



VOLUNTEER POLICY

Reviewed by: Ruth Hardy, Associate Director HR
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1. Policy Statement

The Futures Trust and the Governing Body welcome volunteers from the local community who are able to make a positive contribution to the School, by giving freely of their time and talents to enhance learning experiences and outcomes for pupils.

Opportunities to volunteer may arise in respect of a one-off activity, for example accompanying School visits, or may take the form of a more regular activity, for example listening to children read or becoming a member of the Governing Body.

All The Futures Trust schools are committed to equality of opportunity and values diversity. As such the accessibility of opportunities to volunteer will be managed, monitored and reviewed with due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Duty.

All The Futures Trust schools will only engage volunteers whom they are satisfied are willing and able to safeguard pupils, and to fulfil the requirements of the volunteer role that has arisen.

The School's engagement of volunteers will be reviewed on an annual basis, and people wishing to volunteer may be required to re-apply, enter into a new Volunteer Agreement or be subject to repeat vetting checks where the School determines that this is required.

This Policy meets statutory requirements and is in accordance with the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.'

This Policy and the Volunteer Agreement herein set out reasonable expectations; they are not intended to be legally binding, and those fulfilling volunteer opportunities will not be a worker for, or employee of, the Futures Trust in their capacity as a volunteer.

2. Safeguarding Children and Young People

The Futures Trust and its Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all volunteers to share this commitment. If you wish to become a volunteer you will be subject to the vetting process and checks specified in section 6 below.

You will also be asked to enter into the Volunteer Agreement in Appendix B, and to adhere to safeguarding requirements at all times.

In accordance with each School's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy, a copy of which you will receive, if whilst volunteering you have any concerns in relation to the safeguarding of children or young people you should immediately notify the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). In the absence of the DSL, you should inform the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).



Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)			
School	DSL	Telephone number	Email
Barr's Hill	Daniel Oliver	024 7623 4600	oliver.d1@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk
Camp Hill	Diane Temple	024 7638 3230	temple.d@welearn365.com
Coundon Court	Charlotte Holland	024 7633 5121	charlotte.rohloff@coundoncourt.org
Keresley Grange	John Astley	024 7633 2131	John.Astley@keresleygrange.coventry.sch.uk
Keresley Newland	Janine Nettey	024 7633 2434	janine.nettey@thefuturetrust.org.uk
Parkgate	Zoe Richards	024 7663 7381	zoerichards@parkgate.coventry.sch.uk
President Kennedy	Richard Beattie	024 7666 1416	Beattie@pks.coventry.sch.uk
Redmoor Academy	Paul Kimber	01455 230731	pkimber@redmooracademy.org
Stoke Park	Sonya Elliott	024 7645 0215	SElliott@stokepark.coventry.sch.uk
The Hinckley School	Kate Priestnall	01455 632183	KPriestnall@thehinckleyschool.co.uk



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)			
School	DDSL	Telephone number	Email
Barr's Hill	Jo De Mulder Kira Dolan	024 7623 4600	demulder.j@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk Dolan.K@barrshill.coventry.sch.uk
Camp Hill	Rachel Whittingham	024 7638 3230	whittingham.r@welearn365.com
Coundon Court	Amanda Donnelly Tracey Wheatley Fiona Walsh Kirsty Jones	024 7633 5121	amanda.donnelly@coundoncourt.org tracey.wheatley@coundoncourt.org fiona.walsh@coundoncourt.org kirsty.jones@coundoncourt.org
Keresley Grange	Lesley Dyson Trudi Scholes	024 7633 2131	Lesley.dyson@keresleygrange.coventry.sch.uk Trudi.scholes@keresleygrange.coventry.sch.uk
Keresley Newland	Janine Nettey Carly Arnold Amanda Haywood	024 7633 2434	cantwell.l@knpa.warwickshire.sch.uk ArnoldC@knpa.warwickshire.sch.uk Amanda.Hayward@knpa.warwickshire.sch.uk
Parkgate	Zoe Brown Nikki Dunn Ben Henley	024 7663 7381	ZoeBrown@parkgate.coventry.sch.uk NikkiDunn@parkgate.coventry.sch.uk BenHenley@parkgate.coventry.sch.uk
President Kennedy	Saima Javed Sophie Smith	024 7666 1416	javeds@pks.coventry.sch.uk SmithS1@pks.coventry.sch.uk
Redmoor Academy	Megan Sharpe Sam Green Di Buckingham Kath Moreton Rebecca Wilson Elizabeth Green Ellie Coleburne	01455 230731	msharpe@redmooracademy.org sgreen@redmooracademy.org dbuckingham@redmooracademy.org kmoreton@redmooracademy.org rwilson@redmooracademy.org egreen@redmooracademy.org ecoleburne@redmooracademy.org
Stoke Park	Melanie Parrott	024 7645 0215	mparrott@stokepark.coventry.sch.uk
The Hinckley School	Isobel Pawley	01455 632 183	ipawley@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

