains what information we collect about volunteers and why we collect it.

We will:

- Remove details of volunteers from the single central record (SCR) once they no longer work at our school

11. Monitoring and review

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

12. Visitors

If you are visiting our school, whilst on our premises, you must comply with the school's policies and procedures. Above all safeguarding the children and staff and Health and Safety in school.

- All visitors and volunteers must enter through the entrance via the school office.
- All visitors, including volunteers, must report to the main reception before entering the school to sign in on the electronic system and be given a visitor's sticker/lanyard.
- All visitors must sign out at the end of their visit using the electronic system and return lanyard.
- All visitors to the school are required to produce PHOTO ID at the reception desk, and to wear a Visitor's sticker and lanyard.
- If visit involves working independently with the children you will be asked to produce a current enhanced CRB certificate

Staff should inform reception of expected visitors so that they can be recorded in the diary. Staff have the right, and are encouraged, to question anyone on the school premises who they do not recognise.

Visitors can expect to be treated with respect by our staff; in turn we ask that you be polite and respectful whilst on our premises.

Anyone behaving in an aggressive or disrespectful manner will be asked to leave immediately. Persistent offenders will be banned from the premises.

Lanyards:

Blue lanyard – staff

Yellow lanyard – Visitor/Volunteer Not DBS checked

Purple lanyard – Visitor/Volunteer with DBS

Visitors guidance:

- Please do not enter the school unless escorted by a member of staff or by prior arrangement.
- You must wear your lanyard and sticker at all times
- Your safety and wellbeing during your visit are important to us. As a visitor you have a legal duty to care for the Health and Safety of yourself and others.
- If the Fire Alarm should sound please leave the building by the nearest exit and proceed to the assembly point. Walk to the assembly area on the main playground. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING until you are told it is safe to do so.
- Lakeview School operates a NO SMOKING POLICY which we ask you to respect.
- No mobile phones are to be used during your visit.
- Please report any safeguarding concerns to Miss Holmes (DSL), Mrs Strange, Mrs Francis or Mrs Normanton
- Remember to sign out

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

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

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 Lakeview School?

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?

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Preferences

What age group would you prefer to work with?	
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:

Visitor and Volunteer Code of Conduct

1. School rules and policies

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

- Child protection
- ICT and internet acceptable use
- Online safety
- Mobile phones
- Data protection
- Health and safety
- Equality
- Whistle-blowing
- Behaviour

Copies of the school policies are available online or from the school office

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.
- 2.2. Behaviour management is the responsibility of school staff. If visitors witness behaviour that is in breach of the school's behaviour policy, or are struggling to manage the behaviour of pupils with whom they're working, they should alert the class teacher immediately. Visitors should not attempt to reprimand pupils or issue sanctions.
- 2.3. Visitors 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. Visitors 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. Visitors must not transport pupils in their own cars
- 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 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 business manager or the school office as soon as possible. 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 and child protection policy. Safeguarding training will be provided to all volunteers before they begin their placement.
- 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 DSL is Megan Holmes and the deputies are Jackie Normanton and Meriel Strange
- 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. Contacting 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.

4. Health and safety

- 4.1. Volunteers must abide by the school's health and safety and first aid policies. 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, 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. Visitors shouldn't discuss pupils with parents or other children. If parents approach volunteers or visitors 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 visit. In more serious cases, misconduct will be treated in line with the school's staff disciplinary procedures.

Please sign and date below:

X

Volunteer name (please print)

X

Volunteer signature

X

Date

