

## 1. Policy statement and principles

The Head teacher is responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and, alongside the senior leadership team, the management of visitors to the school, which may include an assessment of the education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required. The day-to-day arrangements are managed by the school office team and are understood by all staff. All staff have a responsibility to ensure that visitors to the school are properly welcomed and managed safely within school. All staff are made aware of this policy and that it applies to all visitors equally, including VIPs.

## 2. Types of visitors

There are several different types of legitimate visitors to a school:

- Visitors who attend the school in connection with children and who have a professional role i.e., social workers, SCIEO, educational psychologist, SEND officers, NCC HR officers, Officers from the Fair Access team, TETC team or other support workers or health related professionals.
- Visitors attending to work with children in roles such as peripatetic tutors, sports coaches
- Visitors who attend the school in connection with the building, grounds, or equipment i.e. builders, contractors, maintenance staff or IT workers
- VIPs – Very Important People
- Other legitimate visitors i.e. parents, parent helpers, school governors,

Visits should be planned to ensure they run smoothly considering the need to safeguard both children, the reputation of the school and the visitor. Where required, risk assessments will be undertaken. The head teacher or senior leadership team must be aware of visits in advance.

## 3. Procedures for ALL visitors

**Our school, academy or college requires the following procedures to be followed:**

- Wherever possible, visits to schools should be pre-arranged
- All visitors must report to reception first and not enter the school via any other entrance
- At reception, all visitors will be asked to explain the purpose of their visit and who has invited them.
- Visitors should be prepared to produce formal identification.
- All Nottinghamshire County Council staff should show their photo ID card.
- All visitors will be asked to sign in on our electronic recording system.
- If the visitor is part of a large group of visitors a separate register may be used
- A visitor's badge must be worn and displayed prominently.
- Visitors will wait in the reception area until an appropriate member of staff meets them to be escorted to their destination.
- All visitors will be accompanied by a member of staff, unless they have a green lanyard. Visitors must not be alone with pupils/children unless this is a legitimate part of their role for example a social worker seeing a child and the school has assured itself that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or the visitor's employers



have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks). Where visitors have the appropriate checks, they will be issued with a green lanyard. All other visitors will be issued with a red one.

- If visitors with a red lanyard find that they are alone with pupils/children, then they should report to a member of staff or reception.
- On departing the school, visitors will leave via reception, sign out of the building, return their visitor badge and be seen to leave the premises.
- School reception staff will check the signing in and out' records regularly to monitor compliance with these procedures.
- The Head teacher or Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) along with the nominated Safeguarding Governor will monitor compliance with the agreed specified visitor's policy procedures on a regular basis. Should any shortfalls be found, these will be addressed as a matter of urgency, to ensure children and visitors to the school are kept safe.

## **4. Special categories of visitor**

### **4.1 VIPs**

A VIP is usually an external visitor of importance or influence who commands special treatment:

- Royalty and Royal Representatives
- Government (Members of Parliament, including government ministers and politicians)
- Diplomats and Senior Public Servants
- Chairpersons/ Chief Executives Officers of major companies and organisations
- Senior Officers from Charitable Trusts
- Religious leaders
- Civic and local community leaders
- Notable academics, Olympians, Authors, high profile prize winners and those with celebrity status in particular areas such as sport, music, the arts, media including celebrities and who are likely to inspire others.

### **Important considerations for VIP visits**

An invitation to a VIP should be made in advance with sufficient time to enable appropriate planning for a safe and successful visit recognising how the visit will be hosted and importantly who will be escorting and supervising the visitor at all times.

VIPs will be treated in a very similar way to any other visitor but a degree of common sense should prevail e.g., it is unlikely that the Queen or another senior member of the Royal Family would be expected to show, or wear ID. Members of their entourage will be expected to follow normal procedures. All VIPs and any entourage should be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.

### **4.2 Nottinghamshire County Council staff**

Nottinghamshire County Council staff who visit schools and who have unsupervised contact with children will have had an appropriate DBS check conducted by their employing service. If the nature of their work requires it, the service will also have applied the



requirements of the Childcare Disqualification regulations<sup>1</sup> In these circumstances the statutory guidance<sup>2</sup> says:

*Schools and colleges must obtain written notification from any agency, or third-party organisation, that they have carried out the checks on an individual who will be working at the school or college that the school or college would otherwise perform. In respect of the enhanced DBS check, schools and colleges must ensure that written notification confirms the certificate has been obtained by either the employment business or another such business. Where the position requires a children's barred list check, this must be obtained by the agency or third party by obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information, prior to appointing the individual.'*

The school has received the 'written notification' from the Local Authority required by the guidance. A copy of this is stored in the school office with the visitor and volunteer information.

The office team will ask to see identification from visitors to confirm that they do indeed work for NCC. All Nottinghamshire County Council staff visiting schools carry photo identification.

Nottinghamshire County Council provides written confirmation that all staff who visit school in a professional capacity have had the appropriate safer working checks completed by the council. A copy of this letter is retained on school's Single Central Record (SCR).

#### **4.3 Staff from other agencies**

The same requirement as in 4.2 applies. If the school has written notification (e.g. a letter of comfort) from an agency that their staff have had all the appropriate pre-employment checks that the school would otherwise be required to perform including a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check, then it is not necessary for the visitor to produce individual evidence of these checks before being granted unsupervised contact with children.

#### **4.4 Contractors**

The statutory guidance<sup>3</sup> states:

*Schools and colleges **must** ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school or college has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. Contractors engaging in regulated activity will require an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information). For all other contractors who are not engaging in regulated activity, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children, an enhanced DBS check (not including barred list information) will be required. In considering whether the contact is regular, it is irrelevant whether the contractor works on a single site or across several sites.*

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<sup>1</sup> Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. Statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies, and free schools. 31 August 2018

<sup>2</sup> Keeping Children Safe in Education. September 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023

## Peafield Lane Academy **Visitors Policy**

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Under no circumstances will a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity. The school will determine the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances.

If an individual working at the school is self-employed, the school will consider obtaining the DBS check, as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account.

The school office team or site manager will always check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

For building or maintenance contractors' the school will establish a formal agreement regarding access to specific areas of the building. This is likely to require building projects maintaining physical separation e.g. fencing off the work areas, to provide additional safeguards. Any DBS checks required will be completed before the contractor begins work in school.

Details regarding contractors are stored on the school's single central record (SCR).

### **4.5 Trainee teachers**

The statutory guidance<sup>4</sup> states:

*Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by the school or college, the school or college must ensure that all necessary checks are carried out. If these trainee teachers are engaging in regulated activity relating to children (which in most cases by the nature of the work, they will be), an enhanced DBS certificate (including children's barred list information) must be obtained.*

*Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks, schools and colleges should obtain written confirmation from the provider that it has carried out all pre-appointment checks that the school or college would otherwise be required to perform and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.*

As with other visitors who have been checked by an external organisation, the school will have written notification (e.g. a letter of comfort) that appropriate checks have been made and have been reviewed annually. Details regarding fee-funded students are stored on the school's single central record (SCR).

If tutors of trainee teachers do not have unsupervised contact with children, they will not require a DBS check. If they do have such contact, then it will be the responsibility of their institution to undertake the check and inform the school that appropriate checks have been made.

### **4.6 Governors**

Governors will follow the same procedures as other visitors when coming into school. If they are to have unsupervised contact with children, they will require a barred list check in addition to the enhanced DBS check that is a requirement of appointment for governors.



#### 4.7 Parents and relatives

DfE KCSiE 2021 Part Three states: *Schools and colleges should not request DBS checks or barred list checks, or ask to see existing DBS certificates, for visitors such as children's relatives or other visitors attending a sports day. Headteachers and principals should use their professional judgment about the need to escort or supervise such visitors.*

#### 4.8 Ofsted

Ofsted have provided NCC with written confirmation that all Ofsted staff who would visit a school have been through a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check. They have also confirmed that all approved additional inspectors have also been through a DBS 'Enhanced with barred list information' check. Ofsted provide a list of all approved additional inspectors at:

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=additional+inspectors>

The school considers this note as constituting 'written notification' that Ofsted staff have been subject to relevant checks, as NCC holds the 'written notification' from Ofsted.

### 5. Implications of the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 for 'visitors.'

The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2018 introduced additional requirements for staff who are involved with the education or care of children under 6 or with the out-of-school care of children under 8. The implications of these regulations are set out in revised statutory guidance<sup>4</sup>. Nottinghamshire County Council has also issued guidance to schools<sup>5</sup>.

