



GUIDANCE FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS IN THE CHATTY CORNER

Thank you for giving up your time to volunteer in the Chatty Corner.

Our aim is to welcome non-native speakers and encourage them to chat with us.

At your first session you will usually sit with a more experienced volunteer who may have one or more “chatters” in their group. Once you are comfortable you can be with a group on your own but if you find that your group isn’t working or if you just want a change, please talk to Margaret. You don’t have to wait for this though; feel free to just move around!

Please could you attach a label to your jumper with your name on and ask all your chatters to do the same. You may know their names and you may have a good memory for them but a lot of us don’t!

The Chatty Corner is a very flexible and fluid environment. There is no right or wrong way of talking to the chatters. Both volunteers and chatters can come and go whenever it pleases them and are positively encouraged to move around to benefit from the free refreshments or to talk to other chatters and volunteers.

You may like to take a tour of the library to see what is going on with Educafe and to look at the many resources on offer. Please encourage your chatters to join the library if they haven’t done so; it’s all free and there are plenty of online resources.

You can talk about any subject you want to; just try to speak slowly and clearly. Sometimes the chatters will bring up subjects. However, it is useful to discuss cultural issues and problems with day to day life. You might ask your group if they have any issues you can help them with or they could all tell you about something interesting that they have done recently.

Language is important and most chatters will expect to be corrected. It’s often helpful to practise the same structure but don’t let this get in the way of the conversation.

We ask that volunteers register with Educafe please, and this can be done on the link below. Could you also read our “Safeguarding Guidance” please. There is also some advice on working in the chatty corner and how to get the chatters chatting which you may find helpful. If you haven’t received either of these documents, please ask Margaret.

There are many resources which will help get the conversation to flow and these can be found at the back of the area we use. Please ask if you would like help or advice on how to use them.



If you haven't already met Clare Middleton, Janine Ford and Ellen Hunter-Smart who run Educafe, please ask Margaret to introduce you.

Volunteer registration form

<https://form.jotform.com/210734712864052>

Margaret's email

margaret@educafeuk.co.uk

Ellen's email

ellen@educafeuk.co.uk