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1. INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures and to support the creation of a safer culture by reinforcing the safeguarding and well-being of children and young people in our care. This policy reinforces the Centre's Whistleblowing Policy that all staff are expected to be familiar with. All successful candidates for paid or volunteer employment will be made aware of these documents.

This policy is an essential element in creating and maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and others within the Centre community and aims to ensure both safe and fair recruitment and selection of all staff and volunteers. It aims to:

- Attract the best possible applicants to vacancies;;
- Deter prospective applicants who are unsuitable for work with children or young people;;
- Identify and reject applicants who are unsuitable for work with children and young people.

2. INVITING APPLICATIONS

Advertisements for posts – whether in newspapers, journals or on-line, application forms and on the Centre website will include the statement:

“We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be prepared to undergo stringent child protection screening including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS or local police check is required.

We are an equal opportunities employer.”

Prospective applicants will be supplied with or made aware of the following:

- A statement of the Centre's commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the pupils;;
- Job description and person specification;;
- A Centre application form;;
- The selection procedure for the post;;
- Centre's Child Protection, Safer Recruitment and Equality and Diversity policies

3. IDENTIFICATION OF THE RECRUITMENT PANEL

At least one member of the Selection and Recruitment Panel will have successfully completed recognised training in safer recruitment and child protection through Educare.

4. SHORT-LISTING AND REFERENCES

Candidates will be shortlisted against the person specification for the post.

Two references, one of which must be from the applicant's current/most recent employer, will be taken up before the selection stage so that any discrepancies may be probed during this stage of the procedure.

References will be sought directly from the referee, and where necessary, will be contacted to

clarify any anomalies or discrepancies. Detailed written records will be kept of such exchanges.

Where necessary, previous employers who have not been named as referees may be contacted in order to clarify any such anomalies or discrepancies. Detailed written records will be kept of such exchanges.

Referees will be asked specific questions about the following:

- The candidate's suitability to work with children and young people
- Any disciplinary warnings, including time--expired warnings, relating to the safeguarding of children and young people
- The candidate's suitability for the post

Reference requests will include the following:

- Sickness record
- Attendance record
- Disciplinary record

All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, vetting procedures and DBS-local police clearance.

5. THE SELECTION PROCESS

Selection techniques will be determined by the nature and duties of the vacant post, but all vacancies will require an interview of short--listed candidates.

Where possible, interviews will be face--to--face.

Candidates will always be required:

- to explain satisfactorily any gaps in employment;;
- to explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to recruiters;;
- to declare any information that is likely to appear on a DBS disclosure;;
- to demonstrate their capacity to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

6. INVITATION TO INTERVIEW

Candidates called to interview will receive:

- Written confirmation of the interview and any other selection techniques.
- Details of the interview day including details of the panel members.
- Details of any tasks to be undertaken as part of the interview process.
- The opportunity to discuss the process prior to the interview.

7. EMPLOYMENT CHECKS

All successful applicants are required to provide the following documents (please note, originals and/or certified/legalised/apostilled copies may be required):

- Show proof of identity
- Provide proof of professional status
- Provide actual certificates of qualifications
- Obtain a 'DBS enhanced level check with child barred list' through COBIS (UK employees) and evidence of checks provided by another country for an applicant who has worked abroad.
- Provide an equivalent background check from the country where they are currently employed (Non--UK employees).
- All UK and equivalent non--UK background checks must be dated the year the employee joins the Centre.

- Provide at least two references, one being from current employer
- Declaration of medical fitness (included in application form and in employment contract)
- Evidence of permission to work in host country (candidates must fulfil set immigration criteria in order to be granted permission to work in host country, see appendix).
- Any further documents or checks as may be deemed appropriate including medical checks

All checks will be:

- Confirmed in writing
- Documented and retained on the personnel file
- Recorded on the Centre's Single Central Record
- Followed up if they are unsatisfactory or if there are any discrepancies in the information received.

8. INDUCTION

All new Centre staff will receive induction training that will include the Centre's safeguarding policies and guidance on safe working practices.

All successful candidates will undergo a period of monitoring and will:

- Meet regularly with their line manager
- Attend any appropriate training

The Centre's administrative staff will check for updated relevant information about staff every 3 years.