



The Bridge School Permission for the Involvement of Temporary Staff

At The Bridge School we have high staffing ratios to ensure the best care and education for all our children. Some staffing ratios are higher in some classes than others suitable for the needs of our children. As with most schools, we need to use additional adults at times, for example, when a member of staff is absent or is undertaking other duties. There are also times when we need to use additional staffing beyond our own staff team, for example, when we take children off site on an educational visit/trip.

At times we use our lunchtime supervisors who are well trained and are familiar with the children to provide continuity of care and support at times where we need additional staffing capacity. This is usually when we would like to provide additional support in any class or if we have a teaching assistant absent.

Teachers are covered by a qualified teacher in accordance with regulations. During the pandemic, where many workforces experienced high absence rates and supply staff were in high demand, schools were also given the permission to use other staff in order to maintain the face-to-face education of pupils and prevent the move to blended learning at home. We aim to employ cover teachers who are familiar with working with children with additional needs similar to our children at The Bridge School to ensure the very best education at all times. We provide guidance on policy and practice on their first day in school.

We use qualified agency/supply staff from trusted and authority approved supply agencies. Agency staff are never allowed to lone work with our children.

Some supply staff may go on to be trained in essential basics of manual handling procedures before moving any child, extended to full training for staff who are regular or long term. This is dependent on the needs of the class.

In addition to addressing the learning needs of pupils, these staff will work alongside our own experienced staff when supporting the personal care needs of our pupils. They will work with a member/s of our school staff as part of a pair or more to ensure these needs are met according to regulations and school's rigorous standards.

1. I understand that my child may be supported with his/her manual handling and personal care requirements by trained support staff or professionals who are employed by The Bridge School on a temporary or short-term basis under direction from a class teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

2. I understand that my child may be supported for his/her personal care needs by trained support staff or professionals who are employed by The Bridge School on a temporary or short-term basis under direction from a class teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

If you have any questions about any of these areas, please do ask.

This permission will last throughout the time that your child is at The Bridge School.

Signed _____ [Parent/Carer] Date: _____