



Kinellar School **Parents as Partners** **Adult Volunteer Policy**



Thank you for helping in our school and Nursery. This booklet details the advantages, opportunities and expectations when being a Parent Helper.



Parents as partners
in their children's learning

October 2014



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“Parent”

Someone who is a “parent” in terms of the 1980 Act is any person who is liable to maintain a child or young person.

Although the term “parent” will be used in this policy we welcome involvement from grandparents etc.

Rationale and Aims

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their children's learning. The basic principle underpinning the Act is the desire to have children become more ‘confident learners’ through closer working between each family and the school.

There are three main ways parents can be involved in their children's education:

Learning at home: We recognise parents as the first and ongoing educators of their own children.

Home/School partnership: We are open to the involvement of parents and provide information that helps parents engage with school and their children's education.

Parental representation: We listen to parents' views and the opportunity is given for all to be a member of the Parent Council and have their opinions represented to the school, education authority and others.

In conjunction with this, it is our aim for all parents to be:

- **involved with their child's education and learning**
- **welcomed as active partners in the life of the school, and**
- **encouraged to express their views on school education generally.**

We aim to ensure effective Parental Involvement through:

- **communicating clearly**
- **providing access to information through a variety of media**
- **being approachable and responsive**
- **being transparent in our decision making**
- **being supportive at times of transition and change.**

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Check

All volunteers who have regular contact with children require a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check and to sign a confidentiality agreement. A regular volunteer could be helping with PE, Football, Reading, Bikeability. A form is available from the school office if you would like to apply for this.



Benefits

How will the children benefit?

When children see their parents or other family members getting involved in the school, it:

- shows them that you are interested in what the school is doing
- lets them see that you value what they are learning
- gives them a sense of security
- helps them learn about good citizenship from your example.

How will you benefit?

- You will get to know the teachers and other parents
- You will gain a better understanding of how the school works
- You will be setting a good example to young people
- You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a contribution to the school and to your and other children's learning.

How will the school benefit?

- It gives the school a wider range of experience and skills to draw from.
- The school will develop a better understanding of parents and the community.
- Teachers will be grateful for the extra help.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

There are a variety of ways to help us by volunteering:

- being part of the Parent Council
- sharing expertise – Excellence Time
- learning opportunities in classes
- preparing resources
- improvement of the outside environment
- educational walks/visits/excursions
- extra curricular activities – coaching/supervising
- involvement in Bikeability



Quality Assurance

We evaluate our performance against the Quality Indicators outlined in ‘How Good is Our School with the following being relevant to parental involvement:

Theme	Key Features
2.2 the school’s success in involving parents, carers and families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent to which learners are motivated and actively involved in their own learning and development	This indicator relates to the quality of learners’ experiences. Learners are aware of their strengths and needs as learners and are satisfied that their views are taken into account.
5.7 partnerships with learners and parents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engaging parents in their children’s learning and• the life of the school• Consulting and communicating with learners and• Parents• Dialogue with learners and parents about the work• of the school	This indicator relates to the school’s partnerships with parents, carers and families how this impacts on learning and progress. It highlights the way that the school values all parents and their contribution to supporting learning as fundamental to a successful two-way partnership. It focuses on the school’s work in promoting parental involvement in their children’s learning, seeking and acting on parents’ views and informing them about the school’s work.



Code of Practice: Staff

The SMT should

- ensure that any parent helper has completed a PVG or enhanced Disclosure and signed the confidentiality agreement
- complete the relevant risk assessment paperwork
- monitor this scheme to ensure it is an effective support provision for staff and pupils deal with any “concerns”
- ensure that Parent Helpers are not working alone with a group/individual children
- aim to involve as many parents as possible

School Teaching Staff should

- identify suitable tasks for Parent Helpers
- be aware of confidentiality issues in terms of any dialogue with the adult volunteer

Code of Practice: Adult Volunteers

- please sign in and collect a ‘Visitor’ badge, on departure please sign out and remember to leave your ‘Visitor’ badge
- if you are unable to come for any reason, please let us know
- when working with children please be polite, supportive and approachable, but not ‘over friendly’. If you do experience any problems, inform the teacher or Head teacher.
- be aware of safety and fire drill procedures
- be aware of relevant Child Protection guidance
- adopt a positive attitude, and always encourage the children to attempt the tasks that have been set. Resist the temptation to do it for them
- **it is essential that anything you see or hear during your school visits is treated with the utmost confidence. Anything that happens within the school should not be talked about outside the school.**
- it is not appropriate to take photos on a personal device while volunteering in school or on an excursion
- enjoy yourself. Remember if you do feel uncomfortable please let us know.

Name (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

SMT Signature _____