The Futures Trust's Whistleblowing Policy can be accessed on each schools' website, HR Support Page and is available from the School Office. The School's Statement of Procedures for Dealing with Allegations made against / Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors is also available on each schools website, HR Support Page and from the School Office.



3. Our School Ethos and Aims

All staff and volunteers who carry out work or activities for the School are expected to uphold and actively promote our School Ethos and Aims. At all 'The Futures Trust' schools everything we do is focused on Building Brighter Futures for our students, our staff and our Community.

We are proud of our no barriers approach to education, ensuring children of all abilities and from all backgrounds are encouraged to set high goals and work hard to achieve them.

We work together in a productive and challenging manner to provide a vibrant and engaging learning environment that ensures every student achieves his or her potential. This school is about ensuring our students feel supported and happy. If students are happy they will flourish and achieve.

Our schools endeavour to achieve their aims by encouraging:

- High academic attainment
- A caring environment where all individuals are equally valued
- A thirst for study and investigation
- Respect for the beliefs, opinions and needs of other people
- The ability to work independently and with others
- A sense of fairness and responsibility
- Pride in oneself and our school
- An appreciation of art and culture
- Pursuit of a healthy lifestyle
- An awareness of issues that affect the world including the environment
- The professional development of our staff

4. Applying to become a volunteer

Any person wishing to become a volunteer should complete the volunteer application form in Appendix A. Applications can be submitted on a speculative basis or in respect of specific opportunities which have arisen.

Students in Higher Education who are being supported to volunteer as part of their studies should discuss any potential placement with the School in advance of completing an application using this policy; approved placements may be subject to alternative arrangements under which the education provider will carry out the required vetting checks.

The information on the equality monitoring form is for equality monitoring purposes only. The form will be detached from your application and the information stored to enable the School to monitor and review its practices in relation to equality.



Any person wishing to become a volunteer will be required to adhere to the Volunteer Agreement in Appendix B. This Policy forms a part of the Volunteer Agreement.

5. Supervision

In any of The Futures Trust schools, we **will not under any circumstances** leave a volunteer unsupervised, unless they have been subject to the additional safeguarding vetting checks required for a person to undertake regulated activity. (see below)

6. Volunteer vetting process

All of The Futures Trust schools have adopted a robust recruitment and vetting procedure in respect of volunteers.

Governors

Articles 78 and 80 of the Futures Trust Articles of Association require all Governors at Schools within the Trust to undergo an enhanced DBS Check and Children's barred list check. All of the checks listed below in respect of volunteers will also be undertaken and satisfactory responses received before any Governor appointment may be confirmed.

Occasional Volunteers

Occasional volunteers who have not been subject to all the trust safeguarding checks, must be accompanied at all times by a member of staff and will wear a red lanyard.

Regular Volunteers

In line with the *Crime and Policing Act 2026*, the previous "supervision exemption" no longer applies. A volunteer is legally deemed to be in regulated activity – regardless of whether they are supervised or unsupervised – if they perform any of the following duties:

- **Frequent Activity:** Teaching, training, instructing, caring for, or supervising children on more than 3 days in any 30-day period.
- **Overnight Activity:** Taking part in any overnight stay with children between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am.

