

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the minimum and maximum age requirement to be a mentor?

We require all our mentors to be above 18 years old. However, there is no upper age limit, and you are welcome to volunteer as long as you are able to keep pace with a child.

2. Can I mentor if I have a criminal record?

Having a criminal record does not necessarily mean you will be unable to volunteer, but this is determined on a case-by-case basis. If you have a criminal record, you will need to let us know on your application or in interview. We will also ask you to fill in a self-disclosure form. Our Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) will need to see your police check certificate and will contact you for a private and confidential discussion.

3. Will I receive training?

Yes! It is mandatory for mentors to complete our two-day training course. The training course is designed to aid you in your journey as a mentor, and cover key topics such as:

- Qualities of a mentor
- Safeguarding
- Setting boundaries
- Dealing with difficult situations
- Planning sessions

4. How will I be matched with a mentee?

Once you have gone through the recruitment process, we begin the process of matching you with a child. This will be based not only on proximity but also on similar interests and personalities which we feel will make a good fit!

5. When do I need to be available to mentor, and for how long?

One session is usually between 1-3 hours long, and sessions take place once a week. This will be outside of school hours, so you will need to be available to mentor either on a weekday evening or weekend.

6. Where will the mentoring take place?

The sessions begin with the mentor collecting their mentee from their house and this will be in one of the boroughs we work in, as below:

- Hackney
- Camden
- Lambeth
- Southwark
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Brent

Sessions initially take place in the local area, and over time you will be able to explore London with your mentee!

7. Are mentoring sessions affected by Covid-19?

Our mentoring sessions take place face to face in indoor and outdoor locations although some may be substituted for phone call sessions under certain circumstances. If government guidelines were to change and Covid-19 restrictions put back in place, we would act accordingly to ensure the sessions could continue in an appropriate way.

8. How much contact would I have with the mentee's family?

You will be in touch with the family of your mentee to book in and confirm sessions each week. On the day of the session, you will collect your mentee from their parent/caregiver

and drop them back home after the session. This may be the only contact you have with their family, and any boundaries to keep in mind will be discussed further in training.

9. Are any expenses covered?

Yes, reasonable expenses are covered, and this will be discussed further in training.

10. Can I take a holiday during the mentoring?

Yes, you may take a holiday as long as you let your mentee's family and your volunteer coordinator know. We ask that the first 6 weeks must be consecutive face to face sessions and that you do not take a holiday longer than 3 weeks within the first 3 months of mentoring to ensure you are able to build a relationship with your mentee.

For further information, please contact info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk