

Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy

This policy applies to all staff of Abbot's Hill, including EYFS.

1. Scope of the policy

- 1.1 The Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy applies to any individual working in any capacity at or visiting, the school. This includes:
- Teaching and Non-Teaching staff
 - Supply Teachers
 - Contractors and other staff supplied by third parties
 - Governors and other volunteers
- 1.2 The school recognises its commitments under:
- The Independent School Standard Regulations
 - The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) as amended by the Protection of Freedom Act (2012)
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) (KCSIE)
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) (WT)

The school will comply with these regulations and statutory guidance.

2. The importance of Safer Recruitment and Selection

- 2.1 Adherence to this policy will ensure that the school recruits and selects the best applicants for employment who are engaged and are committed to the education of the children and are sympathetic and believe in the values and ethos of the school. It will also deter, identify and allow the school to reject applicants who might abuse children or are otherwise unsuitable to work with children and young people.
- 2.2 Recruiting people who are wrong for the school can lead to increased staff turnover, increased costs and lowering of morale in the existing workforce. Such people are likely to be discontented, unlikely to give of their best, and end up leaving voluntarily or involuntarily when their unsuitability becomes evident. They will not offer the flexibility and commitment that the school requires and seeks.

3. The school's Legal Responsibility and the Importance of Fairness

- 3.1 The school and its representatives have a legal responsibility to ensure that no unlawful discrimination occurs in the recruitment and selection process on the grounds of protected characteristics.
- 3.2 The Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy is aimed at ensuring that the experience for all candidates is fair, and non-discriminatory and that the chosen candidate is recruited on merit, ability and suitability for the post.

- 3.3 Selection decisions will be made in accordance with equality principles and the school will comply at all stages of the recruitment experience with its responsibilities under The Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, the Employment Equality Regulations (covering sexual orientation, religion or belief, and age) and the Equality Act (2010) including the school's responsibility for making reasonable adjustment for a successful candidate with a disability to take up their appointment.
- 3.4 This policy will be reviewed annually and in between as required and updated to adhere to appropriate legislative changes and/ or statutory requirements regarding recruiting and safer recruitment.

4. Equal Opportunities

- 4.1 Equality of opportunity is an integral part of the recruitment and selection process, and to this end the school may offer training and encouragement to any under-represented groups.

5. Principles

- 5.1 The school recognises that its staff are its single most important resource. Therefore, recruitment and selection of all levels of staff are activities of major importance. Recruitment is not an isolated task but rather the beginning of the employment relationship.
- 5.2 All Staff involved in any level of recruitment or any stage of the process should ensure that:
- They act in accordance with the school's Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy
 - All appointments are made on merit, against objective criteria which are applied consistently across all candidates
 - Confidentiality is maintained at all times regarding candidates' details
 - The school attracts and retains a high calibre of staff
 - The highest quality of teaching and support is provided to all children and young people
 - A favourable and positive image of the school is promoted through its Safer Recruitment and Selection activities
- 5.3 The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment and to undergo appropriate checks including enhanced DBS checks. This commitment is embedded in all our procedures and pre-employment checks.
- 5.4 Training will be provided for key staff with responsibility under this policy, along with the provision of support and advice from Human Resources. Relevant training should be undertaken by anyone who will be involved in any recruitment exercise.
- 5.5 Interview panels will always have one member of staff present that has received Safer Recruitment training. Interviews will be conducted by at least two members of staff.

6. The Recruitment Process

- 6.1 Adverts and all recruitment materials will make clear the school's commitment to Safer Recruiting.

- The school will consider both internal and external candidates for advertised roles and applicants will be treated fairly and equally through the recruitment stages in accordance with the principles of this policy.
- Applicants for employment will be expected to complete in full the school's application form, detailing their experience, and referees who will be contacted, with the applicant's permission, prior to the interview. CVs are not accepted in isolation. If a CV is sent, an application form must also be completed.

6.2 Shortlisted candidates will undergo a selection process to determine their suitability for employment, against objective criteria.

- The selection process will reflect the requirements of the post but will as a minimum involve an interview with an appropriate and trained member of staff.
- All notes written by interviewers will be kept with all paperwork for each recruitment exercise and feedback where agreed will be provided to unsuccessful candidates.
- Reasonable adjustments to the selection process under the Equality Act (2010) will be made for individuals with disabilities.
- All shortlisted applicants will be required to complete a self-declaration form prior to interview to provide information about their criminal records history plus any other factors relevant to their suitability to work with children.

6.3 Staff involved in interviewing are required to ask candidates to:

- account for all gaps in employment history
- account for discrepancies between references and application forms
- demonstrate their understanding and ability to safeguard the welfare of children and young people.
- In addition, candidates must be given the opportunity to declare any information which is likely to be revealed on a DBS disclosure or through other recruitment checks.

7. Appointment

7.1 The appointment of the successful candidate will be provisional and subject to completion of pre-employment checks. The level of checks required will depend on the role and duties of an applicant to work in the school.