The following information must be provided, and safeguarding checks must be completed by HR, before a volunteer can commence any placement that falls within regulated activity:

- Receipt of a completed and signed application form (including the updated statutory consent declaration)
- Receipt of a completed and signed Volunteer Agreement
- Enhanced DBS check including Children's Barred List information
- Disclosure of Criminal Record Declaration Form
- Receipt of two satisfactory references
- An informal interview to gauge the applicant's aptitude and suitability
- Where relevant, completion of a Disqualification Declaration



- Verification of legal right to live and work in the UK
- Verification of Identity
- Online Check

Once HR have confirmed that all safeguarding checks have been satisfactorily completed and the volunteer is approved to support in school on an unaccompanied basis, the volunteer placement leader will be informed and the volunteer will be assigned a green lanyard for an approved visitor.

The checks and the results of the checks undertaken will be recorded on the School's Single Central Record.

Any information obtained by the School for the purpose of vetting volunteers will be confidential, and relevant information relating to the checks stored and processed for that purpose and relevant safeguarding purposes only. The information will be stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR. The School undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

7. Induction

Volunteers can expect to be provided with the following as part of their induction to the School and the activity/activities that they will be carrying out:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2026 Part 1: Safeguarding information for all staff
- A copy of this Policy including all appendices
- The School's Safeguarding and Child Protection, Guidance on Safer Working Practices and Dignity at Work, Health and Safety, Whistleblowing, ICT Acceptable Use, Information Security, and Data Protection Policies
- A copy of the School's Statement of Procedures for Dealing with Allegations made against / Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors and the School's Code of Conduct
- Training and instruction with regard to how to safely and effectively carry out the activity/activities that they are to undertake
- The opportunity to ask any questions or to express any concerns that they may have
- The name of the person/s to inform should any concerns subsequently arise

8. Health and Safety

The Trust has a Health and Safety Policy a copy of which will be provided to you at your induction. When volunteering it is the School's expectation that you will take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of any person that may be affected by your acts and omissions (failure to act).



The School will ensure that volunteers are covered for insurance purposes in respect of personal injury, and the School also holds public liability insurance. The School's insurance will not cover unauthorised actions or actions outside the Volunteer Agreement.

9. Data Protection and Confidentiality

When volunteering for the School you may become aware of information relating to matters which are confidential, such as the attainment of pupils, their attitudes, behaviour and special needs, or information relating to other School staff. You must not relay anything confidential that you have seen or heard when volunteering. This includes relaying information to parents/carers, other members of the School community, the press or to the public, for example using social media. The School has well defined procedures for informing parents/carers of any concerns, and will be the first to discuss any concerns with them.

If you have any concerns in relation to the safeguarding of children or young people you should immediately notify the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with section 1 of this Policy above.

10. Use of mobile phones and other electronic devices whilst volunteering

You will not be permitted to use your mobile phone whilst volunteering, and must never seek to photograph or record images of pupils or staff on a mobile phone or any other personal device.

11. Sharing of personal information

You must never give any of your personal contact details to pupils, and must never obtain or accept contact details from pupils for example a social media request.

12. Code of Conduct and Dress Code

When volunteering you will be representing the School and will be a role model for our pupils. You must adhere to the standards set out in the Trust's Code of Conduct, a copy of which you will receive, and must dress in a manner which is appropriate for the volunteer activity you are carrying out; which is safe and appropriate dress for working with pupils.

13. Right to dignity and respect

All staff and volunteers are required to treat all adults and children that they come into contact with during the course of their role with dignity and respect, and are entitled to expect this in return.



A copy of the Trust's Dignity at Work Policy can be accessed via the HR Support Page or from the School Office.

The Trust's procedure which can be used in circumstances where a volunteer wishes to make a complaint is set out below.

