



CRESTWOOD  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## **Crestwood Community School**

### **Volunteer Policy**

**October 2024**

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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.

We are committed to using volunteers in a way that supports the school's strategic aims and vision.

The aim of the Crestwood Community 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 with clear expectations and guidelines
- 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).

## 2. How we use volunteers

At Crestwood Community School volunteers may:

- Accompany school visits
- Work with individual children
- Work with small groups of children
- Support specific curriculum areas, such as Music and Performing Arts.

This isn't an exhaustive list.

Volunteers may be:

- Members of the governing board
- Parents
- Former pupils
- Students on work experience
- Local residents
- Friends of the school/members of the PTA

This is not an exhaustive list.

Members of the governing board 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 wish to volunteer at Crestwood Community School you should email the headteacher in the first instance. All volunteers must complete an application form (see appendix 1)

## 4. Approval of volunteers

- Volunteers are approved by the Headteacher.
- All appointments are conditional upon the completion of an enhanced DBS check (if appropriate) and other appropriate safeguarding and recruitment checks, and relevant training.
- The headteacher reserves the right to terminate a placement at any time.

## 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:
  - Work 1-on-1 with pupils unsupervised
  - Work with groups of pupils unsupervised
  - 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 work the volunteer will be involved in
- Provide safeguarding training to all volunteers prior to them beginning work at the school, including ensuring that they have read and understood part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Require volunteers to agree and adhere to our code of conduct (see appendix 2) and to read, and adhere to, the school's policies on:
  - Safeguarding
  - Use of mobile phones
  - ICT and internet acceptable use
  - Online safety
  - Behaviour Policy
  - GDPR
- Ensure that volunteers without an enhanced DBS check are always supervised, and are never left alone with pupils
- Conduct a risk assessment to determine whether a volunteer who isn't working in regulated activity needs an enhanced DBS check. The risk assessment will consider:
  - The nature of the work they will be doing
  - What we know about them
  - References from employers or other voluntary roles
  - Whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check

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.

## 6. Induction and training

Volunteers must complete appropriate training prior to beginning work at the school.

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

All volunteers must have safeguarding training. Other training requirements will be based on the nature of the work the volunteer will be doing.

## **7. Confidentiality**

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

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

This doesn't prevent volunteers from adhering to the school's safeguarding policy (with regard to reporting safeguarding concerns or disclosures).

If concerns relate to safeguarding, volunteers must follow the guidance in our 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. Health and Safety Policy for Volunteers**

Crestwood Community School is committed to fulfilling its duty of care by ensuring that no volunteer is exposed to unnecessary risks to their health and safety. As part of their initial training, all volunteers must be informed of the school's health and safety Policies & Procedures.

Volunteers are responsible for taking reasonable care of their own health and safety, as well as the safety of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions. When applicable, the school will provide adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ensure that volunteers have access to suitable and safe equipment. Comprehensive instruction and training will be provided to ensure the correct and safe use of all PPE and equipment.

## **9. Code of Conduct of volunteers**

Volunteers must comply with the code of conduct set out in appendix 2 of this policy].

## **10. Insurance**

The school's insurance policy does cover volunteers in the event of an accident or emergency providing the following is in place.

1. Adequate supervision is provided, and the personnel/volunteers have been pre-authorised to be on the property and undertaking the specified activities.
2. Stringent Risk Assessments are undertaken for the range of activities / works to be undertaken, taking into account areas such as risk of damage or injury to the volunteer, risk of damage or injury to pupils/School employees/third parties, site security (including ensuring volunteers are aware of emergency exits and procedures)
3. Individual Risk Assessments are undertaken for each of the personnel/volunteers in order to ascertain and draw up requirements for their specific limitations (this is particularly necessary in cases where individuals have pre-existing medical conditions).
4. Volunteers should be informed of the precise nature, limits and risks of their role.
5. We suggest that personnel should undergo manual handling training prior to undertaking any manual handling activities.
6. First Aid provision (or the lack of it) should be included in the Assessment

If a volunteer is working at the school through another organisation, we will also check that organisation's insurance arrangements.

## **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 work at our school



**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM**

**Please use black pen when completing this form**

**Application for the post of**

**School**

Crestwood Community School

**Applicant's details**

Last name

First name

Any other last names

Title

Address

Postcode

Day time contact no.

Evening / Mobile no

Email address

**Education and qualifications**

**Secondary / further education**

Establishment  
(Name & town)

Dates

From

To

Qualification / Grade /  
Date awarded

**Current employer (if applicable)**

Employer's name

Address

Postcode

Post held

Date appointed

**Previous experience** (most recent employer first)  
**Please include details of gaps in employment here**

Employer's name and type of business	Post held	Date		Reason for leaving
		From (MM/YY)	To (MM/YY)	

### Why do you want to volunteer at Crestwood?

### References

#### Reference 1 (should be your current/most recent employer if applicable)

Name  
 Position  
 Address  
  
 Tel No (*inc. STD code*)  
 Email address  
 Referee Occupation

#### Reference 2

Name  
 Position  
 Address  
  
 Tel No (*inc. STD code*)  
 Email address  
 Referee Occupation

### Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975

This post is covered by the **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975** because it is a post which involves working directly with children or young people. If shortlisted for interview you are therefore required to declare whether you have any criminal convictions (or cautions or bind-overs) including those which are 'spent'. The amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (2013 and 2020) provide that when applying for certain jobs and activities, certain convictions and cautions are considered 'protected'. This means that they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found on the Disclosure and Barring Service website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-filtering-guidance>

