



*Growing in God's Love*

**The School aims:**

- \* to provide the best possible educational and pastoral care for each of our pupil
- \* to pass on to the children an awareness and appreciation of Gospel values
- \* to develop good relationships, understanding and interaction between children, parents, staff and the community
- \* to provide a friendly loving, welcoming environment for all teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents as well as pupils

**1 Introduction**

1.1 We want our school to be open and welcoming to all who would like to support the children. We also want to encourage parents and other adults to help teachers in a variety of ways. However, our overriding concern is for the safety of the children in our care. This document sets out our school's policy, which is to ensure that the children benefit from as much help and support as possible, and are provided at the same time with the best possible security.

1.2 The school has a variety of adults working on the premises at any one time. They can be categorised as follows:

1.2.1 Paid full- or part-time staff employed by the school:

- teachers;
- teaching assistants;
- caretaker;
- cleaners;
- dinner staff;
- admin staff;

1.2.2 Adult workers employed by other organisations:

- peripatetic SEN teachers and advisers;
- peripatetic music teachers;
- trainee teachers;
- LA advisers and inspectors;
- health visitors;
- grounds maintenance staff;
- contract workers (e.g. an electrician or heating engineer);
- sports coaches

1.2.3 Volunteer helpers:

- parents or other adult helpers working alongside teachers;
- students on work experience.

This policy sets out the arrangements for volunteer helpers only.

**2 Volunteer helpers**

2.1 Volunteer helpers support the school in a number of ways, including:

- supporting individual pupils;
- hearing pupils read;
- helping with classroom organisation;
- helping with the supervision of children on school trips;
- helping with group work;

- helping with art or subjects involving other practical activities.

2.2 Volunteer helpers are not allowed to do the following activities:

- take responsibility for all or some of the whole class;
- change very young children, or supervise them changing;
- supervise children engaged in PE or other specialist activities;
- take children off the school site without a teacher in charge.

The responsibility for the health and welfare of the child remains with the class teacher at all times.

### **3 Signing in**

3.1 When helpers arrive in the school, they must sign in at the reception desk. They will be given a visitor's badge, which they should wear at all times. They must also sign out using the E-Reception screen.

### **4 Police checks**

- 4.1 For the children's safety, all volunteer helpers are required to have police clearance through the DBS (disclosure and barring service) before they work in the school, unless they are a parent attending a school trip or one off event.
- 4.2 The headteacher has the authority not to accept the help of volunteers if she believes it will not be in the best interests of the children.

### **5 Deployment of classroom helpers**

5.1 It is the policy of this school that parent helpers will not always support in their own child's classroom, if this is distracting for the child, or perhaps places the class teacher in an uncomfortable situation. Helpers will be asked to support in classes in which there is the most need for support.

### **6 Monitoring and review**

- 6.1 The day-to-day monitoring of this policy is the responsibility of the headteacher, who will report to the governors annually, stating the number of adult volunteer helpers in the school, and summarising their value to the children.
- 6.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if considered necessary.

Reviewed: September 2023