



# SAFE RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT VETTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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Date:	<b>Dec 2021</b>
Proposed review date:	<b>Sept 2022</b>

## Review Sheet

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	July 2018
2	Revised to take account of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018	Nov 2018
3	Revised to take account of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019	Sept 2019
4	Updated to take into account of Safer recruitment Consortium guidance on content of application forms	Nov 2019
5	Minor Revisions to clarify information on the requirement for pre-appointment health checks for all new employees	Jan 2020
6	Updated to include changes following UK exit from the EU, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) filtering rules which came into effect in November 2020 and schools' access to the Children's Barred list	April 2021
7	Minor changes to ensure clarity (page 5 of procedures only)	July 2021
8	Added statement to account for future pandemics; Appendix C- Model risk assessment form for new employees awaiting DBS Disclosures and minor changes in the body of the procedures; updates to comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021;	September 2021
9	Minor updates and minor amendment to the self-disclosure form at Appendix A	November 2021
10	Updates to clarify prohibition checks for those other than teachers e.g. TA's with QTS and HLTA's where they carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work.	December 2021

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## POLICY STATEMENT

South Lakes Academy has created a culture of safe recruitment and adopted recruitment procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk of harm to children. This Policy is supported by procedures which describe in detail those checks that are, or may be, required for any individual working in any capacity (paid or unpaid), or visiting, this School. The Centre Manager will act reasonably in making decisions about the suitability of the prospective employee or other individual based on checks and evidence including: criminal background (via the Disclosure and Barring Service), barred list, prohibition status (in the case of teachers), Disqualification Declaration (where required) and other necessary checks together with references and interview information. Some or all of the aforementioned checks will apply to those recruited to a volunteer role.

In response to any future Pandemic situation, these procedures may require amendment in relation to checking ID documents and interviews, both of which may be required to revert to a virtual system. An additional addendum may be introduced in order to meet recruitment needs in the event of a future pandemic.

Safer recruitment is not just about carrying out the right checks prior to appointment and is not limited to recruitment procedures. Good safeguarding required a continuing commitment from the leadership team and all staff to ensure the safety and welfare of children is embedded in all of our processes and procedures and is enshrined in our ethos.

All recruitment will be in line with this Policy and procedures and will, without exception follow the process of safer recruitment. All offers of employment (whether paid or unpaid) will be subject to school staff and Governors being satisfied that the applicant or volunteer is a suitable person to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk.

Statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' states that schools should have in place a number of arrangements as part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In relation to safer recruitment, these arrangements include having safer recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children. This Policy and supporting procedures fulfil that statutory requirement.

All those involved with recruiting individuals to the school will be familiar with and fully understand the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education') and the School Child Protection Policy and procedures.

All recruitment will be planned to ensure that there is adequate time and resources available to ensure that an individual is recruited safely.

Once an individual has been appointed, contracted or accepted as a volunteer, we will ensure that a full Induction takes place which will include our Child Protection Policy and procedures and provision of other related safeguarding documents both statutory and non-statutory (see Induction procedures).

We are committed to ensuring that throughout our recruitment and selection process, no applicant is disadvantaged or discriminated against as a result of their age, sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment pregnancy or maternity status.

Any person who becomes or is made aware that the recruitment process set out in this Policy and accompanying procedures are not being followed must inform the Head teacher or Chair of Governors immediately.

# PROCEDURES

## 1. Planning and Advertising

Sufficient time and resources will be allowed to enable appropriate and full planning to take place prior to a post being advertised. This includes ensuring that a job description and person specification is current and in place. Volunteer posts may require a generic job description which would cover a number of voluntary roles in school.

Those involved in the recruitment process will be identified at this stage including those who will be responsible for shortlisting and those involved in the formal interview process.

In order to convey that our school views safeguarding children as paramount, the following statement will be included in all advertisements:

South Lakes Academy (hereinafter referred to as the School) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of its pupils, engages with young people and staff in Policy and practice developments, proactively encourages feedback and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”.

The above statement will also be included in:

- Publicity materials
- The school website
- Recruitment partner websites
- Applicant information packs
- Job descriptions
- Person Specifications
- Induction programmes

So that individuals can make an informed decision about whether or not they wish to apply for a particular post, the advert and information will make reference to the requirement to obtain a suitable Enhanced Disclosure (with relevant barred list check(s) if the post will be in Regulated Activity), an explanation of when in the process any criminal history is to be disclosed and discussed and, where appropriate to the post, a requirement to complete a Childcare Disqualification declaration.

All advertisements will make reference to the school’s ethos in relation to equality of opportunity for all.

## 2. Job Description/Person Specification

The job description will include and clearly state:

- the main duties and responsibilities of the post;
- the extent of contact/responsibility for pupils;
- the school’s expectations and the post-holder’s individual responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the children the individual will be responsible for or come into contact with;
- whether or not the post is in regulated activity with children and/or adults;
- line management accountability for supervision and performance.

The person specification will:

- clearly convey the selection criteria against which the applicant’s ability to do the job will be assessed;
- contain selection criteria which specifies the experience, skills, qualifications and personal qualities required;
- explain how these requirements will be tested and assessed during the selection process e.g. by interview, tests, presentations, observation of group exercises etc.

It is vital that applicants are aware that, in addition to their ability to perform duties of the post, selection will consider their personal suitability for the role. This includes their:

- motivation and suitability to work with children;
- attitude towards the use of authority and control;

- integrity and ability to form and maintain appropriate professional relationships with children;
- emotional resilience when working with challenging behaviours and situations.

