



Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

January 2022



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Policy statement

The safe recruitment of staff in schools is the first step to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in education. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter-agency cooperation

and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.

This school recognises the value of, and seeks to achieve a diverse workforce which includes people from different backgrounds with different skills and abilities. The school is committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all who work within the school is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient, effective and promotes equality of opportunity. The school will uphold its 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 creed.

This document provides a good practice framework to comply with the principles set down in the school's Equality Policy and is in line with the 2018 Statutory Guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#). All posts within school are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all applicants will be required to declare (unfiltered) spent and unspent convictions, cautions and bind-overs, and have an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure check (see also the [B&H Guidance on the Use of DBS Disclosures](#)).

The school is committed to ensuring people who have been convicted are 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.

The school will:

1. ensure that appropriate staff who undertake recruitment have received safer recruitment training (BHCC recommends the [NSPCC Safer Recruitment training](#)) and successfully completed the associated safer recruitment training assessment
2. ensure that every appointment panel includes at least one member who has received safe recruitment training
3. 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 intended role
4. keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks in line with DfE requirements

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

5. ensure that the terms of any contract with a contractor or agency requires them to adopt and implement measures described in this procedure. The school will monitor the compliance with these measures

6. require staff who are convicted or cautioned for any offence during their employment with the school (that could be relevant to the Employee Code of Conduct/Teacher Standards) to notify the Headteacher in writing of the offence and the penalty.

7. ensure that relevant staff are not disqualified from working with children under the 2006 Childcare Act.

The following pre-employment checks will be undertaken:

- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references, one of which will be from the former or most recent employer
- Verification of the candidate's identity in line with the requirements of The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
- Satisfactory DBS clearance (Enhanced DBS check with Children's Barred List)
- Verification of the candidate's medical fitness
- Confirmation (where relevant) that the individual is not disqualified from working with children under the Childcare Act 2006
- Verification of qualification
- Verification of teacher qualified status, successful completion of induction year and confirmation that the teacher is not subject to any prohibition orders (all accessed from the school via the DfE Employer Access or Teacher Services online check) as required by law for teachers – see:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teacher-status-checks-information-for-employers>
- **ACADEMIES and FREE SCHOOLS ONLY** - a check for a section 128 direction (for management positions – including governors - in independent schools including academies and free schools) – see above website to obtain check. (All school governors are subject to this check).

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the **governing body** to:

- Ensure the school has effective policies and procedures in place for the recruitment of all staff and volunteers in accordance with DfE guidance and legal requirements
- Monitor the school's compliance with the policies and procedures

It is the responsibility of the **Headteacher** and other managers involved in recruitment to:

- Ensure that the school operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers who work at the school
- To monitor contractors' and agencies' compliance with this document
- Promote welfare of children and young people at every stage of the procedure

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

It is the responsibility of **all potential and existing workers, including volunteers** to comply with this document.

It is the responsibility of all contractors and agencies to comply with safe recruitment pre-employment checks.

It is the responsibility of the school's **HR provider** to deal with the administration of DBS checks for the school

In accordance with the School Staffing Regulations and the powers of delegation, the governing body has delegated responsibility to the Headteacher to lead in all appointments outside of the leadership group. School governors may be involved in staff appointments, but the final decision will rest with the Headteacher. The Headteacher may delegate the selection process of staff outside of the leadership group to other managers in the school, but remains responsible for the decision to appoint.

The Procedure

Advertising

To ensure equality of opportunity, the school will advertise all vacant posts to encourage as wide a field of candidates as possible, normally this will entail an external advertisement. However, where there is a reasonable expectation that there are sufficient qualified internal candidates or where staff are at risk of redundancy, an internal advertisement may be considered appropriate.

Applications

The form – The school uses a standard application form. CVs will not be accepted. The school requires candidates to account for any gaps or discrepancies in employment history on this application form. Where an applicant is short-listed, these gaps will be discussed at interview.

Applicants should be aware that providing false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if the applicant has been selected, and possible referral to the police and other professional regulatory bodies. .

References

References for short-listed candidates will be sent for immediately after short-listing. The only exception to this is where candidates have indicated on their application forms that they do not wish their current employer to be contacted. In such cases, this reference will be taken up immediately after interview and prior to any offer of employment being made. One reference will be sought prior to interview wherever possible.

References must be in writing and be specific to the job for which the candidate has applied - open references or testimonials are not acceptable. The school will not accept references from relatives or people writing solely in the capacity as a friend. Only references from a trusted authoritative source will be acceptable.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Reference requests will specifically ask:

- About the referee's relationship with the candidate
- Whether the referee is completely satisfied that the candidate is suitable to work with children and, if not, for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes that the person might be unsuitable.

