



**All Saints
Schools Trust**

Safer Recruitment Policy

Date: Autumn 2020

Signed Off by Fressingfield Governors: September 24th 2020

Review: Autumn 2022

Safer Recruitment Policy

The Safer Recruitment initiative is an essential part of Safeguarding, allowing the school's Leadership Team to:

- identify the key features of staff recruitment that help deter or prevent the appointment of unsuitable people;
- consider policies and practices that minimise opportunities for abuse or ensure its prompt reporting;
- help us to review our policies and practices with a view to making them safer.

The latest government guidance emphasises that all organisations that work with children share a commitment to safeguard and promote their welfare and that all organisations that provide services or work with children should:

- have a Leadership Team that is committed to children's well-being and safety;
- be clear about people's responsibilities to safeguard and promote children's welfare;
- have effective recruitment and human resources procedures, including checking all new staff and volunteers to make sure they are safe to work with children and young people;
- have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers;
- make sure that staff receive training that helps them to do their job efficiently;
- have procedures about how to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people.

The All Saints Schools Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. In order to ensure this, our recruitment and selection policy is in accordance with both local and national guidance.

Safer Recruitment Practice and Procedures

The statement about the commitment of the schools in the Trust commitment to Safeguarding will be included in;

- publicity material.
- recruitment on the school website.
- advertisements.
- candidate information packs.
- person specifications.
- job descriptions.

Planning and Advertising

The All Saints Schools Trust will ensure that:

- All recruitment exercises will be carefully planned.
- The qualities, qualifications and experiences needed for each post will be carefully determined at the beginning of the recruitment process.
- Responsibilities for each recruitment exercise will be assigned to the appropriate people.
- Sufficient time will be allocated to each stage of the process to ensure that safeguards are not overlooked.

The recruitment pack will contain:

- The application form and explanatory note.
- A job description.
- Information on the school.
- Guidance for the candidates.
- The degree of responsibility for children (including applications for support staff).
- A statement about the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including the need for DBS checks.
- Details of the post and salary.
- Details of qualifications required.
- Safeguarding Policy statement.

- Statement of terms and conditions relating to the post.

Application form

- All applicants MUST complete the official application form.
- CVs will NOT be accepted in place of the application form.
- All applicants will be expected to provide:
 - i. Full details of names, former names, current address, NI number.
 - ii. Statement of academic/vocational qualifications.
 - iii. FULL history, in chronological order of education and employment.
 - iv. Declaration of interest.
 - v. Details of referees.
 - vi. One referee MUST be the current or most recent employer, where possible.
 - vii. Statement that the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
 - viii. A signed statement that the applicant is not on List 99.
 - ix. A signed statement that the applicant is not subject to sanctions imposed by the GTC.
 - x. Proof that they have no convictions or cautions. (If they do, details should be included in a sealed envelope).

Applicants for a teaching post must provide details of:

- i. DfE reference number.
- ii. QTS status.

Job Descriptions

Job descriptions will clearly state:

- The main duties and responsibilities of the post.
- The individual's responsibilities for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.

Person Specification

The person specification will clearly state:

- Qualifications and experiences needed.
- Competences required.
- Qualities for a successful candidate.
- An explanation of how these requirements will be tested during the selection process.

Short-listing

- All applications will be scrutinised.
- Any gap will be noted.
- Incomplete application forms will be returned to the candidates for completion.
- Any gaps or repeated changes in employment will be investigated.
- All candidates will be assessed equally.
- Short listing will be a transparent process.

References

- All references will be sought directly from the referee.
- No open references or testimonials will be accepted. Any received will be destroyed.
- References will be sought for all applicants short-listed for interview.
- References will be sought for ALL internal applicants.
- Candidates unwilling to agree to references from current employees will not normally be interviewed.
- NO candidate successful at interview will be appointed unless satisfactory references have been received by the school.
- References will be a combination of narrative and evaluation form. The request will include the need for details of:
 - i. Applicants current post and salary.
 - ii. Performance record.
 - iii. Absence due to ill health.
 - iv. Current disciplinary record.
 - v. Details of any allegations which relate to the safety of children.

In the event that the reference appears vague or is incomplete, then the Headteacher will contact the referee for confirmation of details. A written note of the conversation will be made and in certain cases a written confirmation will be requested from the referee.

Invitation to Interview

Candidates will be provided with:

- A letter of confirmation of interview.
- A timetable of the interview day including details of the interview panel members.
- Further copy of person specification.
- Details of any tasks needed as part of the process e.g. teaching.
- The opportunity to discuss the process further prior to interview.

Candidates will be asked to bring the following with them to interview:

- Current driving licence and passport.
- Full birth certificate.
- Utility bill.
- ALL original examination certificates.
- Where appropriate, change of name documentation (marriage certificate).
- A copy of all documentation will be kept for the personnel file.
- Only in exceptional cases will the interview panel consist of the Headteacher.
- Normally interview panels will consist of at least THREE people.
- At least one member of the panel will have completed the training provided by the NCSL.
- At least one member of the panel should be a governor of the school.

The Interview

The panel will meet prior to the interview to:

- Consider issues to explore with the candidate and who will lead that element of the questioning.
- Agree the assessment criteria.
- Take the opportunity to review application forms and references.
- During the interview there will be set questions although supplementary questions can be asked by any member of the panel. The panel will assess the suitability of candidates for the post with special reference to working with children and young people, and safeguarding children in their care.
- At least one member of the interviewing panel will have Safer Recruitment Training

Pre-appointment Checks

All successful applicants are required:

- Provide proof of identity.
- Provide proof of eligibility to live and work in the UK.
- Complete a DBS check and receive satisfactory clearance.
- Prohibition checks for all teaching staff.
- Childcare disqualifications check, for all staff.
- Provide actual certificates of qualifications.
- Status: QTS, HCPC, disqualification from Early Years/ Childcare register.
- Complete a confidential pre-employment health questionnaire

Individuals will not commence a new role until all pre-employment/safer recruitment checks are satisfactorily completed.

Terms and Conditions of Employment

The successful candidate will be sent:

- A letter offering them the job.
- A contract with of the terms and conditions of employment.
- The successful candidate will sign and return the contract accepting the job and its conditions.

Regulated Activity & DBS Checks

- Individuals who are employed to work regularly in a school are in Regulated Activity (RA) with children.
- It is a legal requirement to check people working in RA are not barred from that work before they commence in post.
- People in RA can still be asked to undertake a DBS disclosure (without a barred list check).
- It is unlawful to check the Barred list if the person is not in RA.
- Original certificates must be seen by the school and a copy should only be retained in certain circumstances.

Induction

All staff who are new to the school will receive induction training that will include the school's safeguarding policies and guidance on safe working practices. Regular meetings will be held during the first 3 months of employment between the new employee(s) and the Trust Leadership Employees will have an induction to ensure they fully know the essential Trust systems and procedures.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Trust Board is responsible for monitoring this policy and it will be reviewed as part of the Trusts monitoring cycle for policies

Decision to Withdraw Offer of Appointment

In the event of any of the following the offer of employment will be withdrawn. In certain circumstances the police will be informed.

- Candidate found to be on List 99.
- Candidate found to be on the PoCA.
- Disqualified from working with children – usually from DBS clearance.
- Candidate has provided false information.