#### 5.1 The following groups of people, who could be considered 'visitors' are NOT covered by the 'Childcare Disqualification' legislation:

1. Caretakers, cleaners, drivers, transport escorts, catering staff, catering & cleaning managers, office staff, DSO catering and cleaning staff who are not employed to directly provide childcare (Statutory Guidance<sup>6</sup>).
2. Health staff, speech therapists, Educational Psychologists.

*'Anybody involved in any form of health care provision for a child, **are specifically excluded** from the statutory definition of childcare, and are therefore not covered by*

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<sup>4</sup> Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. [Statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies, and free schools, DfE, 31 August 2018.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Guidance for Schools (Revised Sept 2018) available on the Schools portal - [Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006](#)

<sup>6</sup> Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. Statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies, and free schools, DfE, 31 August 2018.

*the legislation.’ (Statutory Guidance). This includes school nurses, speech and language therapists and education psychologists*

### 3. School governors

*‘School governors and proprietors are not covered by the legislation, unless they volunteer to work in relevant childcare on a regular basis, or they are directly concerned with the day-to-day management of such provision.’ (Statutory Guidance).*

### 4. Ofsted inspectors

While not specifically referred to in the statutory guidance, Ofsted have informed NCC that in their view Ofsted inspectors are not covered by the requirements of the ‘Childcare Disqualification’ legislation.

## **5.2 The following groups of people, who could be considered ‘visitors’ ARE covered by the ‘Childcare Disqualification’ legislation:**

- a) Peripatetic teachers and special needs teachers who work in reception classes or in childcare settings with children under 8.

*‘Where centrally employed local authority staff are deployed to work in relevant childcare settings in schools (for example peripatetic music teachers or individuals supporting children with additional need) it is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that such staff are compliant with the requirements of the legislation explained in this guidance.’ (Statutory Guidance)*

Nottinghamshire County council has confirmed that all NCC employed staff in such roles will be subject to the appropriate checks under the Childcare Disqualification legislation.

- b) Agency, or third-party organisations, contracted to work in relevant childcare in schools. The agency must confirm that they comply with the legislation (Statutory Guidance).
- c) Self-employed contractors employed to work in childcare provision (Statutory Guidance).
- d) Trainee and student teachers. Again, the teacher training provider must confirm that they comply with the legislation (Statutory Guidance).
- e) Volunteers and casual workers who work in childcare (Statutory Guidance).

*‘Volunteers and casual workers (including individuals on work experience) who are directly concerned with the management of childcare provision, or who work on a regular basis, **whether supervised or not**, are within the scope of the legislation and are covered by this guidance.’*

## **6. Raising awareness of visitor safety with children**

Pupils will be reminded on a regular basis and especially prior to any VIP or celebrity visits that they should remain with a staff member and not wander off/ leave an area which is not supervised by a member of staff. They will also be reminded of any other relevant actions

identified by a risk assessment relating to the visit (if it has been deemed that a risk assessment is required).

## **7. Concerns related to a visitor**

Pupils, staff, and parents are regularly made aware of who the school's designated safeguarding leads are and posters of these staff members are displayed around the school. They should report concerns to these staff members or go to them for help and advice if they have concerns about a visitor. Alternatively they could also contact a member of the school's senior leadership team, who should then report the concerns to a designated safeguarding lead. Further details can be found in Part Four Section One and Two of KCSIE 2023.

Any issues regarding the suitability of visitors to the school will be noted by the designated person for safeguarding and promptly brought to the attention of the Headteacher. If the behaviour of a visitor causes safeguarding concerns the designated person for safeguarding will contact the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCIEO) for advice and where the adult's behaviour has caused harm or risk to a child, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

## **8. Unknown, uninvited, or malicious visitors to the school**

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing an identity badge will be challenged politely by staff and escorted to reception to sign in via the electronic sign in system and be issued with an identity badge. Failure to comply will result in them being asked to leave the site and the Head teacher or other senior person informed. In extreme circumstances or if the person refuses to leave, the police could be called.

The school will use the advice and procedures described within:

- NCC and Police 'School Safe Alert Protocol,' revised June 2022, which can be found in the Safeguarding section of the Schools Portal and the NSCP website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp)
- The school's emergency plan and lockdown policy.

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Head teacher and Governing Body.