




Safer Recruitment Policy

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Related Regulations	Equality Act 2010 Keeping Children Safe in Education
Appendices	Appendix 1 Hope House School Induction Checklist
Responsible Person	Brian Jones (Chair of Trustees)
Responsible Person Signature	

Version Control Sheet

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Contents

1. Safer Recruitment Process (from Appendix 3 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy)	3
2. Complaints or Concerns	5
3. Monitoring Arrangements	6

1.0 Safer Recruitment Process

Recruitment and selection process

The recruitment steps outlined below are based on part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

To make sure we recruit suitable people, we will ensure that those involved in the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children have received appropriate safer recruitment training.

We have put the following steps in place during our recruitment and selection process to ensure we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Advertising

When advertising roles, we will make clear:

- Our school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- That safeguarding checks will be undertaken.
- The safeguarding requirements and responsibilities of the role, such as the extent to which the role will involve contact with children.
- Whether or not the role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. If the role is exempt, certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected,' so they do not need to be disclosed, and if they are disclosed, we cannot take them into account.

Application forms

Our application forms will:

- Include a statement saying that it is an offence to apply for the role if an applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children (where the role involves this type of regulated activity)
- Include a copy of, or link to, our child protection and safeguarding policy and our policy on the employment of ex-offenders.

Shortlisting

Our shortlisting process will involve at least 2 people and will:

- Consider any inconsistencies and look for gaps in employment and reasons given for them.
- Explore all potential concerns.

Once we have shortlisted candidates, we will ask shortlisted candidates to:

- Complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or any information that would make them unsuitable to work with children, so that they can share relevant information and discuss it at interview stage. The information we will ask for includes:
 - If they have a criminal history
 - Whether they are included on the barred list
 - Whether they are prohibited from teaching
 - Information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales
 - Any relevant overseas information
- Sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true.
- We will also consider carrying out an online search on shortlisted candidates to help identify any incidents or issues that are publicly available online.

Seeking references and checking employment history

We will obtain references before interview where possible. Any concerns raised will be explored further with referees and taken up with the candidate at interview.

When seeking references, we will:

- Not accept open references
- Liaise directly with referees and verify any information contained within references with the referees.

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- Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and completed by a senior person. Where the referee is school based, we will ask for the reference to be confirmed by the headteacher/principal as accurate in respect to disciplinary investigations.
 - Obtain verification of the candidate's most recent relevant period of employment if they are not currently employed.
 - Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the candidate worked with children if they are not currently working with children.
 - Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any inconsistencies with the candidate.
 - Resolve any concerns before any appointment is confirmed.

Interview and selection

When interviewing candidates, we will:

- Probe any gaps in employment, or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently and ask candidates to explain this.
- Explore any potential areas of concern to determine the candidate's suitability to work with children.
- Record all information considered and decisions made.
- Shortlisted candidates will be informed that we will conduct an online search as part of due diligence checks (KCSiE 2023)

Pre-appointment vetting checks

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

New staff

All offers of appointment will be conditional until satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity.
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will obtain the certificate before, or as soon as practicable after, appointment, including when using the DBS update service. We will not keep a copy of the certificate for longer than 6 months, but when the copy is destroyed, we may keep a record of the fact that vetting took place, the result of the check and recruitment decision taken.
- Obtain a separate barred list check if they will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available.
- Verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities.
- Verify their right to work in the UK. We will keep a copy of this verification for the duration of the member of staff's employment and for 2 years afterwards.
- Verify their professional qualifications, as appropriate.
- Ensure they are not subject to a prohibition order if they are employed to be a teacher.
- Carry out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK. Where available, these will include:
 - For all staff, including teaching positions: [criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#)
 - For teaching positions: obtaining a letter from the professional regulating authority in the country where the applicant has worked, confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions on that person, and/or are aware of any reason that person may be unsuitable to teach.
- Check that candidate taking up a management position* are not subject to a prohibition from management (section 128) direction made by the secretary of state.

* Management positions are most likely to include, but are not limited to, headteachers, principals and deputy/assistant headteachers.

We will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we take a decision that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment on the individual's personnel file. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not.

Existing staff

In certain circumstances we will carry out all the relevant checks on existing staff as if the individual was a new member of staff. These circumstances are when:

- There are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children; or
- An individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is; or
- There has been a break in service of 12 weeks or more.

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult where:

- We believe the individual has engaged in [relevant conduct](#); or
- We believe the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence, under the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 \(Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions\) Regulations 2009](#); or
- We believe the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a child or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and
- The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left.