### 3. Information Pack to Applicants

All information provided to interested applicants will highlight the importance of the rigorous selection processes and the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Information in the pack makes clear to applicants that proof of identity will be required as well as a criminal history self-disclosure and, for the successful candidate, a DBS Disclosure of the appropriate level (where applicable).

Our Information Pack also includes a copy of or link to:

- the application form and explanatory notes about completing the form;
- the job description and person specification;
- relevant information about the organisation and the recruitment process
- the school's Child Protection Policy Statement
- a statement of the terms and conditions relating to the post
- the employee/workforce privacy notice;
- the equality and diversity form.

### 4. Application Form

We do not accept CV's at this school in place of an application form since this will generally contain only the information the applicant wishes to present. The application form allows for a common set of core data that can then be used as a part of the full vetting and verification of short-listed applicants.

We will refer to changes brought about as a result of legislation which came into force on 28 November 2020. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2020) allows certain old and minor cautions and convictions to no longer be subject to disclosure once they become spent' these are referred to as filtered or protected offences. In addition, employers are no longer able to take an individual's protected cautions or convictions into account when making decisions.

**In relation to requests for details about previous convictions, or application form states:**

**"All posts involving direct contact with children are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. However, amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013 & 2020) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions and 'protected'. These are not subject to disclosure to employers and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found on the Ministry of Justice website or see [here](#).**

**Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-disclosure form to provide details of all unspent convictions and those that would not be filtered or protected, prior to the date of the interview. You may be asked for further information about your criminal history during the recruitment process. If your application is successful, this self-disclosure information will be checked against information from the Disclosure & Barring Service before your appointment is confirmed. Please note it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children"**

**NOTE:** Confirmation of, or details of criminal history will not be requested in our application form.

We do not ask applicants to return a criminal self-disclosure form with the application pack, nor does the application form ask questions about whether the applicant has a criminal history. The criteria for short-listing will be the same for all candidates and is related to the job description and person specification. It would be unfair to discriminate against a candidate at this stage solely based on the ground that they have a criminal record.

Our Application form also included requests for the following essential information:

- Full identifying details including current and former names, date of birth, current address and National Insurance number. It is important to be sure that the person is who they claim to be, this includes being aware of the potential for individuals changing their name. Best practice is checking the name on their birth certificate, where this is available. Further identification checking guidelines can be found on the GOV.UK website.
- Academic and vocational qualifications, including awarding body, name of institution and date achieved

- Full employment chronology including any voluntary or part time-work with start dates, explanations for periods not in employment or education/training and reasons for leaving employment
- Details of all post education training including dates and awarding bodies
- A statement of the skills and attributes, and the competencies/experience that the applicant believes are relevant to his/her suitability for the post
- Declaration of any family or close relationships to existing employees or employers
- Details of at least two referees. One from current or from most recent employer. In addition, where an applicant is not currently working with children, but has done so in the past, a reference will be requested from the employer by whom the person was most recently employed in work with children. References will not be accepted from relatives or friends.
- Signed statement indicating that the person is not on the DBS Barred List or is not disqualified from work with children or subject to any sanctions imposed by a regulatory body or professional association.

## 5. Scrutinising and Short Listing

Individuals will be shortlisted equally against the requirements of the person specification. In all cases of those who are applying for paid employment, the same selection panel will both short-list and interview the applicant. In the case of volunteers applying to work in the school, a more informal approach will be taken which will generally involve only a Senior Member of staff.

The outcome of the short-listing process will be recorded, and information retained for a period not exceeding 6 months from the date of appointment of the successful candidate.

The shortlisting panel is responsible for scrutinising the application forms and identifying any gaps in employment or other areas that may affect an applicant's suitability to work with children and young people. All application forms will be scrutinised to ensure:

- they are fully and properly completed - incomplete application forms will not be accepted;
- the information is consistent and does not contain any discrepancies;
- any anomalies, discrepancies or gaps in employment/training and the reasons for this, or a history of repeated changes of employment are identified.
- The form is appropriately signed. Electronic copies should be signed at the interview stage.

A satisfactory explanation for any concerns will be obtained from the applicant during the interview process.

## 6. Criminal self-disclosure

Foreseeability and certainty are in the best interests of applicants with a criminal history. All shortlisted candidates will be provided with a criminal history/suitability self-disclosure form to complete and return no later than one day prior to interview. Failure to return the self-disclosure will result in the interview being withdrawn. Applicants will be provided with clear information about who in the organisation they should return the self-disclosure to. **A model self-disclosure form is provided at Appendix A.**

The self-disclosure form will include an explanation of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, Exceptions Order 1975 and the 2020 filtering rules. The form includes a link to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) guidance on protected offences, a reminder that the applicant should take legal advice before completing the self-disclosure if they are unsure, and the contact detail of organisations that can provide impartial advice.

Once the self-disclosure form is received in school, any disclosed information will be checked to ensure it is relevant. Relevant criminal history will be shared with the headteacher prior to interview to allow time to assess relevance and agree what questions should be asked during the interview process.

Any shortlisted candidate who discloses criminal or other suitability information will be given an opportunity to discuss the context and relevance with the recruiting panel. **We will assess cases fairly, on an individual basis. A decision not to appoint someone because of their conviction(s) will be clearly documented in line with our Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders. (see Appendix B). We will also consider the incident(s) in the context of the Teachers' Standards and Teacher misconduct guidance, if the applicant is applying for a teaching post.**

For the successful candidate, the self-disclosure will be compared with the enhanced DBS certificate on

receipt to ensure consistency.