Referees will also be asked to confirm details of:

- The applicant's current post, and salary
- Performance history and conduct including details on any situation where any formal action has been taken using capability procedures within the last 2 years
- Any disciplinary procedures in which the sanction is current
- Any disciplinary procedures involving issues related to the safety and welfare of children, including any in which the sanction has expired and the outcome of those
- Details of any allegations or concerns that have been raised that relate to the safety and welfare of children or behaviour towards children and the outcome of these concerns.
*N.B. cases in which an allegation was proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious should not be included in employer references.

The school uses a standard Reference Request Form to ensure the details outlined above are included.

References will be compared to the application form to ensure that the information provided is consistent. Any discrepancies will be taken up with the applicant at interview.

Any information about past disciplinary action or allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual case. Cases in which an issue was satisfactorily resolved some time ago, or an allegation was determined to be unfounded or did not require formal disciplinary sanctions, and which no further issues have been raised, are not likely to cause concern. More serious or recent concerns or issues are more likely to cause concern. A history of repeated concerns or allegations over time is also likely to give cause for concern.

Self-declaration of convictions by job applicants

The school's policy requires short-listed applicants for all posts (including volunteers) to declare all non filtered criminal convictions whether "spent" or "unspent" and include any cautions and pending prosecution.

Such declarations will be made on an appropriate form and should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked strictly private and confidential to the chair of the selection panel / Headteacher, prior to the interview. The chair of the panel /Headteacher will discuss relevant, positive declarations confidentially with the applicant either prior to or on the interview day. The disclosure of convictions, cautions or pending cases will not necessarily prevent employment but will be considered in the same way as positive DBS disclosures.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Interviews

The selection process will always include the following:

- Face to face professional interview including a question related to safeguarding children (in line with NCSL/DfE Safer Recruitment Training)
- Young people panel / activity with children

Proof of Identity and Right to Work in the UK & Verification of Qualifications and/or Professional Status.

Short-listed applicants for all posts will be required to provide proof of identity by producing documents on the day of interview in line with those set out in The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Similar information is also required to undertake a DBS check on the preferred candidate.

Short-listed candidates will also be required to provide proof of their qualifications and professional status by producing documentation on the day of interview. The school will verify that candidates have actually obtained any qualifications legally required or deemed essential for the job and claimed in their application by asking to see the relevant certificate, or a letter of confirmation from the awarding body / institution. If the original documents are not available, the school will require sight of a properly certified copy. Where candidates have obtained qualifications abroad, a certified comparability check by NARIC will also be required.

Proof of identity and other documentation will be verified by the chair of the panel / Headteacher.

The school will also use the Employer Access online service to verify the teacher's qualified status, successful completion of induction year and confirmation that the teacher is not subject to a prohibition order prior to making an offer of employment. See <https://www.gov.uk/teacher-status-checks-information-for-employers>

Employment Offer

It may be possible to negotiate a provisional start date with the preferred candidate, however, with the exception of the DBS disclosure (unless the DBS Online Update Registration service is available), the checks detailed above must all be completed BEFORE a person's appointment is confirmed. In the case of DBS disclosures, the certificate must be obtained/verified before or as soon as practicable after the appointment is made. In any case DBS clearance must be received prior to commencement of work

Once all pre-employment checks have been satisfactorily completed / received, an offer of employment will be made and the contract of employment issued. The contract will be issued as soon as possible but in all circumstances within 8 weeks of employment commencing.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Record Retention / Data Protection

The school will retain all interview notes on all applicants for a 6 month period, after which time the notes will be destroyed (ie: shredded). The 6 month retention period will allow the school to deal with any data access requests, recruitment complaints or to respond to any complaints made to the Employment tribunal.

Under Data Protection legislation, applicants have a right to request access to notes written about them during the recruitment process. Applicants who wish to access their interview notes must make a subject access request in writing to the chair of the panel / Headteacher within 6 months of the interview date.

Personal file records

The school (from 2008) will retain the following information which will make up part of the personal file, for the successful candidate:

- Application form
- References
- Proof of identification
- Proof of academic qualifications
- Evidence that the Employer Access online checks have been made – teaching qualification, successful completion of induction year and no prohibition orders in place (and section 128 checks for academies/free schools)
- Evidence of medical clearance from Occupational Health (where applicable)
- Evidence of the DBS clearance (i.e.: the notification form DBS certificate reference number, NOT the actual DBS certificate)
- Certificate of Good Conduct (where applicable to DBS checks)
- Positive Disclosure Review sheet (maintained if applicable/agreed)

Single Central Record of Recruitment Vetting Checks

In line with DfE requirements, the school will keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks. The central list will record all staff who are employed at the school, including casual staff, supply agency staff whether employed directly or through an agency, volunteers, governors who also work as volunteers, and those who provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not staff members, eg: specialist sports coach or artist.

