



Volunteering in schools

is one way of sharing your knowledge with a new generation.

Skills that you take for granted – reading and numeracy for example – are central to pupils' development.

If you enjoy being with young people and can communicate with them you will be well placed to support them under the supervision of the class teacher.

Local contact:

Volunteers receive all out of pocket expenses and excellent personal accident and third party insurance cover.

RSVP West

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RSVP West retire
into action



RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) is a part of CSV, the UK volunteering charity. Friends of RSVP West Region, registered charity number: 1108785.

Are you over 50
with time to spare
and skills to share?

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What can I do?

You can choose what sort of help you would like to give depending on your interests and the needs of the school.

Supporting reading

In primary schools the most common support is helping individual children with their reading. Listening to pupils read is time consuming for class teachers but they recognise its importance and welcome the involvement of other adults. You may be asked to help children who are taking their first steps in reading or to support others who need extra practice.



Some pupils get little encouragement at home, or English is not their first language, or they have difficulty concentrating. You can give them the guidance they need and the confidence to succeed. In doing so you will be making a wider contribution to improving child literacy and enabling pupils to acquire useful social skills.

What else?

Some volunteers in primary and secondary schools assist teachers with developing pupils' skills with numbers. Again, this needs concentrated individual attention for those who are struggling – attention that is often hard to provide in busy classrooms.

There are opportunities to help with modern foreign languages, arts and crafts, computing, music and drama, games or science either as part of the curriculum or in school clubs. You could also assist children with outdoor projects such as cultivating the school garden and understanding the environment.

What will I get out of it?

The overwhelming response from volunteers is that they gain a sense of satisfaction from seeing pupils make progress as a result of their help. You are likely to find it fun too. Each young person is different. Getting to know them is refreshing and can give a sense of purpose to your week.

How much time will I need to commit?

This is up to you and the school. Most volunteers attend for an hour or two a week but others discuss their availability with the school. Don't be put off by the prospect of it being too time consuming.

I am interested – what next?

If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer in schools please contact the RSVP Schools Organiser whose contact details are on the back page. Visit our website for more information.

www.rsvp-west.org.uk