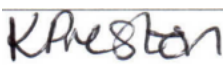


Policy/Procedure Name:	SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY		
Last Update:	Sept 2025	Next Update Due:	Sept 2026

Author	Alex Smythe
Signature of Authorised Individual	
Signature of the Director	

This policy is an extract of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

See the Safer Recruitment Checklist at the end of this Policy

We are always looking for talented, committed and caring individuals to join our team at Willow Park School. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We particularly welcome applications from under represented groups including ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion. We are committed to inclusive recruitment practices, including the use of inclusive job descriptions and diverse interview panels, to promote equality and challenge stereotypes.

Safer Recruitment and selection process

The recruitment steps outlined below are based on part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024. Amend or add to this as applicable to reflect your own approach.

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

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

Advertising

When advertising roles, we will make clear:

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

Application forms

Our application forms will:

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

Shortlisting

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

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

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

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

We will carry out online searches on shortlisted candidates to identify any publicly available information that may raise safeguarding concerns or reputational risks. Candidates will be informed of this as part of our due diligence process. on shortlisted candidates to help identify any incidents or issues that are publicly available online. Shortlisted candidates will be informed that we may carry out these checks as part of our due diligence process.

Seeking references and checking employment history

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

When seeking references we will:

- Not accept open references
- Liaise directly with referees and verify any information contained within references with the referees
- Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and completed by a senior person. Where the referee is school based, we will ask for the reference to be confirmed by the Head teacher/principal as accurate in respect to disciplinary investigations
- Obtain verification of the candidate's most recent relevant period of employment if they are not currently employed

- Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the candidate worked with children if they are not currently working with children
- Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any inconsistencies with the candidate
- Resolve any concerns before any appointment is confirmed

Interview and selection

When interviewing candidates, we will:

- Probe any gaps in employment, or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, and ask candidates to explain this
- Explore any potential areas of concern to determine the candidate's suitability to work with children
- Record all information considered and decisions made

Pre-appointment vetting checks

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

New staff

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

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

- A check that candidates taking up a management position* are not subject to a prohibition from management (section 128) direction made by the secretary of state

* Management positions include senior leaders and may also include middle leaders or other staff with significant decision-making responsibilities. Section 128 checks will be carried out accordingly, but are not limited to, Directors, Head teachers, principals and deputy/assistant Head teachers.

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

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

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

Existing staff

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

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

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

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

Agency and third-party staff

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

Contractors

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

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity

- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children
- We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.
- We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.
- Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.
- We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.
- For self-employed contractors such as music teachers or sports coaches, we will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought.

Trainee/student teachers

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

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

Volunteers

We will:

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

Directors (Proprietors)

All Directors:

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

All Directors will also have the following checks:

- A section 128 check (to check prohibition on participation in management under [section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008](#)).
- Identity
- Right to work in the UK

- Other checks deemed necessary if they have lived or worked outside the UK

Staff working in alternative provision settings

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

Adults who supervise pupils on work experience

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

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

Pupils staying with host families

In the extremely unlikely situation that the school makes arrangements for pupils to be provided with care and accommodation by a host family to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people. For extended homestays, we will ensure ongoing monitoring and communication with host families and partner schools to safeguard pupils throughout the duration of the stay. to which they are not related (for example, during a foreign exchange visit), we will request enhanced DBS checks with barred list information on those people.

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

Equality Statement

At Willow Park School, we actively seek to encourage equity and equality through our teaching and our employment practices. As such, we seek to advance the equality of opportunity between people who share any of the following characteristics:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or on maternity leave
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

The use of stereotypes under any of the above headings will always be challenged.

Inclusion

Our school is an inclusive school. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all our activities. We try to make all our teaching fully inclusive. We recognise the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly-based curriculum. We have systems in place for early identification of barriers to their learning and participation so

that they can engage in school activities with all other pupils. We acknowledge the need for high expectations for and of all children.

Willow Park Safer Recruitment Checklist

Date **Date** Position **Position** Name of Candidate **Name**

Pre-Interview					Initials	Date
Identifying recruitment need – SLT discuss to proceed with recruitment process in line with what has been agreed.						
Planning – timetable decide; Job Spec and Description; Person Spec. Application form seeks all relevant information and includes relevant statements about references etc.						
Vacancy Advertised (where appropriate) Advert includes reference to safeguarding policy, that is, statement of commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and need for successful applicants to be DBS checked. Vacancy is to be advertised where?						
Applications on receipt scrutinised; any discrepancies, anomalies, gaps in employment explored to consider if candidate should be shortlisted						
Candidate Shortlisted?					Yes	No
Shortlisted Candidates					Initials	Date
References – seeking ; sort directly from referee of shortlisted candidates; ask recommended, specific questions; include statement about liability for accuracy.						
TWO References Received checked against information on application; scrutinised; and discrepancy/issue of concern noted to take up with referee and/or applicant (at interview if possible)						
Online footprint search – any potential safeguarding concerns or reputational risks? (make notes below or over the page)						
Invitation to interview includes all relevant information and instructions						
Interview arrangements - at least two interviewers; panel members have authority to appoint; have met and agreed issues and questions/assessment criteria/standards						
Interview – explores applicant's suitability for work with children as well as the post (questions to include confidentiality and safeguarding)						
Note - identity and qualifications of successful applicant verified on day of interview by scrutiny of appropriate original documents; copies of documents taken and placed on file.						
Qualifications if not verified on the day of the interview (photocopies to be kept on file)						
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) – for teaching posts in maintained schools; the teacher has obtained QTS, PGCE, Cert Ed.						
Basic Skills Tests passed						
Right to Work in the UK / Identify					Which documentation?	
Right to Work Documentation provided (one from List A or List B – see appendix 1)						
Other Identity (e.g. passport, driving licence)						
Other Identity (e.g. passport, driving licence)						
NB - If the person is already employed at the school – check personnel file					Yes	No
Copies of the three documents taken?						
Is the photograph consistent with the appearance of the person?						
Are addresses consistent ?						
Are the dates of birth consistent across the documents?						
Where names differ, have you attached further documents to explain why there are different names (e.g. marriage certificate, divorce decree, deed poll)?						
Are you satisfied that the documents are genuine (not tampered with, belong to the holder and they are allowed to do the type of work you are offering)?						
Conditional Offer Made					Yes	No
Conditional offer of appointment ; pre-appointment checks; offer of appointment is made conditional to satisfactory completion of the above and below pre-appointment checks and, for non-teaching posts, a probationary period						
DBS Application completed (or the individual is registered with update service)						
Disclosure Number	Date Issued	Certificate seen (Y/N)	Information disclosed (Y/N)	If Yes (information has been disclosed) attach a copy of the Criminal Record Impact Assessment Form(s)		
DBS barred list – check that the person is not prohibited from taking up the post						
Prohibition – for teaching posts; the teacher has not been included in the prohibition list or the interim prohibition list						
Section 128 Direction Check (only for Leadership and Directors)						
Conditional Offer accepted?						
Self-Disclosure – complete?						
Self Disclosure – Any disclosures						
Appointed Candidates					Initials	Date
Where appropriate, Occupational Health Pre-Employment online application completed						
Health – the candidate is medically fit						
Statutory Induction (for teachers who obtained QTS after 7 th May 1999)						
Child Protection Training and other induction such as H&S, safe working practice / code of staff behaviour etc						