



Policy for volunteers

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Statement of intent

At Hirst Wood Nursery School, we recognise and value the effort taken by volunteers who contribute towards our school. This policy sets out the practices and procedures which will be followed when appointing, managing and supervising volunteers, as well as a code of conduct which all volunteers are required to comply with.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- The Childcare Act 2006
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Low-level Concerns Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

2. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this policy. For the purposes of this policy:

"Volunteers" are individuals who engage in an activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit some third party, i.e. the school, and not a close relative.

“Occasional volunteers” are individuals who only accompany staff and pupils on one-off trips that do not involve overnight stays, or who volunteer at specific one-off events.

“Regular volunteers” are individuals who volunteer at the school:

- Three or more times in a 30-day period,
- Once a month or more,
- On an overnight stay.

A volunteer will be engaging in **“regulated activity”** if they:

- Will be responsible, on a regular basis in school, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children.
- Will be working on a regular basis in a specified establishment, such as a school, or in connection with the purposes of the establishment, where the work gives opportunity for contact with children.
- Engage in intimate or personal care or healthcare or any overnight activity, even if this only happens once. **This would not happen at Hirst Wood Nursery School as per our Intimate Care Policy.**

3. Recruitment

Anyone who wishes to become a volunteer at the school, either on an occasional or more regular basis, will be required to submit a Volunteer Application form to the school office. Prospective volunteers will be invited to visit the School and express why they would like to specifically volunteer at Hirst Wood Nursery School.

Occasional volunteers

Occasional volunteers will be appointed at the headteacher’s discretion and will not be required to go through the recruitment process. A written risk assessment will be conducted to determine what checks, if any, are required. An occasional volunteer will always be supervised by a member of staff, unless the appropriate DBS checks have been obtained.

Regular volunteers

Regular volunteers will always go through the following recruitment process:

- The individual will be asked to have an informal discussion with a member of the SLT to ensure that they are suitable for the role and their explanation for wishing to volunteer at Hirst Wood.
- The appropriate safer recruitment checks will be undertaken, including an application form & references.
- The individual will be made aware of the roles and responsibilities they will be undertaking.
- References will be sought where appropriate.

Safeguarding checks

Under no circumstances will a volunteer on whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. The school will conduct a risk assessment and use its professional judgement to decide what checks are required. The risk assessment will consider:

- The nature of the work with children, especially if it will constitute regulated activity, including the level of supervision.
- What the school knows about the volunteer, including formal or informal information offered by staff, parents and other volunteers.
- Whether the volunteer has other employment or undertakes voluntary activities where referees can advise on their suitability.
- Whether the role is eligible for a DBS check, and if it is, the level of check required.

Details of the risk assessment will be recorded and any DBS checks applied for will be recorded on the school's Single Central Record. If a volunteer will be working in regulated activity, an enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information will be required. The school will not request barred list information on a volunteer if they are supervised, as they are not considered to be engaged in regulated activity.

For volunteers who are not in regulated activity, but who have the opportunity to come into contact with pupils on a regular basis, it is at the discretion of the school to decide whether or not a DBS check is required. Volunteers will not be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check; however, the school will consider obtaining a new DBS check, at the level appropriate to the role, if there are concerns about a volunteer. All checks will be conducted in line with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy.

4. Supervision

If a volunteer is required to be supervised when undertaking an activity, who would otherwise be in regulated activity if not supervised, the school will ensure that:

- There is supervision by an individual who is in regulated activity.
- The supervision is regular and day-to-day.
- The supervision is reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of the pupils.

When determining what supervision is reasonable so that the volunteer would not be in regulated activity, the school will take the following factors into consideration:

- The ages of the pupils, including whether there is a large gap in their ages,
- The number of pupils that the volunteer is working with,
- Whether or not there are other staff members present during the activity,
- The nature of the volunteer's work and the opportunity for contact with pupils,
- How vulnerable the pupils are,
- How many volunteers would be supervised by each member of supervising staff.

5. Induction

Volunteers will be required to read and agree to the Code of Conduct before starting their role at the school. All volunteers will be required to make themselves familiar with school procedures as part of their induction, including the following:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Low-level Concerns Policy
- Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Online Safety Policy

Volunteers will be provided with access to the above documents upon their induction.

Volunteers will be required to read Part 1 of 'Keeping children safe in education' as part of their induction. All volunteers will be provided with a point of contact within the school who they can go to if they have any questions or issues they need to discuss.

6. Safeguarding

Volunteers will be provided with safeguarding information as determined by the governing board, using a proportionate, risk-based approach. The school will ensure that activities are planned properly and safely, and that volunteers are informed of these plans.

The school will ensure that volunteers have access to a member of school staff, should they wish to discuss difficulties or report on issues that may arise. All volunteers are required to be identified and located at all times. For this reason, the following process will be adhered to:

- Volunteers will sign in and out of the building at the office.
- Volunteers will wear a visitor's badge at all times.
- The headteacher will be made aware of where the volunteer is working.

Volunteers will be made aware that they must report any safeguarding concerns in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The identity of the school's DSL and any deputies will be made known to all volunteers. Any safeguarding concerns or allegations raised regarding a volunteer will be dealt with in line with the Low-level Concerns Policy and/or the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

7. Health and safety

Volunteers will be required to read the Health and Safety Policy prior to undertaking any activity on behalf of the school. Volunteers will ensure that they are familiar with emergency procedures, e.g. evacuation, and of any health and safety procedures relating to the activity they will be undertaking, e.g. whilst in a cookery class. If a volunteer notices any potential hazard which may put another individual at risk of harm, they will report this immediately to the class teacher or a senior member of staff.

8. Absence

Volunteers are required to inform the school office by 8:00am on the day they were due to attend if they are unable to attend at the agreed time. If a volunteer is called away in the event of an emergency while volunteering, they will inform the class teacher or senior leader, and will sign out of the building before leaving the premises.

9. Confidentiality

Volunteers will not be permitted to discuss any confidential information regarding a pupil or member of staff with any other individual. Information will be shared with volunteers on a need-to-know basis, and they will not have access to the school's records unless access is required to fulfil their role. Any volunteer who breaches the confidentiality rules will be asked to leave the premises and will not be able to return to undertake any further activity. There may be instances where a volunteer is required to pass information to a member of staff, such as if they notice a pupil being bullied or subjected to harm. Volunteers will report any concerns to a member of staff and are instructed not to notify the parents.

10. Complaints

Any complaints made in relation to a volunteer will be managed in line with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Volunteer code of conduct

All volunteers are expected to maintain high standards of behaviour and conduct when undertaking any activity at the school.

Volunteers will:

- Observe the high standards of behaviour and ethical conduct mandated by the school.
- Respect other volunteers, members of staff and pupils, and make them feel valued.
- Be approachable, pleasant and positive role models for pupils.
- Adhere to all school policies, including the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy, and Behaviour Policy.
- Maintain confidentiality of personal information at all times, unless there is a need to report an issue to a member of staff.
- Treat all pupils and members of staff equally.
- Report any incident of challenging behaviour to the class teacher or a senior member of staff immediately.
- Dress appropriately and behave in a manner which promotes healthy and safe working practices.
- Accept and follow directions from the supervisor and seek guidance through clarification where uncertain of tasks or requirements.
- Observe safe working practices which avoid unnecessary risks, apply reasonable instructions given by supervisors, and report any potential hazards in the workplace to the supervisor.
- Make proper use of the resources.
- Conduct work in a cooperative manner.
- Turn off mobile phones while on school premises and locate them securely, away from classroom areas.

Volunteers will not:

- Discipline pupils; if there are any problems, the class teacher or a senior member of staff will be informed immediately, and they will manage the situation.
- Shout at, hit, threaten or handle a pupil.
- Take photographs in school, or use any electronic device (these must be stored securely)
- Develop 'personal' or sexual relationships with pupils.
- Work with pupils when not in the proper physical or emotional state to do so, e.g. under medication which causes drowsiness, or under extreme stress which may impair judgement.
- Behave in an illegal, improper or unsafe manner, e.g. smoking or drinking alcohol.
- Share personal contact details with pupils/ parents or make personal arrangements to meet children / parents outside school.
- Express any extremist or discriminatory views, or any views that would offend others.
- Make inappropriate jokes or remarks of a sexual, racial, intimidating, discriminatory or offensive nature.
- Behave in a manner which may bring the school into disrepute when representing the school.
- Give or receive (other than 'token') gifts, unless arranged through the headteacher, e.g. giving an outgrown sports kit, football boots or uniform to a pupil.

I, _____, have read the code of conduct and agree to abide by the rules outlined in this policy.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Volunteer agreement form

This agreement form must be completed before you undertake any volunteer work at Hirst Wood Nursery School. In the first section, please write each piece of information in the relevant box on the right. In the second section, please tick each box on the right once you have read the corresponding policy – most of these can be accessed via the school website. Please sign and date the first row of the third section.

Name	
Name of staff member to whom you will report	
Number of times that you will volunteer in the school	
Dates that you will volunteer between (to be reviewed after <u>one month</u>)	

I understand that I am a volunteer and will therefore not receive payment for my duties.

Signature of volunteer		Date	
Signature of supervisor		Date	

Please tick the appropriate box once you have read and understood the following documents

Acceptable Use Policy	
Allegations of abuse against staff Policy	
Behaviour Policy	
Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy	
Complaints Policy	
Disciplinary Policy and Procedure	
Health and Safety Policy	
Inclusion Policy	
Keeping Children Safe in Education, Part 1	
Low-level Safeguarding Concerns Policy	
Volunteer Code of Conduct	
Whistleblowing Policy	