



JOB DESCRIPTION	
DIRECTORATE: Support	JOB TITLE: Volunteer Helper
1.	<p>PURPOSE OF JOB:</p> <p>In the classroom, your volunteer work could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to children read. Reading is an extremely important skill for children to learn but can be difficult to acquire. Any time and help that you can give could make a huge difference to children's future achievement levels in school. Additionally, you might be asked to read to children — this can be of great benefit to their language and literacy development. • Sharing your professional skills. For example, if you're a doctor, you could talk about healthy living to give children an up-to-date, specialist perspective on an area of the curriculum. • Helping on school trips. Schools need a certain number of adults to go with them on trips, but they can't always spare the teaching staff. If you can make up the numbers, it means they have the opportunity to give children these enriching experiences that they may not otherwise be able to have. • Taking on classroom assistant duties. To support the teacher, volunteer classroom assistants might check children's planners, get them settled as they arrive in the morning, photocopy worksheets, design displays, answer questions in the lesson, work one-to-one or in small groups, and do story time. This gives the teacher more time to focus on teaching the lesson content — together, you can make an excellent team. <p>Volunteers in education settings help to improve the learning experience, and often have an impact even after they have left. They aren't accountable for the outcomes of the children they work with in the same way that teachers are, meaning that their roles can offer a way to work in education without the pressure of a permanent job.</p> <p>Volunteers might be parents, college or university students, or other adults in the local area — you don't need any experience working with children in order to become one.</p>
2.	<p>BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS</p> <p>The benefits of being a volunteer in school can be wide-ranging, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining experience — if you're thinking of starting a career in education, the experience of working in a school before you commit to it can help you decide if the career path is right for you. You will have the opportunity to work with and observe experienced teachers, get to know the curriculum, and develop the necessary skills for more permanent roles. To future employers, your time as a volunteer will show your interest in the role, as well as giving you practical examples of situations to talk about in interviews. It may even be the case that roles come up at the school you're volunteering in — and having an existing good reputation with them means that you could be their first choice.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving outcomes — One of the reasons that volunteer roles are so popular is that they're extremely rewarding. Volunteers feel as though they can make a difference, whether that's in making lessons more interesting, helping a child learn to read, or making sure there are enough adults to accompany the class on an exciting trip. Schools are always appreciative of the work that volunteers do for them. • Helping your own child — Some parents might volunteer at school when their child has just started in Reception, in order to help them have an easier transition. Others might see that an area of the school is lacking and have the skills to improve it — for example, being a governor allows you to get involved in the school's strategic direction and have an impact on its long-term success. • Improving your wellbeing — One of the NHS' five ways to wellbeing is giving back to the community. Volunteering makes us feel good about ourselves and enriches our mental health. Working with children and young people can be an enriching experience — their innovative perspectives on life can be both entertaining and inspiring.
<p>3.</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS</p> <p>Before you volunteer in a school, it's useful to know what is required of you. Below, we will discuss the different requirements and the skills that you may need to succeed in your volunteer role include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of and commitment to safeguarding children. • Enthusiasm and a can-do attitude. • A good work ethic. • Friendliness. • Passion for education or helping others. • Excellent people skills (and perhaps experience working with children or young people).
<p>4.</p>	<p>We will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your reasons for applying. • Your previous experience, qualifications, skills, or training (including previous voluntary work experience). • Expectations of roles and responsibilities. • Child protection issues. • Previous convictions (if relevant) • References and their relationship to you. • Your availability. <p>You will need a DBS check before you begin your role. This is a check of your criminal record, which will show details of all spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands, and final warnings held on central police records.</p> <p>After this, we will provide you with relevant training, which may include safeguarding training, as well as an induction programme where you will be given a point of contact who you can contact whenever you have questions or concerns.</p>