

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS



What do Literacy Volunteers do?

Literacy Volunteers help children to enjoy reading and communicating. They help in primary schools with selected children who are finding reading difficult. **They do not teach reading.** Instead they talk, read and play games with children, on a one-to-one basis, to give them confidence and help them enjoy reading and communicating.

What qualities do Literacy Volunteers need?

Volunteers must

- Like children
- Enjoy reading
- Be patient, flexible and reliable



What do Volunteers do?

Volunteers

- go to the same local primary school regularly for one session each week
- help children on an individual basis
- help for an agreed length of time each session (usually half an hour) with each child
- help the same children (usually 4 or 5)
- talk, read, play games, draw and write with the children
- help children in a suitable place away from the classroom
- discuss progress with the children's teachers regularly
- enjoy their time with the children and make sure each child enjoys each session too

Which children do they help?

The school chooses the children who can benefit most from the help Volunteers can provide. These are usually children who have some reading and communication abilities but need help to make progress.

This may be because

- They lack confidence or concentration
- Their first language is not English
- They have limited home support



How are Volunteers trained and supported?

Volunteers do not need any formal qualifications. Training and ongoing support is provided. This consists of:

- an initial training course
- vetting including an Enhanced Disclosure obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service
- ongoing training sessions
- meetings with other Volunteers
- visits to schools by Area Co-ordinators
- Newsletters
- a Handbook which contains everything Volunteers need to know about their work
- a Games Pack with materials and ideas for making games
- a Treasure Chest of books and games is provided at each school for the exclusive use of Volunteers
- resource collections in Nottingham and at Network Meetings enable volunteers to exchange books and games locally
- travelling expenses are reimbursed for journeys to school and to any Literacy Volunteers meetings

What is Literacy Volunteers?

Literacy Volunteers is an independent voluntary organisation and registered charity formed on 14th May 1996. It is a partnership of schools and Volunteers who form its membership.

Who runs Literacy Volunteers?

LV is run by its members through the Executive Committee who are the Trustees of the Charity. All Volunteers and all subscribing schools are members with voting rights. Each school chooses its own representative. Any Volunteer or school representative may stand for election to the Executive Committee. Day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the other six members of the Staff Team.

Who funds Literacy Volunteers?

Literacy Volunteers is responsible for raising its own funds. It is part funded by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council provides 'in kind' funding by the provision of office accommodation, facilities and some training venues. Schools wishing to involve Literacy Volunteers become member organisations and pay an annual subscription.

To find out more contact us:

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