

# Safer Recruitment Policy



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<b>Latest Review</b>	January 2025
<b>Next Review</b>	January 2026

## Introduction and Statutory Requirements

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires Governing Bodies of maintained schools and FE colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Regulations made under Section 157 of that Act state that Proprietors of Independent schools, which include Academies and Free schools, must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.

The Department for Education (DfE), has issued statutory guidance '**Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024**' (**KCSIE**) under Section 175, Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2016 and the Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 2015. Schools and Colleges must have regard to the guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This means that they should comply with it unless exceptional circumstances arise.

The trustees and management of The Southover partnership school will ensure that **all staff** in their school **read at least Part One of KCSIE, 'Safeguarding information for all staff'**. They will also ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to **understand and discharge their role and responsibilities** as set out in Part One. In addition, **Annex A 'Further Information'** contains additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues and **should be read by School Leaders and staff working directly with children**.

KCSIE should be read alongside the DfE's statutory guidance '**Working Together to Safeguard Children**' which applies to all the schools. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' covers action by all organisations, including schools, to protect children from risks of harm in the home or in the community. However, statutory guidance on 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and Child Protection Policies and Procedures in place within individual establishments are inextricably linked. Safer Recruitment is a vital factor in keeping children safe within the education environment.

KCSIE should also be read alongside DfE advice on '**What to do if you are worried a child is being abused – Advice for Practitioners**'

There is also legislation governing those persons in 'regulated activity' (see below) and requirements to carry out criminal records and barred list checks. The main legislation in this respect is contained within the:

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- Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- Police Act 1997, the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002, as amended, the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) No 2 Regulations 2009, as amended
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, as amended
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2016
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Any subsequent amendments will also apply as relevant.

## Purpose

It is essential that, as part of the responsibilities highlighted above, all organisations that employ staff or engage volunteers to work with children adopt a consistent and rigorous approach in their recruitment and selection processes with the aim of ensuring that those recruited are suitable for such an important and responsible role.

The purpose of safer recruitment is ultimately to:

- **Deter.** From the beginning of the recruitment process, it is important to send the right message – that the organisation has a rigorous recruitment process and does not tolerate any form of abuse. Wording in adverts and recruitment information must aim to deter potential abusers.
- **Identify and Reject.** It will not always be possible to deter potential abusers. Therefore, careful planning for the interview and selection stage, in terms of asking the right questions, setting appropriate tasks and obtaining the right information can assist in finding out who is suitable for the role and who is not.
- **Prevent, Detect and Reject.** There are no guarantees that even the most robust safer recruitment process will prevent an inappropriate appointment. However, this does not mean it is too late to act. Ensuring that comprehensive induction processes are in place, together with appropriate policies and procedures, raising awareness through staff training and generally developing and maintaining a safe culture within the organisation will all help to prevent abuse or detect potential abusers. The aim should be to prevent abuse by managing the environment, assessing risk and creating clear expectations and standards of behaviour.

The intention of this policy is to ensure that all stages of the recruitment process contain measures to deter, identify, prevent, detect and reject unsuitable people from gaining access to pupils within the organisation. The policy and the practical implementation of recruitment and selection processes also aim to meet all legislative requirements as highlighted in 1. above, any statutory or other guidance that may from time to time be issued in order to keep children safe through safer recruitment in education, as well as principles of general good practice.

## 'Regulated Activity' (RA)

"**'Regulated Activity'** is work which involves close and unsupervised contact with vulnerable groups including children, and which cannot be undertaken by a person who is on the Disclosure and Barring Service's Barred List."

### **(a) 'REGULATED ACTIVITY' (RA) RELATING TO CHILDREN AND DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS**

Organisations providing Regulated Activity (RA) in relation to children and young people have specific responsibilities for carrying out appropriate pre-employment checks, including Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with Barred List check, when recruiting paid employees and workers. They must also ensure that they receive written confirmation that similar checks have been carried out by Agencies and other employers who may deploy or hire workers to them where such individuals will be in RA. This is an essential part of the process of ensuring 'safer recruitment' when recruiting to RA roles involving either children or vulnerable adults.

Other people coming into such an organisation (e.g. volunteers, including Governors) with access to children may not be in RA - if they are 'adequately supervised' when carrying out an activity with children which would be RA when unsupervised. The specific checks to be carried out will depend upon the nature of the role. Further information and examples of the requirements relating to DBS and Barred List checks are as set out below.

The organisation is responsible for continuing vigilance in relation to staff, workers and any others coming onto the premises, and/or with access or opportunity for contact with the pupils, at all times.

The Southover partnership School will act in accordance with the statutory requirements relating to **'Regulated Activity' (RA) relating to children which can be defined as follows:**

- (i) Unsupervised activities in any setting – including teaching, training, instructing, caring for (see iii) below), supervising, providing advice/guidance on well-being, driving a vehicle only for children**
- (ii) Work for a limited range of establishments ('specified places') with the opportunity for contact, e.g. schools, colleges, children's homes, children's centres, childcare premises (but not work by supervised volunteers)**

Work/activities in (i) and (ii) above must be carried out 'regularly' to be included within RA. 'Regular' means carried out by the same person frequently (once a week or more often) or intensively (on 4 or more days in a 30-day period) or overnight (if carried out – even once - at any time between 2am and 6am and with an opportunity for face-to-face contact with children). Day to day management or supervision on a regular basis of a person providing the above regulated activity for children is also within the definition of regulated activity for children. However, some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not, such as those below.

- (iii) Relevant personal care, or health care provided under the supervision of a healthcare professional, even if done only once.** ('Personal care' includes helping a child with eating and drinking for reasons of illness or disability, or in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and

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dressing for reasons of age, illness or disability; 'Health care' means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional).

(iv) **Registered child-minding and foster carers.**

(RA excludes family and personal, non-commercial arrangements).

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**The following should be noted in relation to particular groups of staff, workers and others:**

**All employees and paid workers (e.g. supply workers engaged directly) in schools, colleges, PRUs and similar educational establishments providing education are in RA** and the employer must ensure that an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check is carried out. This includes all categories of staff and workers, as all, even if not directly involved in teaching or supervising children, have the opportunity for contact. **For visiting staff/workers**, e.g. Agency supply workers in RA, it is for the providing organisation to carry out checks - the 'hirer' then obtains written confirmation for their Single Central Register (SCR).

**Supervised volunteers, inc. Governors, trustees, etc.** are not normally in RA. However, it is for the organisation to decide and will depend upon whether they are being 'adequately supervised' in accordance with statutory supervision guidance published by the DfE\*\*. If such persons are adequately supervised when carrying out an activity that would fall within RA if not so supervised, then they will not be in RA. Otherwise, if not adequately supervised, they are in RA. With regard to **Governors**, under the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, it is a statutory requirement that all Governors not in RA have an Enhanced DBS WITHOUT Barred List Check. For **other regular volunteers** who are not in RA, although not a statutory requirement, an Enhanced DBS WITHOUT Barred List check should also be obtained as best practice. (There is no entitlement to ask for a Barred List check for volunteers not in RA).