## 7. References

The School will always ask for written references. Each request will be accompanied by the job description and person specification. One of the references will be requested from the **current or** most recent employer. If an applicant for a teaching post is not currently employed as a teacher, we will check with the school, college or local authority at which they were most recently employed to confirm details of their employment and their reasons for leaving. The purpose of seeking references is to obtain subjective and factual information to support appointment decisions.

As a result of the Equality Act 2010, it is no longer appropriate to ask referees for information relating to absence of sickness record until after the preferred candidate has been selected unless the post has an exception (See also section **9**. Below).

All offers of employment will be conditional upon receipt of at least two satisfactory written references. References received will be scrutinised and any concerns resolved satisfactorily before the appointment is confirmed. References will always be requested directly from the referee. Any provided by the applicant or open references i.e. those prefixed by 'To whom it may concern' will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**We will secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children), if the applicant has never worked with children, then we will ensure a reference from their current employer.**

References will be sought on all shortlisted applicants including internal ones. Wherever possible, these will be obtained prior to the interview so that any issues of concern they raise can be explored further with the referee and taken up with the individual at interview.

Reference requests will specifically ask:

- about the referee's relationship with the applicant;
- whether the referee is completely satisfied that the individual is suitable to work with children and, if not, for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes that the person might be unsuitable

Referees will also be asked, where relevant, to confirm details of:

- how the person meets the requirements of the specification and his or her capacity to carry out the duties set out in the job description;
- the applicant's current post and salary;
- **the reason for the candidate leaving their current or most recent post;**
- effectiveness of the applicant's interactions with children and other adults;
- performance history and conduct;
- any disciplinary procedures in which the sanction is current;
- any disciplinary procedures involving issues related to the safety and welfare of children, including any in which the sanction has expired and the outcome of those;
- whether, in the case of an applicant for a teaching post, that teacher has been in capability procedures during the previous two years;
- any outstanding complaints or investigations against the applicant that could bring the school into disrepute at a later stage;
- details of any founded allegations or concerns that have been raised that relate to the safety and welfare of children or behaviour towards children and the outcome of these concerns;
- whether they would re-employ the applicant and if not, why not.

Where a reference has not been received on the preferred applicant before the interview, once received it will be scrutinised and any concerns resolved satisfactorily before the individual's appointment is confirmed.

Where electronic references are received, these will be checked to ensure they originate from a legitimate source.



On receipt of references, they will be checked to ensure all questions have been answered satisfactorily. Where information is vague or insufficient, we will contact the referee to clarify content and will compare the information on the application for that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the candidate.

A character reference will be sought for volunteers as if they were to be employed.

## 8. Qualifications and Employment History

Qualifications will be validated only on receipt and sight of original certificates. Qualifications required will be those which are listed as being a pre-requisite of the post advertised.

The School will always ask for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. Full employment history is required. Where there are gaps of unemployment, this must be explained on the application form.

## 9. Health

DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' emphasises the importance of anyone appointed to a post involving regular contact with children or young people must be medically fit. There is a statutory duty on employers to satisfy themselves that individuals have the appropriate level of physical and mental fitness before the appointment is confirmed. Any offer of employment will, therefore, be subject to satisfactory health checks. A Pre-employment medical screening form will be provided to the successful candidate following a verbal offer of employment with responses reviewed by the Occupational Health, where necessary, Dependent on the response, a face to face appointment with the Occupational Health provider or further details from the candidates GP may be required.

Assessment of physical fitness will, however, be considered within the context of the Equality Act 2010 which allows for reasonable adjustments to be made.

## 10. Interviews

A face to face interview will take place for all applicants to all posts including volunteering roles. Wherever possible, the interviewing panel will consist of at least 2 people. Volunteers will be interviewed by either the Head teacher or a member of the School Leadership Team.

Members of the panel will:

- have the necessary authority to make decisions about the appointment;
- meet before the interview to agree their assessment criteria in accordance with the person specification and to prepare a list of questions they will ask all interviewees relating to the requirements of the post. These could include:
  - Finding out what attracted the candidate to the post being applied for and their motivation for working with children;
  - Exploring their skills and asking for examples of experience of working with children which are relevant to the role; and
  - Probing any gaps in employment or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, asking about the reasons for this;
- identify any issues they wish to explore with each applicant based on the information provided in their application form and in the references;
- have clarified whether any criminal information disclosed in the self-disclosure is relevant and, if so, agreed what questions will be asked to understand the context of the offending and whether it affects the suitability of the candidate to take up the post.
- Consider, in the circumstances of the individual case, any information about past disciplinary action or allegations;
- Allocate specific question sets to each member of the panel which will ensure that someone asks the questions, and another member of the panel can at the same time record the applicant's answers. A copy of the notes and any scoring sheets will be collated by the Chair of the Panel and retained for a

period outlined in the school's data retention procedures.

A record of the questions asked, and responses provided, will be retained with the other interview notes; Those whose application forms provide information that best meets the criteria of the job description, person specification, experience and qualifications are invited for interview.

All applicants will be asked to bring with them documentary evidence of their identity and their 'right to work in the UK'.

Evidence of identity can include a current driving licence or passport including a photograph, or a full birth certificate and a document such as a utility bill or financial statement that shows the applicant's current name and address (no more than 3 months old) and, where appropriate change of name documentation.

