

Motivate your employees through reading in schools



Giving just a few hours of your employees' time each week could help to engage your team – and help address one of Oxfordshire's most serious challenges.

Engage your employees.

Support an important local cause

Employee volunteering has been proven to increase staff engagement, and can make a positive difference in local communities. Despite its reputation for education and learning, parts of Oxfordshire have some of the lowest literacy rates in the country. By working in partnership with local schools, your employees can make a positive impact on children's learning - and feel more motivated in the workplace.

Introducing the ARCh Company Volunteering Scheme

The ARCh Company Volunteer Scheme is an innovative collaboration between Oxfordshire businesses and the charitable sector. Employees spend time in schools each week, reading to students who have fallen behind with their reading in a bid to improve their literacy.

How does it work?

Employers signing up to the scheme choose the number of staff members they want to take part in the programme, and pay a small fee for each. The rest is managed by ARCh. It assists with the volunteer recruitment process, provides full training, and works closely with the volunteers to ensure their time in the classroom is beneficial for both the employee and the children they work with.

"It's amazing to build up a relationship with children through reading with them and to see how much improvement can be made in such short passage of time. I am looking forward to the new school term!"

Stephanie Dubois, Employee Volunteer, Value Retail PLC

Why take part?

There are many different reasons why organizations choose to take part in the Company Volunteering Scheme. Here are just a few:

Morale and motivation

A number of studies have highlighted the value of employee volunteering, and its positive effect on engagement levels. The companies already involved in the ARCh scheme have reported a number of benefits for the employees taking part.

Corporate social responsibility

Businesses today are increasingly required to demonstrate the positive impact they have on the communities they serve. By engaging with this important local issue, employers can highlight their commitment to the local area.

Flexible and efficient service

We understand that businesses have many pressures of their time and resources, which is why we make the scheme as flexible and simple to run possible; working to organizations' specific requirements to provide bespoke programmes.

A tried and tested model

A number of local organisations have already taken part in the scheme including Oxford University Press, DHL, and Value Retail - many for several years, and with very positive results

"The ARCh team is endlessly professional and show a real dedication to their activities. They have been flexible to the needs of our organization and demonstrate a deep knowledge of the role of volunteers in improving educational outcomes."

**Dan Selinger, Head of Communications,
Oxford University Press**

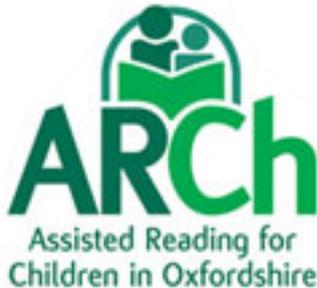
Get involved

Whether your organisation is big or small, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Jane Rendle or Elaine Adams now for further information:

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ARCh is a registered charity which recruits, trains and supports volunteers to work 1:1 with children in primary schools across the county. We have a growing network of over 240 volunteers working in over 100 Oxfordshire schools supporting more than 700 children every year.