Schools should ensure that any contractor, or employee of a **Contractor**, who is to work there has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. Contractors carrying out work of a temporary or occasional nature, e.g. maintenance (but not teaching, training etc.) are not normally in RA. However, where contractors are engaging in RA, an Enhanced DBS certificate, including Barred List information will be required. For others who are not engaging in RA, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children, an Enhanced DBS check (WITHOUT Barred List information) will be required. For longer term, regular contracted work, a decision needs to be made about whether individuals have the opportunity for contact in a similar way to school site staff and can be deemed to be in RA. Decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the relevant and prevailing circumstances at the time. Under no circumstances should a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in RA. Schools are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending upon the circumstances. If a contractor is self-employed, the school should consider obtaining the DBS check, as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account. The identity of contractors and their staff should always be checked on arrival.

As **trainee teachers** are likely to be engaging in RA an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check must be obtained. Where trainees are salaried (employed) this is the responsibility of the employer. Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks and schools should obtain written confirmation from the training provider that checks have been carried out and suitability to work with children assessed.

Schools organising work experience placements should ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect the children from harm. Barred List checks by the DBS may be required on some **adults who supervise a child under the age of 16 on a work experience placement.** Consideration would need to be given to the specific circumstances of the work experience, in particular the nature of the supervision and the frequency of the activity being supervised, to determine what, if any, checks are necessary. These considerations would include whether the person providing the teaching, training, instruction and/or supervision to the child will be unsupervised and providing the teaching, training and/or instruction frequently (at least once a week or on more than three days in a 30 day period, or overnight). If the person working with the child is unsupervised and the same person is in frequent contact with the child, the work is likely to be regulated activity. If so, the employer providing the work experience should be asked to ensure that the person providing the instruction or training is not a barred person. Schools are not able to request an enhanced DBS check with Barred List information for staff supervising children aged 16 to 17 on work experience.

If an **activity undertaken by a child on work experience takes place in a 'specified place'**, such as a school, and gives the opportunity for contact with children, this may itself be considered to be RA. In such cases, where the child is 16 or over, the work experience provider should consider whether an Enhanced DBS check should be requested for the child/young person in question. DBS checks cannot be requested for children/young people under the age of 16.

There is no entitlement to request DBS or Barred List checks on **Visitors** (e.g. children's relatives or other visitors attending a sports day). A professional judgement must be made at the relevant time about the need to escort or supervise them.

**\*\* The DfE's factual notes on 'Regulated Activity in relation to Children: Scope' and 'Statutory Guidance: Regulated Activity (Children) – Supervision of Activity with Children which is Regulated Activity when Unsupervised' are available on the website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to provide full information on RA and Supervision. Supervision guidance is also included as Annex F within KCSIE.**

In accordance with the above requirements and guidance, this school will take appropriate steps to ensure that all those employees, paid workers and any others deemed to be in RA, are subject to the highest level of checks including, for new recruits, a full Enhanced DBS with Barred List Check, or as required at the time of recruitment. Others not in RA will normally be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS without Barred List check if they have regular involvement with pupils but are adequately supervised. However, if they are carrying out ad-hoc or one off volunteering activities etc., they will not normally be subject to an Enhanced DBS check. (See also 11. below 'Use of Agency Workers' and 12. 'Use of Volunteers').

For any persons deemed not to be in RA, steps will be taken to ensure that adequate supervision and/or protocols to ensure the safety of pupils at all times, are in place, in accordance with statutory guidance and general good practice. An appropriate level of checks, in addition to the requirements set out above, will be carried out in relation to all new recruits.

Notwithstanding the above, the school will ensure that all trustees have an Enhanced DBS check (with Barred List check if in RA, otherwise without Barred List check), in accordance with legislative requirements.

## **(b) 'REGULATED ACTIVITY' (RA) IN RELATION TO ADULTS AND DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS**

The definition of Regulated Activity (RA) in relation to adults identifies activities provided to any adult which, if any adult requires them, will mean the adult is considered vulnerable at that particular time. In other words, an adult is considered vulnerable at any time s/he requires RA to be provided to him or her. An adult is a person aged 18 years or over.

Organisations providing RA in relation to adults have specific responsibilities for carrying out appropriate pre-employment checks, including Enhanced DBS with Barred List check, when recruiting paid employees and workers. They must also ensure that they receive written confirmation that similar checks have been carried out by Agencies and other employers who may deploy or hire workers to them where such individuals will be in RA. This is an essential part of the process of ensuring 'safer recruitment' when recruiting to RA roles involving either children or vulnerable adults.

**For the Southover Partnership School, an Adult Workforce DBS and Barred List will not apply.** Even though we have pupils aged 18+, they are not likely to fall within the definition or criteria relating to RA with adults as they will not be considered 'vulnerable' at that time.

## **Recruitment Panel Members**

Panel members will be appointed or selected in accordance with any requirements set out in the School Staffing, Further Education Providers, Independent School Standards, Funding Agreements, other relevant Regulations and/or as otherwise determined by the *Governing Body*.

The recruitment and selection process, in particular interviews, will be carried out by two or more people. Wherever possible, Appointments Panels will consist of an odd number of at least three people. Panel members will be appropriately trained or briefed. **In accordance with statutory requirements, at least one member of the Panel will have successfully completed safer recruitment training.** Wherever possible, all Panel members will be involved throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process but, in any event, a Panel member trained in safer recruitment will be involved throughout.

## **Job Descriptions and Person Specifications**

### **Job Analysis**

When a vacancy arises due to an employee leaving or moving to a different role, it cannot be assumed that a 'like for like' replacement is required. A review of the job description may highlight the fact that the existing role no longer meets current needs. Therefore, the requirements for any replacement or new role will be analysed prior to drawing up the Job Description and Person Specification which define the role.

### **Job Description**

The general layout of job descriptions for all posts including support staff and teachers will be very similar but may also need to reflect any specific requirements for the post.



However, in general, all Job descriptions will normally contain:

- The post title and grade
- The main purpose of the job
- The main tasks or duties to be carried out
- The scope of the job to indicate its position within the organisation
- General statements relevant to all positions, such as requirements relating to equal opportunities and health and safety

As all work in a school or similar setting involves responsibility for the safeguarding of children, the job description will also make clear:

- The extent of the post holder's contact with children and young people and, in line with the establishment's commitment to the health, safety and welfare of children, the general responsibility for safeguarding.

## Person Specification

The person specification describes the profile of the ideal person to fill the job requirements. It is essential to the recruitment and selection process as it is used for the drawing up the advertisement, long/shortlisting and the interviewing and selection process. It sets out the criteria against which candidates will be assessed and includes the core areas for the focus of interview questions.

Person specifications drawn up will outline:

- Any qualifications required for the post
- Knowledge, skills and abilities required to carry out the duties of the post
- Any specific training requirements
- The need for awareness of, and commitment to, equal opportunities issues
- The need for commitment to the promotion of health and safety at work and to the protection and safeguarding of children.

The person specification will clearly indicate whether the stated criteria are:

- **Essential** – relating only to those areas without which the job cannot be performed; or
- **Desirable** – not essential to carrying out the duties, but which would be valuable. They may assist in the final selection process if several candidates all meet the essential criteria.

It will also indicate how the criteria will be tested, i.e. on the application form, at interview and/or through a task set as part of the selection process.

