



Rochdale Islamic Academy
inspire - believe - achieve

G I R L S ' S C H O O L

VOLUNTEER POLICY

Reviewed: July 2023

Next Review: July 2024

Approved by Board of Trustees: July 2023

VOLUNTEER WORKING IN SCHOOL POLICY

The school's volunteer policy is part of the school's safeguarding systems.

INTRODUCTION

Volunteers at our school bring with them a range of skills and experience that can enhance the learning opportunities of pupils. The school, therefore, welcomes and encourages volunteers from the local community.

Our volunteers include:

- Trustees
- Parents of pupils
- Ex-pupils
- Students on work experience
- University students
- Ex-members of staff
- Local residents
- Friends of the school

The types of activities that volunteers engage in, on behalf of the school, include:

- Working with small groups of pupils to assist them in their learning.
- Working alongside individual pupils, as an additional tutor.
- Accompanying school visits.

SAFEGUARDING

Rochdale Islamic Academy is committed to safeguarding pupils, young people and vulnerable adults and expects its volunteers to share that commitment.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer, either for a one-off event such as a school visit or on a more regular basis, e.g., hearing pupils read, usually approaches the school office or Headteacher. Volunteers should complete the *Volunteer Application Form* (Appendix 1) with their contact details, types of activities they would like to help with, and the times they are available to help.

DEFINITION

Activity which is described as 'frequent' or 'intensive' covers the meaning given in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

'frequent' – once a week or more often on an ongoing basis; and

'intensive' – three or more occasions in a 30-day period, or overnight (between 2am – 6am).

PROCESS FOR RECRUITING VOLUNTEER WHO WILL BE WORKING FREQUENTLY OR INTENSIVELY

1. Identify the need and role.

2. Attract candidates by means of a local advert/school communication system.
3. The candidate/s attend the school for an informal discussion to ensure the applicant is suitable for the role.
4. Enhanced DBS check undertaken.
5. The volunteer will be made aware of the role and responsibilities they will be undertaking.
6. If appropriate one reference should be sought where the volunteer arrangement will continue ON a regular basis.
7. Induction- school policies and documentation explained and issued. These to include Health and Safety, Behaviour Management Policies, Staff Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy
8. Safeguarding - all volunteers to complete online safeguarding course prior to taking up post at the school.
9. Volunteer records to be kept in a central place within the school.

Before starting to help in a school, a volunteer should complete the *Volunteer Agreement* (Appendix 2), which sets out the school's expectations of its volunteer and to confirm they have received a copy of this Agreement. The school will seek DBS clearance for a volunteer **before** they come into school, to make an informed decision when accepting volunteers to work with children. This is not required where a volunteer is engaged in a 'one-off' activity (please refer to Child Protection/Safeguarding policy)

OUR SCHOOL AIMS

All adults / young people who work in our school, whether a paid member of staff, or a volunteer are expected to work and behave in such a way as to actively promote our school aims and educational purpose, as identified below.

- Support the Islamic ethos of the school.
- Nourish the diverse talents of our pupils, widen their horizons, and develop their appetite for learning.
- Bring to an individual the feeling that they can cope with their environment with a sense of confidence in themselves as a significant, competent person.
- Encourage pupils to feel capable of handling situations which challenge their intellectual, personal, spiritual, and moral values.
- Encourage pupils to show tolerance of others.
- Equip pupils to cope with adult life and work in a fast-changing society.

Our educational purpose is:

- To teach the national curriculum in a manner which excites the interest and commitment of the pupils and meets their present and future needs.
- To develop attitudes, skills and knowledge which will be relevant to our learners as they prepare to meet the expectations of a changing society. We regard personal development as a lifelong learning process.
- To value all pupils equally whatever their stage of development and offer experiences which give them the maximum opportunities for success.
- To afford all pupils equality of opportunity and to ensure that they are not discriminated against on the grounds of class, colour, gender, religion, or disability.
- To provide a partnership between schools, parents, and the wider community to enhance the quality of teaching and learning at the school.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality. Any concerns that volunteers have about the pupils they work with/come into contact with should be voiced with the designated supervisor and NOT with the parents of the child/persons.

Volunteers who are concerned about anything in the school, which may affect their work should raise the matter with the Headteacher or appropriate senior member of staff. Any information gained at the school about a child or adult should remain confidential.

SUPERVISION

All volunteers work under the supervision of a teacher or full-time member of staff. Teachers always retain ultimate responsibility for pupils, including the pupils' behaviour and the activity they are undertaking.

Volunteers should have clear guidance from the designated supervisor as to how an activity is carried out/what the expected outcome of an activity is. In the event of any query/problem regarding the pupil's understanding of a task, behaviour or their welfare, volunteers must seek further advice/guidance from their designated supervisor.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The school has a Health & Safety Policy, and this is made available to volunteers working in the school. An appropriate member of staff will ensure that volunteers are clear about emergency procedures (e.g., Fire Alarm Evacuation) and about any safety aspects associated with particular tasks (e.g., using equipment/accompanying pupils on visits). Volunteers need to exercise due care and attention and report any obvious hazards or concerns to the designated Supervisor/Headteacher. Volunteers are covered by RIA's Health & Safety Policy, indemnity and Public Liability Insurance.

CHILD PROTECTION

The welfare of our pupils is paramount. To ensure the safety of our pupils, we adopt the following procedures:

- All volunteers are given a copy of the Volunteer Policy and asked to sign a *Volunteer Agreement* (Appendix 2)
- All our volunteers must have been cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). A DBS will be issued to the individual to present to the designated member of staff in school.
- Where a volunteer is engaged in a 'one-off' activity e.g., helping supervise a group of pupils as part of a class visit, no formal checks are required. However, such volunteers, who will be under the constant supervision of school staff, must read and sign our *Off-Site Visit Agreement* (Appendix 3).
- Any concerns a volunteer has, about child protection issues, should be referred to the designated supervisor or Head Teacher.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Any complaints made about a volunteer will be referred to the Headteacher or a member of the SLT, for investigation. Any complaints made by a volunteer will be dealt with in the same way.

The Headteacher or designated member of staff reserves the right to take the following action:

- To speak with a volunteer about a breach of the Volunteer Agreement and seek reassurance that this will not happen again.
- Offer an alternative placement for a volunteer, e.g., helping with another activity or in another class.
- Based upon the facts identified in the investigation it may be necessary for the school to inform the volunteer that the school no longer wishes to use them.
- Provide the volunteer with a copy of the school's full Complaints Procedure

APPENDIX 1

Volunteer Application Form

Welcome to Rochdale Islamic Academy. Thank you for applying to volunteer with us and for giving your time generously to support children.

The information that you provide on this form will be handled and stored in accordance with current Data Protection legislation.

POSITION: Please indicate which volunteer role you are applying for:		
Surname:	Forename:	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other:
Have you used other names? If so, please state what they were:		
D.O.B:	Occupation:	
E-mail address :		
Tel (mobile):	Tel (work):	Tel (home):
Address:		
Nationality:	Religion:	
Languages Spoken:		
Have you previously worked or volunteered with us? If yes, please specify details:		
How/where did you hear about this volunteer role?		

Next of kin name and relation to you:	Next of kin contact telephone number:
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EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

Name of Institution	Qualification (GCSE / A Level / Degree)	Date	Result

Please use a continuation sheet if necessary.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (Please include any previous placements or work experience)

Dates (month/ year)	Name of Employer	Position held	Duties	Reason for leaving
From				
To				
From				
To				
From				
To				
From				
To				

Please use a continuation sheet if necessary

Please give reasons for any gaps in employment:
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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Briefly tell us a little more about yourself and why you have chosen to volunteer at the school:
Please mention any special skills or experience that you bring to the role and explain what you want to achieve from volunteering.

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Potential weekly availability to volunteer

Day(s): **Hours:**

For how long (Six months/ a year etc):

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REFERENCES

Please give details of two referees, one employment reference and one character reference. Please let your referees know that we may contact them.

Name: Position: E-mail address: Telephone:	
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Name:	
Position:	
E-mail address:	
Telephone:	

DISCLOSURE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS – REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS ACT 1974

The appointment of any volunteer who may have contact with or access to children or vulnerable adults will be subject to the receipt of a satisfactory disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. The presence of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent involvement with Rochdale Islamic Academy.

Please make the following declaration and mark the appropriate box.

I have nothing to declare	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have information to declare, and I have submitted details	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECLARATION

I understand that any offer of a volunteer position will be subject to the information on this application form being complete and correct. I authorise Rochdale Islamic Academy to make any appropriate checks that may be necessary in relation to the role I have applied for. False information, or a failure to supply the details required in this application form, could make an offer of a volunteer position invalid or lead to termination of the volunteer position.

I agree that during the course of my volunteering with Rochdale Islamic Academy, and at all times thereafter, I will keep confidential any information, however obtained, concerning the business, personnel, supporters, or beneficiaries of Rochdale Islamic Academy or of any of its subsidiary or associated companies, and I will not disclose any such information to any other party without Rochdale Islamic Academy prior written consent. Furthermore, I agree that I will not use any such information for my own purposes or for the purposes of any third party.

Upon termination of my volunteering (for whatever reason) I agree that I will surrender to Rochdale Islamic Academy all documents, copy documents, notes and other memoranda in my possession relating to Rochdale Islamic Academy, its supporters or any other associated individual, organisation or company.

I agree to abide by Rochdale Islamic Academy School’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

I agree that personal data relating to me, which has been or is obtained by Rochdale Islamic Academy, including personal data given by me on this form, may be held and processed either on computer or in manual records.

It may be disclosed to authorised employees of Rochdale Islamic Academy and used by Rochdale Islamic Academy for any purpose relating to my application.

By submitting this application form, I give my permission to the storage and processing of sensitive personal information by Rochdale Islamic Academy.

Signed:	Print Name:	Date:
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If you are completing this form electronically, please type your name to indicate signature.

APPENDIX 2

OFF-SITE VISITS VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

School trips are an integral part of learning at our school and afford many pupils opportunities which are outside their usual experiences. We are pleased that you have come forward as a volunteer helper; you will have an important role to play in the success and safety of this school trip.

Please read and return this appendix, and sign and return the helper's slip.

This is part of our school's risk assessment planning and safeguarding arrangements.

ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER HELPER

- To be responsible and look after, in equal measure, all the pupils in your group under the instruction of the Leader of the school trip.
- To stay with your allocated group of pupils, ensuring that their wellbeing and safety is maintained for the total duration of the school trip.
- To promote polite, respectful, and courteous behaviour towards each other and members of the public. We all go as ambassadors of our school!
- To ensure that your group keep up with the body of the school visit party, be it walking, entering, or exiting from transportation or following speakers for the trip.
- To contact your child's class teacher/member of staff if there are issues with first aid, safety and/or behaviour.

WORKING ALONGSIDE SCHOOL STAFF

School staff expect volunteer helpers to:

- Comply with all of the above whilst being under the direct supervision of school staff.
- Show a commitment to their group, an interest in the focus of the visit and assist pupils in their learning by helping them to read signs/labels/information, asking questions that encourage pupils to think about the task and help to explain the areas of interest.
- Follow guidance from the school staff.

WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED

- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to bring additional children e.g., siblings or children in the care of the volunteer on the school trip.
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol, or engage in any illegal practices whilst undertaking their volunteer duties.
- Volunteer helpers are not permitted to take photographs of pupils.
- Volunteer helpers are not allowed to give/buy their group treats e.g., ice creams, biscuits, sweets – before, during or after the school trip.

FIRST AID

You will be informed if any child in your group has medication/needs. If medicine needs to be administered, this will be done by a member of staff unless you are the Parent/ Carer of the child who requires medicine, in which case you will be asked to administer this and be responsible for carrying the medicine.

All other medicines and first aid box(es) will be carried by staff.

EMERGENCIES

You are expected to inform a member of staff as soon as possible.

If you have become separated from the rest of the school party, please telephone one of the members of staff on your contact list or telephone the school.

- I have read the Volunteer Policy
- I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in the policy.
- I will support the young people in enjoying the trip and actively contribute to the smooth running of the event.
- I will treat any information I may hear about pupils as confidential and will not discuss or disclose it out of school.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

APPENDIX 3

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Thank you for offering your services as a volunteer at school.

Your offer of help is greatly appreciated, and we hope that you will gain much from your experience.

Please read and sign this Volunteer Agreement Sheet and hand it in at school.

You will receive a copy of it for your records.

- I have received a copy of the School's Volunteer Policy
- I agree to support the School's Aims
- I agree to treat information obtained from being a Volunteer in School as **Strictly Confidential**
- I understand that an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be undertaken.
- If you already have a DBS Certificate, please hand it to the school, the number will be recorded, and checks made with the issuing body. A new enhanced DBS check must be undertaken.
- I have been made aware of who is my designated supervisor e.g., Class Teacher, Member of SLT, Headteacher.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____