



Volunteer Policy

Volunteering at School Food Matters

School Food Matters relies on the work of volunteers. The contribution of volunteers is always valuable to our small charity and work can include administrative tasks, research or support with our project work. Previous volunteers have researched and written content for our website, set up office systems, helped to develop our social networking skills, raised awareness of SFM in the community or supported us at events and during our project work. We have a variety of roles and these opportunities can be found on the 'Work with Us' page of our website.

Recruitment

Recruitment of volunteers is in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy. People interested in becoming volunteers at School Food Matters will be invited for an informal talk with the appropriate member of staff when we will discuss general information about our charity and specific information about the volunteer role on offer.

All volunteers will be asked to complete a simple registration form and to supply two references. Where applicants are not placed in the role advertised, they will be provided with feedback and given the opportunity to discuss alternative volunteering roles.

For volunteer roles which involve 'regulated work', such as direct contact with children, School Food Matters has a legal obligation to ensure that volunteers are not barred from working with children or vulnerable groups. Potential volunteers for such roles will be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This information will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and will not necessarily prejudice the person being accepted for voluntary work.

School Food Matters is only able to work with volunteers who are entitled to work in the UK and cannot assist with work permits or immigration issues.

Volunteer Agreements and Voluntary Work Outlines

Volunteers will receive a role description containing full information about their chosen area of work and a clear idea of their responsibilities.

Support

Volunteers will be assigned a member of School Food Matters staff who will provide regular support. Support sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss development of the volunteering role and to offer advice and guidance as needed.

Records

Minimum details will be kept on volunteers. This will include the registration form, references, placement details, correspondence and any other relevant information in accordance with School Food Matters' Data Protection and Privacy Policy.

Expenses

Volunteers give their time so we certainly wouldn't expect them to be out of pocket. We reimburse all reasonable travel expenses up to £10 each day. For sessions of over four hours or over the lunch period we'll also reimburse up to £5 for lunch. This will be paid on production of receipts and a completed expenses form sent to sarah@schoolfoodmatters.org

Insurance

Volunteers will be covered by School Food Matters' insurance while carrying out agreed duties.

Health and Safety

School Food Matters will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the volunteers' health, safety and welfare while at work in accordance with our Health and Safety Policy.

Equal Opportunities

School Food Matters is committed to recruiting all staff and volunteers on merit. We will endeavour to make new opportunities available to a wide variety of eligible candidates to promote diversity and equality of opportunity in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy on our website.

Problems

Volunteers have the right to discuss any concerns they may have with their assigned member of School Food Matters staff at any time.

Leaving School Food Matters

When volunteers move on from their role at School Food Matters they will be asked to provide feedback on the volunteering experience by way of an exit questionnaire. They will also be given the opportunity to discuss their responses to the questionnaire more fully with their assigned member of staff. On the basis of their voluntary work, volunteers will have the right to request a reference. Volunteers will be supported to move on to other options.

Monitoring and Evaluation

School Food Matters will systematically monitor and evaluate its use of volunteers with reference to this Volunteer Policy.

This policy will be reviewed every three years
Date of next review - February 2022