## Appendix 25

## Volunteers – The Secret Ingredient

Student Volunteers

Thank you for coming to Budawang School to help work with our students. They love having you here and we hope you enjoy working with them. We know that for some of you this will be the first time that you have worked with, or even spoken with a person with a severe disability, and we understand that it might make you a bit nervous at first, but let me tell you that these kids are just like all kids – sometimes they are happy, sometimes they are sad, sometimes they want to play and sometimes they don’t.

Some of our students don’t eat, or speak, or walk, but they understand everything you say. Imagine how lonely it would be if you had to live your life with no one wanting to speak to you. That’s one of the reasons you are here today – so that you can make sure our students are not too lonely.

Some of our students drool. That is because they can’t swallow properly. If it bothers you, then wear some rubber gloves. We often do. While you are here, we would rather you played with our students and not together as a group. We know it can be hard, but you can read them a book, push them on their bikes or in the swing, sit with them in class, play in the sand pit, jump on the trampoline, or play in the cubby. Talking to them is the best thing you can do.

Do

* Stay with the student
* Do what the teachers asks straight away, as they are busy running the class and should not have to stop to manage you as well

Do Not

* Pick students up
* Take them to the toilet
* Leave the playground or classroom