14. Complaints Procedure

If a volunteer or volunteer applicant wishes to make a complaint in respect of any aspect of their treatment by staff carrying out work for the School, their treatment by pupils or the application of this Policy, they should detail their concerns in writing and address them to the Headteacher/Central Team Leader.

Where the concerns relate to the Headteacher/Central Team Leader, they should be addressed to the Chair of the Governing Body. In order to seek to resolve any concerns they must be raised in a timely manner. Complaints will be managed in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Procedure, a copy of which can be accessed via the School's website or obtained from the School Office.

15. Insurance

The School has insurance cover in place for volunteers. The insurance will not cover unauthorised actions or actions outside of the Volunteer Agreement. Volunteers will never be authorised to transport pupils in a vehicle which does not belong to the School, or to transport pupils in a vehicle that does. The School will not engage volunteer drivers.

16. Expenses

Volunteers are not expected to incur and as such are not eligible to receive expenses.

17. Monitoring

The Chief Executive Officer and Board of Trustees are responsible for monitoring the implementation, use and effectiveness of this policy and will receive a report on these matters annually or more frequently if necessary.

The Futures Trust is committed to ensuring that everyone is able to access and understand this policy. Appropriate support and guidance will be provided where required. You may raise any questions in relation to this policy with HR.



18. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Volunteer Application Form and Equality Monitoring Form

Confidential

The Futures Trust and its Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all volunteers to share this commitment.

Any person wishing to volunteer will be subject to the School's vetting process as detailed in section 5 of the School's Volunteer Policy.

Before completing this application please ensure that you have read the Volunteer Policy and Agreement, and that you are able to satisfy the expectations and requirements stated.

Personal details

Full name and title	
Current address including postcode	
Contact telephone numbers	
Email address	

In the event of an emergency who should we contact on your behalf?

Full name and title	
Contact telephone numbers	
Relationship to you	

Supporting you

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	YES / NO (please circle)
If yes please describe	
If there are any areas of support or reasonable adjustments that you may require to enable you to volunteer please provide details:	



References

Before we engage volunteers who will carry out activities more than once a term, or who will be undertaking regulated activity, it is our policy to require the receipt of two references that are satisfactory to the School. Depending on your circumstances, one of your referees must be:

- Your **current employer** (if you are currently employed);
- Your **most recent employer** (if you are currently unemployed but have worked previously);
- A representative from your **school, college or university** (if you are a student or recent school leaver);
- A **professional character reference** who is willing to support your application (if you have no employment history).

The reference pro-forma in Appendix C of the Volunteer Policy will be used for the purpose of obtaining references.

Referee 1	
Full name and title	
Position	
Relationship to you	
Address including postcode	
Email address	

Referee 2	
Full name and title	
Position	
Relationship to you	
Address including postcode	
Email address	



Please detail the types of volunteer activity you are able to undertake, and any particular skills, abilities, knowledge or experience that you may be able to contribute to enhance learning experiences and outcomes for pupils:

--

In the boxes below please provide a 10 year employment and education history in date order, most recent first. Please include periods of full and part-time work, voluntary work and time spent in education or training. Give start and end dates, reasons for leaving employment and explanations for periods not in employment, education or training.

Job title or education or training being undertaken. State whether part or full time.	Date from: dd/mm/yyyy	Date to: dd/mm/yyyy	Full name and address of employer, educational institution or description of activity	Reason for leaving

Please include a continuation sheet if necessary.



Volunteer Enhanced DBS Consent

☐

I understand that from 1 September 2026, the *Crime and Policing Act 2026* requires an Enhanced DBS check with children's barred list information for any volunteer teaching, training, instructing, caring for, or supervising children on more than 3 days in any 30-day period, or participating in an overnight stay between 2am and 6am. I consent to the school processing this check if my volunteering meets these criteria, and I understand I cannot undertake a regulated role if I am barred from working with children.

Online Check Declaration

To meet our Safeguarding commitments all volunteers are subject to an Online Check. By consenting below you acknowledge and agree to a review of your publicly available information (via platforms such as Google, Facebook, X, TikTok, Instagram). A check will be undertaken to identify any incidents or issues that have occurred, and are publicly available online, which the school may want to explore.