7.2 For most appointments the applicant will be engaged in 'regulated activity' – that is if, as a result of their work, they:

- Will be responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training instruction, caring for or supervising children; or
- Will carry out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or
- Engage in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once.

7.3 Regulated activity 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. Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not.

This includes:

- a) relevant personal care, or health care provided by or provided under the supervision of a health care professional:
- b) 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;
- c) health care means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional.

7.4 The range of checks the school will carry out is listed below though some categories (**) do not apply to supervised volunteers and others not engaged in a regulated activity. This may include internet and social media searches.

Pre-Employment Check / activity	Stage in Process
Request references – Professional or character as appropriate	Short – List
Barred List check**	Conditional offer
Prohibition check using Teacher Services' System service (teachers only)	Conditional offer
Prohibition from Leadership and Management Check (Section 128)	Conditional offer
Disqualification from Childcare check	Conditional offer
Check Right to Work in the UK	Interview
Check identity, using documentation required by DBS	Interview
Check relevant qualifications	Interview
Check medical fitness declaration has been signed	Application Form
Check applicant has signed application form	Interview
Provide original certificates for required qualifications, or provide other proof of holding certificates / qualifications to the satisfaction of the school	Interview
Check Teaching Status as per DfE regulations	Conditional offer
Complete an enhanced DBS disclosure process and receive satisfactory clearance	Conditional Offer
Provide any further references to satisfy the school's Safeguarding check – for example overseas checks if applicable	Conditional Offer
Provide or complete any other job specific requirements	Conditional offer
Telephone verification of references (if appropriate)	Conditional offer
Complete Single Central Record entry	Before start date

Pre-Employment Check / activity	Stage in Process
Health (mental and physical) questionnaire	Conditional offer
Contract of employment signed and returned	Following a job offer

- 7.5 Any concerns raised during the employment checks will be investigated and a written note kept on the employment file of the further investigation conducted and its conclusion.
- 7.6 Normally the successful candidate will not commence employment until all pre-employment checks have been completed and are satisfactory. In exceptional circumstances, employment may commence for a short period 'under supervision' based on business need and the completion of a risk assessment conducted by the Head and Bursar. The following conditions must be met for this to be permitted:
- The appointment is not confirmed
 - The DBS application has been made
 - A barred list check has been undertaken, together with a prohibition check if applicable
 - Appropriate safeguarding and supervision arrangements have been documented and the person in question has signed to confirm their understanding of these (evidence of this will be retained)
 - The safeguarding and supervision arrangements are reviewed at least every two weeks

8. References

- 8.1 The school will always ask for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. If a candidate for a teaching post is not currently employed as a teacher, the school 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.
- 8.2 References provide objective and factual information to support appointment decisions. They will always be obtained, scrutinised and any concerns resolved satisfactorily, before the appointment is confirmed.
- 8.3 References will be sought on all short-listed candidates prior to interview where practically possible, will always be requested directly from the referee and must be supplied on the school's standard reference form which requires answers to specific questions. Open references, for example in the form of 'to whom it may concern' testimonials are not acceptable.
- 8.4 References will be checked to ensure that all specific questions have been answered satisfactorily. The referee will be contacted to provide further clarification as appropriate. They will also be compared for consistency with the information provided by the candidate on their application form and any discrepancies will be taken up with the candidate.
- 8.5 Any information about past disciplinary action or allegations will be considered carefully when assessing the applicant's suitability for the post (including information obtained from the Employer Access Online checks referred to previously).

8.6 Following an offer of employment, referees may be contacted to verify their reference.

9. Confirmation of appointment

9.1 When all pre-employment checks have been completed satisfactorily, the offer of employment will be confirmed in writing.

9.2 Copies of identity documents, right to work in the UK and qualifications will be retained on the employee's file.

9.3 Candidates who are not able to satisfy the pre-employment checks will have their conditional offer of employment to the school withdrawn or will be subject to disciplinary action and potential dismissal for Gross Misconduct.

9.3 Any candidate who applies for a role in the school despite being on the Barred or Prohibited lists will be reported to the appropriate authorities immediately.

10. Induction

10.1 All staff, including temporary staff and volunteers, will be provided with induction training that includes:

- a) The [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#);
- b) the [Behaviour Policy](#)
- c) the staff [Code of Conduct and Safe Working Practice Policy](#) including the [Whistleblowing Policy](#);
- d) the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and his / her identity and contact details together with that of his / her Deputies;
- e) child protection training in accordance with Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures;
- f) a copy of the current Part 1 and Part 5 of Keeping children safe in education September 2021, together with Annex A;
- g) the online general awareness training module on Channel or WRAP Prevent Training.
- h) safeguarding briefing that identifies the DSL and deputies, location and methods of recording information and concerns
- i) training on how to manage a report of child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment
- j) awareness of the Safeguarding response to children that go missing from education
- k) [Online Safety and Acceptable Use Agreement](#)

10.2 This will be followed with on-going induction training appropriate to the member of staff's role.

11. Agency and third-party staff, visiting professionals

11.1 The school will obtain written notification from any agency or third party organisation which supplies staff to the school that the organisation has carried out all the checks required by ISI and other relevant regulations on the individual who will be working at the school. Supply agencies will provide the school written notification that an enhanced DBS check and any

additional checks required as a result of the individual having lived abroad has been made and confirmation that they, or another employment business, have obtained an enhanced DBS certificate in response to such a check, and whether the check disclosed any matter or information. In addition, supply agencies are required to ensure that the school sees a copy of the individual's full DBS certificate, in addition to their photo identification before they start work at the school.

