

SCHOOL VISITORS POLICY



We love God and each other and follow the example of St Teresa.
We enjoy learning together and doing our best in a happy, healthy and welcoming community.
We learn to be responsible and caring citizens.
"Let us do little things well today".
St Teresa

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: January 2025
Last reviewed on:	January 2025	
Next review due by:	January 2027	

Aim

The purpose of this policy and its associated procedures is to contribute towards the safeguarding of all children and staff both during and outside of school hours when they are on our site. The ultimate aim is to ensure that all children and staff learn and work in an environment where they are safe and free from harm.

Objectives

The key objectives of this policy is to have in place a clear protocol and procedure for the admittance of external visitors to the school which is understood by all staff, governors, visitors and parents/carers and conforms to child protection guidelines and prevents unsuitable people from working with or accessing children and young persons in the school setting.

We have responsibility for the safety and well-being of all of our children anywhere on the school site, during normal school hours, during after school activities, during wrap-around care and on school organised (and supervised) off-site activities. This policy applies to:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff employed by the school
- All external visitors entering the school site during the school day or for after school activities (including peripatetic tutors, sports coaches etc)
- Governors
- Parents/carers
- Volunteers
- Children
- Local Authority staff
- Building & Maintenance Contractors

Protocol and Procedures

Visitors Invited to the School

Before a visitor is invited to the school, the Headteacher is to be informed, with a clear explanation as to the relevance, purpose, date and time of the visit. Permission must be granted by the Headteacher before a visitor is asked to come into school.

- Formal visitors representing the LA, businesses, contractors, outside agencies etc are required to present formal identification
- All visitors enter the school building through the main door and report to Administration staff
- All visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them or who they wish to see. They should be ready to produce formal identification
- All visitors are required to sign the Visitors Record which is kept in reception at all times
- All visitors are required to wear an identification badge
- All visitors are given/shown a copy of the school's 'Vistor's Welcome' (blue sheet) and if applicable 'Good Practice Guide for Parent Helpers, Volunteers and Visitors' detailing information about emergency evacuations procedures and protocols
- Visitors may be asked to read and sign our Confidentiality Agreement.
- Visitors are escorted to their point of contact or their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site.

On departing, visitors leave via reception and:

- Enter their departure time in the Visitors Record alongside their arrival entry
- Return the identification badge to reception

Unknown/Uninvited Visitors to the School

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing an identity badge is challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site. They should then be escorted to reception to sign the visitors' book and be issued with an identity badge. The above procedures then apply.

In the event that the visitor refuses to comply, they are asked to leave the site immediately. The Headteacher (or Senior Leader if Headteacher is unavailable) will consider the situation and decide if it is necessary to inform the police.

If an unknown/uninvited visitor becomes abusive or aggressive, they will be asked to leave the site immediately and warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds, police assistance will be called for.

Governors and Volunteers

All governors and volunteers are required to have an enhanced DBS or an appropriate risk-assessment.

New governors are made aware of this policy and are expected to become familiar with its procedures as part of their induction. This is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors

New volunteers will be asked to comply with this policy by staff they first report to when coming into school for an activity or class supporting role.

Staff Induction

As part of their induction, new staff are made conversant with this policy for visitors and asked to ensure compliance with its procedures at all times.

Linked Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with other related school policies: including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Confidentiality
- Healthy and Safety
- Site Security

Reviewed: Spring term 2025

Approved by Governors: January 2025

To be reviewed: Spring term 2027