The central record will indicate whether or not the following have been completed:

- Identity checks
- Qualification checks for any qualifications legally required for the job
- Additionally for those applying for teaching posts, check with DfE Access Online Service against three lists highlighted above
- Checks of right to work in the United Kingdom
- DBS Enhanced Disclosure and Children's Barred List check
- Further overseas records where appropriate
- Checks on Disqualification rules under the 2006 Childcare Act where appropriate

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

- **Academies/Free schools only:** Section 128 checks (Section 128 checks apply also to maintained governors)

It shall also indicate who undertook the check and the date on which the check was completed or the relevant certificate obtained. In order to record supply staff provided through an agency on the record, the school will require written confirmation from the supply agency that it has satisfactorily completed the checks described above. The school does not need to carry out checks itself except where there is information contained within the disclosure. However identity checks must be carried out by the school to check the person arriving is the person the agency intends to refer to them.

Induction/Probation periods

Newly appointed staff will be subject to the appropriate probation period according to their contract of employment but all staff will experience a formal Induction to the school. School staff will be given the relevant Codes of Conduct and a copy of the DfE guidance on Safe Working Practice and asked to sign a declaration that they have read and understood the documents and will follow the guidelines required to maintain professional boundaries at all time. The school has a specific safeguarding related whistle blowing policy which has been disseminated to all staff and volunteers. The school adopts a culture of vigilance where all concerns are listened to and taken seriously. The school will follow DfE and local authority Safeguarding Children Board

Allegations Procedures and refer any allegation for initial consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer.

When starting at the school all staff are given a Staff Induction Checklist and enrolled on a probation programme for their first year. This contains the most important policies and procedural information:

Staff policies:

- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Code of Conduct
- E-safety
- Health & Safety
- Intimate Care
- KCSIE 2018
- Social Networking
- Use of Images
- Whistleblowing

The school adopts a culture of vigilance where all concerns are listened to and taken seriously.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

The school will follow DfE and Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Children Board allegations procedures and refer any allegation for initial consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer. The school has adopted the Brighton and Hove Disciplinary Policy and procedures.

SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINED GOVERNORS AND STAFF:

Giulia De Rosa – Vice Chair of Governors
Helen Snow – Quality and Standards Committee Chair and Governor Responsible for Safeguarding
Paul Barber – Headteacher
Anita Philbrook – Deputy Headteacher
Zoe Garbarz – Inclusion Coordinator

This policy will be reviewed by the Governors every two years.

Signed

Dated

Further Reference Documents/Websites

[B&H Safer Recruitment Wave Page](#) with Safer Recruitment Toolkit proformas such as standard reference requests) and B&H Guidance on the Use of DBS Disclosures & the SCR

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) Statutory Guidance](#)

[DfE Access Online Service](#)

[DBS website](#)

