



**Owls Academy Trust**

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# Safer Recruitment Policy

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## **Statement of intent**

This policy is designed to assist with recruitment and selection at **Owls Academy Trust**. It outlines our recruitment procedure and is in-line with the DfE statutory guidance on safeguarding.

Through this policy **Owls Academy Trust** aims to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures to ensure a more robust safeguarding culture at our school.

## **1. Roles and responsibilities:**

- 1.1. The governing body of the school is responsible for ensuring there are effective policies and procedures in place to ensure recruitment at **Owls Academy Trust** is in-line with DfE guidance and legal requirements.

At **Owls Academy Trust** our School's local governing body strives to ensure that staff recruitment is safe and fair, and the governing body continues to monitor this aspect of the school's Recruitment Policy alongside legal and statutory compliance.

- 1.2. The **headteacher** will assist the governing body in ensuring that staff recruitment is safe, fair and compliant. The **headteacher** will also ensure appropriate checks have been carried out on staff, volunteers, contractors and agencies working within the school.

The **headteacher** is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision of employees/volunteers is organised, where necessary, and for promoting the safety and wellbeing of pupils generally and throughout this process.

## **2. Inviting applications – advertisements**

- 2.1. Vacancies will be advertised through external media, keeping in mind the school's **Equal Opportunities Policy** and the need to reach disadvantaged groups. A commitment to equal rights will be stated in advertisements.
- 2.2. Advertisements will include a job description, outline the person specifications potential candidates should display, and detail the closing date.
- 2.3. Recruitment will not be through 'word of mouth' and advertisement will aim to reach as broad an audience as possible (i.e. local advertising may not be appropriate).
- 2.4. The contact point for telephone or email enquiries will be clearly outlined and it is advisable that application forms are accessible both on the school's website, as well as being sent out to applicants.

## **3. Information for candidates**

- 3.1. Information for candidates will generally be provided in the form of an information pack. This will include:
  - A copy of the advertisement.
  - A more comprehensive job description.
  - A more comprehensive person specification.
  - Equal rights material.

- A brief outline of the school, its values and aims.
- An application form – to assist with fair comparisons between applicants. This will also include a section for references to be recorded, one of which should be the candidate's most recent employer.

#### **4. Identification of the recruitment panel**

- 4.1. The recruitment panel will comprise of an 'appointing officer', responsible for the management of the entire recruitment process. Between two and four selectors is appropriate for most appointments.
- 4.2. At least one member of the panel should have successfully completed training in safer recruitment.

#### **5. Shortlisting**

- 5.1. All application forms (whether incomplete or completed) must be taken into account when shortlisting candidates for an interview.
- 5.2. Candidates who are shortlisted should meet all the essential aspects of the person specification requirements. This process will be as systematic as possible and all selectors will read through all applications, each creating their own shortlist. These will be collated and discussed between selectors before a final shortlist is decided on.

#### **6. Interview invitations**

- 6.1. Once a shortlist has been decided, the successful applicants will be contacted by the selection chair and a suitable interview time decided.
- 6.2. Permission will be asked to contact the candidate's referees prior to interview.

#### **7. References**

- 7.1. Two referees, one of which must be the candidate's most recent employer, will be contacted by the chair of the selection committee, ideally before candidates are interviewed.
- 7.2. Structured questionnaires are a useful method of questioning referees.
- 7.3. Questions will include:
  - General information about the candidate's previous professional performance and suitability for the post.
  - 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 applicant's [sickness/attendance] record.
- The applicant's disciplinary record.
- If the candidate is applying for a teaching post and is not currently employed as a teacher, the school/college/local authority where they were most recently employed as a teacher should be contacted.

7.4. Records will be kept of these conversations, or written references requested, and any uncertainties or issues followed up with the referee verbally will be recorded.

7.5. Following reference checks, any concerns raised by referees will be put to the candidate at interview. Such conversations will also be recorded.

## **8. Digital footprints**

8.1. At **Owls Academy Trust** we are committed to ensuring that safeguarding is a top priority.

8.2. In light of this commitment, where appropriate, potential candidates' social media or other online activity will be checked prior to interview and records made of any offensive or inappropriate material.

8.3. This process may include a search for the candidate via:

- Google
- Facebook
- Linked In
- **Twitter**.

## **9. Selection process**

9.1. During interviews, candidates will be asked standard form questions and their responses recorded for ease of comparison.

9.2. Any concerns raised through contact with referees will be put to the candidate at this stage.

9.3. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health in order to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.

## **10. Employment checks and DBS checks (inc. “regulated activity”)**

10.1. For the purpose of this policy, and in accordance with the Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance, “regulated activity” means:

- a) The employee will be responsible for the care or supervision of children on a regular basis.
- b) The employee will regularly work in the school while children are on the premises (whether or not the person is directly employed by the school, is a contractor or a volunteer).
- c) The employee will come into contact with children under 18 years old on a regular basis.