Person specifications will also include statements to the following effect:

*“Applicants called for interview should note that the interview itself (and/or any additional tasks to be performed, if applicable) will, as appropriate to the role:*

- Focus on the requirements to carry out the duties of the job, as described*
- Explore issues relating to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including:*
  - *Motivation to work with children and young people*

- *Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people*
  - *Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours*
  - *Attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline.*
- (iii) *Be used to explore any relevant issues arising from references received."*

Profiles for **Volunteer roles** will also be drawn up according to the principles set out above.

## Application Forms

A suitably-structured, pre-defined application form will be used for recruitment to all posts. CVs will not be accepted. Application forms are employer-led, requiring specific information from all applicants. CVs are left to the discretion of individual applicants and contain only information that they choose to provide.

The use of application forms will help to ensure that detailed information, critical to the recruitment process, can be gathered from all applicants in a consistent format.

Application forms to be used for all **external recruitment** will include as a minimum:

- Personal details including name, former names, date of birth, current address, NI number and, for teachers, teacher reference number
- Qualifications
- Present (or last) employment and reason(s) for leaving
- Full history since leaving school - education, employment and any voluntary work, including reasons for leaving, as well as explanation of any gaps
- Request for details of appropriate referees (see also '9. References' below)
- The requirement for a personal statement addressing the criteria set out in the person specification
- Explanation that the post is exempt from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and the requirement for a 'self-disclosure' – a signed declaration of any unspent and relevant spent criminal offences (See below \*\*\*\*)
- The requirement for a signed declaration that all information provided is true.

Separate application forms may be used for internally advertised posts which will require, as a minimum, further details to update the above information, as originally provided, and new signed declarations.

**Volunteers** will be required to complete an application form in order to provide personal details, details of previous employment, voluntary work and other activities, general information about their reasons for applying for voluntary work and a signed declaration about any criminal record, for relevant roles a declaration to meet childcare disqualification requirements under the Childcare Act 2006, and declaration to confirm the accuracy of information provided.



## \*\*\*\*DECLARATION OF UNSPENT AND RELEVANT SPENT CRIMINAL OFFENCES

The purpose of requiring a self-disclosure as part of the application is to give candidates an opportunity to share relevant information about any convictions or cautions at an early stage. Disclosed information will not be used as a criterion for short-listing. Fair and objective assessment criteria will be applied. Information on self-disclosures will only be used in relation to short-listed candidates and will not automatically rule someone out. A full DBS check will still be carried out on making a conditional offer and the two sets of information compared. Note that applicants will only be asked about 'unspent and relevant spent' convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings and these will be the only ones appearing on Disclosure certificates. Other minor, older offences will be filtered out after the relevant time period. Those offences to be declared include:

**Cautions** relating to an offence from a list (see below) agreed by Parliament

**Cautions** given less than 6 years ago (where the individual was over 18 years old at the time of the caution)

**Cautions** given less than 2 years ago (where the individual was under 18 years old at the time of the caution)

**Convictions** relating to an offence from a prescribed list (see below)

**Convictions** that resulted in a custodial sentence (regardless of whether served)

**Convictions** given less than 11 years ago (where the individual was over 18 years old at the time of the conviction)

**Convictions** given less than 5.5 years ago (where the individual was under 18 years old at the time of the conviction)

Irrespective of the above list, **if individuals have more than one conviction then ALL convictions must be declared.**

The list referred to above includes a range of offences which are serious and which relate to sexual offending, violent offending and/or safeguarding. It is never appropriate to withhold details of offences on this list. A list of offences which **must always** be declared has been derived from the legislation and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-list-of-offences-that-will-never-be-filtered-from-a-criminal-record-check>

## Advertising and Recruitment Materials

The **job advertisement** provides potential applicants with their first impression of the organisation. An important part of the message of the advert is to inform anyone viewing it that the organisation is fully committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people.

In these circumstances, all advertisements will include a statement to the effect that:

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*“The Southover Partnership is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Therefore, all workers and employees within Southover are expected to share this commitment.”*

Prospective applicants for posts will receive the following **materials in recruitment packs**:

- Application form
- Job description
- Person specification
- Safer Recruitment Policy (this document) or relevant information from it – for example, completion of application forms, references, interviews/tasks and pre-employment checks etc., as relevant and appropriate
- Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Policy Statement on ‘The Recruitment of Ex-Offenders’
- Interview arrangements and/or selection procedure for the post
- Any relevant general information relating to the organisation, area etc.
- Any other relevant details or documentation.

## Longlisting/Shortlisting

Recruitment to some positions will involve a two-stage process requiring first longlisting, then shortlisting following a first round of selection. Whether a position requires longlisting and shortlisting processes, or just shortlisting, the principles to be applied will be the same.

Long/shortlisting will be conducted by the interview Panel, or one or more members of the Panel. It will always be carried out by at least two people.

The criteria to be used for long/shortlisting will be based on the person specification and job description applicable to the post. This will ensure that the process includes criteria specific to working with children as well as other essential requirements for carrying out the specific duties of the post.

Those carrying out the long/shortlisting process will, as appropriate:

- To ensure consistency, assess each application against the criteria, including criteria specific to working with children – use of a grid is recommended for this purpose
- Take time to properly scrutinise the applications
- Consider whether each application is fully completed – if not, it may be returned to the applicant or discarded from the process
- Highlight any gaps (in employment etc) to be explored further should the candidate be long/shortlisted
- Look for evidence provided against the criteria set out in the person specification and the job description
- Apply the long/shortlisting criteria equally
- Normally only long/shortlist those applications that meet all the essential criteria set out in the person specification. However, if this is not clear in relation to any applications, it may be decided to long/shortlist and explore the issues further at interview.

If a greater than anticipated number of applicants all meet the essential criteria for the post, it may be decided to use any specified desirable criteria to make a selection for the long/shortlist.

## References

References are an important part of the process of gathering as much information as possible about potential new recruits.

Testimonials from applicants will not be accepted. Two references will always be requested directly from the referees. Application forms will normally require the following in relation to referees provided by the applicant:

- One referee must be the current or last employer
- If the employer is/was a School, then the referee provided must be the Headteacher
- Where the applicant is not currently working with children but has done so in the past, the second referee should be the employer by whom s/he was most recently employed in work with children.

Notwithstanding the above, where a candidate is not currently employed, verification of his/her most recent period of employment will normally be requested from the school, college, local authority or organisation at which s/he was employed.

References will normally be obtained following the long/shortlisting process (as applicable) and prior to interview. The application form will ask applicants if they are willing to allow referees to be contacted prior to interview and warned that they may not be shortlisted if not. This decision is at the discretion of the *school*.

Reference requests will normally be made by requiring the completion of a standard questionnaire. Use of a questionnaire helps to ensure that the prospective employer has the opportunity to obtain information in respect of all areas essential to the role. A letter from a referee may not cover all areas or provide all relevant information that the prospective employer requires.

A standard Reference Questionnaire, or other reference request, will normally ask about:

- Capacity in which the applicant is/was employed, dates, quality of work, relationships with colleagues, parents and pupils, strengths, areas for development, honesty, punctuality and reliability
- Any current disciplinary/capability warnings, or such warnings which were current at the time of leaving
- Any disciplinary/capability action that is/was pending or unresolved
- Where the request relates to a teacher, any capability proceedings within the last two years
- The details of any expired warnings that relate to the safety and welfare of children or young people or behaviour towards children or young people
- Reason(s) for leaving if no longer in that employment
- Whether the referee would re-employ and whether the applicant is recommended for the post.

