Primary School

As a volunteer at a primary school, you will become part of a school community that educates children from around the age of 3 or 4 up to 11. Primary schools in England are often very diverse places, welcoming children and families from many different backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

Many primary schools have an Early Years unit, made up of a nursery and/or a reception class. Here the youngest children learn mainly through play, and the focus is on developing language, social skills and independence. The main school runs from Year 1 to Year 6, where children learn to read, write and work with numbers, and are prepared for the move to secondary school.

Volunteers support the teachers and teaching assistants in their daily work. You may supervise activities and work with individual children, small groups or a whole class, often with the younger children. You will also get involved in the wider life of the school, from lunchtimes and clubs to trips and special events.

Tasks at the primary school include:

- Supporting teachers in the classroom, including in the Early Years unit
- Preparing learning materials, displays and classrooms
- Listening to children read and supporting them with reading and writing
- Working with individual children or small groups on activities set by the teacher
- Helping with arts, crafts, music and outdoor learning
- Supervising children at lunchtime and in the playground
- Helping with after-school clubs and activities
- Accompanying classes on school trips
- Supporting school events such as fairs, concerts, assemblies and sports days
- Sharing German language and culture with the children, e.g. through songs, games or festivals

The role does not involve personal care. You will always work under the guidance of school staff. The exact tasks will be agreed with your contact at the school on your first day.

What is expected from a volunteer:

- **Patience & Calmness** – staying calm and patient when children need extra time or support.
- **Kindness** – creating a friendly, safe and encouraging atmosphere for every child.
- **Enthusiasm** – bringing energy and a positive attitude to lessons and activities.
- **Creativity** – coming up with ideas for games, crafts and new ways to help children learn.
- **Empathy & Understanding** – being sensitive to each child’s needs, background and feelings.
- **Team Player** – working well with staff and other volunteers and being reliable and punctual.