Accepted evidence for their 'right to work in the UK' will be a current British passport. Where no British Passport is available, proof of a National Insurance number, e.g. NI card or P60 and a copy of their Birth Certificate are required. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, employers can no longer accept EU passports or ID cards as valid proof of right to work, except for Irish citizens. For further information on what is required for foreign nationals, reference should be made to the Government Document '[Checking a job applicant's right to work](#)'. To carry out an online right to work check, we will require the applicant's date of birth and share code which they will have obtained when they proved their right to work online.

Applicants must also bring:

- documents confirming any educational and professional qualification(s). If this is not possible, written confirmation must be obtained from the awarding body; and,
- documentation of registration with any appropriate professional body.

A copy of the documents used to verify the successful applicant's identity and qualifications will be retained on their personnel file.

Where an individual has submitted an electronic application form, they will be asked to sign the form prior to the interview.

## 11. Other Selection Methods

In addition to a face to face interview with an Interview Panel, a variety of other selection methods may be used, such as:

- observation of teaching practice either in the proposed school or in the applicant's current setting;
- one or more additional panel interviews e.g. a panel made up of pupils from the school;
- a presentation;
- in-tray exercises;
- psychometric testing

Those involved in the recruitment process for a specific post will determine the selection method(s) to be used. The methods will be relevant and appropriate to the role and will be based on the requirements for the particular post as set out in the job description and person specification.

Applicants will be informed in advance if any selection methods are to be used in addition to a face to face interview and the format these will take.

## 12. Involving of Children and Young People

We have developed a culture of listening to children. Children and young people can make a valuable contribution to the recruitment process and their participation may be considered for key strategic and managerial posts as well as posts where staff will have a high level of responsibility for children's day to day care.

## 13. Conditional Offer of Employment – pre-employment checks

An offer of appointment to the successful applicant will be conditional upon any or all of:

- the receipt of at least two satisfactory references (where not received before interview). Where possible, these will also be confirmed by telephone. See Section 7 for further details;

- verification of the individual's identity (if that could not be verified at interview) preferably from current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available;
- verification and/or evidence of the individual's right to work in the UK (if that could not be verified at interview);
- receipt of a satisfactory enhanced DBS Disclosure Certificate (with relevant barred list check(s) if the pos will be in Regulated Activity). Where the individual is registered, this may be via a check with the DBS Update Service;
- a separate children's Barred List check for those with a 'portable' DBS Enhanced Certificate for regulated Activity (having worked in a school in England in the previous 3 months in a similar role) or who start work in regulated activity before the DBS Certificate is available. Such individuals will be subject to reasonable supervision until a new Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity is received;
- further checks on the individual if they have lived or worked outside of the UK for a block period of 3 months or more in the last 5 years. These further checks might include a check for information about any teacher sanction or restriction that an overseas professional regulating authority has imposed. (See Section 14.6 below for further information);
- verification of the individual's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health in order to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role (S60 Equality Act 2010 refers). See Section 8 for further details;
- verification of qualifications (if not verified at interview). For teachers this will include checking that the individual has the required teaching qualification;
- verification of professional status where required e.g. QTS (unless properly exempted);
- verification of previous employment history and experience, including exploration of any gaps and anomalies;
- (for teaching posts) verification of successful completion of statutory induction/probationary period;
- (for teaching posts) verification that the individual is not subject to either a Prohibition Order or an Interim Prohibition Order (using the TRA system accessed via DfE Sign-in website);
- (for teaching posts) verification that the individual is not included in the list of people sanctioned by the GTCE (using TRA system as above);
- where required, verification that the individual is not disqualified from caring for children under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement Amendments) Regulations 2018 – Childcare Disqualification declaration.

All checks will be:

- confirmed in writing;
- documented and retained on the personnel file (subject to data protection and DBS requirements);
- for teachers only, the TRA record will be printed or saved digitally and retained on the personnel file;
- followed up where they are unsatisfactory or there are discrepancies.

## 14. Recruitment Checks

### 14.1 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

The DBS is responsible for administering three types of check insofar as they relate to the education sector:

- **Standard Disclosure:** a check of the Police National Computer (PNC) records of convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings. This type of check is not normally requested in educational settings;
- **Enhanced Disclosure:** a check of the PNC records as above, plus additional information held by the Police such as interviews and allegations and other information held by the Police that is considered relevant and ought to be disclosed; and
- **Enhanced Disclosure with barred list information (aka Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity):** for people working in 'regulated activity' with children. This adds a check of the DBS Children's Barred List<sup>3</sup> to the enhanced disclosure. In addition, this check can also include information as to whether an individual is subject to a Section 128 direction where specific wording is used in the 'position applied for' held (see paragraph 240 of Keeping Children Safe in Education).

More information is available on the [DBS website](#), and **at point 218** of DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

A DBS Disclosure Certificate for Regulated activity will be obtained from the successful applicant before or as soon as practicable after appointment. There is **no requirement** to obtain an enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity if, in the three months prior to beginning work in their new appointment, the applicant has worked:

- in a school in England in a post which brought them into regular contact with children or in any post in a school since 12 May 2006; or
- in an institution within the FE sector in England or in a 16-19 Academy in a post which involved the provision of education which brought the person regularly into contact with children or young persons.

All other pre-appointment checks must still be completed, including where the individual is engaging in regulated activity, a barred list check. A Check on the barred list status of an individual **must** always be undertaken prior to the individual commencing work at the school. This will be either through sight and verification of the original **paper** Disclosure Certificate for Regulated Activity with children initiated by the school or by checking the children's barred list independently where we have had sight of and verified the **current original paper** DBS Certificate under the 'e-month rule' above. The date of the barred list check **must** always precede the date the individual commences work.

