

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Volunteer Educational Mentor
<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	Educational Mentoring Coordinator
<b>HOURS:</b>	Up to 2 hours per week
<b>SALARY:</b>	Voluntary
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Minimum of 6 months commitment required
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Birmingham, London or Oxford

## Job Purpose

Refugee Support Network (RSN) provides education support to young people affected by displacement and crisis. We support asylum seeking and refugee young people to overcome the barriers that prevent them from accessing and progressing in education and training, in order that they may realise their potential and build a brighter future, whether in the UK or elsewhere. The majority of the young people we work with are, or were previously, unaccompanied asylum seeking young people in the care of the Local Authority, but we also work with some asylum seeking and refugee young people who live with their family, and survivors of trafficking.

The young people on this programme are aged between 14 - 24 years old. Each volunteer education mentor provides individual educational support to one young person for one hour a week, for a minimum of six months. These sessions take place either in a public library local to the young person, or in the young person's college library. Educational goals are set at the beginning of the mentoring relationship, and reviewed after six months. Most mentors work on the aspects of young person's homework or classwork which they find most challenging, as opposed to providing additional teaching or preparing resources. Goals are often related to learning English but can be wider than this, to include for example working on CVs. Mentors work closely with the RSN Educational Mentoring team who provide oversight, guidance and support.

While the overall purpose is to support a young person to move forward with their education, mentors can often be a source of wider advice and guidance and play an important role in helping young people integrate and learn about local services and activities. Occasionally mentors support young people with situations wider than the educational mentoring, for example preparing for job interviews, or taking a young person to an activity or an appointment. When issues wider than educational support come up in mentoring sessions we ask that these are discussed in advance with the RSN team.

## Key Responsibilities

1. To attend full induction training and complete all relevant child protection checks.□
2. Arrange and meet with your young person for a one hour session once a week,

over the period of at least 6 months at a mutually convenient, public place, with the purpose of supporting the young person to progress in their education.

3. To understand and comply with RSN's safeguarding procedures, and to promote the welfare of children and young people you come into contact with
4. Complete a weekly feedback form for all mentoring sessions, whether delivered or missed.
5. Liaise with the RSN educational mentoring team for support in delivering mentoring sessions where needed.
6. Help to identify support needs of vulnerable students and ensure that any concerns are escalated as soon as possible to the relevant mentoring coordinator
7. Attend a six-month mentoring review with the RSN educational mentoring team.
8. To attend an additional development training session every six months
9. Any other reasonable task requested by RSN.

## Person Specification

1. Experience of working with young people and the related challenges (ie: flexibility and patience sometimes required for youth work).
2. Capacity to travel to a location convenient for the young person and an ability to meet the young person by 5:30 pm at the latest on a weekday evening.
3. Experience of working with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures
4. Ability to work on own initiative and a willingness to take on relevant preparation, combined with the ability to seek advice and escalate situations when needed
5. Ability to think creatively and problem-solve
6. Excellent communication / interpersonal skills (able to exhibit warmth and empathy with a young person)
7. Good organisational skills
8. Ability to cope with emotionally-demanding and stressful situations
9. Motivated by promoting the wellbeing of children and young people
10. Commitment to and ability to work in accordance with RSN's Child Protection policies and Christian Ethos.

Because of the nature of the work the provisions of Section 4(2) of the 1974 Rehabilitation of Offenders Act do not apply. Information about convictions, which for other purposes are "spent" must therefore be disclosed. Successful applicants will need to give permission for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check to be made.

**RSN's Safeguarding Policy and procedures will be covered in the initial training for mentors but successful candidates will be asked to familiarise themselves with our full Child Protection Policy in advance of completing the training.**

To read about RSN's Christian Ethos, please click [here](#).