10.2. Regulated activity includes:

- a) Teaching, training, instructing, caring for (see (c) below) or supervising children if the person is unsupervised, or providing advice or guidance on well-being, or driving a vehicle only for children.
- b) Work for a limited range of establishments (known as ‘specified places’, which include schools and colleges), with the opportunity for contact with children, but not including work done by supervised volunteers.
- c) Work under (a) or (b) is regulated activity only if done regularly. Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not. This includes:
  - i. Relevant personal care, or health care provided by or provided under the supervision of a health care professional:
    - a. Personal care includes helping a child, for reasons of age, illness or disability, with eating or drinking, or in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing.
    - b. Health care means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional.

10.3. The level of DBS check, including whether a prohibition check is required, will depend on the applicant’s role. For most appointments, i.e. those in ‘regulated activity’, an enhanced DBS check with barred list information is sufficient.

## 10.4. General recruitment

10.4.1. Owls Academy Trust will take care to ensure that:

- A candidate's identity is verified, preferably from a current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available.
- Appropriate DBS checks are obtained for all candidates, including barred list information where the person is engaged in regulated activity.
- Where an individual is successful in their application, and begins work in a regulated activity before a DBS certificate is available, a separate barred list check will be obtained:
  - Where applicants have subscribed to the DBS Update Service, and give permission for this to be accessed, this service will be used instead.
- Successful candidates for teaching positions are not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State. This will be done using the Employer Access Online service.
- The successful candidate has a right to work in the UK.
- Where a candidate has worked overseas, that appropriate checks are carried out per this policy.

**NOTE:** There is **no requirement** to obtain an enhanced DBS check if, in the three months prior to beginning work in their new appointment, the applicant has worked:

- In a school in England in a post which brought them into regular contact with children or in any post in a school since 12 May 2006; or
- In a college in England in a position which involved the provision of education and regularly caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children or young people under the age of 18.

But a school or college **may** request an enhanced DBS check with barred list information should there be concerns and bearing in mind the duty schools and colleges are under not to allow a barred person to work in regulated activity.

**NOTE:** A school or college **may not** request an enhanced DBS check with barred list check for anyone working in the school or college who is not in regulated activity, but may request an enhanced DBS check **without** a barred list check.

## 10.5. Volunteers

10.5.1. Where a volunteer is recruited to engage in work which is not considered 'regulated activity', an enhanced DBS certificate will be obtained.

10.5.2. Volunteers recruited to take part in regulated activity must obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred list check.



- 10.5.3. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not provided a DBS certificate be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity.

**Note:** Where a volunteer is to be placed under supervision, they are not considered to be taking part in regulated activity and therefore it is illegal for the school to request a barred list check on the volunteer.

Supervision must:

- Be by a person who is in regulated activity.
- Be regular and day to day.
- Be “reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children”.

#### **10.6. Individuals who have lived outside the UK**

- 10.6.1. No exceptions will be made for candidates who have lived outside of the UK, all mandatory checks outlined in this policy will be carried out, along with additional checks where necessary.
- 10.6.2. The DfE [guidance on the employment of overseas-trained teachers](#) will be consulted should an overseas candidate apply for a teaching position.

#### **10.7. Agency and third party staff**

- 10.7.1. In the case of any employee working at **Owls Academy Trust** sourced from an agency or third-party organisation, confirmation must be obtained from the organisation, in writing, that all necessary DBS checks have been completed.
- 10.7.2. Confirmation must also be obtained that the individual who presents for work is the same person on whom all checks have been completed. A copy of photographic identification is generally appropriate.

#### **10.8. Trainee/student teachers**

- 10.8.1. At **Owls Academy Trust** we will ensure that enhanced DBS certificates and barred list checks are obtained on all ‘salaried’ applicants for initial teacher training.
- 10.8.2. Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks.

## 11. Decision making

11.1. At **Owls Academy Trust**, we are committed to ensuring the best individuals are recruited to work at our school. Applicants will therefore be carefully checked against the selection criteria and all essential criteria from the person specification must be met before any offers of employment are made.

11.2. In line with our safeguarding obligations, we will carefully consider all information about past disciplinary action or allegations. This includes information obtained from the Employer Access Online checks.

## 12. Single central record

12.1. Per legal requirements, **Owls Academy Trust** will maintain and regularly update our single central record. All new employees will be added to the record, which will include:

- All staff (including supply staff) who work at the school.
- All others who work in regular contact with children in the school or college, including volunteers.

12.2. For each individual, the single central record will outline whether or not the following checks have been carried out/certificates obtained, along with the date of the check:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check
- A prohibition from teaching check
- Further checks on people living or working outside the UK
- A check of professional qualifications
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the UK

**Signed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Headteacher**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair of governors**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next review date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Original, based on Trust Policy 25.06.17

Reviewed annually

Approved by Jonathan Tedds, Chair of Governor