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(The questionnaire will normally also include appropriate alternative questions for circumstances where an applicant is not known to a referee as an employee/worker or trainee). Referees will be provided with a copy of the job description and person specification for the role.

Subject to the exceptional circumstances set out below, references requested prior to interview, or prior to a conditional job offer being made, will NOT ask about attendance or health-related matters. However, health-related questions may be asked of referees when a conditional offer of the post has been made. Therefore, a supplementary request for such further information from referees may be made at that stage, with an applicant's express permission.

It should be noted that the **Equality Act 2010** limits the circumstances in which a prospective employer can ask health-related questions of either a referee or the applicant before a conditional job offer is made. Questions may only be asked at an early stage to help to:

- Decide whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made for the applicant to be able to participate in the selection process
- Decide whether an applicant can carry out a function that is essential (intrinsic) to the job
- Monitor diversity among people making applications for jobs
- Take positive action to assist disabled people
- Clarify that a candidate does have a disability where the job genuinely requires the jobholder to have a disability.

Where any of these exceptional circumstances apply, information will be provided in the recruitment materials, requested as part of the application form/process and/or requested of referees, only as relevant to the circumstances.

Obtaining references prior to interview, wherever possible, will allow the Interview Panel and/or those who carried out the long/shortlisting to scrutinise the references in order to:

- Confirm whether or not all questions have been answered satisfactorily and whether they raise any concerns that need to be further explored with the referee e.g. if answers provided are vague.
- Compare the information provided by the applicant with that provided by referees.

Any inconsistencies, discrepancies or concerns will be followed up with referees and/or applicants prior to interview, or as part of the interview process, as appropriate.

Sometimes, a referee may not be willing to complete a standard reference questionnaire or may not be willing to provide a reference at all. This may be because a particular organisation has a policy of simply not providing references, only providing basic standard information such as dates of employment or they may be restricted by what can be provided because a standard reference has been agreed as part of a settlement agreement. In these circumstances, it is at the discretion of the school to decide whether to accept this situation or to not proceed any further with the application. This may depend upon other information received and/or other checks that can be carried out.

## Interviews and other Assessment Tools

Recruitment to all posts will involve an **interview** due to the essential requirement to question applicants about the job requirements and understanding/awareness of safeguarding issues, to explore any gaps, issues or inconsistencies with the application and to assess interaction and responsiveness.

The Panel will meet prior to the interviews in order to carry out the necessary preparation for conducting the interview, which will normally include the following:

- A set of basic questions to ask of all long/shortlisted candidates, prepared in advance. However, additional follow-up questions are likely to be needed at the interview itself as a means of probing for additional information. These questions will depend upon initial responses given by individual candidates
- Inclusion of appropriate questions relating to the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people. This will depend upon the type and level of the post but all posts have responsibility in this area and it is important, therefore, to test motives, attitudes, awareness and understanding in this area.
- Preparation of any additional questions that the Panel will need to ask of individual applicants about their applications, for example, gaps in employment history or any other concerns.
- Agreement by Panel members on the responses they are seeking to their questions and the type of responses that would cause concern.
- Agreement by panel members of who is to ask questions, take notes etc. Questions may be asked by one or all Panel members, with notes being taken of responses.

A grid will normally be used for the purpose of questions to be asked, expected and actual responses.

**Other assessment and selection methods**, in addition to an interview, may also be used. The nature of these additional tools will depend upon the type and level of the post. Other assessment methods may include, for example:

- Presentations
- Role plays
- Group exercises
- Observation (of teaching or activity with a class or group of pupils)
- Written tests
- Other data analysis exercises, In-tray exercises etc.

Assessment and Selection methods in addition to an interview are useful in obtaining a range of information about individuals, including assessing their interaction with others, both adults and pupils, team work, skills and abilities to carry out particular tasks etc. Appropriate selection methods will be discussed and considered by the Panel, as relevant. Panel members will be well-briefed and/or trained in their use.

Interview invitations to long/shortlisted candidates will normally include the following:

- Details of date, time, venue

- Direction and/or map, together with details of parking arrangements
- Where to report on arrival
- Likely length of the interview and information about any tests or exercise to be included in the process
- Details of the scope of the interview (to be based on the person specification and to include exploration of each candidate's suitability to work with children, together with any issues arising from the application form or references)
- Details of documents that candidates will need to bring with them, e.g. proof of identity, documents for the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality check, qualification certificates.
- A request that candidates let the school know should they have any special requirements, or need any adaptations, to enable them to participate in the interview and selection process.
- A request that candidates inform the school of their intention to attend, or otherwise, together with the necessary contact details.

## CONDITIONAL OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT

Any job offer made must be conditional as it will be subject to a variety of pre-employment checks and other conditions, as set out below. Some of these checks will apply to all potential new employees, others will apply only to certain categories of employee:

- **Two satisfactory references**, one of which should be the current or most recent employer (*If the candidate is not currently working with children but has done so in the past, the second referee should be the employer by whom s/he was most recently employed in work with children. This applies in circumstances where it has not been possible to obtain references prior to interview and also where supplementary reference requests are made at this stage in relation to obtaining further information about health and absences*);
- **A satisfactory medical assessment** (*the relevant forms will be enclosed, to be completed and returned as quickly as possible*);
- **The prospective employee not at any time being barred**, either totally or to a limited extent, from employment or work involving regular contact with children, young persons or other vulnerable people, **nor to any other relevant prohibitions, sanctions, restrictions or disqualifications** being applied to him/her or his/her employment;
- **Proof of Identity** (normally from current photographic ID and proof of address except where, in exceptional circumstances, none is available);
- Receipt of **evidence to meet the requirements of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006**. (*The relevant lists of acceptable documents will be enclosed*);
- A satisfactory **Enhanced with Barred List check** through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for the existence and content of any criminal record. (*It will be emphasised that the Enhanced check includes a check on Barred Lists of those considered to be unsuitable to work with children or other vulnerable people, as relevant, in regulated activity. The candidate may be asked if s/he subscribes to the DBS Update Service, in which case, following sight of the certificate and with his/her express permission, the school may decide to carry out a real-time check online to ascertain whether or not his/her status has changed. However, as the candidate may not subscribe to this service, and/or the school may require a full new check to be carried*



*out, details of the application process will also be stated, together with a request that the candidate makes the certificate available for viewing by the school as soon as it is received by him/her. If in exceptional circumstances, an individual is required to start work before the full DBS check is completed, a separate Barred List check will be obtained prior to commencement. It should be noted that the school WILL normally require that a full, new satisfactory DBS check has been received prior to commencing work);*

- **Valid Home Office (UK Visas and Immigration) permission to work** in the post;
- **For those to be appointed teaching posts/to carry out teaching work only – the prospective employee (1) not being subject to a prohibition order or interim prohibition order** by the Secretary of State, pre-existing General Teaching Council for England or any other Authorised Body; **(2) not being subject to a sanction(s) in another EEA member state;**
- **For teachers only (*other than where appointed specifically as an unqualified teacher*) - initial and continued recognition as a qualified teacher** (*original copies of all relevant certificates will be required, including confirmation of the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), as issued by the Department for Education (DfE) or other Authorised Body; OR confirmation of the award of Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status and membership of the Society for Education and Training (SET), as appropriate*);
- **Verification of other professional qualifications, where appropriate;**
- **For relevant posts, the prospective employee not being subject to a section 128 Barring Direction** which prohibits or restricts him/her from taking part in the management of an Independent school;
- **Where applicable, any additional overseas checks** that may be carried out by the school\*;
- **Successful completion of the Statutory Induction period** for Newly Qualified Teachers (*teachers*) or **completion of a successful probation and assessment period** (*support staff*).