Where there is a pressing need to start someone in employment before the new DBS certificate is received, **a risk assessment (appendix C) will be undertaken (the outcome of which will be confirmed by the Head teacher)** and the school will request a stand-alone Children's Barred list check via the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). If, as a result of the check, there is a 'name match', the school **will not** allow the individual to start work until the situation has been clarified and the new paper DBS certificate has been received by the individual and verified by the school.

**Where the new employing school is accepting a DBS Certificate from a previous employment (3/month rule)**, the School **may** request an enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity with children should there be concerns and bearing in mind the duty the School is under not to allow a barred person to work in regulated activity.

No individual is permitted to commence in a post where they will be in regulated activity with adults before the school has had sight of the **original** enhanced **paper** DBS certificate for regulated activity with adults. If there is an urgent need, the school may request an Adult First check of the adult barred list after the application for enhanced DBS with adult barred list check has been submitted to the Disclosure & Barring Service.

The School **may not** request an enhanced Disclosure with barred list check for **anyone not engaging in or seeking to engage in** regulated activity but **may** request an enhanced DBS check **without** a barred list check where the individual is working (paid or unpaid) on a regular basis in school.

A flow chart of Disclosure and Barring Service Checks and Barred List Checks can be found at Appendix **D**.

The level of DBS check required will depend on the role and duties of an applicant to work in a school as outlined in this Policy.

A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' with children **if because** of their work they:

- will be responsible, on a regular basis, in any setting for **teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising** children; or
- will regularly work in a school at times when children are on school premises (where the person's work requires interaction with children, whether or not the work is paid (unless they are a supervised volunteer), or whether the person is directly employed or employed by a contractor).

A supervised volunteer who regularly teaches or looks after children is not in regulated activity. The Department for Education (DfE) has published separate statutory guidance on supervision and regulated activity to which we have regard to when considering which checks should be undertaken on volunteers. This is replicated at Appendix **E**.

The full legal definition of regulated activity is set out in Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. HM Government have produced a [factual](#)

[note on Regulated Activity in relation to Children: scope.](#)

Regulated activity with children includes:

- a) teaching, training, instructing, caring for (see (c) below) or supervising children if the person is unsupervised, or providing advice or guidance on well-being, or driving a vehicle only for children,
- b) work for a limited range of establishments (known as 'specified places', which include schools and colleges), with the opportunity for contact with children, but not including work done by supervised volunteers;

Work under (a) or (b) is regulated activity only if done regularly<sup>1</sup>. Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not. This includes:

- c) relevant personal care, or health care provided by or provided under the supervision of a health care professional:
  - personal care includes helping a child, for reasons of age, illness or disability, with eating or drinking, or in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing;
  - health care means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional.

Regulated activity will not be:

- paid work in specified places which is occasional and temporary and does not involve teaching training; and
- supervised activity which is paid in non-specified settings such as youth clubs, sports clubs etc.

When the DBS has completed its check(s) of an applicant, the relevant information is recorded on a certificate (the DBS Disclosure Certificate) that is sent to the applicant. The applicant **must** show the original **paper** DBS Certificate to the School (their potential employer) before they take up post or as soon as practicable afterwards, **including when using the DBS update service**. Where we allow an individual to start work in regulated activity with children before the DBS Certificate is available, we will ensure that the individual is appropriately supervised and that all other checks, including a separate barred list check, have been completed.

If we know or have reason to believe that an individual is barred, we commit an offence if we allow the individual to carry out any form of regulated activity. There are penalties of up to five years in prison if a barred individual is convicted of attempting to engage or engaging in such work.

## 14.2 Prohibition Orders/Interim Prohibition Orders

Teacher **Prohibition Interim Prohibition** Orders (which may be conferred on teachers only) prevent a person from carrying out teaching work in schools, sixth form colleges or 16 to 19 academies. A person who is prohibited from teaching will not be appointed to a role that involves teaching work in our setting. The Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012 define each of the following activities as 'teaching work': planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils; delivering lessons to pupils; and assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils. The regulations provide that these activities do not constitute 'teaching work' if they are carried out under the direction or supervision of a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the Head teacher.

A check of any prohibition can be carried out using the [DfE sign-in page](#) (formerly Secure Access).

Prohibition orders are described in the Teaching Regulation Agency TRA publications [Teacher misconduct: disciplinary procedures for the teaching profession](#), and [Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers](#).

### **Prohibition of HLTAs/TAs**

It is a statutory requirement to check on appointment that other members of school staff who may be engaged to carry out some teaching work unsupervised and/or undirected such as certain HLTAs or those with QTS who may in the future be engaged to carry out some teaching work without supervision, are not prohibited from teaching. Although such individuals may not have a Teacher Reference number, they must be checked against the 'GTCE' list and the 'Teachers and others prohibited from the profession' list.

There is no statutory requirement for a prohibition check to be made on applications for any other school staff position unless they will carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work. This means that, generally, when appointing into teaching assistant (TA) or other non-teaching positions, prohibition checks will not be required.

Prohibition Orders are made by the Secretary of State following consideration by a professional conduct panel convened by the TRA. Pending such consideration, the Secretary of State may issue an Interim Prohibition Order if he considers that it is in the public interest to do so. There remain a number of individuals who are still subject to disciplinary sanctions which were imposed by the GTCE there forth both prohibition lists available through the TRA will be checked ('GTCE sanctions' and 'Teachers and others prohibited from the profession').

