

Volunteer policy



Cam Everlands Primary School
"We believe, achieve and celebrate"

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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. Volunteers can support pupil wellbeing and development, often adding to the support provided to vulnerable or disadvantaged pupils.

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 Cam Everlands Primary School 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/carers with clear expectations and guidelines
- Ensure that volunteers are provided with a role profile, to aid understanding of their duties and responsibilities
- Set a clear, fair process for recruiting and managing volunteers

This policy has been developed in line with the statutory safeguarding guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#) from the Department for Education (DfE).

Volunteers play an important role and are often seen by pupils as safe and trustworthy adults. The school is committed to ensuring a robust safeguarding procedure in the appointment of volunteers.

KCSIE defines a volunteer as 'any person engaged in an activity which involves spending time, unpaid (except for travel and other approved out-of-pocket expenses), doing something which aims to benefit some third party and not a close relative'.

1.2 Definition of a volunteer

For the benefit of clarity, volunteers are considered to be those people who are helping out in school on a frequent basis (i.e. more than 3 times in a 30-day period) and who may be unsupervised in this role.

Those who are helping on a one-off or infrequent basis will be considered 'visitors' and will not be subject to this policy.

Students who are volunteering in school for the purposes of work experience will not need a DBS as they will not be left unattended with children at any point.

2. How we use volunteers

At Cam Everlands Primary School volunteers may:

- Hear children read
- Accompany school visits
- Provide support to individual children
- Provide support to small groups of children
- Support specific curriculum areas, such as ICT or art

This is not an exhaustive list.

Volunteers may be:

- Members of the governing body
- Parents and carers
- Former pupils
- Students on work experience
- Local residents
- Friends of the school/members of the School Association

This is not an exhaustive list.

Members of the governing body 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

If you would like to volunteer with us, the avenues to apply are below:

- By emailing Mrs Cook (Volunteer Co-ordinator) on ecook@cameverlands.org.uk
- Approaching senior leaders or class teachers
- Completing an application form (see appendix 1)

4. Volunteer status and selection

4.1 Status of volunteers

Volunteers are not employees of Cam Everlands Primary School and are not engaged on a contract of employment or a contract for services. Cam Everlands Primary School is not under any obligation to provide

a volunteer with work and the volunteer shall be under no obligation to carry out any work. This policy does not represent a legally binding contract between Cam Everlands Primary School and a volunteer.

The volunteering arrangement can be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party.

Volunteers shall not be entitled to receive any payment or any other benefits for any voluntary work carried out, including training on any area that is outside the volunteer's remit. (See also volunteer expenses in section 9 of this policy.)

4.2 Volunteer placement

Our school's volunteer co-ordinator is Elaine Cook (Head of EYFS and KS1) who can be contacted at ecook@cameverlands.org.uk. For students who would like to volunteer for work experience, they need to contact Tom Payne (Deputy Head) at tpayne@cameverlands.org.uk.

We will have an informal discussion with any potential volunteers before agreeing to begin the volunteering.

The induction of new volunteers can take up to 6 weeks and is dependent on the candidate and available spaces within the school. As part of this, all volunteers will be inducted by the headteacher (who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead).

All volunteer placements are conditional upon the completion of an enhanced DBS check (if appropriate, see section 5) and other appropriate safeguarding checks, and relevant training.

Enhanced DBS checks for volunteers volunteering 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 volunteering 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 are carrying out regulated activity, e.g.:

- Regularly (for more than 3 days in a 30-day period) support pupils 1-on-1 unsupervised
- Regularly (for more than 3 days in a 30-day period) support groups of pupils unsupervised
- Provide personal care on a one-off basis
- 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 activity the volunteer will be involved in

Conduct a risk assessment to determine whether a volunteer who isn't working in regulated activity needs an enhanced DBS check. All risk assessments will be reviewed as required and in the event of a change to the role carried out by the volunteer. The risk assessment will be recorded on the single central record and kept in accordance with GDPR regulations and the school's retention policy. The risk assessment will consider:

- The nature of the voluntary activity they will be doing, including level of supervision
- What we know about them
- References from employers or other voluntary roles
- Whether the role is eligible for a DBS check, and if so the level of check required (NB those in regulated activity will always require an enhanced DBS check along with a barred list check)

Ensure that volunteers without an enhanced DBS check are always supervised, and are never left alone with pupils

The school will determine whether a volunteer is considered to be supervised. Where an individual is supervised, to help determine the appropriate level of supervision, we will have regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State (reproduced in KCSIE, Annex E). For a person to be considered supervised, the supervision must be:

By a person who is in regulated activity relating to children

Regular and day-to-day, and

Reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children

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.

We will additionally:

Provide safeguarding training to all volunteers **prior** to them beginning to volunteer at the school, including ensuring that they have read and understood part 1 of KCSIE

Ask volunteers to agree and adhere to our code of conduct (see appendix 2) and to read, and adhere to, the school's policies on:

- Child protection and safeguarding, including low-level concerns
- Whistle-blowing
- ICT and internet acceptable use
- Health and safety
- Online safety
- Behaviour
- Equality and diversity

6. Induction and training

Volunteers must complete appropriate training, provided by or suggested by the school, prior to volunteering at the school.