**Statements will also be included within the conditional offer to the effect that:**

- (i) it will be **an ongoing condition of the employment** that the individual demonstrates and maintains at all times, **a command of spoken English** that is sufficient for the job role; and
- (ii) **if the Enhanced Disclosure, or any of the other checks carried out, prove to be other than satisfactory** ('satisfactory' meaning satisfactory to the employer receiving the information); or the individual fails to provide any of the required information and/or if s/he has provided false information in support of their application, the conditional offer of employment may be withdrawn, or s/he may otherwise face dismissal, including summary dismissal, if s/he has exceptionally been allowed to commence work.

\*Prospective employees who have lived or worked overseas will first undergo the same checks as all others. In addition, further additional check(s) considered necessary will normally include (for example) the requirement for a certificate or letter of good conduct and extra care will be exercised in taking up references.

Any verbal offer that may be made prior to a written conditional offer will also clearly state that the offer is conditional.

**The majority of checks must be satisfactorily completed before a prospective new employee starts work.** Apart from the requirement to satisfactorily complete an induction or probationary period during the initial stages of employment in relevant cases, the only other check that may still be pending on starting work is the full Enhanced DBS with Barred List check. In exceptional circumstances, where the full check has not been received, the employee will be supervised until it has been received and deemed satisfactory. However, the Barred List part of the check must have been obtained prior to an individual starting work. *The school is under a specific duty not to allow a barred person to work in regulated activity.*

All employees and workers engaged by the school are deemed to be in 'Regulated Activity' (RA) whatever their role and are, therefore, subject to a full Enhanced with Barred List(s) Check through the DBS. An Enhanced with Barred List check for the Children's Workforce will always be required. In some circumstances, an Enhanced with Barred List check may also be required for the Adult Workforce where an individual is expected to provide RA for adults (18+) as well as undertaking work with children.

**In any event, it should be noted that new employees will not be able to commence work and will not be placed on the Payroll until the following have been received:**

- A satisfactory medical assessment
- Two satisfactory references (unless it has not been possible to obtain one or more references and the school has, exceptionally, decided to proceed with the appointment on the basis of other checks carried out)
- Relevant qualification certificates
- Evidence to meet the requirements of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
- A satisfactory Barred List(s) Check and submission of a full Enhanced DBS application. (It should be noted that the school's normal requirement is that a full, new satisfactory DBS check has been received prior to commencement and placement on the payroll)
- For relevant posts, a declaration completed by the individual to ensure that s/he is not disqualified under childcare disqualification requirements set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Valid Home Office (UK Visas and Immigration) permission to work in the post, and
- Those appointed to teaching posts/carry out teaching work only – confirmation that s/he is not subject to (1) a prohibition order or interim prohibition order and (2) sanction(s) by another EEA member state
- For relevant posts – confirmation that s/he is not subject to a section 128 Barring Direction
- Where applicable, any additional overseas checks that may be carried out by the school.

**Conditional offer letters** will include the following:

- Job title/role and start date
- Relevant details relating to the position, e.g. type of contract and hours, if fixed term details of expiry date and/or circumstances/conditions
- Pay and conditions of service applicable

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- Payment arrangements and a request for account details, P45 and National Insurance number
- Pre-employment checks that need to be satisfactorily carried out before the offer can be finally confirmed (see above)
- Any other relevant conditions applicable, action to be taken or information to be provided.

**In circumstances where any of the pre-employment checks prove to be unsatisfactory, a conditional offer will be withdrawn** where the school considers it appropriate to do so.

A candidate receiving a conditional offer, whether verbal or written, should not, therefore, assume this to be a guarantee of employment.

## Use of Agency Workers

On occasion it may be necessary to utilise workers provided by an external Agency, for example to cover short to medium-term absences or vacancies.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young persons, it is essential that Agencies supplying workers to the education sector also adopt robust recruitment and vetting procedures that minimise the risk of employing people who may abuse them, or who are otherwise unsuited to such work.

In these circumstances, Agencies will be required to provide written assurances about their recruitment and selection practices and, in particular, that workers supplied by them have been subject to similar checks and safeguards in place for new employees and workers taken on directly by the school. For this purpose, Agencies will normally be required to complete a standard questionnaire to the satisfaction of the Headteacher before workers will be accepted from a particular organisation.

The standard questionnaire issued to Agencies for written confirmation that all necessary checks are carried out before their workers are deployed will include all essential areas of the checking process, i.e. relating to Enhanced DBS and Barred List(s) checks, checks to meet the childcare disqualification requirements under the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, Prohibition Order checks, other EEA member state sanctions checks, section 128 Barring Direction checks, Identity and Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act checks, as well as checks of medical fitness, qualifications, references, reasons for leaving previous positions, command of spoken English, pay and conditions, Employer's Liability, equal opportunities and compliance with Agency Worker Regulations.

The school will check the identity of the person presenting themselves for work on arrival.

## Use of Volunteers

Children and young people will see volunteers within a school or other educational service in the same way as its other employees. They will not know that they are unpaid and will assume they are safe and trustworthy adults, just like anyone else within their educational environment.

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Therefore, volunteers should also be subject to a checking process to ensure that they are indeed safe to be in contact with pupils. The principles of safer recruitment will be applied whether an individual is paid or unpaid.

Volunteers may be used in a variety of different roles. Safer recruitment principles will be adapted and/or applied with common sense depending upon an individual's involvement and interaction with pupils, whether it is regular contact or 'one-off', whether they are being supervised etc.

For example, if a parent volunteers as part of a group helping out on a one-off basis such as a fete, school disco or a day trip, there is no need for a formal recruitment or checking process.

However, if a volunteer is likely to have an on-going role that includes regular contact with children, then a similar recruitment and selection process will be applied as would be used to recruit an employee. The process will be presented in a less formal manner but the principles of safer recruitment are the same. In these cases, the recruitment process will include:

- Provision of information about the school's commitment to the safeguarding of children
- The requirement to complete an application form specially designed for volunteers
- Obtaining references
- A face-to-face interview
- Where the individual is deemed to be in 'regulated activity', an Enhanced DBS with Children's Barred List check OR where the individual will be adequately supervised and, therefore, not in regulated activity, an Enhanced Disclosure without Children's Barred List check. In some circumstances, an Enhanced Disclosure with Adult Barred List check may also be required. (see also 3. above, 'Regulated Activity')
- Where the individual will be working in a relevant role, a check to ensure that s/he is not disqualified under childcare disqualification requirements set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
- Any other checks considered to be relevant to the role.