☐

I consent to an Online Check being undertaken.

Declaration & Privacy Notice Acknowledgement

I declare that the information provided in this application form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge at the time of writing. I understand that providing false or misleading information, or deliberately omitting material facts, may result in the withdrawal of any offer to volunteer or the immediate termination of my volunteer placement with the School.

I acknowledge that the information provided will be processed, stored, and used securely by the Trust/School for the recruitment, selection, and administrative purposes set out in the Volunteer Policy and School Privacy Notice.

Print name:.....

Signed:..... **Date:**.....



Volunteer Equality Monitoring Form

The information on this equality monitoring form is for equality monitoring purposes only. The form will be detached from your application and the information stored to enable the School to monitor and review its practices in relation to equality.

Age _____

Ethnic Group	Workforce census code		Please tick
White	WBRI	British English Welsh Northern Irish Scottish	
	WIRI	Irish	
	OOTH	Irish Traveler	
	OOTH	Gypsy	
	WOTH	Other White background	
Mixed	MWBC	White and Black Caribbean	
	MWBA	White and Black African	
	MWAS	White and Asian	
	MOTH	Other Mixed background	
Asian or Asian British	AIND	Indian	
	APKN	Pakistani	
	ABAN	Bangladeshi	
	CHNE	Chinese	
	AOTH	Other Asian Background	
Black or Black British	BCRB	Caribbean	
	BAFR	African	
	BOTH	Other Black background	
Other ethnic group	OOTH	Arab	
	Write in:		
Prefer not to say	REFU		

Gender	Please tick	Sexual orientation	Please tick	Personal relationships	Please tick
Female		Bi-sexual		Single	
Male		Gay		Living together	
Prefer not to say		Lesbian		Married	
		Heterosexual		Civil Partnership	
		Prefer not to say		Prefer not to say	

Religion	Please tick	Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Please tick
No religion		Yes (please complete the grid below)	
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)		No	
Buddhist		Prefer not to say	
Hindu		My disability is: Please tick	
Jewish		Physical impairment	
Muslim		Sensory impairment	
Sikh		Mental health condition	
Any other religion Write in:		Learning disability/ Difficulty	
Prefer not to say		Long standing illness	
		Other Write in:	
		Prefer not to say	



APPENDIX B: Volunteer Agreement

The school's Volunteer Policy forms a part of this Agreement. By signing this Agreement and undertaking volunteer activities for the School, you agree to adhere to all aspects of the Volunteer Policy and to comply with reasonable expectations therein. The Volunteer Policy and this Agreement set out reasonable expectations and are not intended to be legally binding. When fulfilling a volunteer opportunity you will not be a worker for, or employee of, the School.

As a volunteer the School will provide the following for you:

- An induction in accordance with section 6 of the Volunteer Policy, including training and instruction with regard to how to safely and effectively carry out the activity/activities you are to undertake
- A named placement leader or supervisor/s
- Insurance cover (The insurance will not cover unauthorised actions or actions outside of this Agreement)
- The implementation of policies and practices to ensure your health and safety, and your right to dignity and respect
- The implementation of the Complaints Procedure in section 14 of the Volunteer Policy, if circumstances arise in which you wish to make a complaint in respect of any aspect of your treatment by staff carrying out work for the School, your treatment by pupils or the application of the Volunteer Policy.

In undertaking volunteer activities for the School, you understand and agree that you will act in accordance with the expectations of the Volunteer Policy and Agreement at all times. In particular you will:

- Fulfil your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people at all times;
- Immediately report any safeguarding concerns including health and safety concerns that may arise;
- Treat information obtained from being a volunteer as strictly confidential, and not relay anything confidential that you have seen or heard when volunteering;
- Fulfil any volunteering opportunities that you agree to undertake, and where due to unforeseen circumstances this will no longer be possible, give as much notice of this to the School as you are able to;
- Follow reasonable instruction and ask for assistance if you are ever unsure regarding any aspect of the volunteer activities you are undertaking, or any concerns that you may have.

