



ST. DUNSTAN'S, CHEAM, C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Subject: VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING PARENT HELPERS

Date: February 2024

Review Date February 2026

Vision Statement

'St Dunstan's – a thriving Christian school, guided by the Good Shepherd, founded on faith, inspiring the best in everyone.'

At St Dunstan's we celebrate:

- Excellent achievement and progress in all that we do
- Learning for life in all its fullness
- Christian values alive within our school
- Being at the heart of our community

Rationale

Our mission statement reflects our belief in encouraging the development of our pupils in a broad range of educational, emotional and spiritual dimensions. We believe that to achieve the aims of our mission statement the school need to work in partnership with parents to enable children to gain maximum benefit from their education. Parent helpers are an important and valued part of the team at St Dunstan's. Please see also our Equalities policy.

Purpose of the Policy

To provide a supportive and consistent framework in which we can engage parents meaningfully in the education of their children and in the wider life of the school.

Principles Underlying the Policy

- Parental and volunteer involvement will take place in a climate of mutual trust.
- Parents, volunteers and all staff are partners in the education process.
- Parental and volunteer involvement should be inclusive and all parents and carers should be encouraged to participate.
- Effective co-operation between parents, volunteers and school will maximise opportunities for learning.

Parent Helpers

- Staff should actively encourage the involvement of parent helpers.
- Parent helpers provide the opportunity for pupils to witness parents and school working together in partnership to enrich learning experiences.
- The benefits for the children are visible signs of school and home working together to enrich their learning experiences, additional assistance with tasks, more opportunities to work in small groups and extra supervision for practical activities.
- The benefits for parents are a greater understanding of the life of the school, a broader understanding of children's learning, the sharing of skills and the gaining of experience and confidence in working with children.
- The benefits for the school can include improved communication between parents and the school, the sharing of the aims and ethos of the school, and the enrichment of the learning environment.

Opportunities for Volunteer and Parental Involvement

In the classroom:

- reading activities – individual reading, reading stories, group activities, phonic games etc.
- art activities
- Design and technology activities
- Practical maths and science
- Craft activities
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- Assisting with outside activities

Outside the classroom:

- Mounting work and preparing displays
- Accompanying classes to church and trips
- Assisting in the library
- Other tasks to assist teachers – repairing and covering books, preparing resources, tidying reading areas etc.

Code of Practice for Volunteers including Parent Helpers

The school Parent Helper leaflet contains the code of practice for parent helpers.

Additional Information

- A register of volunteers and parent helpers will be updated termly.
- Volunteers and parents wishing to help in school will be asked to make a regular commitment and will need to attend a parent helper training meeting.
- Volunteers including parent helpers are asked to read part 1 of the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Offers of help will be subject to parents undergoing a satisfactory DBS check and giving two references.

- Parents are asked not to speak to teachers about matters regarding their own child when they are in school helping but to make a mutually convenient time.

Confidentiality

Volunteers and parents helping in school must respect the children's/school's right to confidentiality and understand that matters arising in school are not to be discussed outside school with other people under any circumstances. Any queries volunteers/parent helpers may have regarding school matters must be directed to the class teacher in the first instance or to one of the leadership team. All volunteers sign a confidentiality agreement before commencing work in school.