Where volunteers are recruited from another Institution or Organisation, assurances will be obtained from the establishment concerned that the individual has been subject to a proper recruitment process that includes the necessary safeguards.

Volunteers will be provided with an appropriate induction as referred to in 16. below.

## Single Central Record (SCR) of Checks

The school will ensure that it complies with statutory requirements for information to be recorded and retained on its SCR of pre-employment checks carried out in relation to employees and workers employed or engaged directly (including, for example, casual supply workers, specialists such as sports coaches and teacher trainees on salaried routes), as well as others who work in regular contact with children/pupils, such as volunteers (including volunteer

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Governors). Relevant checks on all members of the board of trustees of the school will also be recorded.

Generally, the information that will be recorded on employees/workers is whether or not the following checks have been carried out or certificates obtained, and the date on which the checks were completed:

- an identity check;
- a check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom;
- a Barred List(s) check. *(In relevant circumstances, Special and, possibly, some Secondary schools may require an Adult Barred List check to be carried out in addition to the Children's Barred List check);*
- an Enhanced DBS check. *(In relevant circumstances, Special and, possibly, some Secondary schools may require an Enhanced DBS check for both the Children's and Adult Workforces);*
- a check of professional qualifications;
- additional checks on people living or working outside the UK;
- for teaching appointments/those carrying out teaching work, a prohibition from teaching check; also for teaching work, a check of the list of Teachers Sanctioned in Other EEA Member States;
- for relevant posts, a section 128 Barring Direction check (prohibits or restricts a person from taking part in the management of an Independent school, inc. Academies and Free schools. Note that a s.128 direction also prohibits a person from taking up a position as governor of a maintained school);

Although not currently a statutory requirement, the school will also record on the SCR –

- for relevant posts, a check to meet childcare disqualification requirements set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018;

The school will also decide to include other, non-statutory checks - such as dates of safeguarding and safer recruitment training, for example - on the SCR for its own purposes.

Agencies and other third party organisations supplying staff/workers to the *school* will be asked to provide written confirmation that all the necessary checks are carried out. This confirmation will then be attached to the SCR.

Full details of records that must be kept are contained within the relevant Regulations as applicable to maintained schools, PRUs, Independent schools and Colleges. (See 1. above 'Introduction and Statutory Requirements').

There is no requirement to keep copies of DBS certificates in order to fulfil the duty of maintaining the single central record. However, where the *school*, with an individual's express permission, chooses to retain a copy this will not be retained for longer than six months. A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful candidate's identity, right to work and required qualifications will be kept for the personnel file.

## Other Record Keeping and Retention of Personal Data

Data relating to all recruitment and selection processes will be retained for a specified period of time.

### Retention of Data relating to Unsuccessful Applicants

All application forms, long/shortlisting grids, interview notes and any other documentation used will be securely retained on a recruitment file for a period of one year from the end date of the selection process (i.e. from the date when a conditional offer has been made and other candidates informed that they have been unsuccessful).

The information will be destroyed in a confidential manner after this period of time.

### Retention of Data for Successful Applicants

All application forms, long/shortlisting grids, interview notes and any other documentation used will be securely retained on a personnel file. This information forms part of the individual's personal record and on-going employment history.

The personnel file will normally contain the following information:

- Application form
- Other paperwork related to the recruitment process, i.e. Interview and other notes, letters forming part of the process etc
- Offer letter
- Pre-employment vetting documents, i.e. photographic identification, documentation to meet the requirements of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act, Disclosure details (not the full certificate – but see 14. above in relation to short-term retention), documentation to meet the requirements of childcare disqualification legislation (personal and/or personal sensitive data will not be stored about an employee/worker's other household members without their consent), evidence of right to work and remain in the UK, as relevant and applicable
- Copies of original vocational or academic qualification certificates, as applicable
- Two satisfactory references
- Confirmation of satisfactory medical assessment
- Copy of contract
- Other relevant employment documentation throughout the individual's period of service.
- Details of any allegation(s) against an employee found to be malicious will be removed from the personnel record. However, information relating to any other allegation(s) will be retained in accordance with statutory guidance issued by the DfE (*see below\**).

**The personnel records of all employees will be retained for a minimum of 7 years** after they have left the employment. However, **where an employee has been the subject of an allegation(s)** the record will be retained at least until the accused has reached **normal retirement age or for a period of 10 years if that is longer.**



*\*DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' in Part 4 on dealing with 'Allegations of Abuse made against Teachers and Other Staff' states that "details of allegations that are found to have been malicious should be removed from personnel records. However, **for all other allegations**, it is important that a clear and comprehensive summary of the allegation, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved and a note of any action taken and decisions reached, is kept on the confidential personnel file of the accused, and a copy provided to the person concerned. The purpose of the record is to enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference, where appropriate. It will provide clarification in cases where future DBS checks reveal information from the police about an allegation that did not result in a criminal conviction and it will help to prevent unnecessary re-investigation if, as sometimes happens, an allegation re-surfaces after a period of time." The guidance also requires that **"the record should be retained at least until the accused has reached normal pension age or for a period of 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer"**.*

*Note also that the DfE guidance referred to above states **in relation to references** "Cases in which an allegation was proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious should not be included in employer references. A history of repeated concerns or allegations which have all been found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious should also not be included in any reference".*

## Data Protection

The *school* will collect and process personal data in full compliance with its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act 2018 by keeping the personal data of employees and workers up-to-date, by storing and destroying it securely, by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data, by protecting your personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to protect personal data.

The *school* will keep the personal data of employees and workers confidential and share it only with persons with a genuine need to know, such as the Local Authority, Department for Education (DfE), Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), in relation to relevant matters. The *school* may also share the personal data of employees and with other third parties, but only where this is necessary to comply with a legal obligation or is permitted under UK law.

For further information relating to the Data Protection arrangements, employees/workers should refer to the *school's* Privacy Notice and other associated documents. These can be located on the *school's* website or otherwise by contacting the *school* office.

## Induction

Induction is an extension of the recruitment process. Good recruitment and selection procedures help to ensure that the best person is appointed to the role, but it is equally important to induct him or her properly on commencement.

A general Induction Programme is required for all new recruits, including those already within the organisation but appointed to new roles. This should be seen as additional to the more

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formal induction or probationary periods also required in relation to certain new appointments, as summarised below:

- **Early Career Teachers (ECTs)** are required to satisfactorily complete a statutory Induction period. Where applicable, the induction period will be applied in accordance with the relevant Regulations and statutory guidance issued by the DfE.
- **All Staff** who are 'new employees' will be subject to a 'Probation and Assessment Period' of 6 months.

The specific arrangements put in place will reflect the differing needs of individuals and job roles, e.g. whether already employed in a different role, whether full time, part time, fixed term, employee or volunteer, type and seniority of the post and level of contact or involvement with pupils.

The general induction programme will also include, **for all**, information on professional standards and boundaries in respect of child protection and safeguarding and promoting the health, safety and welfare of pupils. Reference will be made to relevant statutory requirements and/or local guidance in these areas. Statutory guidance includes, in particular, the DfE documents:

- **'Keeping Children Safe in Education'** - all staff will be required to read at least 'Part One – Safeguarding Information for All Staff'. Strategies will be put in place to ensure that staff understand and are able to discharge their role and responsibilities in respect of Part One; In addition, Annex A to the document contains important additional information about specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues and, in these circumstances, school leaders and those staff working directly with children will be required to read it. Copies will be provided to staff, as appropriate; and
- **'Working Together to Safeguard Children'** - which should be read and followed by all staff.

