



Volunteer Information

Portsmouth Hubs

At [The Literacy Hubs](#), Portsmouth, we are working to develop a city of confident and ambitious young people with the literacy skills they need to succeed in life.

Our first hub, The Pompey Pirates, launched in September 2020 and provides an intensive, year-long, after school catch up programme that works with children aged 9 to 13 years old, focusing on the transitional years between primary and secondary. Our second hub, Portsea Sailors, is due to open in January 2022. At both hubs we work exclusively with children who have been referred by their school and who are both falling behind in their literacy progress and from a disadvantaged background.



Our volunteer 'Crewmates' support the young people who attend the sessions at our 'Ships'. As part of the crew, you will support children with their reading and writing, helping them gain confidence both at school and in the world beyond. All sessions are guided by a qualified teacher.

Our volunteer 'Crewmates' support the young people who attend the sessions at our 'Ships'. As part of the crew, you will support children with their reading and writing, helping them gain confidence both at school and in the world beyond. All sessions are guided by a qualified teacher.

Here are some questions (and answers) you might have about the project:

How old do I have to be?

You do have to be 18 to become one of our volunteers.

Do I need to be or have been an English teacher?

No, you don't need to be an English teacher or even a teacher. However, it will be helpful if you feel confident with literacy. There will be a Captain (qualified teacher) running each session who will support volunteers and guide the session. You will also be trained before you begin volunteering so you will learn the basic techniques needed to help you support the children. We are looking for applicants who are committed to the aims of The Literacy Hubs and have the potential to make a real difference in the lives of the young people we support. We are looking for volunteers who can demonstrate our core values – excellence, commitment, collaboration, courage, and sincerity.

How long will the sessions last?

Each session will last for around 2.5 hours. We ask that our crewmates arrive 30 mins before the start of each session, in order to take part in a briefing to explain the focus for the day.

What will a typical session look like?

In a typical session you will support the young pirates or sailors with 1-1 reading support and working on their published project. Each term the children work on a published project. For example, during the first term at Pompey Pirates we work on pirate stories that will be published as a book.

You do not need to plan for the sessions. We provide a briefing at the start of each session so you understand the session's focus and get an understanding of the young person you will be working with. Your job is to support and encourage the children throughout the session, while helping to create a fun and engaging atmosphere for all.

When are the sessions held?

Sessions are held every weekday during term time, different children come on different days of the week. We run some sessions during the day, and others after school. After school sessions normally begin at 4.00pm but this can depend on which children are coming that day and how far they have to travel.

How old are the children I will be supporting?

The children will be mostly from school years 5, 6 and 7 so will be aged between 9 and 12.

How many sessions can I sign up for?

You can sign up for as many sessions as you like but we would like you to commit to at least 15 sessions in a year. If you could commit to one session per week, that would be ideal.

What happens if I have a holiday booked or a busy week at home or work?

Session times and dates will be released in advance so you will be able to book into the dates which suit you. You will receive the sign up details after you have trained.

How do I sign up for the sessions?

You will need to complete the volunteer [application](#) form first. You will then be invited to a training session. Once you have completed the training and we have received your DBS (if you have one already that's great- we will check this at training) you will be ready to sign up and begin volunteering.



What training is available?

Before you can step on to either of our Ships you will need to attend one of our training sessions, either in person or online. Once you have successfully completed the application process, we will send details of how you can sign up to a training. There will be a list of dates and times for you to choose from and the training lasts for around 1.5 hours. The training will prepare you for a typical volunteer session, introduce you to the resources we use, and cover our safeguarding and child protection procedure - the classic onboarding.

How has COVID-19 impacted volunteering with The Literacy Hubs?

Due to school closures, our work at The Literacy Hubs has become even more crucial, as the literacy gap between those less advantaged children and their peers has become even wider.

We believe that the 1-1 support provided at Pompey Pirates and Portsea Sailors will be of great value to the young people who attend the programme, and aim to run in-person sessions at all times that it is safe to do so.

However, we also take very seriously our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our crewmates, staff, and young pirates. As such, we have put in place a number of general measures, and ask crewmates to follow a number of practical steps that will need to remain in place while the virus is still active.

General Measures

- Sessions will be run with a single school bubble - x1 school, x1 night = 1 bubble
- We will be making use of the multiple rooms that we have access to across the site, to ensure that everyone has adequate room to spread out. When appropriate we will also utilise outdoor spaces
- Cleaning takes place between each session
- We will have a restricted number of volunteers at each session
- PPE will be in place, including temperature checker on entrance and hand sanitisation on entrance and stations throughout the site.
- We encourage all volunteers to wear a face covering (either a mask or visor) all times while moving around the Ship, unless you have a medical exemption. A small number of masks and visors will be available at the ships in case any volunteers arrive without one.

Thanks for your interest in The Literacy Hubs.
Please use [this form](#) to complete our application.