We will check the prohibition status of any teacher/HLTA/TA with QTS (or individuals who are unqualified but being employed in a teaching position) prior to appointment either permanently or on a temporary supply basis (where the supply teacher is not appointed via a Supply Agency). No teacher who is prohibited or has an interim prohibition order made against them will be employed to teach unsupervised and/or undirected in this school. It is the responsibility of Supply Agencies to ensure that supply teachers used in this school are similarly checked to ensure that they are not prohibited from teaching.

The purpose of the regulatory requirement to check prohibition is to prevent a person from working in a role that would contravene any prohibition order in place i.e., a role that would require them to carry out unsupervised/directed teaching work. That is why there is no statutory requirement for a prohibition check to be made on applications for any school staff position, unless they will carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work. This means that, generally, when appointing into teaching assistant (TA) positions, prohibition checks will not be required.

We may, however, choose to undertake additional checks to those required by legislation to ensure an individual's suitability and may want to do this, for example, where someone applying for a TA role indicates that they have qualified teacher status or have previously worked as a teacher. Where we intend to do this, we will be open about this in the application process so that it is seen as fair and transparent.

Prohibition from teaching would not preclude someone from being considered for a TA role. The reasons for prohibiting someone from teaching will not necessarily relate to safeguarding matters. [Guidance](#) is available that indicates the range of misconduct types that may be sufficiently serious to lead to prohibition. In addition, when determining the suitability of a prohibited teacher to be appointed to a non-teaching position, we will consider the circumstances surrounding the misconduct as set out in the relevant published decision document [Teacher misconduct](#). This detail may help inform any subsequent risk assessment that we choose to carry out. Appendix B provides a model 'Cause for Concern' Risk Assessment which may be used.

### 14.3 EEA Teacher Sanctions

EEA regulators of the teaching profession share details of any sanction or restriction that they impose on a teacher with all other EEA teacher regulators.

From 18 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, schools in England were required to use the [DfE sign-in page](#) (formerly Secure Access) to identify any restrictions imposed by all authorities in the European Economic Area (EEA) for those applying for teaching posts and who were new to or returning to the UK. There is a statutory requirement to record the date of this check on the school's single central record.

This service is no longer available to schools in the UK; however, we will retain evidence of the checks for relevant staff appointed in 2016-2020.

No similar scheme is or has been available for non-teaching staff.

See section 14.6 below for details of how we process applications from those living or who have lived abroad.

### 14.4 Section 128 direction

The DfE has issued [guidance](#) which provides information about section 128 and the associated 2014 Regulations, including which factors the Secretary of State may take into account when deciding whether an individual's conduct makes them unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school, a

## Governor/Trustee in an Academy, or a Governor in a maintained school.

A Section 128 direction prohibits or restricts a person from taking part in the management of an independent school, including academes and free schools. A person who is prohibited is unable to participate in any management of an independent school such as:

- a management position in an independent school, academy or free school as an employee;
- a trustee of an academy or free school trust;
- a governor or member of a proprietor body for an independent school;
- a governor on any governing body in an independent school, academy or free school that retains or has been delegated any management responsibilities.

There is no exhaustive list of roles that might be regarded as 'management' for the purpose of determining what constitutes management in an Academy, independent or free school, but roles are likely to include Head teacher, principal, deputy/assistant Head teacher, governors and trustees. It is important to note, however, that the individual's job title is not the determining factor and whether other individuals such as teachers with additional responsibilities could be considered to be 'taking part in management' depends on the facts of the case.

A check for a section 128 direction can be carried out using the TRA System (also known as Secure Access online). It is also possible to check the status of individuals who are not or have never been teachers via this system. Paragraph 20 also refers.

The date the section 128 check was carried out will be recorded on the Single Central Record.

### 14.5 DBS Update Service

If the applicant has subscribed to it and gives permission, the School will undertake an online update check through the DBS Update Service. Individuals can join the DBS Update Service when applying for a new DBS check or within 30 calendar days of the Disclosure Certificate being issued; this will allow portability of a Certificate across employers when applying for similar jobs or where it is anticipated that they will have a break from working in regulated activity for 3 months or more. With the individual's consent, the School can go online and carry out a free, instant check to see if there has been any change to the information recorded since the initial Certificate was issued and advise whether the individual should apply for a new Certificate. [DBS Update Service](#).

Before using the Update Service, schools must:

- (a) obtain consent from the applicant to do so;
- (b) confirm the Certificate matches the individual's identity; and
- (c) examine the original [paper](#) Certificate to ensure that it is for the appropriate workforce and level of check e.g. Enhanced Certificate/Enhanced Certificate for Regulated Activity [with children and adults](#).

### 14.6 DBS and other Checks for those living or who have lived abroad

Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK must undergo the same checks as all other staff in school. This includes obtaining (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity) even if the individual has never been to the UK. In addition, the School will make any further checks we think appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered.

Overseas checks will generally be sought in the following circumstances:

- The applicant has been resident in the UK for most of his or her adult life and has spent a period of three months or longer in an overseas country within the last 5 years. This only applies where the applicant has lived continuously in at least one country for three months or longer.
- The applicant has moved to the UK within the last 10 years having previously lived abroad for most of his or her adult life.

It is [usually](#) the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the appropriate checks in the Country where they lived are sought. Advice on the criminal record information which may be obtained from overseas police forces, published by the Home Office, is on [GOV.UK](#).