### Further information

- If your application is successful, prior to taking up your post, you will be required to undergo a **Formal Disclosure** process through the **Disclosure and Barring Service**. This will require you to complete a separate DBS application form and to provide a range of more than one piece of documentary evidence of your identity.
- Although a criminal record involving offences against children is likely to debar you from appointment of this type of post, the existence of other criminal convictions will not necessarily be a bar to employment unless other restrictions are in place through the Children’s Barred List, DBS or Teacher Regulation Agency.
- **Any criminal record information arising out of the disclosure process will be discussed with you before any final decision is made about your employment.**
- It is a criminal offence to apply for or accept a position (paid or unpaid) working with children if you are excluded from such work by virtue of a court order or exclusion by the DBS.
- A copy of the Criminal History (DBS) and Non-Police Personnel Vetting Checks Policy is available on request.
- Criminal record certificates will only be issued directly to the applicant. The Local Authority/your employer will request that you show them your certificate and will record the Disclosure number and issue date and retain this on your personnel record and on its computerised personnel record system in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and Data Protection Act 2018 (the Data Protection Legislation).  
The school and Local Authority abide by the DBS Code of Practice and Keeping Children Safe in Education which state that a copy of the DBS Disclosure Certificate may only be retained with the permission of the applicant and shall not be retained for longer than 6 months, in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Legislation.

Canvassing in any form may disqualify you from employment. Please state whether, to the best of your knowledge, you are related to a County Councillor, senior member of Hampshire Children’s Services Department, or a governor or senior employee of a school maintained by this Authority

YES

NO

If YES, please state the nature of relationship and the name of the County Councillor, senior member of Hampshire Children’s Services Department, governor or senior employee of the school.

Nature of relationship

### Further information and declaration

Do you hold a UK driving licence (circle applicable)?

YES

NO

Do you have the use of a car for work?

YES

NO

Would you require sponsorship ( previously a work permit) to take up this post?

YES

NO

National insurance number

I hereby confirm that the information I have given above is true.

I understand that, should any of the particulars I provide in this application be found to be false within my knowledge, or should there be any wilful omission of material fact, this may be reported to the Police as well as leading to my application being rejected or the contract being null and void if I have already been appointed.

**Signature of Candidate**

**DATE**



## Privacy notice

The School collects information about you in order to provide you with recruitment and employment services. We will use the information for the recruitment and selection process and, if successful, to activate employment with the School.

The legal basis for processing your personal data is that it is necessary for the performance of the employment contract or in order to take steps before entering into a contract and is necessary for the County Council to comply with a legal obligation.

The legal basis for processing special category data is that processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the rights and obligations in the field of employment, that it is necessary for the reasons of substantial public interest and that it is necessary for the purposes of the assessment of the working capacity of the employee.

We will keep your personal information for 1 year following the interview date if you are not successful, and for the duration of your employment plus 7 years if you are successfully appointed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see the School's website for further details on their privacy notice and data protection policy.

You can contact the School's Data Protection Officer if you have a concern about the way they collect or use your data.

## Appendix 2: code of conduct for volunteers

### Code of conduct for volunteers

By signing this form, volunteers agree to the following:

#### 1. School rules and policies

1.1. Volunteers will follow all school rules and policies, including those on:

- 1.1.1. Child protection
- 1.1.2. ICT and internet acceptable use
- 1.1.3. Online safety
- 1.1.4. Mobile phones
- 1.1.5. Data protection
- 1.1.6. Health and safety
- 1.1.7. Equality
- 1.1.8. Whistle-blowing
- 1.1.9. Behaviour Policy

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

#### 2. Professional conduct

- 2.1. Volunteers must accept and follow instructions provided by supervisors, and ask for guidance or clarification if required. Questions can be directed to the supervising member of staff, or to a member of the schools Senior Leadership TEAM.
- 2.2. 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 with whom they're working, they should alert the class teacher immediately. Volunteers should not attempt to reprimand pupils or issue sanctions.
- 2.3. Volunteers must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes:
  - 2.3.1. Dressing in a way that is professional and appropriate to the work they are doing
  - 2.3.2. Refraining from using inappropriate language
  - 2.3.3. Setting an example for pupils by acting in a way that reflects the school's ethos and values
  - 2.3.4. Behaving in a way that is appropriate for the role they are undertaking
  - 2.3.5. Ensuring that comments, including those made on social media, do not bring the school into disrepute
- 2.4. Volunteers must not accept gifts from, or give gifts to, pupils.
- 2.5. Volunteers must not transport pupils in their own cars unless specific arrangements have been made with the school, and the pupil's parents have consented.
- 2.6. Parent volunteers with children at the school must 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.
- 2.7. If a volunteer is unable to come to school when they are expected/scheduled to be in, they must contact their supervisor or the school office as soon as possible. Inconsistent attendance may result in the placement being reviewed or terminated.

### 3. Safeguarding

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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 Tim Nash and the Deputy DSLs are Keren Groom and Andrew Whittick.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. 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:
  - 3.4.1. Exchanging contact information
  - 3.4.2. Making contact with pupils outside of school, including on social media
  - 3.4.3. Arranging to meet pupils outside of school
- 3.5. Volunteers should not take or share photos of pupils unless instructed to do so by their supervisor.

### 4. Health and safety

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. Volunteers must be familiar with the school's fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures.
- 4.3. 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

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

Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in the termination of the placement. In more serious cases, misconduct will be treated in line with the school's staff disciplinary procedures.

Please sign and date below:

X

Volunteer signature

X

Date