



# Arden Primary School

At Arden Primary School we believe that our children, whatever their needs, deserve a broad and imaginative curriculum that enables them to become independent and resilient learners who develop into respectful citizens of the future with high aspirations.



## Visitor Policy

In order to safeguard the children in our care and to protect the interests of all those who work in the school we have a policy for the admission and management of visitors to the building.

It is most important that only those people who need to have access to the building are allowed to enter and that the reason for their visit and their identity is checked before they are allowed to enter the building. It is also important to remember that we are a school working in close partnership with our parents, consequently a sensitive, tactful and caring approach to them is appropriate at all times.

### **Visitors to the school will fall into a number of categories including:**

- Parents and family members arriving with, collecting or visiting children within the setting
- Education professionals such as Educational Psychologists, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, music tutors, learning or behaviour support teacher
- Governors
- Members of the Arden School Association
- Local Authority representatives
- Members of the social care profession: social workers, family support workers
- Teachers from other schools
- Healthcare professionals carrying out screening checks with groups or working with individual children, for example school nurses, vaccination teams
- Sports Coaches
- Club Leaders
- Students and Tutors
- Contractors
- Government officials
- Local Councillors

### Some discretion will need to be applied. For example:

Where possible visitors will be expected and be part of a regular programme of visits. However there will be occasions where discretion will need to be made. In these instances we will consider:

- Whether this is a one off visit?
- Is the person going to come into unsupervised contact with children?
- Can the person be escorted around the building to carry out their visit?

All visitors to the school will be asked to wait in the entrance foyer until the reason for their visit to the school has been checked.

**No visitor to school will be allowed access to the building via any other external door.**

Visitors other than staff or governors will have photo identification and DBS details on their person.

In this case the visitor may have access to the building and if needing to work with specific children access to them.

**If they cannot produce all of the above then unsupervised entry will not be allowed.**

All visitors entering the school will complete the signing in system stating the reason for their visit when they enter and exit the building.

All visitors will be issued with a school visitor's badge to be worn enabling all staff and children to know that the suitable checks have taken place. If they are DBS checked the lanyard issued will be **black**, if they are not DBS checked the lanyard will be **orange** and will be escorted at all times.

Any visitor in school not displaying a school visitor's badge will be challenged by members of staff.

The majority of people visiting school on business reasons will have a DBS number and will carry evidence of this. In these cases, we will ask to cross reference with the letter of assurance received from their organisation so that we can check the reference number on their initial visit to the school and log the details where appropriate.

If the visitor is meeting one of the school staff, the member of staff will be informed and will meet the visitor in the school entrance or the visitor will be escorted to meet the member of staff. If the member of staff is not available, the visitor will be asked to wait in the school entrance.

All visitors who will be working with children will be asked to provide proof of identity and a valid DBS number or letter of assurance before being allowed to enter the building and make contact with children. On subsequent visits once the person's identity has been checked and referenced against the recorded DBS details the visitor may carry out their business in school.

This information will be logged on the Single Central Record (SCR) and will only need to be done once, subsequent visits will be done by a visual check. If a visitor hasn't been for over a period of 3 months then they will be taken off the SCR and checks will be redone if visiting the school again.

### **Volunteers (including parents and work experience students):**

Volunteers support the school in a number of ways, including:

- supporting individual pupils and small groups;
- hearing pupils read;
- helping with classroom organisation;
- helping with the supervision of children on school trips or swimming;
- helping with art or subjects involving other practical activities;
- transporting pupils to and from events, etc.

Volunteers are not allowed to do the following activities:

- take responsibility for all or some of the whole class;
- change children, or supervise them changing;
- supervise children engaged in PE or other specialist activities without a teacher in charge;
- take children off the school site without a teacher in charge;

The responsibility for the health and welfare of the child remains with the class teacher at all times.

*Please see the school's Volunteer Policy for more details*

### **Police checks**

For the children's safety, all volunteer helpers are required to have a risk assessment carried out to determine if they need a police clearance through the DBS before they work in the school. In the case of regular volunteers this will be via a full DBS check but in the case of

single occurrences such as supporting a school trip this will be not be required but helpers must be known to the school and report to the school office before joining the trip.

**In the event of the check not being a full DBS disclosure the adult must never have unsupervised access to pupils.** Details of checks are recorded on the SCR.

The Headteacher has the authority not to accept the help of volunteers if he believes it will not be in the best interests of the children.

### **Deployment of classroom helpers**

It is the policy of this school that parent helpers do not support in their own child's classroom, as this can be distracting for the child, and perhaps place the class teacher in an uncomfortable situation. Helpers will be asked to support in classes in which there is the most need for individual support.

Visitors to the school without a valid DBS must not be allowed to have unsupervised access to children or to the building itself.

**Visitors in school not displaying a visitors badge will be challenged by staff.**

Date adopted: March 2024

Date to be reviewed: March 2027