Agency and third-party staff

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check (this includes contractors who are provided through a PFI or similar contract). This will be:

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity.
- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children.

We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.

We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.

Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.

We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

For self-employed contractors such as music teachers or sports coaches, we will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Trainee/student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.

In both cases, this includes checks to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006.

Volunteers

We will:


- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity.
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity.
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity. We will retain a record of this risk assessment.
- Ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Governors (Trustees)

All trustees will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information.

They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.

All proprietors, trustees, local governors, and members will also have the following checks:

- A section 128 check (to check prohibition on participation in management under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#)). 
- Identity
- Right to work in the UK
- Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK.

Staff working in alternative provision settings.

Where we place a pupil with an alternative provision provider, we obtain written confirmation from the provider that they have carried out the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise perform.

Adults who supervise pupils on work experience

When organising work experience, we will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect children from harm.

We will also consider whether it is necessary for barred list checks to be carried out on the individuals who supervise a pupil under 16 on work experience. This will depend on the specific circumstances of the work experience, including the nature of the supervision, the frequency of the activity being supervised, and whether the work is regulated activity.

Pupils staying with host families.

Where the school decides for pupils to be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people.

Where the school is organising such hosting arrangements overseas and host families cannot be checked in the same way, we will work with our partner schools abroad to ensure that similar assurances are undertaken prior to the visit.

2.0 Complaints and Concerns

Any complaints or concerns about our safer recruitment process should be placed in writing to the HR Manager, Headteacher or Chair of Trustees

3.0 Monitoring Arrangements

This process sits within the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which works with Keeping Children Safe in Education. This policy will be reviewed every three years unless there are substantive changes within Keeping Children Safe in Education. The responsibility for monitoring of this policy is the Headteacher.

Name of employee:	Job title:
Start date:	Date induction completed: (with signature of new starter)

First day	Carried out by	Date	Notes
On-Boarding			
Welcomed by			
Housekeeping Fire procedure, facilities (toilet, lockers, staffroom, communication boards), signing in procedure.			
Check RTW, ID and DBS details, Copy ID. ask for copy of P45.			
T & C's & Employee Handbook Run through details, ensure a signed copy of T&C's and JD is retained for HR file and employee has a signed copy.			
Welcome to Hope House Vision, Values, Ethos, Brief History of the School Management Structure and report lines			
Outline Safeguarding, Health & Safety & issue a copy of KCSIE Part 1 DSL & DDSL's			
School Future plans and developments			
First day	Carried out by	Date	Notes
New employee's job			
Explain job role and how it fits in the school structure.			
Outline expected performance and how it will be assessed.			
Training Mandatory & Job required.			
Opportunities for future development			
... and hours, breaks, holidays and when they will get paid.			

Payroll and Pension information			
Run through the school rules on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • job performance • discipline • absence, including because of illness and sick pay. • complaints against staff, (Inc bullying and harassment) Confirm where more details can be found.			
Issue HHS email address, run through Acceptable use policy and ask to sign declaration. Retain copy of declaration for HR file.			
School policies, confirm policy details and where to find copies			
Run through details on dress code, parking, smoking, and the lunch			
New Starter online Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent • Safeguarding Children in education • Health & safety • Fire Safety 			
Issue Uniform			
First Week			
Complete all online training.			
Introduce to and handover to Line Manager			
Introduction to team and classroom. Explain Roles and responsibilities of team members.			
Introduction to Employee Safety Rep			
Classroom H&S procedures including evacuation procedures.			
Read Pupil EHCP, Risk Assessments etc.			

1-Week – Review, how new starter is adjusting to their role			
First month	Carried out by	Date	Notes
2-week – Review, team support, any additional support required, any concerns			
4-week review, how the new starter is adjusting to their role, and whether they have any coaching or training needs, or other concerns			
At two months			
6-week – Review, new starter experience from application through, onboarding to date			
At three months	Carried out by	Date	Notes
3-month review, personal development over three months, update on objectives This is also an opportunity to pinpoint any development needs, set timescales for achieving them and adjust work targets if required.			
At six months	Carried out by	Date	Notes
If the new employee is on probation, then it is decision time – will they stay, go, or consider extension to probationary period? If they are staying, the line manager to look to the next six months, any new work objectives, and any experience, coaching or training needs.			
Line Manager to inform HR of decision on Probationary period.			
HR to Confirm outcome of Probationary period			
At 12 months	Carried out by	Date	Notes
Ask the employee for feedback on their experience over 12-months – what worked well? What could be improved?			