

Matching volunteer practitioners with children policy

Before a child is matched with a volunteer, the project manager or senior practitioner will provide a supervision session with a volunteer either in person or by email or telephone to discuss:

- The volunteer's preference of school locality – how far the volunteer is willing or able to travel.
- The child
 - The circumstances of the child.
 - The child's specific needs/difficulties/problems.
 - Length of time the child may need support. E.g. long/short term.
- The volunteer
 - Is the volunteer comfortable to be matched with the child, given the nature of the child's circumstances, needs, difficulties or problems?
 - Once the above has been discussed and the volunteer is to be matched with a child, the project manager or senior practitioner will provide the name of the child.
- Conflict of interest, where a volunteer;
 - is known to the child/child's family outside of the school setting e.g. family, friend, neighbour.
 - or has a child/children at the same school who is/are known to the child in need of support.

Should a circumstance arise whereby a conflict of interest is established, the child will then be matched with an alternative volunteer.

- Breakdown of a match
 - If the child is physically or verbally abusive towards a practitioner, or poses a safety risk to his or herself, support for the child will be withdrawn.
 - The project manager will contact the child's parents/carers to explain and where necessary provide a report.
 - Sessions will be sensitively brought to a close.