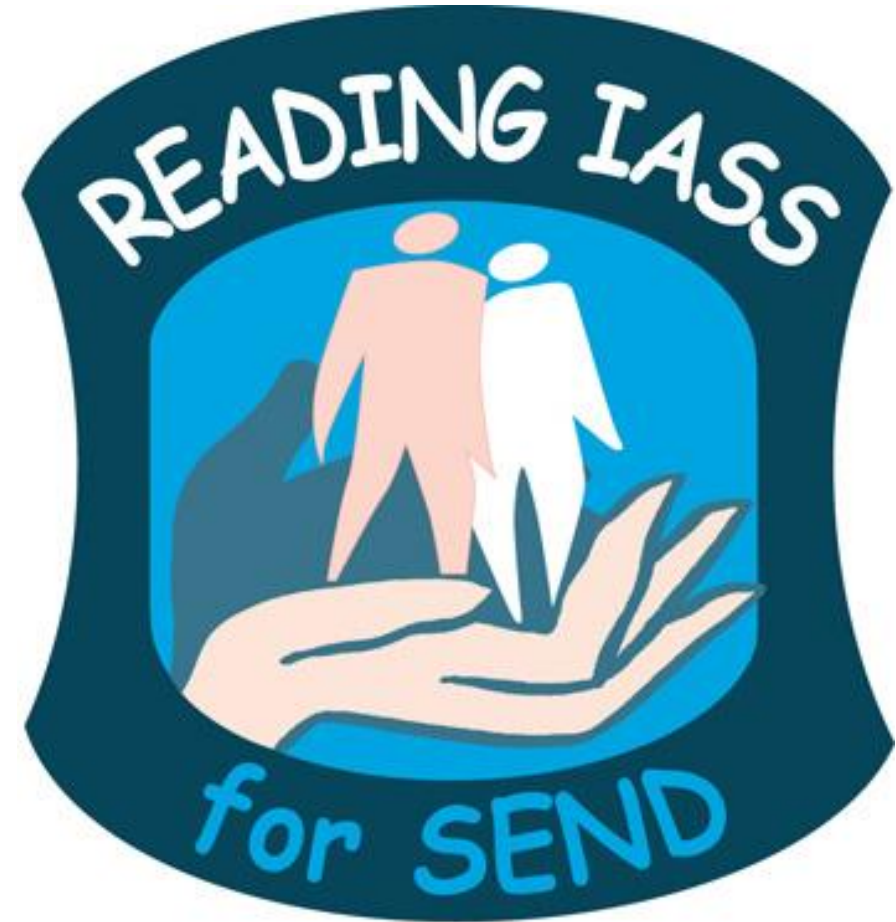


Reading IASS for SEND



Information for Prospective Volunteers

February 2022



**Reading Information Advice
and Support Service for SEND**

About Reading IASS for SEND

- A statutory service offering information, advice and support to children, young people, parents and carers of children aged 0-25 with special educational needs or disability (SEND).
- Helps people to express their views
- Operates at arm's length from Brighter Futures for Children
- Provides support and advice that is free, impartial and confidential.



How we help

Education should be a partnership between parents and professionals, but sometimes the relationship can become less effective if

- a parent or carer is unhappy with the SEND provision their child is receiving
- or
- does not understand the education system, legal framework or terminology surrounding SEND



Recruitment

- Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer will complete an application form and be interviewed by the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Two references will be requested, and an enhanced DBS check will be made.



Support during training

- There will be opportunities throughout the training period for the coordinator and the volunteer to consider whether volunteering with Reading IASS for SEND is an appropriate role for the trainee.
- The Volunteer Coordinator will provide personal support and advice for volunteers, and if appropriate, individual tutorial sessions will be available.
- If appropriate, after training, the volunteer will have an opportunity to shadow a member of Reading IASS staff, or an experienced volunteer.



Time commitment

Reading IASS responds to the needs of parents/carers as they arise.

Volunteers will be asked to take on support work on an ad hoc basis.

Typically, we would ask for a time commitment of a few hours a month, but this would vary according to individuals.



Support and supervision

- The Volunteer Coordinator will offer ongoing support and supervision to volunteers.
- Regular check-ins will be offered to all volunteers where there will be opportunity to discuss any problems or issues that may arise.



Contact

For an informal chat, please contact:

Call: 0118 937 3421 – ask for Sarah Bamford

Email: iass@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

