

A Volunteer's Perspective

"Becoming a School Volunteer for CAFOD is the most demanding and rewarding challenge

I've taken on since my children hit adolescence. It's an amazing experience to be able to see the both the similarities and the uniqueness of so many different Catholic schools. And the perks are tremendous - I've been invited to Nativity plays and to judge an Easter Bonnet contest (hilarious!) at some of

the schools I've visited. I enjoy the challenge of selecting and adapting the huge amount of

CAFOD materials available to different age groups and locales. It keeps my brain ticking over! Boosted by my successful forays into schools in the diocese, I

have since also

volunteered to be appointed as a Governor at my parish primary school, and have found that my experience with CAFOD has given me both confidence and insights which help me in this new role.

Meeting up with other volunteers is a scarce opportunity for me to converse with other adults who focus on what is happening in and to the world. It's the only time I'm in contact with so many people who are so knowledgeable and genuinely concerned about global issues."

(Berna Parnell, CAFOD Portsmouth School Volunteer)



Interested?

Then contact us on the details below for an application form.

CAFOD Portsmouth Diocesan Managers

Lynda Mussell & Martin Brown

Diocesan Officer

Laura Bigoni

Visit the website at www.cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Portsmouth

St Mary's Church, Belle Vue Road
Aldershot GU12 4RX

Tel: 01252 329385

E-mail: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

All photos by CAFOD Portsmouth,
Big Deal photo: Esther Lake/CAFOD

Registered charity no. 285776
CAFOD
just one world

CAFOD
just one world



School Volunteers in the Portsmouth Diocese

Volunteering with CAFOD Portsmouth

CAFOD promotes human development and social justice in witness to Christian faith and gospel values.

CAFOD raises funds from the Catholic community in England and Wales, the UK government and the general public so that we can:

- work alongside people in need to reduce poverty and bring about sustainable change through development and humanitarian programmes.
- increase understanding of the causes of poverty and injustice and encourage the Catholic community to embrace values, attitudes and lifestyles that are rooted in the Gospel.
- challenge governments and international bodies to adopt policies that promote social justice and end poverty. This is done both directly and by rallying the Catholic community.



Why be a schools volunteer?

CAFOD is looking for enthusiastic people to visit Catholic schools to deliver a lively presentation about its work and mission. CAFOD wants to reach as many young people as

possible to educate them about the divisions that exist in the world. Young people are a potentially powerful force for change. CAFOD can open young people's eyes to many opportunities of bringing hope to the human family. In this way, together we can proclaim the Good News about justice for the poor and invite young people to be part of it.

CAFOD is the international aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, sharing in the Church's task of transforming the world to reflect the Kingdom of God, through solidarity with the poor and action for justice.

What is involved?

The main role of a school volunteer is to develop and foster strong links between CAFOD and the school, and to ensure that the schools incorporate global education into their core teaching and into the ethos of their school. In practical terms this means regular visits to the school to deliver assemblies, classroom based activities or just to go into schools to collect a cheque on behalf of CAFOD! To foster these strong links with CAFOD the school volunteer is expected to contact the school, negotiate arrangements for the visit and follow up the visit with correspondence to the school.

Do I get any training?

CAFOD provides ongoing support through training sessions and meetings, as well as supplying a full range of materials to assist with delivering presentations and lessons in schools. There are two days of initial school's training provided plus one day of induction into CAFOD, with the possibility of further occasional training in the future and meetings with other volunteers in the area.

How much time?

This depends on the volunteer. The equivalent of one working day per month would probably be the minimum needed. Obviously, visits can only be made in term-time but correspondence can be conducted at times to suit. You will need to travel to reach schools. How far you are willing to journey from your home is up to you to decide and agree with your local CAFOD office. You can agree a radius within which you are prepared to travel. Some volunteers work only within their local area while others are willing to travel over a whole diocese. CAFOD will re-imburse all reasonable travel costs.

All volunteers will receive full training and ongoing support

Do I need to be a qualified teacher?

No. While many of our schools volunteers may have a teaching background the role does not require the full educational expertise or background of a teacher. What is essential is the ability to communicate effectively with young people of all ages.



Do I need CRB clearance?

Yes. This role includes contact with children and would require CRB clearance for all volunteers. Unfortunately, previous CRB clearances from different organisations are non-transferable. You will also need to attend a Child Protection briefing session.

Benefits to the volunteer

The work is rewarding and enjoyable. Young people and staff of schools are welcoming, enthusiastic and appreciative of visits. As a volunteer you will be part of a team and friendly network of people with shared values and commitment. You will have opportunities for gaining experience of working in the voluntary sector. Together, the schools volunteers are a team that is shaping the future of those who can change the world!

