



the kids network

Connecting for Change

Volunteering Pack

Welcome to The Kids Network!

The Kids Network supports children aged 8-11 at a crucial time in their lives: in the lead up to the transition from primary into secondary school. We do this by matching them with a volunteer mentor, a local hero from their London community who supports them in 1:1 weekly sessions for the duration of 12 months.



Our Programme

- 1 year of weekly sessions, 1-3 hours long
- One-to-one mentoring in the community
- Monthly budget for sessions
- Child-led programme and activities
- Safeguarding support throughout the year
- Group mentoring sessions

As a mentor...

You will be trained to deliver child-led sessions. Whether you're playing games, going to the cinema or discussing goals, you'll be making a difference in a child's life whilst gaining new skills and enhancing your experience.

What we offer mentors

- Comprehensive onboarding training and continual opportunities for further development and training
- A Badge of Excellence Certificate in Child-led Mentoring upon completion of the programme
- Access to our mentoring community platform and online resources
- Opportunities to meet other mentors through Mentor Meet Ups & Group Mentoring.
- Year-round support from a dedicated Programme Manager



“ It's exposing me to things I wouldn't really do, even with my mentee like she wants to go trampolining or flower shopping. I'm learning about myself, she's learning about herself. ”

Quote from a past mentor

Our Impact

Our programme has proven significant impact on increasing the social and emotional capabilities and wellbeing of children. We achieve this by building children's confidence, resilience and curiosity for ambitious futures through positive experiences.

From our 2025 Impact Report...

- 64% Of children were from a global majority
- 89% Of children reported they felt people cared about them by the end of the programme
- 93% Of children reported an increase in their wellbeing over their mentoring journey
- 100% Of children reported they enjoyed the time with the mentor

[Click here to view our full 2025 Impact Report](#)

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We have seen the difference it's made in the children's confidence levels, their ability to communicate and manage feelings.

Quote from a school

”



Long-Term Impact

We commissioned ImpactEd, an independent education evaluation organisation, to answer one key question: does our impact last? They spoke individually with children who were on our programme when they were younger and their findings were extraordinary...

5 Things That Stood Out

Agency

Children keep improving long after the programme ends: setting goals and persisting through difficulty independently

Emotional Regulation

They built their own toolkit for managing anxiety and difficulty, and are still using it years later

Safety

Every other improvement flows from one thing: the child felt safe, accepted, and not judged

Relationships

Having opened up to a trusted adult, these children became more open with other people around them

Equity

The impact did not vary by gender or ethnicity. This programme works for every child, every time

[Click here to view our full Long-term Impact Report](#)



“

Before, I would only ever make small decisions and I would always ask other people, ‘Should I do this? Should I do that?’ But now I can make like really big decisions without any help.

”

Quote from a child

Benefits for Mentors

Our programme not only benefits the children we work with but also has a huge positive impact on our mentors through improving their wellbeing, skills, and knowledge.

From our 2025 Impact Report...

88%

Of mentors reported that mentoring has had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

100%

Of mentors stated that TKN had increased the belief that they could create change in their community

47%

Of mentors reported that mentoring with TKN influenced their career goals/ developed their skills

“

My mentor has made me feel more brave and confident and proud to answer questions in school

”

Quote from a child



The Mentor Journey

Onboarding

Once you fill out a short application form, a member of the TKN team will be in touch within 72 hours to invite you to interview. If successful at interview, we will require 2 references, in addition to a DBS check. These checks will be paid for by TKN.

Training

After a successful interview, you will be invited to an in person induction day, in addition to completing an online training module. These will include sessions to provide our mentors with all the skills and knowledge they need to become a brilliant mentor.

Months 1-3 of mentoring

Building Connections

We will then match you to a child who needs a little extra support. The first 3 months of your mentoring journey will be about building connections with your mentee. Spending 1 hour together each week, getting to know each other in their local area.

Months 3-9 of mentoring

Goal Setting

After 2 months, sessions can be extended to 2-3 hours each week. You can start venturing further afield and begin goal setting. You will help your mentee identify their goals for their time with TKN and work with them to achieve them over your time together.

Months 9-12 of mentoring

Positive endings

The final 3 months of your mentor journey will focus on positive endings, celebrating the time you have spent together, all you have achieved and looking forward to the positive future your mentee will have after your TKN journey comes to an end at the one year mark.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a cost?

No! TKN will pay for DBS and onboarding costs. You have a £35 budget each month to spend within sessions which will be reimbursed. Mentors can also claim back travel expenses.

How will I be matched with my mentee?

Once our mentors have completed onboarding and training, we begin the process of matching them with a child. This will be based not only on proximity but also on identity characteristics, similar interests, and personalities which we feel will make a good fit.

When do I need to be available to mentor?

Sessions last between 1-3 hours, once a week. This can be weekday evenings outside of school hours (typically after 3.15pm) or weekends. The programme lasts the full 12 months including school holidays.

Can I go on holiday?

Yes, of course. Although our stance is that we require sessions with your mentee take place weekly, we recognise instances such as holidays may require you to have a small gap in sessions with your mentee. We ask that you work with your programme manager to maintain the quality of the programme experience for your mentee.

What next!

Do you think you could be a role model and connect with a child to make positive change? Now is the time to dream big, to step up and to take action to support our little Londoners!

[Click here to visit our website to find out more information and apply to become a mentor today!](#)



If you have any questions or would like to speak more about the opportunity, please email us via info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk

“

I think the motto of TKN should be ‘positive vibes only’ both the staff and the mentors are extremely cheerful, supportive and understanding. It’s truly like being part of a community.

”

Quote from a past mentor