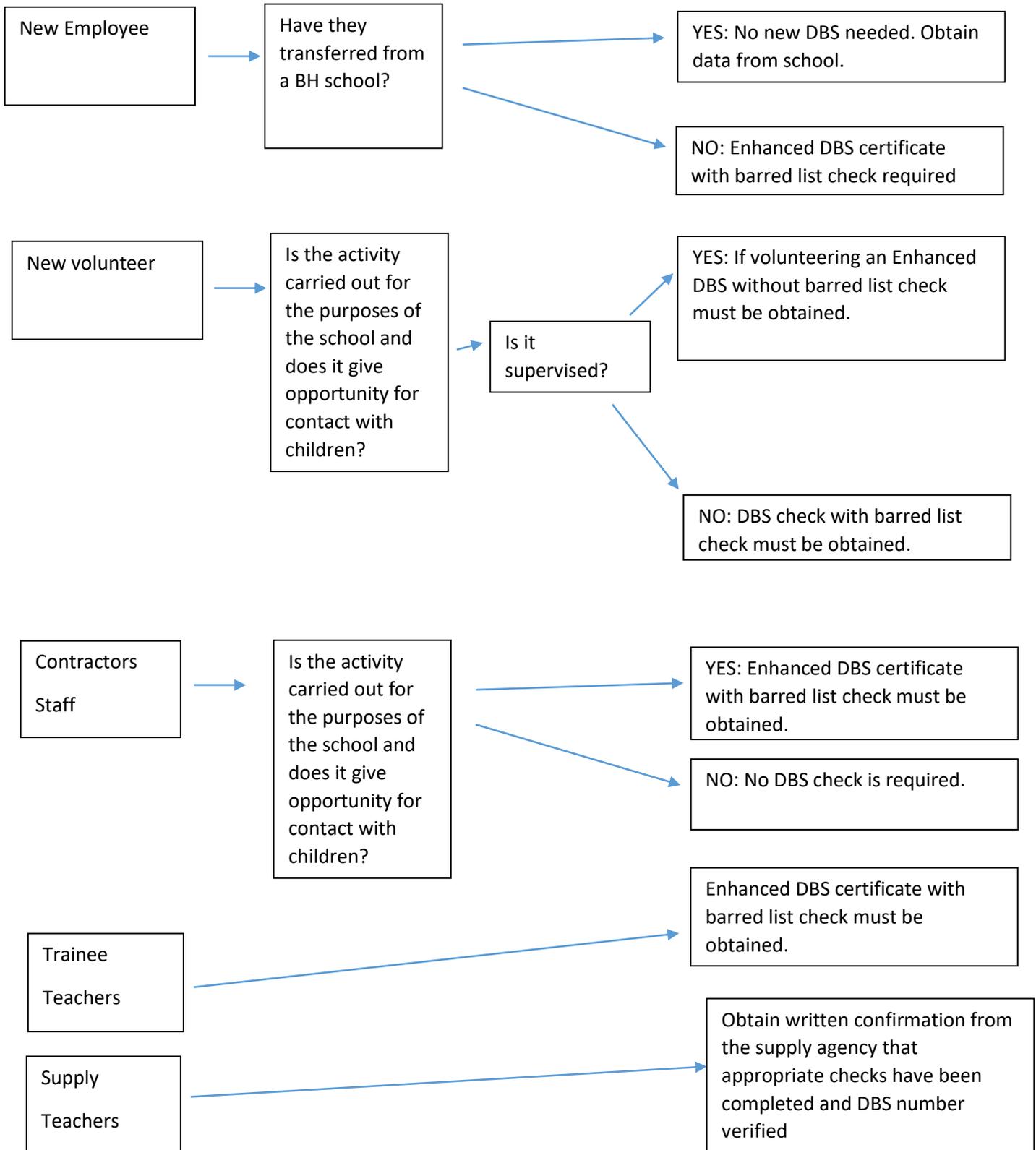
[Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006](#)

[NSPCC Safer Recruitment Training](#)

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Safer Recruitment Policy

Appendix 1

DBS and Barred list checks required Flowchart



Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Appendix 2

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM (DISCLOSURES)

All disclosures, regardless of the seriousness of the offence(s) / conviction(s) / charge(s) revealed, will be subject to a risk assessment.

Completion of all sections of this form is mandatory.

SECTION 1 – to be completed by the DBS Process Team

Date:

Post Ref:

Name of Applicant:

Post applied for:

SECTION 2 – to be completed by the Appointing Manager

Name:

Is the type / nature of offence(s) directly relevant to the post? Yes No

Please provide details:

When did the relevant offence(s) occur?

Less than 2 years ago More than 2 years ago

Is there a pattern of related offences? Yes No

Is there a pattern of unrelated offences? Yes No

From the information received from the police in what context / circumstances did the relevant offence(s) occur?

Please provide details:

Is this context / circumstance still relevant today? Yes No

Please provide details:

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Was the relevant offence(s) committed at work (i.e. paid & unpaid employment)? Yes No

What level of independence will the post-holder have? Close supervision Minimal supervision

Does the applicant demonstrate a determination not to reoffend? Yes No

Did the applicant declare the relevant offence(s) on his / her application form? Yes No

What response did the applicant give when questioned about the offence(s) revealed?

Have satisfactory references been received? (Written / Oral) Yes No

In light of the above, does the applicant constitute a 'risk'? Yes No

Signed:

Date:

SECTION 3 – to be completed by a Head of Service

Name:

Declaration: Having considered the above assessment I believe the applicant does /does not* constitute a risk for the following reasons (please provide details):

Therefore, the applicant should / should not* be offered this post.

* Delete as appropriate

Signed:

Date:

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Appendix 3

Pre-Employment Checklist

Task	Begun	Completed	Initial
Copy of advert in file			
Copy of application form file (with a signature from candidate)			
Safer Recruitment trained employee to verify checked			
Reference 1 in file (with Safer Recruitment trained signature)			
Reference 2 in file (with Safer Recruitment trained signature)			
Copy of interview notes in file (with Safer Recruitment trained signature)			
Offer letter in file			
Signed acceptance of offer letter in file			
Copy of contract in file			
Medical questionnaire in file			
Separate vetting and barring (if applicable)			
Copy of identification in file			
New DBS completed (verify if internal transfer from BH school)			
Added to Single Central Record			
Qualifications checked and SCR updated			
CMIS / Sims added			
New starter form sent to personnel/payroll			