**The importance of adhering to school policies and procedures in these and all other areas will also be emphasised.** Care will be taken to ensure that all new employees, including those in new roles, are aware of and understand school policies, procedures and practices and are clear about their responsibilities in following them at all times. In particular, staff induction will include explanation of the:

- Child Protection Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Code of Conduct/Staff Behaviour Policy;
- Safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the
- Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies).

Copies of policies will be provided as appropriate.

Supply teachers and other supply workers, including agency workers, as well as volunteers, will also receive all necessary information and guidance to enable them to carry out their temporary role effectively and in accordance with statutory requirements, as well as the establishment's policies, procedures and practices. This will include in relation to child protection and

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safeguarding arrangements, the Code of Conduct and any other relevant protocols which they will be required to adhere to as an essential part of their role.

## A Safe Culture and Ongoing Vigilance

It is never sufficient to assume that a safer recruitment and selection process and robust induction arrangements are enough to ensure that the pupils are safe and that there is no risk to them within the educational environment. Creation of a safe culture, with on-going vigilance is essential.

The Southover Partnership School will continue to strive to create and maintain a safer culture by:

- Having in place, and putting into practice, clear policies and procedures and ensuring that all employees and workers are aware of and understand them
- Setting acceptable standards of behaviour
- Having in place clear procedures for reporting concerns, ensuring that all employees and workers know what the procedures are and their responsibility for following them
- Taking concerns seriously and providing support to individuals raising them
- Taking appropriate action in relation to concerns raised
- Having in place robust and appropriate induction arrangements
- Ensuring that all employees and workers undertake child protection and other relevant training on a regular basis
- Keeping the commitment to safeguarding and child protection on the agenda through regular reminders and updates, for example, via email, bulletins, staff meetings, training sessions etc., as appropriate.
- Learning from experience
- Never thinking that enough has been done to ensure a safe culture.

### **NOTE**

A checklist of **the main steps in the Safer Recruitment process**, as described in this policy document, is attached as Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1: Steps in the Safer Recruitment Process

- **Vacancy Arises – Analyse Job Requirements**
- **Check at least one Panel Member has successfully completed Safer Recruitment Training**
- **Draw up Job Description and Person Specification** (*inc. refs. to safeguarding responsibilities*)
- **Train/brief those carrying out Interviews and Other Assessments** }
- **Choose Selection Criteria** } (*May happen in*
- **Choose Methods of Assessment (Interview, role play etc)** } *parallel or while post*
- **Devise Interview Questions and Other Assessment tasks** } *is being advertised*)
- **Advertise the Post** – *inc. statement(s) about commitment to safeguarding, the requirement for a DBS check, not accepting CVs*
- **Send out Recruitment Pack** (*inc. application and self-disclosure form, information about commitment to safeguarding, details of policies, procedures and checks*)
- **Read and Scrutinise Applications received** (*highlighting any issues or gaps*)
- **Shortlisting**
- **Request References** (*use standard questionnaire*)
- **Scrutinise References** (*comparing also with information given on application form*)
- **Carry out Interviews and other assessment/tasks**
- **Discuss Criminal Convictions History with Candidate** }
- **Check Gaps/Issues on Application Form with Candidate** } (*Precise order*
- **Probe Candidate's Attitudes/Motives towards Children/Safeguarding** } *may vary*)
- **Ask Job-Related Questions of Candidate** }
- **Check Identity, A&I Documents and Qualifications** (*at interview or on conditional offer*)
- **Make decision as a Panel to Offer the Post to a Candidate**
- **Make a CONDITIONAL Offer** (*subject to relevant and/or outstanding checks*)
- **Request/Carry out Pre-Employment Checks** (*Enhanced DBS with Barred List(s), childcare disqualification for relevant posts, TRA Lists [prohibition order and sanctions in other EEA States for teaching, section 128 Barring Direction for management posts], medical assessment, references - if not obtained earlier or if supplementary information being sought from referees and additional overseas checks as required. Also Identity, A&I Documents and Qualifications checks if not checked at interview [see above]*)
- **Assess information received from Pre-Employment Checks**
- **Arrange/Confirm Start Date** (*or withdraw offer*)

- **Following appointment:**

- Ensure that **comprehensive induction** is carried out, to include relevant and appropriate information relating to safeguarding policies, procedures and protocols;
- Promote and maintain a **culture of ongoing vigilance** at all times – the *school/PRU/service* will never assume that it has done enough.

## Appendix 2: DBS Risk Assessment

Where a candidate has not yet received a DBS or the DBS certificate shows convictions or cautions, a risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Policy on Employment of Ex-Offenders and Disclosure and Barring Service checks using the attached form.

The completion of this risk assessment form is the responsibility of the appointing manager or line manager as appropriate. It should be completed by the candidate/employee and followed up with a meeting with him/her. Once complete, it must be authorised by the Head Teacher before the person can start or continue working with children. This completed risk assessment form must be placed on the individual's personnel file or other appropriate file and made available to HR, Safeguarding and Ofsted inspections.

In **very exceptional circumstances** staff (but not volunteers) who work with children may work without a clear enhanced DBS certificate if they are closely supervised (within sight and sound of someone with a clear DBS check). However, this will normally **only be permissible when not to allow them to work would disrupt the pupil's education; e.g. where there is a regulatory requirement to have a ratio of staff to number of children. People may only work in these circumstances when the following applies:**

- The appointment is necessary to allow the education provision to continue.
- In the case of children, the person has an enhanced DBS certificate issued within the last year by another body and the person provides the original enhanced DBS certificate to the appointing manager as evidence.
- An enhanced, Southover Partnership DBS check has been applied for.
- The person has no unsupervised contact with children.
- They have no access to sensitive records, particularly information about individual children or vulnerable adults.
- This risk assessment and risk management plan has been completed and signed off by the Head Teacher or Chair of Trustees in his absence.

# DBS Check Risk Assessment Form

## PART 1 – FOR THE APPLICANT TO COMPLETE

Your DBS certificate has been returned with information contained on the certificate which may be relevant to your employment. This will not necessarily bar you from working with The Southover Partnership. It will depend on your circumstances at the time of the incidents or offences. We would therefore like to give you the opportunity to provide an explanation for these incidents or offences, as well as the circumstances around you at the time. We need to know who was involved, when it occurred, what occurred, where the incident or offence was committed and why it was committed.

Please complete the following information. Please be aware that to withhold information or to give false information will be regarded as an attempt to falsify records which constitutes gross misconduct and will, if proved, lead to dismissal under the Council's procedures.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>
<b>Job/ Position Applied for:</b>	
<b>Southover Partnership School site/proposed mainstream school/register only:</b>	

<b>Offence or Incident 1:</b>
<b>Date of Offence or Incident:</b>
We need to know who was involved, when it occurred, what occurred, where the incident or offence was committed and why it was committed. It is also necessary to explain how you, the applicant/employee, now feel about the incident or offence.
<b>Offence or Incident 2:</b>
<b>Date of offence or incident:</b>
We need to know who was involved, when it occurred, what occurred, where the incident or offence was committed and why it was committed. It is also necessary to explain how



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you, the applicant, now feel about the incident or offence

**Offence or Incident 3:**

**Date of offence or incident:**

**We need to know who was involved, when it occurred, what occurred, where the incident or offence was committed and why it was committed. It is also necessary to explain how you, the applicant, now feel about the incident or offence**

Any further offences or incidents should be completed on a separate sheet and attached.

