

# St Clare's Catholic Primary School



## Volunteer Policy

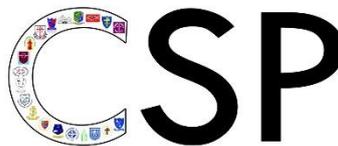
*"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"*

(John 10:10)

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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The  
Catholic Schools Partnership



A Teaching School Alliance  
of Bradford & Keighley

## **Introduction**

When children enter St Clare's Catholic Primary School, teachers, parents and volunteers must become partners in facilitating children's learning. One of the most important things we can do for children is to allow them to see parents, volunteers and teachers working together. This helps children realise that there is a bond between home, community and school. Volunteers, parents and other caregivers who work in school come to understand children's education better.

School volunteers serve under the direction of school staff to meet the needs of pupils. There are many opportunities for volunteers to become involved in our school. Contact the school office.

When parents volunteer in school, some children are not ready to have their parents in the classroom with them. We therefore do not allow parents to volunteer in their child's class. In these cases, it is better for the parent to volunteer in another area of the school.

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is of the utmost importance in your association with teachers and students. Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality. Any concerns that volunteers have about the children they work with / come into contact with, should be voiced with the teacher or headteacher and NOT with the parents of the child / persons outside of the school. You are in a unique position when you volunteer in the classroom to have information that is not to be shared. You may not discuss a child even with that child's parents.

If it is a comment which a child makes which gives rise to concerns, then the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead should be informed directly. Comments regarding children's behaviour or learning can be highly sensitive, and if taken out of context, can cause distress to the parents of a child if they hear about such issues through a third party rather than directly from the school.

## **Child Protection**

While you are in the classroom children may say things to you or you may receive a comment or notice a change in behaviour or mark that cause you concern. If this happens then you must inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads: Carmel Utting, Janet Bell and Lauren Wainwright. If they are not available or your concern means the child may be in significant harm, then follow the flow chart that is situated in the staff room, also see Appendix A.

Volunteers who are concerned about anything another adult in the school does or says should raise the matter immediately with the headteacher.

Concerns around the headteacher should be raised immediately with the Chair of Governors.

## **Health and Safety**

The school has a Health & Safety Policy, and this is made available on request to volunteers. Teachers ensure that volunteers are clear about emergency procedures (e.g. fire alarm evacuation) and about any safety aspects associated with a specific task. Volunteers are expected to exercise due care and attention and report any obvious hazards or concerns to the teacher or headteacher.

## **Volunteers during school hours**

When you are volunteering at St Clare's Catholic Primary School, you are demonstrating your support for education. Please understand that in academic settings it is important to be able to give your full attention to the task at hand. For this reason, do not bring any children with you when you are volunteering during school hours.

### **Language/Behaviour/Dress**

Remember teachers, staff and volunteers are role models for the children around us. "Little eyes" are watching, listening and learning appropriate behaviour from our actions.

Inappropriate language, dress or discussions are not allowed on the school premises or on fieldtrips.

### **Classroom disruptions**

Please conduct all private conversations outside of the classroom. Teachers need the attention of the students to direct the instruction. Extraneous conversations distract from the task at hand. Remember that conversations in the hallways may act as a distraction as well.

### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones are to be turned off and held securely whilst in the classrooms. If you need to be reached by external contacts whilst in school, this should be via the school office. Please let the school office know you are expecting a call and office staff will contact you.

### **Smoking**

The whole of the school premises is strictly a non-smoking site, this includes vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes.

### **Discipline**

Volunteers must not discipline or use corporal punishment on students. Discipline is solely the responsibility of teaching staff. Teaching staff are professionals whose responsibility it is to plan the course of study and see that it is implemented. The volunteer role always works under the direction of school staff to HELP, not replace, the teaching professionals.

### **Students treat volunteers with respect**

At St Clare's Catholic Primary School we believe all adults should be respectful to children and children are always expected to be respectful in return. If on any occasion you are treated disrespectfully, tell the teacher or the headteacher as soon as possible. Children should call you Mr., Ms. or Mrs., but should not address you by your first name.

### **Complaints**

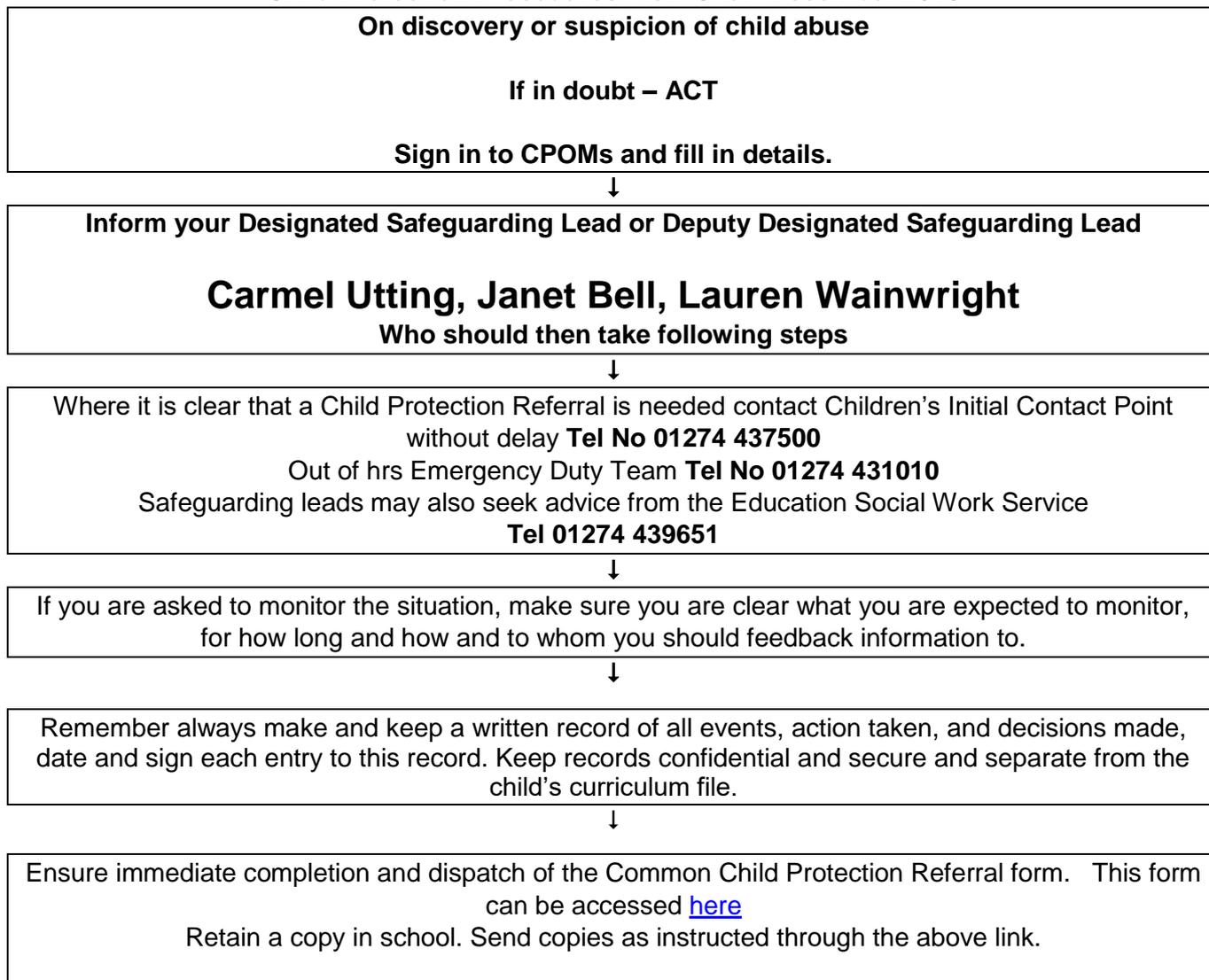
Any complaints made about a volunteer will be referred to the headteacher for investigation. Any complaints made by a volunteer should be referred to the headteacher.

The headteacher reserves the right to take the following action:

- To speak with a volunteer about a breach of the Volunteer Agreement
- Offer an alternative placement for a volunteer, e.g. helping with another activity or in another class
- Inform the volunteer that the school no longer wishes to use them

This policy has been approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed annually and updated in the light of new guidance from the DFE.

### Child Protection Procedures Flow Chart December 2018



#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Children’s Social Care Initial Contact Point: 01274 437500  
Emergency Duty Team: 01274 431010  
Education Social Work Service: 01274 439651  
Children’s Specialist Services: 01274 435600  
Police: Javelin House, Child Protection Unit: 01274 376061  
**Immediate risk of harm 999**  
Prevent Coordinator, Michael Churley 01274 432816

# Volunteer Agreement

Thank you for offering your services as a volunteer at St Clare's Catholic Primary School. Your offer of help and support is greatly appreciated, and we hope that you will gain much from your experience here.

Please read and sign this Volunteer Agreement and hand it in at the school office, you will receive a copy of it for your records.

- I have received a copy of the schools' Volunteer Policy
- I have received a copy of Keeping Children Safe in Education, Part 1, Annex A, What to do if you're worried a child is being abused and the schools' Child Protection and Safeguarding and Behaviour policies
- I agree to and support the schools' commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in school
- I agree to treat information I learn from being a volunteer as strictly confidential
- I understand that I am required to undergo all relevant safer recruitment checks including a criminal record check and agree to advise the school of any changes which may affect my suitability to work in school

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_