



HEATHSIDE SCHOOL

HAMPSTEAD

VISITORS POLICY

(Including the supervision of ancillary, contract
and “unchecked” staff.)

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Policy Statement

Heathside School provides a safe and secure environment in which students can live and learn. External visitors and unchecked staff will not be left unsupervised within the school buildings or grounds and will be made fully aware of all relevant policies and procedures in force at the time. All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that the grounds and buildings are secure and that access by unauthorised personnel is prevented and deterred.

Procedure for all visitors

1. All visitors are required to enter Heathside School sites through the Main entrance, regardless of time of arrival. The Reception is manned between the hours of 8.00am – 5.00pm Monday - Friday, except during the school holidays.
2. Visitors to Heathside School should make prior arrangements to visit, so that staff are aware of the purpose and details of the visit. Visitors will be signed in on arrival at Reception and be issued with a Red Visitor lanyard. Visitors will only be let on to the school campus if staff are comfortable that the visitor is here for legitimate purposes. Staff should be completely satisfied before letting visitors into school.
3. The receiving party (as appropriate) should be informed of visitors' arrival. Visitors should be accompanied at all times when moving around school.
4. Staff should be aware of all visitors to the school and to the possibility that young people are vulnerable to abuse by visitors or that inappropriate items could be handed over to them.
5. Reception staff are therefore required to establish the name and purpose of all visitors to the School. Proof of identity will be requested where visitors are unknown to staff. Official I.D. cards must always be checked for visitors from Agencies or Authorities.
6. All visitors are required to be 'signed in' at reception using the Inventory system. Visitors should state their name, their organisation, who they are visiting, and the date/time will be recorded. When the visit has ended the visitor should sign out. Visitor badges and lanyards should be worn at all times during the visit and handed back in to the reception when signing out.
7. Visitors are given a copy of the safeguarding leaflet to read upon entry to the school. This contains information about the procedures, code of conduct, e-safety (including use of mobile phones) and what to do if visitors have concerns about a child or a

child makes a disclosure. It also includes information about fire procedures, accidents and illness and background checks.

8. Any 'unchecked' contractors, for example repair or maintenance contractors and ancillary staff will be supervised and not left alone with children. They should be given clear instructions about what to do if an unsupervised child or children enters the area where they are working. They must also be told about the importance of ensuring the security of any tools, equipment or substances they are using. They must also be informed as to what to do in the event of a fire alarm.
9. The Headteacher may refuse entry to, or instruct to leave, any visitor who does not have a statutory right to be on the premises and whose presence is considered unreasonable, unnecessary and/or disruptive.

Identifying Visitors

All adults on site should wear the appropriate coloured lanyard, visibly, at all times. Children are taught to recognise these lanyards in assemblies. ALL individuals should challenge anyone not wearing a lanyard even if they are known to them.

The Lanyards are colour coded as follows:

Staff of Heathside Preparatory School

All staff wear a BLUE lanyard with their ID badge, this denotes that they are an employee of the school and all necessary vetting has been completed. These staff are free to move about the school



Regular visitors and contracted staff

Individuals who regularly attend the school who have undergone necessary vetting checks will be issued with a GREEN lanyard and visitors badge at reception. These should be returned to reception at the end of each visit.



General Visitors

The majority of visitors to school will be existing parents or one off visitors e.g. visiting speakers, prospective parents or other workers as such it is neither appropriate nor feasible to complete vetting for them. These visitors should be issued with a RED lanyard, which denoted they must be supervised at all times whilst on site even if they are known to staff.



Governors

Governors, who regularly attend the school, will have undergone necessary vetting checks and will be issued with an ORANGE lanyard and visitors badge at reception. These should be returned to reception at the end of each visit.

GOVERNOR

Inappropriate Conduct

If a person arrives at the School apparently under the influence of alcohol or substances, or displaying threatening or potentially disruptive behaviour, staff should deny admission. The Deputy Head, or Headteacher should be contacted as soon as practicable. The Police should be informed if the situation becomes threatening. In these circumstances, the matter must be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

If any inappropriate behaviour is reported this should be given immediately to the Headteacher or DSL, this will be dealt with using the appropriate measures to ensure that all pupils are kept safe.

If a young person is affected, their parent/carer (and Social Worker if appropriate) should also be informed at the earliest opportunity. The same principles apply if a visitor becomes abusive, disruptive or threatening whilst on the premises.

VISITING SPEAKERS

The "Prevent" statutory guidance (The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", DfE, June 2023) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>) requires schools to have clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers whether invited by staff or pupils, are suitable and appropriately supervised.

Outside speakers are cared for in terms of their safety and comfort on site and they are given constant supervision around the students as individuals who have not been DBS checked.

Choice and invitation of speakers

Outside speakers will be invited into the School to provide talks that are of benefit to students. These talks cover a wide variety of issues and information: careers, politics, current affairs and well-being issues such as drugs and nutrition etc. Other visiting speakers occasionally give talks to the students in the lower years, for example on sex education and sexual health, under the PSHE heading.

External speakers also offer a chance to add context and address issues important to British Values such as democracy, the rule of law, racism etc and to widen the students' general knowledge. Speakers are 'vetted' in the sense that they are known to be experts in a particular topic or role, with professional credentials, qualifications or experience. Extensive research including the internet and speaking to events organisers at other schools will be carried out if the speaker is an individual who is not known to us or is from an unfamiliar organisation.

We rarely, if ever, take speakers who approach us who are not known to us. Speakers are often from a well-known organisation, a business, a charity or a pressure group. They may be recommended by other schools/colleagues/contacts who know them or know of them and their work. Sometimes invited speakers are known to us as the parents of students or past students here, or they may be friends or relatives of students or staff. They may also be past students themselves.

The Deputy Head will be in close contact with speakers before they come in. If the speaker is less well known to us, the Deputy will discuss, through emails or phone conversations, the content of the talk to be given, to establish that this is suitable and helpful for the students. Guidance will be given on the format, nature and content of the presentation if this seems appropriate and on the nature and expectations of the students.

Speakers on site

The identity of the speakers will be checked on arrival and they will be asked to sign in to Inventory. They will be told the location of the fire exits and whether a fire drill is planned. They will wait in Reception until they can be taken to the place where the talk is to be given. They will be given a visitor's lanyard.

The speaker will then be escorted by a member of staff from the Reception area to the location of the talk, usually the Hall. There they will be helped to set up a Powerpoint etc and given anything else they require.

At no point will the speaker be left alone with students.

The students will be brought into the hall or classroom with a member of staff present at all times. The talk will be attended by at least one member of staff so that its content, suitability and the response of the students can be monitored at all times. School staff in attendance have the right to stop the talk or change its direction at any time, should it seem to be inappropriate to the needs and age of the students.

At the end of the talk, the speaker will be taken to Reception to sign out and then escorted off the School premises so that, as before, they are supervised at all times.

Site Security

All external entrances to the buildings are secured with electronic locks or alarmed doors. CCTV is in operation externally. The caretaker is responsible for checking the condition of the site boundaries and buildings daily, reporting any concerns to the Facilities Manager immediately and taking remedial action where possible. Any intruders must be reported to the police and all breaches of security must be reported to the Headteacher immediately on their emergency contact number.