- 11.2 Details of third party or supply agency notification are to be kept on the Single Central Register.

12. Contractors' Staff

- 12.1 Contractors working at the school on a long-term basis will be subject to the same checks as school staff with written confirmation supplied by the employing organisation. The school will carry out an identity check of such staff on arrival.
- 12.2 Where employees of contractors will have access to areas of the school where regular unsupervised contact with children is possible the school will require written confirmation that DBS checks have been undertaken by the contractor and will also carry out identity checks on arrival.
- 12.3 Where a contractor working regularly at the school is self-employed the school will obtain the appropriate level of DBS check.

13. Volunteers

- 13.1 There is no set formula for the vetting of volunteers, unless they are in regulated activity. The arrangements for volunteers will vary according to the individual and activity.
- 13.2 Where volunteers are supervised, they do not fall within the definition of regulated activity, and so barred list checks would not be available or required. This is the case no matter how frequently or regularly an individual volunteers. The exception would be for volunteers undertaking personal care. Personal care is always regulated activity.
- 13.3 An unsupervised volunteer, whose presence is frequent and regular, is in regulated activity, and the school will obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information.
- 13.4 Even when a volunteer is not in regulated activity, the school may still require other checks, taking into account DfE guidance, in particular KCSIE.
- 13.5 "One-off" volunteers for day outings, concerts etc. do not require vetting checks but must be supervised at all times by a suitably checked member of staff and may not undertake any kind of personal care of pupils.

14. Governors

- 14.1 Governors are volunteers and will be treated on the same basis as outlined above for other volunteers. The Chair of Governors will ensure that all governors are subject to a barred list

check, an enhanced DBS check and other checks required as relevant (identity, overseas checks where appropriate, right to work in the UK, prohibition checks) as part of the appointment process. If a governor will be engaged in a regulated activity a barred list check will also be requested.

15. The Chairman of Governors

15.1 The Chairman of Governors will be subject to the following checks by the Secretary of State for Education:

- Enhanced DBS check countersigned by the Secretary of State
- Confirmation of identity
- Check on the right to work in the UK
- Overseas and other checks as appropriate
- Prohibition checks

16. Staff not in a regulated activity

16.1 Some staff may come onto the school site on an infrequent basis to work under supervision – for example a visiting specialist running a workshop. Identity checks will be carried out when such staff arrive at the school.

17. Visiting Speakers

17.1 Any visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or pupils, should be checked for suitability (for example by an internet search) and appropriately supervised. Due to the age of our pupils, visiting speakers must never be left alone with pupils without a Risk Assessment having been agreed by a member of Senior Leadership.

18. Single Central Register

18.1 The school will maintain a Single Central Register which records whether or not the following checks have been carried out and the dates on which these were completed:

- Identity check
- Proof of address
- Barred list check
- Enhanced DBS check – see above for additional requirement for supply staff
- Prohibition from teaching check
- Prohibition from Leadership and Management check
- Disqualification from Childcare check
- Further overseas checks as appropriate
- Check of professional qualifications as appropriate
- Check on the right to work in the UK
- Employment history – application form/CV
- References
- Medical fitness declaration

18.2 The Single Central Register will include the following people:

- All staff including supply staff who work in the school; this means those providing education to children
- All others who work in regular contact with children in the school, including volunteers where necessary
- All members of the governing body

19. AHS pupils undertaking Work Experience

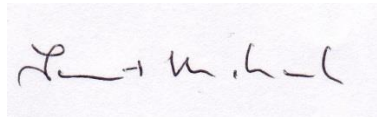
19.1 A person supervising an AHS child under 16 on a Work Experience placement may require barred list checks if the conditions for regulated activity are met. The duty here will be on the employer, rather than the school, to complete these checks.

20. Host Families

20.1 Where a host family accommodates children, for example on a sports or a language exchange and where the arrangement is not made by the child's family or where the school has the power to terminate the arrangement, this could constitute regulated activity and therefore the school will require a DBS check including a barred list check to be obtained. It is not possible for the school to obtain checks on host families overseas but it will work with partner schools to ensure that appropriate assurances are obtained before a visit.

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Review Date: March 2023 or earlier if major change requires



Janet Mark

Chairman of the Board of Governors