I understand and agree to the reasonable expectations in this Agreement

Print name:

Signed: **Date:**.....



APPENDIX C: Volunteer Reference Request Pro-Forma (for School use)

Dear [insert name],

Volunteer reference request

[insert name] has applied to undertake volunteer activities at [name] School, and has named you as a referee.

The Futures Trust and the Governing Body welcome volunteers from the local community who are able to make a positive contribution to the School, by giving freely of their time and talents to enhance learning experiences and outcomes for pupils.

The Trust and the School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all volunteers to share this commitment.

The School will only engage volunteers whom it is satisfied are willing and able to safeguard pupils, and to fulfil the expectations and requirements of the volunteer role that has arisen.

Opportunities to volunteer may arise in respect of a one-off activity, for example accompanying School visits, or may take the form of a more regular activity, for example listening to children read or becoming a member of the Governing Body.

We would be grateful if you could please take the time to provide the information below, to enable the School to consider whether [insert name] will be a suitable volunteer.

1. Please describe your position, your relationship to the applicant and how they are known to you.

--

2. How long have you known the applicant?

--

3. Do you know of any reason/s why the applicant would not be suitable to work with children or young people? (please circle)

Yes

No



4. If you have answered yes please state the reason/s below.

5. Please comment on the applicant's suitability to undertake volunteer work, and include any information that may be relevant to assist us in assessing the applicant.

I hereby certify that all of the information given by me on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Print name:

Signed:

Date:

Contact Telephone Number:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this reference. Please provide a contact telephone number/s to enable us to contact you if we have any questions in relation to the information you have provided.

The School is committed to equality of opportunity and values diversity. As such the accessibility of opportunities to volunteer will be managed, monitored and reviewed with due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Duty.



APPENDIX D: Volunteer Checklist (for School use)

It is crucial that volunteers are made aware of and understand the School's expectations in respect of their conduct whilst volunteering.

You must ensure that the appropriate vetting process set out in section 6 of the Volunteer Policy is adhered to.

The following checklist **must** be completed and signed by the person/s responsible for the volunteer. Where each requirement is complete please tick; where not applicable state N/A. When complete please send this form to the HR Team via HRqueries@thefuturetrust.org.uk

Name of volunteer:

Name of person/s responsible for the volunteer and position/s:

.....

Vetting requirements

Receipt of a completed and signed application form	
Receipt of a completed and signed Volunteer Agreement	
An informal interview to gauge the applicant's aptitude and suitability took place with [name].....on [date].....	
Where relevant, completion of a Disqualification Declaration	
Receipt of Enhanced DBS check with a barred list check	
Receipt of two satisfactory references	
Completion of a Disclosure of Criminal Record Declaration	
Verification of legal right to live and work in the UK	
Verification of Identity	
Online Check	

Induction – All volunteers must be provided with the following:

Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1: Safeguarding information for all staff	
The TFT Volunteer Policy including all appendices	
The School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy	



The TFT Health and Safety Policy	
A copy of the TFT Statement of Procedures for Dealing with Allegations made against / Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors and the School's Code of Conduct	
A copy of the Guidance on Safer Working Practices	
The TFT Dignity at Work Guidance	
The TFT Whistleblowing Policy	
The TFT ICT Acceptable Use Policy	
The TFT Information Security Policy	
The TFT Data Protection Policy	
Training and instruction with regard to how to safely and effectively carry out the activity/activities that they are to undertake	
The opportunity to ask any questions or to express any concerns they may have	
The name of the person/s to inform should any concerns subsequently arise	

When volunteering on a regular basis the volunteer should also be asked to complete online NSPCC Child Protection training and online Prevent training. Consideration should also be given as to any further relevant information that the volunteer may require depending upon the nature of the activities they will undertake.

I confirm that I understand my responsibilities in relation to the above volunteer and that the information provided in this checklist is accurate.

Name:

Job Title:

Signature:

Date: