

Trent CE Primary School Governing Body

Work Experience Policy



Kindness Thankfulness Perseverance

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” Inspired by Jesus’ example, the Trent school community aims to serve one another in love.

We show **kindness** to others because God has shown us great kindness.

We live **thankful** lives, because every good thing comes from God.

We **persevere**, not giving up, because God is our helper.

Approved by committee/GB	Resources
Ratified by GB	February 2025 (awaiting ratification)
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Statement of intent

At Trent School, we believe that work experience is an important learning opportunity for young people. Work experience at our school allows individuals to prepare for the social interaction, professional values, daily routines and general demands of a role at this school.

As well as benefitting the volunteer who undertakes the work experience, we believe that this opportunity can also benefit pupils. Young people on work experience can bring enthusiasm, practical help and increased engagement to the classroom.

The benefits of work experience mean that the school is committed to providing opportunities for work experience within the school wherever this is possible and practical, and where this does not interfere with the quality of teaching and learning provided to our pupils.

This policy sets out the practices and procedures which will be followed when young people undertake work experience at the school. This allows our school to provide a safe environment and positive educational climate for all pupils.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Acceptable User Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Staff Handbook
- Volunteer Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring and reviewing it annually.
- Ensuring all work experience activities are planned properly and safely, and that these plans are communicated to young people undertaking work experience at the school.
- Ensuring DBS checks have been obtained for the members of staff responsible for supervising volunteers under the age of 16.
- If deemed necessary, ensuring DBS checks have been obtained for young people on work experience who are over 16-years-old and in regular contact with pupils.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day implementation of this policy.
- Meeting with young people who wish to undertake work experience at the school and assessing their suitability (or delegate to an appropriate member of SLT)
- Consenting to individuals undertaking work experience.
- Ensuring individuals undertaking work experience have read and understood all relevant policies before commencing work.
- Ensuring individuals completing work experience always have access to a member of staff.

The supervising member of staff is responsible for:

- Ensuring they have taken account of their upcoming lessons and tasks before accepting responsibility for the supervision of a volunteer undertaking work experience at the school.
- Meeting with the headteacher to assess the individual's suitability for work experience.
- Ensuring the individual is supervised at all times and escorting the individual when they are moving around the school, e.g. between lessons.

The main contacts for the volunteer undertaking work experience are:

- A member of the senior leadership team.

- The supervising member of staff.

Procedures

Consideration stage

Before a volunteer is accepted to undertake work experience, the following procedures will be completed:

- The volunteer will provide suitable documentation and references from their education provider regarding their suitability for work experience.
- The volunteer will liaise with Mrs Ring in the school office to ensure we have spaces, as we have a cap on the number of work experience students we will take at any one time.
- The member of staff who will be supervising the volunteer will accept this responsibility after taking into account their upcoming lessons and tasks.

After consent has been given

After the headteacher (or member of SLT) has consented to the volunteer undertaking work experience, an email will be sent to detail start/end date and that they will meet with a member of SLT on their first day.

The first day

On the first day of their work experience, the volunteer will sign in at the office and report to the designated member of SLT.

The designated member of SLT will ensure that the volunteer has understood the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, as well as all relevant parts of the Staff Handbook. Pertinent points in this handbook will be raised and discussed if necessary.

The volunteer will sign a declaration that they have read and understood this policy.

The volunteer will be escorted to the classroom where they will be completing their work experience.

Work experience may comprise a number of weeks or days, or could be arranged for a number of days per week for a set number of weeks.

Young people on work experience will be given experience in as broad a range of activities as possible.

Internet use and social networking

Young people on work experience are expected to behave in an ethical and lawful manner with regard to the use of the internet and emails. The school's acceptable usage and child protection and safeguarding policies will be adhered to at all times.

Care and attention will be taken while using social networking sites and the school's acceptable usage policy will be adhered to at all times. Use of these sites will not involve communication regarding employment at the school or any activities which may bring the school into disrepute or may cause questions regarding the individual's suitability to work with pupils.

Work experience volunteers will not attempt to contact pupils or their parents via social media or email, or make arrangements to meet outside of school.

Child protection and safeguarding

The school will have regard to the DfE's statutory 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE) guidance. This states that a supervised volunteer, i.e. an individual carrying out supervised work experience, does not require a barred list check, but should obtain an enhanced DBS check where they are over the age of 16.

Where required, an enhanced DBS check, including children's barred list information, will be obtained for staff who supervise any volunteers under the age of 16. Consideration will be given to the nature of the supervision and the frequency of the activity being supervised to determine whether checks are necessary, i.e. more than 3 days in a 30-day period. This includes whether the supervisor is themselves likely to be unsupervised.

All young people undertaking work experience at the school will be supervised at all times and made aware of the school's child protection policies and who the school's DSL is.

The supervision will be undertaken by somebody who is permitted to undertake regulated activity relating to children. The supervision will be regular and day to day, and focus on the protection of children.

If an individual wearing a visitor's badge is found unsupervised, the individual will be escorted to the headteacher's office where they are to wait until the supervising member of staff is located.

These considerations will include:

- Whether the person providing the supervision will be unsupervised themselves.
- Whether the person providing the supervision will be providing it frequently, i.e. more than three days in a 30-day period, or overnight.

Enhanced DBS checks will not be requested for staff who are providing supervision for young people on work experience aged 16 to 17.

In cases where the volunteer is over the age of 16 and is in regular contact with pupils, the school will consider whether an enhanced DBS check should be requested.

Welfare and safety of pupils and those undertaking work experience

The school aims to ensure that activities are planned properly and safely, and that young people undertaking work experience are informed of these plans.

We will ensure that young people completing work experience have access to a member of staff, should they wish to discuss difficulties or report on issues that may arise.

All staff, visitors and volunteers are required to be identified and located at all times. For this reason, all those undertaking work experience should:

- Sign in and out of the building at the school office.
- Wear their visitor's badge at all times.

Health and safety

Young people on work experience are required to comply with the school's Health and Safety Policy. They will be made aware of emergency procedures, e.g. evacuation, and safety aspects of being involved in a particular task, e.g. while in a cookery class.

Absence

If a volunteer completing work experience is unable to attend for any reason, they are required to inform the school by calling the school office on 0208 449 6875 before 8:00am.

If, for any reason, a work experience volunteer is called away while working at the school, they should inform their supervising member of staff and the school office before leaving the premises.

Confidentiality

All information on individual pupils and members of staff is confidential and the sharing of data is protected under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR. Anyone undertaking work experience is not permitted to discuss children's or staff members' personal information with other professionals in the school. In addition, such information should never be shared with anyone outside of the school. Any individual who breaks this confidentiality rule will be asked to leave the school.

There may be instances where work experience volunteers must pass information to the headteacher or supervising member of staff. These include incidents where a child is bullied or when a child discloses that he or she is being harmed in any way. Young people on work experience are advised not to report this to the child's parents but to instead inform the supervising member of staff or DSL as soon as possible.

Equal opportunities

As per the school's Equality, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, we do not tolerate discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Additionally, though not a protected characteristics under the Equality Act, the school will not allow social and financial status to be discriminated against. All work experience volunteers are required to make a commitment to this policy and treat everyone with respect at all times.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed on a bi-annual basis by the headteacher and governing board, who will make any necessary changes and communicate these to all members of staff.

All volunteers are required to familiarise themselves with this policy before beginning a work experience placement at the school.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2027

Volunteer Code of Conduct

All those completing work experience are expected to maintain high standards of behaviour and conduct while involved in activities at the school. You should:

- Observe the high standards of behaviour and ethical conduct mandated by the school.
- Respect other members of the school and make them feel valued.
- Be approachable, pleasant and a positive role model for pupils.
- Adhere to all school policies.
- Maintain confidentiality of personal information at all times, unless there is a need to report something.
- Treat all pupils and members of staff equally.
- Report any incident of bad behaviour to the class teacher immediately.
- Dress and behave in a manner which promotes professional, healthy and safe working practices. The dress code in the staff handbook should be complied with.
- Accept and follow directions from the class teacher providing supervision, as well as any other staff members at the school, and seek guidance through clarification where you may be uncertain of tasks or requirements.
- Observe safe working practices which avoid unnecessary risks, apply reasonable instructions given by supervisors, and report to the supervising class teacher any potential hazards in the workplace.
- Avoid waste or extravagance and make proper use of the resources of the school.
- Conduct work in a co-operative manner.
- Ensure your mobile phones is turned off while work experience tasks are performed and during class time.

You should never:

- Tell a pupil off. As a volunteer, you are not expected to sanction pupils. If there are any problems, tell the class teacher straight away and they will deal with the situation.
- Shout, hit, threaten or manhandle a pupil.
- Take photographs in school without the prior permission of the headteacher.
- Develop 'personal' relationships with pupils.
- Work with pupils when you are not in the proper physical or emotional state to do so, for example, under medication which makes you drowsy, or under extreme stress which may impair your judgement.
- Behave in an illegal, improper or unsafe manner, for example, smoking or drinking alcohol.
- Share your personal contact details with pupils or make personal arrangements to meet children outside school.
- Discriminate favourably or unfavourably towards a child.
- Make inappropriate jokes or remarks of a sexual, racial, intimidating, discriminatory or offensive nature.
- Behave in a manner which may bring the school into disrepute when representing the school.
- Present for work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, including hangovers.
- Give or receive gifts, other than 'token' gifts of no appreciable economic value.

Declaration

I declare that I have received, read and understand the terms and conditions of this code of conduct.

I understand my obligations under this code of conduct and agree to comply fully with them whilst I am undertaking work experience at Trent CofE Primary School.

Signed: _____

Date: _____