

RECRUITMENT & SELECTION POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Trustees are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and other workers to share this commitment. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to, and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.
2. The Trustees recognise the value of, and seeks to achieve a diverse workforce which includes people from different backgrounds, with different skills and abilities. We are committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient, and effective and promotes equality of opportunity. Selection will be on the basis of merit and ability, assessed against the qualifications, skills and competencies required to do the job. We will uphold obligations under law and national collective agreements to not discriminate against applicants for employment on the grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief.
3. We will implement robust recruitment procedures and checks for appointing staff and volunteers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with children, or who is disqualified from working with children, or does not have the suitable skills and experience for the role.

We will ensure that the terms of any contract with a contractor or agency requires them to adopt and implement measures described in this procedure. We will monitor the compliance with these measures and require evidence that relevant checks have been undertaken for all workers deployed.

4. The trust will follow the pre-employment check guidelines to ensure all appropriate checks are made.

NB: It is illegal for anyone who is barred from working with children to apply for, or undertake Regulated Activity.

*In exceptional circumstances, where you have good reason not to want your referees to be contacted prior to interview, you should set out your reasons with your application form. Where it is agreed to defer, referees will be contacted immediately after interview before an offer of employment is made.

We will keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks, in line with the DfE requirements.

5. All posts/voluntary roles that give substantial unsupervised access to children and young people are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all applicants will be required to declare spent and unspent convictions, cautions and bindovers (save for those offences that are subject to filtering by the Police).
6. Applicants will be required to sign a DBS consent form giving consent for the DBS certificate to be copied and shared (within strict guidelines) for the purposes of considering suitability for employment and consent for an online status check to be carried out in the event that the applicant subscribes to the DBS update service
7. The Trustees are committed to ensuring that people who have convictions / cautions / reprimands on their record are have treated fairly and given every opportunity to establish their suitability for positions. Having a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position. Positive disclosures will be managed on a case by case basis taking into account the nature, seriousness and relevance to the role. The following factors will be considered in each case
 - The seriousness/level of the disclosed information e.g. was it a caution or a conviction.
 - How long ago did the incident(s) occur?
 - Whether it was a one-off incident or part of a repeat history/pattern.
 - The circumstances of the offence(s) being committed and any changes in the applicant's personal circumstances since then.
 - The country where the offence/caution occurred.
 - Whether the individual shows or has shown genuine remorse.
 - If the offences were self-disclosed on the SD2 form or not (non-disclosure could, in itself, result in non-confirmation of employment on the grounds of trust, honesty and openness).
8. A previously issued Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate will only be accepted in certain restricted circumstances or where you subscribe to the DBS update service and the appropriate checks have been satisfactory.
9. The Disclosure and Barring Service has published a Code of Practice and accompanying explanatory guide. The Trustees are committed to ensuring that it meets the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service in relation to the processing, handling and security of Disclosure information.

A copy of our Recruitment Policy is available upon request.