

Schools Volunteer at Chiswick House and Gardens

As a Schools Volunteer, you will play a key role in supporting CHGT facilitators as they lead students in exploring food education in our vibrant Kitchen Garden. You'll assist with greeting groups, explaining and supporting the learners in their self-led activity, gathering feedback and ensuring garden rules and guidelines are followed. You will help ensure a safe, welcoming, and enriching experience for every child. We aim for your role as Schools Volunteer to grow and change with the developing schools offer, with further opportunity to help us shape new activities and sessions alongside feedback from our facilitators and school partners.

Why does Chiswick House need schools' volunteers?

We need friendly and enthusiastic people to work as part of our team, providing support to our facilitators and visiting teachers. As well as keeping children engaged with activities, help is also needed in greeting groups, gathering feedback, and guidelines are followed. As we work to expand our reach, we are also looking for volunteers to support with outreach to local schools' networks, depending on interest and experience.

What will you be doing?

You will need to:

- Enjoy working with children and supporting outdoor learning
- Have an existing or be willing to get an enhanced DBS check
- Be excited about food education and seasonal gardening
- Be confident communicating with primary-aged students and teachers
- Be available for shifts that typically run weekday mornings (9:45am-1pm) and afternoons (12:15-3:30pm)
- Be able to work outdoors in all weather and move around the garden
- Check in with the Schools & Community Coordinator at the start of each session
- Use a radio (Channel 1) to stay connected with the team if needed

What qualities, skills and experience do you need?

- A friendly, patient and approachable manner
- Some interest or experience working with children or in education (formal or informal)
- An interest in gardening, food growing, or nature-based learning
- Willingness to follow the lead of the session facilitator and adapt to the group's needs
- Physically fit – some walking, kneeling, or bending may be involved
- Confidence to speak with a variety of people, including teachers and young children
- Be aged 17+

How much time will you be expected to give and when?

Most sessions take place **on weekday mornings and afternoons during term time**, lasting approximately **3 to 4 hours**, including setup and debrief. You'll be asked to arrive before the school group and assist with packing down afterwards.

What can you expect from us?

- A fun, engaging experience helping children connect with nature and food
- Support from a dedicated Schools & Community Coordinator
- A beautiful environment in which to volunteer
- A break area with tea and coffee provided
- English Heritage membership after 60 hours of volunteering
- Free entry to Chiswick House and Kitchen Garden for you and a guest
- Discounts in the shop, café and on some events (lanyard required)
- Reimbursement of travel costs up to £5 per shift
- Opportunities to socialise and learn alongside other volunteers

What will we expect from you?

- Reliability and punctuality
- A good sense of humour and flexibility
- An encouraging, respectful attitude towards children
- A willingness to learn and work as part of a team

If you are interested in being a schools volunteer or have questions about this role, please contact Philippa by email at volunteering@chgt.org.uk quoting 'Schools Volunteer' and fill in this [form](#).

This document is intended as a guide to volunteering at Chiswick House and Gardens and is not legally binding.