In addition to the above, for teaching positions, we may request from the applicant, a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant has worked. Advice about which regulatory or professional body applicants should contact is available from the [United Kingdom National Information Centre](#) (UK ENIC). Where available, such evidence can be considered together with information obtained through other pre-appointment checks to help assess their suitability. Holding a teaching qualification (wherever it was obtained) does not provide suitable assurances for safeguarding purposes that an individual has not been found guilty of any wrongdoing or misconduct, and/or is suitable to work with children. Where this information is not available, we will seek alternative methods of checking suitability and/or undertake a risk assessment (see Appendix B) that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment. Although sanctions and restrictions imposed by another regulating authority do not prevent a person from taking up teaching positions in England, we will consider the circumstances that led to the restriction or sanction being imposed when considering a candidate's suitability for employment. Further information can be found in DfE Guidance: [Recruit teachers from overseas](#).

The Department for Education has also issued guidance on [Qualified teacher status \(QTS\): qualify to teach in England](#). This provides information on how to obtain qualified teacher status (QTS) to teach in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in England where previously the applicant has been an overseas-trained teacher from a European Union country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or USA. Teachers who trained in a country outside of the UK, EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA, will normally need to complete an [accredited training programme](#) in England. After completing the training, they will get QTS and be able to apply for a permanent teaching post in a maintained school or non-maintained special school.

Where overseas checks are relevant, we will endeavour to seek at least one overseas reference, even if no police certificate or certificate of good conduct is available from that country.

## 15. Single Central Record

The School will keep and maintain a Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is a record of [the vetting checks specified in statutory legislation](#) which have been carried out in order to verify, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the individual is an appropriate person to work within the setting. The SCR will include details of pre-employment checks carried out for the following people:

- all staff (including supply staff, apprentices and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school;
- all others who work (paid or unpaid) in regular contact with children in the school, including volunteers;
- contractors (where relevant); and
- all members of the proprietor body.

We may also choose to record the vetting checks completed for volunteers, governors of maintained, foundation, voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools and regular contractors on the SCR.

For students, written confirmation will be sought confirming that the host school, college or University of the individual has carried out the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates, whether any enhanced DBS check certificate has been provided in respect of the individual, [whether the relevant barred list check has been completed \(if the student will be in regulated activity with children\)](#) and the date that confirmation was received.

The information that must be recorded in respect of staff members (including teacher trainees on salaried routes) is whether the following checks have been carried out or certificates obtained **prior to appointment**, and the date on which each check was completed/certificate obtained:

- an identity check ([GOV.UK How to prove and verify someone's identity](#));
- a barred list check;
- an enhanced DBS check/certificate;
- a prohibition from teaching check [and GTCE check](#) (where applicable);
- a section 128 check (for management positions);



- further checks on people living or working outside the UK. This would include recording checks for those EEA teacher sanctions and restrictions described in paragraph 13.3 above undertaken between 18/01/16 and 31/12/20 and any additional checks undertaken for those applying for teaching posts;
- a check of professional qualifications; and
- a check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom.

The School does not keep copies of DBS certificates to fulfil the duty of maintaining the SCR. To comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, where the School chooses to retain a copy of the DBS Certificate, they will be retained in line with the DBS guidance on retention. A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful applicant's identity, right to work in the UK and required qualifications will be held on the personnel file along with the criminal self-disclosure, notes of any discussions with the employee about that self-disclosure and the risk assessment of suitability, where relevant criminal history was disclosed (see Appendix B – Model Cause for Concern Risk Assessment).

The details of an individual will be removed from the single central record once they no longer work at the school.

## 16. Agency and Third Party Staff

The School will obtain written notification from any agency, or third-party organisation, we use that the organisation has carried out the necessary checks on an individual who will be working at the School that the school would otherwise perform. This will include, as necessary, confirmation that the following checks have been carried out prior to appointment:

- DBS Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity, including confirmation that the certificate has been obtained by either the employment business or another such business;
- Prohibition check(s) (teachers only);
- Disqualification under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018 declaration. This should include confirmation that the agency or organisation providing the staff has informed them that they will be committing an offence if they are deployed to work in relevant childcare settings if they are disqualified under legislation.

The School will ensure that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made and will record the date this ID check was carried out (usually the first day the individual presents in school).

Regulations 18 and 30 of the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 requires that where the employment business has obtained an enhanced DBS certificate before the person is due to begin work at the school which disclosed any matter or information or any information was provided to the employment business from the Police, a copy of the certificate must be provided to the governing body (Head teacher) of the school so that we may decide whether or not the person is suitable to work with children. This applies to all supply staff including support staff who are appointed via a Supply Agency.

Part 4 of the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 requires that Education Businesses who supply staff to Academies, Independent and Free Schools supply those settings with a copy of an individual's DBS certificate prior to placing the supply staff member. The date this Certificate was received must be recorded on the Single Central Record.

## 17. Trainee / Student Teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by the school, the School will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out as if the trainee were an employee including, where necessary, a Childcare Disqualification Declaration. As trainee teachers will generally be engaged in work which is regulated activity relating to children, an enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity check will be obtained.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks, with written confirmation that the appropriate checks have been carried out, being given to the school in advance of the placement. We will not request copies of the Certificates, but will ensure that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

## 18. Volunteers

Under no circumstances will a volunteer **on** whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. Such volunteers will be subject to reasonable supervision by a person who themselves are in regulated activity.

