Volunteer Support Worker

Make a difference for bereaved children and young people in Oxfordshire.

SeeSaw Grief Support is an Oxfordshire charity supporting children, young people and families when someone close to them has died, or when a significant person in their life is living with a terminal illness.

Each year, SeeSaw supports over 450 children and young people across Oxfordshire, alongside guidance for families and training for schools and professionals.

What does a Volunteer Support Worker do?

Volunteer Support Workers (VSWs) provide one-to-one support for bereaved children and young people. Supporting in homes or schools, VSWs create a safe space for children and young people to talk about the person who has died, share memories, explore feelings and make sense of their grief. Through activities, conversation and creative approaches, volunteers help children and young people feel heard, understood and less alone during a difficult time in their lives.





With training, supervision and ongoing support from SeeSaw, VSWs provide a consistent and trusted relationship that can make a lasting difference to a child's wellbeing and confidence as they navigate their grief.

Why volunteer with SeeSaw?

The death of someone important can have a profound impact on a child or young person. Having a trusted adult who is willing to listen, acknowledge their grief and walk alongside them for a time can make a real difference.

What you'll gain:

- Comprehensive training
- Ongoing supervision and support
- New skills and experience
- Being part of a supportive volunteer community at an award-winning charity recognised with the King's Award for Voluntary Service.
- The opportunity to make a meaningful difference to bereaved children and young people

What skills or experience do I need?

The qualities that matter most are empathy, reliability and the ability to listen carefully and without judgement. Experience of working with children and young people can be helpful, whether gained through personal, professional or voluntary roles. What matters most is your ability to connect with children and young people, listen with compassion, and provide consistent support over time. You do not need previous experience in bereavement support, counselling or therapy. We provide comprehensive training, regular supervision and ongoing support to help you feel confident and well supported throughout your volunteering journey.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, cultures and life experiences. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive volunteer team that reflects the communities we serve and the children and families we support.

What is the time commitment?

Most VSWs give around 16 hours per month, although this varies. This covers direct support, preparation, record keeping, travel, monthly supervision and the team meeting held on the third Tuesday evening of each month.

Where and when does the volunteering take place?

Sessions take place in family homes and schools across Oxfordshire, during the school day or after school in the late afternoon or early evening. Because families may live in rural areas not served by public transport, VSWs must be able to travel independently.

What support will I receive?

Before working with families, you will complete a training programme lasting approximately three months, covering:

- Understanding grief in children and young people
- Practical approaches to supporting bereaved children and young people
- Safeguarding and professional practice
- SeeSaw systems for record keeping

You will never be expected to manage difficult situations on your own. Regular supervision, ongoing guidance and support from our experienced team are built into the role.





What happens before I can begin volunteering?

The next training programme is expected to begin in February 2027 and conclude in May 2027, with volunteers typically beginning to support their first child or young person in June.

Before starting to support children, volunteers must:

- Complete our recruitment process, helping us ensure the role is right for both you and the families we support.
- Complete the training programme.
- Attend a review meeting.
- Complete safeguarding training.
- Successfully complete an Enhanced DBS check arranged by SeeSaw.
- Have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone to complete online records.

Expression of Interest

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Support Worker with SeeSaw, we would love to hear from you. Please send a brief expression of interest outlining why you would like to volunteer with bereaved children and young people, any relevant experience you have of supporting children, young people or families (whether in a personal, professional or voluntary capacity), and the qualities you feel you would bring to the role. Please confirm that you understand the commitment involved, including the time required for training, supervision and regular support sessions with children and families.

If you have any questions about the role or to send your expression of interest, **please contact our Volunteer Manager Maddie Bain:**

maddie.bain@seesaw.org.uk
www.seesaw.org.uk/join-our-team

SeeSaw
Grief Support

