

people and places:responsible volunteering

SUPPORT PLAN FOR WORK OF VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS IN THE EASTERN CAPE 2016-2017

This plan describes ways in which volunteers can help this project to develop their aims and goals.

Comments are based on the work of volunteers in the period up to December 2015, and are derived from questionnaires completed by the projects and reports written by the volunteers. New aims and actions, if any, are shown in green and these have either been identified from requests made by the projects or have arisen from the work done by volunteers.

AIMS	ACTIONS AND COMMENTS
<p>1. To help the teachers to improve literacy and numeracy levels within their schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some volunteers have worked in the Foundation classes (grades R – 3) to help to develop understanding of the basic techniques of literacy and numeracy from an early age, and future volunteers could be used to continue this work. • Volunteers could continue to help teachers to prepare simple resources to aid in the teaching of literacy and numeracy and to support the school workbooks. • Volunteers could continue to help develop strategies to encourage children to listen to and speak English, particularly pair and small-group work. Several volunteers mentioned the use of debates and discussions in their lessons. • Some volunteers have begun to help the teachers with strategies to teach phonics. • Volunteers have begun to help develop methods to help children write effectively such as the use of writing frames. One volunteer did a unit of work on descriptive writing and others helped to develop the teaching of grammar in a more interactive way, using visual learning strategies. • Volunteers could help to develop games and activities to support the learning of maths.

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<p>2. To help the schools to make good use of their libraries and to encourage children to read for pleasure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some volunteers could help the teachers to develop a programme for the use of the school library. In several schools volunteers have helped to organise and catalogue the books and sort them into loan boxes for different classes. One volunteer introduced a system of library monitors and started a book club for more advanced readers. Another created a network between the librarians at two schools, enabling them to give each other support in the future.• Volunteers could work with the teachers to help children understand the books they have read. In one school this has provided the successful focus for the work of two volunteers.• Volunteers could help children to develop other activities out of the books they have read e.g. plays, posters.• Volunteers could help to encourage the children to enjoy reading through strategies such as shared reading.
<p>3. To help to develop over time a variety of teaching and learning methods in order to make lessons more interactive and interesting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers have demonstrated a range of active teaching methods during lessons as appropriate (for example flashcards, stories, role-play, games, card-sorting, songs, art and craft activities, creative writing, dramatisation etc.). Several volunteers commented on how receptive the teachers were to new ideas and how keenly they tried out these methods with other classes. One volunteer highlighted how pleased she was when a teacher realised that active learning methods actually reduce workload as the learners are thinking for themselves!• In discussions with teachers volunteers could continue to suggest different possible ways of delivering the content of the curriculum in a more interactive way. One volunteer focused on the importance of oral participation in lessons and aimed to show that children who are actively engaged in lessons learn more. One teacher commented on how much the children appreciated another volunteer's communicative approach to language teaching and what a great improvement she is seeing in her class's learning now she is continuing to use this method.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers could help the teachers to make teaching materials as appropriate within the constraints of available materials.• One volunteer introduced the use of PowerPoint presentations as a means of showing the learners the word outside their immediate environment; the teacher she was working with highlighted this as the teaching method she most wants to make use of in future.• Volunteers could help the teachers to develop strategies to ensure all children in large classes remain focused and involved in learning. One volunteer introduced pair and group work to the class she was working with, techniques new to that teacher.
<p>4. To help the teachers to develop different methods of differentiation in order to help children of all abilities to succeed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several volunteers have worked with small groups of slower learners or children who have fallen behind to develop their confidence and help them to catch up with the rest of the class. Two volunteers ran extra classes for a selected group of children before the start of the main school day. A number of volunteers have provided one-to-one support for individual children, tailored to their specific needs. Several schools stressed the importance of this work, in a school system where all classes are mixed ability, and future volunteers could continue to provide this type of support.• If appropriate, some volunteers could work with gifted and talented children to push their learning forward in a particular area of the curriculum.• Several volunteers have helped the teachers with strategies for differentiating work within the normal curriculum to help children understand the work at a level appropriate for them. One volunteer also ran workshops for teachers on the subject of differentiation.• Some volunteers have begun to help the teachers to focus on different learning methods for different groups of children within their lessons. In one school a volunteer focused on the need to plan programmes for individual learners, within the guidance provided by the Department of Education.

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5. To develop subject specific areas of the curriculum within the schools

- Volunteers with a specialism in Science should continue to help develop techniques for practical sessions within the constraints of the materials available locally. Two volunteers demonstrated how to do a range of enjoyable and memorable Science experiments using readily available resources.
- Volunteers with an expertise in Maths should help schools to develop teaching strategies and resources to help in the teaching of this subject throughout the school.
- A volunteer with expertise in Drama worked with a teacher to introduce improvised group work based on life skills.
- Volunteers with expertise in working with children with special needs could work with children identified by the school to help them progress.
- Volunteers with expertise in IT worked with the Technology department of one school, team teaching the Systems and Control unit and helping to write a scheme of work, and future volunteers could continue this work in other schools as appropriate. They also provided staff training in the use of educational software. **Further volunteers have continued to provide IT training for staff in other schools.**
- A volunteer with sporting skills spent time coaching the rugby team of the school where he did his placement, leading to some success in the district sports competition. Future volunteers with skills in various sports could continue to contribute in this way.
- Volunteers in one subject area (Science) have supported local initiatives to work with teachers from a cluster of local schools, presenting model lessons and joining in discussions as required. It may be possible for future volunteers, in this and other subject areas, to take part in similar activities.

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<p>6. To provide support to teachers and learners within the schools in a variety of ways that are wider than the school curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers will provide support and motivation to the teachers by working alongside them and showing an interest in what they are doing.• Volunteers will help to open the minds of learners by exposing them to people from new places.
<p>7. To assist, where relevant with information sharing with parents. The purpose is to support parents in being better equipped to support their children in their education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers could help with educating parents on effective support for their children. <i>Some volunteers have given talks to large groups of parents about ways they can support their children's literacy and have provided them with strategies they can use at home. In one school volunteers have also recruited and trained a group of parent-volunteers who are now coming into school to support children's literacy.</i>

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