



Volunteering in schools

Volunteering is hugely rewarding. It's enjoyable, develops new skills, gives you the opportunity to explore interests, enables you to meet a variety of people and is great for your wellbeing.

Supporting your local school and working with the children helps keep you young, develops patience, gives you a great new perspective on life and affords opportunities to inspire the next generation. There is never a dull moment – no two days are ever the same.

What skills do I need?

- A sense of humour
- Patience and understanding
- Ability to accept each child for who they are
- Enthusiasm – it's contagious!
- Friendly and caring manner
- Flexibility
- A heart for supporting and encouraging the next generation

How much time does it require?

Don't underestimate the value of giving even just half an hour a week. It can make such a difference to the school community.

Whatever commitment you decide to make, it is important that you can stick to it. Some activities in school rely on a number of adults for safety, so the school could be counting on you. It's better to start small rather than realise that it's difficult to keep to the commitment you made. You could offer to help at a certain event, or decide to give a regular amount of time each week.



How can I get involved?

There are many different ways to support a school. Each school is unique in its own community so it's important to consider:

- What are your interests/passions/experiences?
- What do the staff and pupils really need and would benefit from?
- What is going to make the most difference to your school?

Ways you could support your local school

Joint projects

Community projects
Young D of E award
Charity fundraising
School productions

Extracurricular

After-school clubs
Breakfast/holiday club
School trips
Sharing an interest/skill

1:1 Support

Mentoring
Paired reading
Story sharing

Leadership support

Pastoral staff support
Governance
School/eco council

Parents

Family support
Social events
Prayer group
PTA fundraising

How can I be a great volunteer?

- **Be reliable** If you have to cancel a visit, try to give the school as much notice as possible.
- **Be on time** Schools are busy places and everything is carefully timetabled. If you are helping in a class, the teacher will have taken your presence into account when planning the day.
- **Follow the school dress code** but ensure your clothing is practical. Will you be helping with messy play or sitting on a classroom floor?
- **Ensure your mobile is off and in a safe place** all the time you are in school.
- **Be a good role model** at all times in both language and behaviour.



How will the school support me?

All schools really value volunteer support, both at special events and during the working week. To support your time in school and help you feel involved and part of the team, schools aim to:

- Provide you with a volunteer induction session, including safeguarding information and sharing key policies, where you will have the opportunity to learn about the school and also ask questions.
- Provide you with a staff member who you can contact if you are unsure about anything during your time in school.
- Keep you up to date with school news and information shared with parents.
- Pay for a DBS check for you. (You may need to commit to helping at more than one event.)
- Ensure you have a mentor who liaises regularly with you so that the volunteer experience is mutually beneficial.

To find out more about volunteering in schools, contact:
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