For new volunteers in regulated activity who will regularly teach or look after children on an unsupervised basis or provide personal care on a one-off basis the School will obtain an enhanced DBS Disclosure with a barred list check. In addition, the Head teacher will determine whether a Childcare Disqualification declaration is required to be completed.

For new volunteers not in regulated activity we will undertake a risk assessment and use our professional judgement and experience when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check.

In undertaking the risk assessment, we will take the following into consideration:

- the nature of the work with children, **especially if it will constitute regulated activity, including the level of supervision;**
- what the establishment knows about the volunteer, including formal or informal information offered by staff, parents and other volunteers;
- whether the volunteer has other employment or undertakes voluntary activities where referees can advise on **their** suitability; and
- whether the role is eligible for a DBS check **and, if it is, what level is appropriate.**

Details of the risk assessment will be recorded.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 amended the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, removing supervised volunteers from regulated activity and applying a duty on the Secretary of State to issue guidance to assist regulated activity providers such as schools and colleges, to decide what level of supervision is required so that this exclusion would apply. If the volunteer is to be supervised while undertaking an activity which would be regulated activity if it was unsupervised, the statutory DfE guidance will be followed. This is replicated at Appendix E. The guidance issued following this change requires that:

- there must be supervision by a person who themselves are in regulated activity;
- the supervision must be regular and day to day; and
- the supervision must be “reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children”.

There are certain circumstances where schools may obtain an enhanced DBS certificate (not including barred list information), for volunteers who are not engaging in regulated activity. This is set out in DBS workforce guides, which can be found on gov.uk.

Employers are not legally permitted to request a barred list check on a supervised volunteer as they are not considered to be engaged in regulated activity.

**Volunteers engaging in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information) unless the school has any concerns. If, however, the volunteer has a break (3 months or more) from volunteering in the school, it is good practice to seek a new DBS certificate. Such volunteers should, however, be strongly encouraged to register with the DBS Update service.**

## 19. Proprietors of Independent Schools Including Academies and Free Schools or Alternative Provision Academies and Free Schools

Before an individual becomes either the proprietor of an independent school or the chair of a body of people which is the proprietor of an independent school, the Secretary of State will:

- carry out an enhanced DBS check;
- confirm the individual’s identity; and
- if the individual lives or has lived outside of the UK, making an enhanced check insufficient, such other checks as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

The Secretary of State also undertakes these checks in respect of the Chair of governing bodies of a non-maintained special school.

The requirement for an enhanced DBS check is disapplied for the Chair of an Academy Trust if the academy

is converting from a maintained school and the person has already been subject to a check carried out by the Local Authority.

## 20. Individuals engaged in management roles in Academies, Independent and Free Schools

The Independent School Standards which also apply to Academies and Free Schools require that checks be made prior to appointment for the existence of directions made by the Secretary of State under s.128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 barring individuals from taking part in the management of an Independent School.

The scope of the barring directions covers membership of proprietor bodies (including governors if the governing body is the proprietor body for the school), and all staff positions as follows:

- Head teacher
- any teaching positions on the senior leadership team
- any teaching positions which carry a department headship
- non-teaching positions which are part of the senior leadership team
- senior leaders of a multi-academy trust (e.g., CEO, Finance Director)

## 21. Alternative Provision

We will obtain written confirmation from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment i.e. those checks that we would otherwise perform in respect of our own staff.

## 22. Others with the potential for contact with children

### 22.1 Contractors

Where we use contractors to provide services, we will set out our safeguarding requirements in the contract between the organisation and the school.

The School will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. Contractors who are engaging in regulated activity will require an Enhanced DBS check for Regulated Activity. For all other contractors who are not engaging in regulated activity, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children, an enhanced DBS check will be required. In considering whether the contact is regular, it is irrelevant whether the contractor works on a single site or across a number of sites.

Under no circumstances will a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity. Schools are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances and risks to children involved. See Appendix C for Model Risk Assessment.

If a contractor working in school is a self-employed sole trader, the school will consider obtaining a DBS check as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account.

We will, however, always check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

### 22.2 Visitors

For visitors provided by a third party e.g. educational psychologists, social workers etc and those connected with the building/grounds maintenance see Section 16 above. We will ensure that ID checks are carried out and seek assurance that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check (or the visitor's employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks).

The School does not have the power to request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates, for visitors to the school who are not working directly with children e.g. children's relatives or other visitors attending an activity in school. Staff in this School will use their professional judgement about the need to escort or supervise visitors.

### 22.3 Adults who supervise children on work experience

When organising work experience placements, we will ensure that Policies and procedures are in place at the host employer to protect children from harm.

Consideration will be given to whether a barred list check is required for an individual who supervises a child under the age of 16 on a work experience placement. In forming a view, the school will consider the specific circumstances of the work experience, 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/supervision to the child will be:

- Unsupervised themselves; and
- providing the teaching/training/instruction frequently (at least once a week or on more than 3 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 and we may ask the employer providing the work experience to ensure that the person providing the instruction or training is not a barred person.

We are no longer legally entitled to request an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for staff supervising children aged 16 to 17 on work experience.

If the activity undertaken by the child on work experience takes place in our school and, as such, gives the opportunity for contact with children, this may itself be regulated activity. In these cases, and where the child is 16 years of age or over, we will undertake a risk assessment (see Appendix F) and consider whether an Enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the child/young person in question. It is unlawful for us to request, or to apply for, a DBS check for children/young people under the age of 16. Such individuals will always be supervised in the setting.