



Busy Readers

www.darlingtoncares.co.uk

Bringing business and the community together

About Darlington Cares

Darlington Cares is a partnership of over 20 of the town's leading organisations and employers who are committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Darlington Cares works by centrally coordinating the skills, expertise and volunteering power of its members and their employees and unites them with community projects and local charities, where they can have the most impact. A programme is delivered across three key areas, based on Darlington's community needs:

- Education
- Environment
- Social Justice

Projects work to support key areas of need in Darlington, including youth employability, poverty, community engagement, the environment, and are delivered in a variety of ways including outdoor community challenges, skills led projects and donation campaigns.

Various employers make up the board of Darlington Cares, including Cummins Engines, Darlington Building Society, Darlington Borough Council, EE, Sherwoods, County Durham Community Foundation and Teesside University.

Additional members include, Department for Education, Whessoe Engineering, Sainsbury's, Harvey & Hugo, Student Loans Company, Latimer Hinks, Handelsbanken and Esh Group.

Busy Readers

'The nicest part about being a Busy Readers volunteer is without doubt the children themselves. I visit Corporation Road School and the smiles on the children's faces and their instantly raised hands for selection when I enter the classroom, is proof of how much they enjoy having someone different to listen to them read and encourage their progress. Now in my 2nd year, I have found the experience to be most rewarding and I would encourage anyone with an hour to spare to enrol on the Busy Readers scheme. I can assure you, our time is really appreciated within the schools by both staff and pupils.'

Rita Wilkinson, Busy Reader volunteer

Launched in September 2013, Busy Readers trains volunteers to listen to children read in local primary schools. We make it easy as possible for volunteers and schools to join the scheme, as we provide the necessary training and DBS checks for the volunteers. To date over 120 volunteers have been trained. The schools currently involved in Busy Readers are as follows:

- Gurney Pease Academy, Dodsworth Street, Darlington, DL1 2NG
- Corporation Road Community Primary School, Darlington, DL3 6AR
- Reid Street School, Reid Street, Darlington, DL3 6EX
- West Park Academy, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington, DL2 2GF
- Red Hall Primary School, Headingly Crescent, Darlington, DL1 2ST
- Northwood Primary School, Pendleton Road, Darlington, DL1 2HF
- Marchbank Free School, Mowden Hall, Barnes Road, Darlington, DL3 9BL
- Cockerton Church of England Primary School, Newton Lane, Darlington, DL3 9EX
- Heathfield Primary School, The Broadway, Darlington, DL1 1EJ
- Springfield Academy, Salters Lane South, Darlington, DL1 2AN
- Federation of Mowden Schools, Conyers Ave, Darlington, DL3 9DE

Volunteers attend the same school for one hour per week, with some dedicating more of their time to listen to children read at a mutually agreed time.

Training session:

A brief training session equips volunteers with an understanding of how children are taught to read and the practical skills and tips needed to help the children develop.

Darlington Cares will organise mandatory Disclosure and Barring Service checks (formerly CRB) of the volunteers **in advance** of the training.

In accordance to the new disqualification by association legislation for volunteers working with children up to age 8, all volunteers will be required to sign a declaration to confirm that they do not live in a household with someone who holds a criminal conviction.

To register your interest or for further information please contact:

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Please note: The DBS application is an online process and must be completed in advance of the training session.