Training requirements will be determined by the headteacher, or the appropriate member of staff.

All volunteers must have safeguarding training, which will be provided by the school. Other training requirements will be based on the nature of the activity the volunteer will be doing.

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.

7. Confidentiality

Information about pupils, parents/carers and staff is confidential. Volunteers are not permitted to discuss issues related to pupils, parents/carers or staff with those outside of the school.

If volunteers have concerns, they should raise these with the appropriate member of staff. They shouldn't discuss them with pupils or parents/carers.

This doesn't prevent volunteers from reporting safeguarding concerns or disclosures, as per the school's safeguarding policy.

If concerns relate to safeguarding, volunteers must follow the guidance in our child protection and 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

We ask all volunteers to agree and adhere to the volunteer code of conduct set out in appendix 2 of this policy.

9. Expenses

We do not expect volunteers to spend any money in carrying out their voluntary role therefore we are unable to cover expenses for volunteers.

10. Complaints procedure

In the event a volunteer has a complaint, they should follow the school's complaints procedure which can be found in the policies section of the school's website.

11. Data protection and record keeping

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

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 volunteer at our school

12. Monitoring and review

This policy, the information included, and its implementation will be monitored by the headteacher.

It has been approved by the governing body and will be reviewed every 4 years (or before if safeguarding expectations change within the 4-year period).

13. Links to other policies

This volunteering policy is linked to our:

- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Whistle-blowing policy
- Complaints policy
- Health and Safety policy and procedures
- Data protection and GDPR policy
- Online safety policy

Appendix 1: volunteer application form

Please 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

Please see our Data Protection and GDPR policy for additional information.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:	
Date of birth:	
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 with a barred list check on volunteers who undertake regulated activity, e.g.:

- Regularly (for more than 3 days in a 30-day period) support pupils 1-on-1 unsupervised
- Regularly (for more than 3 days in a 30-day period) support groups of pupils unsupervised
- Provide personal care on a one-off basis
- Supervise or accompany groups of pupils on overnight residential visits

The school is also obligated to process an enhanced DBS check before volunteers can undertake certain other activities. This requirement will be determined solely by the school.

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.

Any data processed as part of the DBS check will be processed in accordance with data protection regulations and the school Data Protection and GDPR policy.

Do you have a DBS check? (please circle)	Yes/No
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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 in volunteering, especially with children? If yes, please include details in the box below.

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Why would you like to volunteer at Cam Everlands Primary 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 age/year group would you prefer to volunteer with?

Would you prefer to support pupils 1-on-1, or with a small group of pupils?

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: Volunteer Code of Conduct

Code of conduct for volunteers

This code of conduct outlines our expectations for volunteer conduct. We ask you to sign this form to indicate your agreement to the following:

1. School rules and policies

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

- Child protection and safeguarding, including low-level concerns
- ICT and internet acceptable use
- Online safety
- Data protection and GDPR
- Health and safety
- Equality
- Whistle-blowing
- Behaviour

Copies of the school policies are available online on the school website or from the school office.

2. Professional conduct

Volunteers should follow instructions provided by their supervisors, and ask for guidance or clarification if required. Questions can be directed to the supervising member of staff, or to the school's volunteer co-ordinator, Mrs Cook.

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

We ask that volunteers agree to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes:

- Dressing in a way that is appropriate to the school environment
- Refraining from using inappropriate language, including not making comments either in the school environment or elsewhere, including on social media, that might bring the school into disrepute
- Setting an example for pupils by acting in a way that reflects the school's ethos and values
- Behaving in a way that is appropriate for the role they are undertaking

Volunteers should 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".

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

Parent/carer volunteers with children at the school should 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

If you are unable to come to school when you are expected to be in, we ask that you contact your supervisor or the school office as soon as possible, so we can make alternative arrangements

3. Safeguarding

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

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 Dominic Knill and the deputies are Sally Latuszka (SENCo) and Tom Payne (Deputy Head).

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

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:

- Exchanging contact information
- Contacting pupils outside of school, including on social media
- Arranging to meet pupils outside of school

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

4. Health and safety

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

Volunteers should familiarise themselves with the school's fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures

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

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

I understand that if I fail to adhere to this code of conduct, my volunteer placement may be terminated.

Please sign and date below:

Volunteer name: _____ Date: _____

Volunteer signature: _____

Headteacher's 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 Elaine Cook (Volunteer Co-ordinator).

This form is to request a volunteer who will be volunteering on a regular basis (more than 3 days in a 30-day period). If they will be in for less than this, or if it is to support on a one-off capacity (e.g. trip), you do not need to use this form.

Volunteer request form

ACTIVITY DETAILS	
Year group/class	
Activity details	
Date(s) and time(s)	
Is this activity ... (circle one)	Daily? Weekly? Other? If other, please explain:
Volunteer details:	
How many volunteers do you need?	
Do you need your volunteers to have any specific skills or experience?	

Submitted by: _____

Date: _____