

Guidance on Checks Required for Regular Volunteers – from September 2026

What's changed?

Due to changes made by the [Crime and Policing Act 2026](#), all **regular volunteers in schools** (volunteering on more than 3 days in a 30 day period) are now classed as being engaged in **regulated activity**. This is confirmed in KCSIE 2026 paragraph 317 which says: *'a person will be engaging in regulated activity with children if they work on a frequent basis in a specified establishment, such as a school, or in connection with the purposes of the establishment, where the work gives opportunity for contact with children. A person will also be in regulated activity if, as a result of their work or volunteering, they:*

- will be responsible, on a frequent basis in a school or college, for teaching, training instructing, caring for or supervising children, providing advice or guidance on physical, emotional or educational wellbeing, or driving a vehicle only for children, or*
- engage in intimate or personal care or healthcare or any overnight activity, even if this happens only once'.*

Prior to September 2026 there was a 'supervision' clause, meaning that where volunteers were always supervised by a member of staff they were not deemed to be in regulated activity, and in this case it was not lawful to undertake a check of the children's barred list in relation to their volunteering. The change is explained here: [Regulated activity: removal of the supervision exemption \(comes into force 1 September 2026\) - GOV.UK](#). It is an offence for a barred person to engage in regulated activity, and also for someone to permit a barred person to engage in regulated activity.

What does this mean for my school?

Schools and colleges need to ensure that any volunteer who is now in regulated activity is not barred from working with children. This means that for any regular volunteers in your school, as well as an enhanced DBS check, a check is also required of the children's barred list.

What do we need to do?

1. Confirm who your **regular volunteers** are (volunteering on more than 3 days in a 30 day period). This counts across multiple settings, so even if they volunteer just once a month in 4 different settings, then they are considered to be regular.
2. Confirm whether you have already undertaken a check of the children's barred list (alongside a DBS check) when they first volunteered. This may have happened if you considered that on some occasions they may have been volunteering in an unsupervised capacity.
3. Confirm with your regular volunteers that they are not barred from working with children and inform them that you will need to undertake a check to confirm this.
4. Undertake a separate barred list check through the Department for Education (DfE) [check a teacher's record](#) service.
5. Ensure that for any new volunteers, you undertake an enhanced DBS check, together with a check of the children's barred list before they carry out any volunteering activities. In this situation, schools are encouraged to consider asking such volunteers to join the [DBS update service](#), which is free for volunteers to sign up to.

If you would like any further guidance on this matter, then please contact either:

- Phil Nash: phil.nash@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or
- Rachael Schofield: rachael.schofield@cambridgeshire.gov.uk