

VISITOR POLICY

The policy has been drawn up in consultation with all teaching staff, other school staff and governors in December 2009. It will be reviewed in December 2012.

This policy is in line with guidance from the Healthy Schools Programme, of which the school is part.

RATIONALE

The purpose of inviting visitors in to the school needs to be clear. Reasons could include:

- Raising awareness of an issue
- Providing expertise
- Building links with the community
- Giving pupils an opportunity to work with adults outside of the school
- Raising the profile of the school
- Public relations
- Enhancing the curriculum
- Part of staff training
- As a resource

USING VISITORS WELL

A visitor's contribution must enhance the overall education experience for young people. It must add a dimension, which the teacher alone cannot deliver.

Whilst visitors can bring a wealth of skills and expertise to the school setting, it is recognised that the majority of them have no formal training in classroom management and teaching and learning strategies. We insist that visitors should not be left alone to work with pupils: the teacher and visitor need to share the experience in order to provide appropriate planning, deal with any issues that arise during the session(s) and as a result of the session(s).

WHAT THE SCHOOL MAY NEED BEFORE THE VISIT

Visitors need to provide advance notice of any resources they may want to use so that teachers can check the suitability of the materials.

- Everyone has the right to pass
- Only the correct biological names for body parts will be used
- Names of individuals are never mentioned in discussions or questions
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.

CHECKPOINTS FOR TEACHERS ORGANISING A VISIT

- ✓ Has the visitor been made aware of relevant policies?
- ✓ How will the visitor be made aware of the school's ethos and values?
- ✓ Has the visitor been made aware of:
 - The size of the group
 - The age and nature of the group/class, e.g. ability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion and individual special circumstances
 - Any relevant issues regarding special educational needs
 - Child protection and confidentiality issues
 - Ground rules usually followed in the classroom
 - The aims /objectives of the session(s)
 - What preparatory activities will take place
 - What follow up will be provided
 - How the sessions will be organised
 - What resources are available
 - How the sessions will be evaluated
 - Safety/fire drill procedures

All visitors should:

- check in at the office
- Be offered toilet facilities and refreshments
- Be escorted out and thanked for their visit.

Pol.visitor