## **Declaration by Applicant**

I certify that the information I have provided on this document is true and complete. I understand that to knowingly make a false statement or omit information will result in my job or volunteering application being unsuccessful or, if employed, in my facing possible dismissal or other disciplinary action.

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Print:</b>
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## **PART 2 – FOR THE APPOINTING LINE MANAGER or TEACHER TO COMPLETE**

<b>Name of Candidate:</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>
<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Southover Partnership School site/Mainstream school/Register staff only</b>

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<b>Proposed Start Date:</b>	<b>Manager/Teacher Conducting Assessment:</b>
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## A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION CHECK

<b>Information required.</b>	<b>Notes/Confirmation.</b>
<p>Has the Recruitment Checklist been completed, including all of the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Form - check gaps, discrepancies or anomalies.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and satisfactory references</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give details where you have obtained clarification or missing information on the applicant or verification of the referees position in the organisation.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualifications – Have you checked and verified that the candidates qualifications fulfil the requirements in the selection criteria?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the candidate completed the Convictions Policy Statement on the Application form regarding the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974? Please state the information they supplied.</li> <li>• Confirm that you have actively asked the person if they have any convictions, cautions, reprimands, warnings, bind-overs, pending prosecutions or disqualifications.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you seen and verified asylum and immigration checks?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have satisfactory health checks been received.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>VBS check or Section 142 of the Education Act 2002.</b></p> <p><b>For anyone working in a school a Vetting and Barring List check must be carried out before they start work. Ensure that this is checked and recorded on the SCR.</b></p>	

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Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure Checks	Comments
1. Does the candidate already hold a DBS certificate? If not, please go to Q6.	
2. Was the DBS certificate obtained by The Southover Partnership? If not, who is the Registered Body?	
3. Was the DBS certificate issued within the last 12 months?	
4. Is the DBS certificate "Enhanced level"?	
5a. If the candidate is going to work with children the DBS certificate must indicate "None Recorded" against the ISA Children's Barred list information.	
6. Has the candidate completed a new DBS certificate Application form? Confirm date that the application form has been sent	Date completed DBS application returned to Shared Services:
7. Has the candidate been a resident outside of the United Kingdom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If yes, is the candidate able to produce the Police Check or DBS equivalent from other countries lived</li></ul>	

# Safer Recruitment Policy



<p>in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, is a Police Check or DBS equivalent from that country being sought?</li> </ul>	
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## B. ASSESSING THE RISKS

Question	Applicable (Please delete as appropriate)	Comments
Did the applicant declare the matters on the DBS Application form or in a confidential document addressed to the Managing Director?	Yes / No If 'No' state reason	
Does the individual agree that the information detailed on the DBS Certificate is correct?	Yes/ No If No what do they think is incorrect and why?	
Were any offences work-related or committed within the context of a work setting?	Yes/No If 'Yes' give details	
Were any offences committed within the last 2 years?	Yes / No If 'Yes' explain context in which each offence occurred e.g. where, how, why and details of any victims. (Continue overleaf if necessary)	

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Question	Applicable (Please delete as appropriate)	Comments
What is the individual's attitude to the offence/s now?	e.g. regret/remorse/ justified/denial	
Would they do anything differently now?	Yes / No  If 'Yes' specify what	
Has the individual's circumstances changed since the conviction/s e.g. location/friends/partner/education?	Yes / No  If 'Yes' specify what	
Are there any mitigating circumstances? e.g. immaturity, traumatic life event	Yes / No  If 'Yes' specify what	
Do the matters disclosed form any pattern e.g. repeat offences or repeat motivation (anger/financial/drugs/alcohol	Yes / No  If 'Yes' specify	
Can the applicant demonstrate any efforts not to re-offend?  e.g. Rehabilitation course, Anger Management course, help for alcohol/drug abuse.	Yes / No  If 'Yes' specify  (NB – completing Community Service is a punishment not a rehabilitation programme)	

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Question	Applicable (Please delete as appropriate)	Comments
Can safeguards be implemented to reduce/remove any risk e.g. no unsupervised contact?	Yes / No If 'Yes' specify what	
What supervision is available and how readily?	Give details	

<b>Any further information</b>
Is there any other information relevant to this Risk Assessment regarding the candidate, the work itself or the location/environment where the activities will take place?

<b>Level of Risk:</b> Please complete the level of risk posed by appointing/employing the individual in this job. Give reasons.	
High Risk	
Medium Risk	
Low Risk	
Can protective measures be put in place to render the risk low? Yes / No	
Outline of the protective measures <b>Risk Management Plan</b> e.g. curtailment of access to children/information; additional supervision; temporary changes of work location; temporary diversion of low risk tasks or training.	



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Risk Assessment completed by:

Signed

Date:

Print Name

Position:

**Authorised by Head Teacher or Head of SOS**

Is this person suitable to start work before the DBS is returned or to continue working under the conditions proposed above? Yes/No

**Comments: (Reasons for decision)**

Risk Assessment Authorised by;

Signed (Head Teacher/ Head of SOS/Chair of Trustees)

Date

Print Name (Head Teacher/ Head of SOS/ Chair of Trustees)

Date

## Appendix 3: Checklist for Agency Staff/Organisations

Name of Agency/Organisation:

Address:

Tel:

Name of Employee:

Role:

Checks	Date Checked	Checked by
DBS No:		
DBS Issue Date:		
DBS Registered Body:		
Confirm DBS Clear/Details of Convictions/Cautions:		
Proof of NI (NI Card/Payslip/P45/P60 etc):		
Photo ID (Passport/Driving Licence):		
Two Proofs of Address (Less than 3 months old):		
Vetting & Barring Service (Formerly List 99):		
If a teacher – QTS checked:		
Prohibition from Teaching List Checked:		
Police checks from country of origin if in the UK for less than five years:		
Two Satisfactory and Verified References:		
Right to Work in the UK (valid visa/work permit/leave to remain):		

Safer Recruitment Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

Signed off by:

Date:

# Safer Recruitment Policy



**Print Name & Position:**

## Appendix 4: Checklist for Consultants

**Consultant's Name:**

**Address:**

**Tel:**

**First Name:**

**Surname:**

**Position/Placement:**

**Days/Times at School:**

Checks	Date Checked	Checked by
DBS No: .....		
DBS Issue Date: .....		
DBS Registered Body: ..... .....		
DBS Details: .....		
Photo ID:		
Two Proofs of Address:		
Vetting & Barring Service (List 99):		
Police checks from country of origin if in the UK for less than five years:		
Two Satisfactory and Verified References:		
Right to Work in the UK (valid visa/work permit/leave to remain):		

Safer Recruitment Guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024

**Signed off by:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Print Name & Position:** .....