

School Visitor Protocol

Statement

The Trust (QEGSMAT), Governing Body and Headteacher assures all visitors of a warm, friendly and professional welcome to QEGSMAT schools, whatever the purpose of their visit.

All QEGSMAT schools have a legal duty of care for the health, safety, security and wellbeing of all pupils, students and staff. This duty of care incorporates the duty to “safeguard” all pupils/students from subjection to any form of harm, abuse or nuisance. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body and senior staff in each school to ensure that this duty is uncompromised at all times.

In performing this duty, the Trust recognises that there can be no complacency where child protection and safeguarding procedures are concerned. QEGSMAT schools therefore require that **ALL VISITORS** (without exception) comply with the following policy and procedures. Failure to do so may result in the visitor’s escorted departure from the school site.

Responsibility

The Headteacher is the member of staff responsible for implementation, coordination and review of this procedure. This person will also be responsible for liaising with the site and reception staff and the Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate. All breaches of this procedure must be reported to the Headteacher.

Aim

To safeguard all children is QEGSMAT’s responsibility both during school hours curriculum and out of school hours activities which are arranged by the school.

Objectives

To have in place a clear protocol and procedure for the admittance of external visitors to the school which is understood by all staff, Trustees, Governors, visitors and parents/carers and conforms to child protection and safeguarding guidelines.

Where And To Whom The Policy Applies

The school is deemed to have control and responsibility for its pupils/students anywhere on the school site (i.e. within the school boundary), during normal school hours, during after school activities and on school organised (and supervised) off-site activities. The policy applies to:

- All staff employed by the school.
- All external visitors entering the school site during the school day or for after school activities (including but not limited to police persons, peripatetic tutors, sports coaches, and topic related visitors e.g. authors, journalists).
- All Governors of the school.
- All parents and volunteers.

- All pupils/students.
- Other education related personnel (e.g. Local Authority Advisors, Inspectors).
- Building and maintenance and all other independent contractors visiting the school premises.
- Independent contractors who may transport students on minibuses or in taxis.

Protocol And Procedures

Visitors To The School

All visitors to the school may be asked to bring formal identification with them at the time of their visit. They must follow the procedure detailed below.

Once on site, all visitors must report to reception via the main entrance. No visitor is permitted to enter the school via any other entrance under any circumstances.

At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them. They should be ready to produce formal identification upon request.

All visitors will be asked to sign in using the app on the screen at reception, which records name, organisation, who they are visiting and car registration.

All visitors will need to read the safeguarding information provided when signing in to ensure that they have been informed of our procedures.

All visitors will be required to wear an identification badge – the badge must remain visible throughout their visit.

Visitors will then be 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. The visitor must not be allowed to move about the site unaccompanied unless they are registered on the approved visitor list.

Approved Visitor List

The school will hold an approved visitor list for visitors who frequently visit site to undertake work within the school (including contractors and supply staff).

To qualify for this list the visitor must have demonstrated, prior to the visit that:

- They have a current clear enhanced DBS check and this has been registered on the school's Single Central Record **AND**
- A current clear DBS children's barred check has been undertaken **AND**
- A letter has been received from the employer that pre-employment checks have been undertaken

Visitors on the approved list **MUST** follow the same procedures on entry to the premises (i.e. come to reception and sign in using the app).

Visitors Departure From School

On departing the school, visitors **MUST** leave via reception and:

- A member of staff should escort the visitor to reception
- Sign out using the app at reception
- Return the identification badge to reception and depart through the front entrance

Unknown/Uninvited Visitors To The School

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing a visitor's lanyard should be challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site.

They should then be escorted to reception to sign in using the app and be issued with an identity badge.

The procedures under "Visitors to the School" above will then apply. In the event that the visitor refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave the site immediately and a member of the Senior Leadership Team informed.

The Senior Leadership Team member 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 be warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds, police assistance will be called for.

Governors And Volunteers

All Governors and parent helpers must comply with Criminal Records Bureau procedures, completing a DBS disclosure form (if not already held) via the school office.

Thereafter, procedures as per above should apply. Please note that Governors should also sign in and out using app.

New Governors will be made aware of this policy and made familiar with its procedures as part of their induction. This is the responsibility of the Headteacher and 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 Development

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

Linked Policies

This protocol should be read in conjunction with other related Trust policies, including:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Complaints Policy

Author: Anne Martin

Date: July 2024