

Weatherhead High School

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

Recruitment & Selection Policy

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Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Roles and responsibilities
2. Inviting applications
3. Information for candidates
4. Identification of the recruitment panel
5. Shortlisting
6. Interview invitations
7. References
8. Digital footprints
9. Selection process
10. Decision Making
11. After the Interview
12. Employment checks and DBS checks (inc. "regulated activity")
 - 12.1 General recruitment
 - 12.2 Volunteers
 - 12.3 Individuals who have lived outside the UK
 - 12.4 Agency and third party staff
 - 12.5 Trainee/student teachers
 - 12.6 Recruitment of Ex-offenders
13. Decision making
14. Single central record
15. Annex 1: Flowchart of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and barred list checks.

Statement of intent

This policy is designed to assist with recruitment and selection at Weatherhead High School. It outlines our recruitment procedure and is in-line with the DfE statutory guidance on safeguarding.

Through this policy Weatherhead High School aims to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures to ensure a robust safeguarding culture at our school.

Weatherhead High 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 Weatherhead High School is in-line with DfE, HM Government guidance and legal requirements which may be updated periodically.

At Weatherhead High School the 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 via the most appropriate channels keeping in mind the school's Single Equality 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'.
- 2.4. The contact point for telephone or email enquiries will be clearly outlined and application forms will be accessible both on the school's website, as well as being sent out to applicants, upon request.

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 comprehensive job description.

- A comprehensive person specification, including the required fluency of spoken English required for the post (if considered a customer facing role¹).
- Equal rights and opportunities 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. For Leadership posts, teaching posts associated with a TLR of 1 or higher, and support staff posts higher than Band G, the recruitment panel will also include a member of the Governing Body.
- 4.3. For Headteacher recruitment, the CEO of the Trust will also be a member of the recruitment panel. The Governing Body will make a recommendation to the Trust and the Trust Board will be required to approve the appointment.
- 4.4. 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 and invited to interview.
- 6.2. Permission will be asked to contact the candidate's referees prior to interview via the completed application form.

¹ Code of Practice on the English Language requirement in schools Nov 2016

7. References

7.1 Two referees, one of which must be the candidate's most recent employer, will be contacted, 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 attendance record.- this is often provided only upon offer of appointment
- 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 will be contacted for a reference.

7.4 Records will be kept of all responses.

7.5 Any uncertainties or issues followed up with the referee verbally will be recorded. Following reference checks, any concerns raised by referees will be put to the candidate at interview. Such responses will also be recorded.

8. Digital footprints

8.1 At Weatherhead High School 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 may 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
- LinkedIn
- This list is not exhaustive

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.

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. Decision making

- 10.1 At Weatherhead High School, 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 should be met before any offers of employment are made.
- 10.2 In line with our safeguarding obligations, we will carefully consider all information about past disciplinary action or allegations. This includes information obtained from the DfE Teacher Services Employer Access Online checks.

11. After the interview

- 11.1 After the interview has been completed, the recruitment panel will:
- Assess all candidates' performance using the same agreed criteria.
 - Notify unsuccessful candidates as soon as possible.
 - Provide feedback to the unsuccessful candidates if requested.
- 11.2 Unsuccessful applications, interview notes and assessment materials will be held securely for six months after the interviews, in case any aspect of the recruitment process is challenged.
- 11.3 After choosing a successful candidate, the school will:
- Make a conditional offer of employment to the candidate.
 - Ask the successful candidate to provide identification and proof of qualifications, if this has not already been done.
 - Complete the relevant pre-appointment checks.

12. Employment checks and DBS checks (incl. “regulated activity”)

For the purpose of this policy, engaging in “**regulated activity**” involves any individual who:

- Will be responsible for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children at the school.
- Will carry out paid or unsupervised, unpaid work regularly at the school, and where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children.
- Engages in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once.
- Regulated activity is described as being “regular” if it is carried out by the same person and is conducted:
 - Once a week or more often.
 - On four or more days in a 30 day period.
 - Overnight (between 2am-6am).

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.

12.1 General recruitment

12.1.1 Weatherhead High School will take care to ensure that:

- A successful candidate's identity will be verified, preferably from a current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available.
- Evidence of appropriate qualifications will be obtained during pre-appointment checks.
- Appropriate DBS checks are obtained for all successful candidates, including barred list information where the person is engaged in regulated activity subject to satisfying identification requirements in place at the time of application.
- 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.
- Any person holding QTS / QTLS are not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State. This will be done using the Employer Access Online service.
- Successful candidates for management roles require an additional check to ensure they are not prohibited under section 128 provisions.
- 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, and any statutory requirements.

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. As such Weatherhead High School reserves the right to undertake an enhanced DBS check on appointment.

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.

12.2 Volunteers

- 12.2.1 Where a volunteer is recruited to engage in work which is not considered 'regulated activity', an enhanced DBS certificate will not be obtained.
- 12.2.2 Volunteers recruited to take part in regulated activity must obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred list check.
- 12.2.3 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".

12.3 Individuals who have lived outside the UK

- 12.3.1 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. This may include obtaining a certificate of good conduct from relevant embassies or the police.
- 12.3.2 The DfE [guidance on the employment of overseas-trained teachers](#) will be consulted should an overseas candidate apply for a teaching position.

12.4 Agency and third party staff

- 12.4.1 In the case of any employee working at Weatherhead High School 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.
- 12.4.2 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.

12.5 Trainee/student teachers

- 12.5.1 At Weatherhead High School we will ensure that enhanced DBS certificates and barred list checks are obtained on all 'salaried' applicants for initial teacher training.
- 12.5.2 Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks and provide written confirmation that this has been undertaken.

12.6 Recruitment of Ex-offenders

- 12.6.1 The School has a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is made available to all applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.

13. Single central record

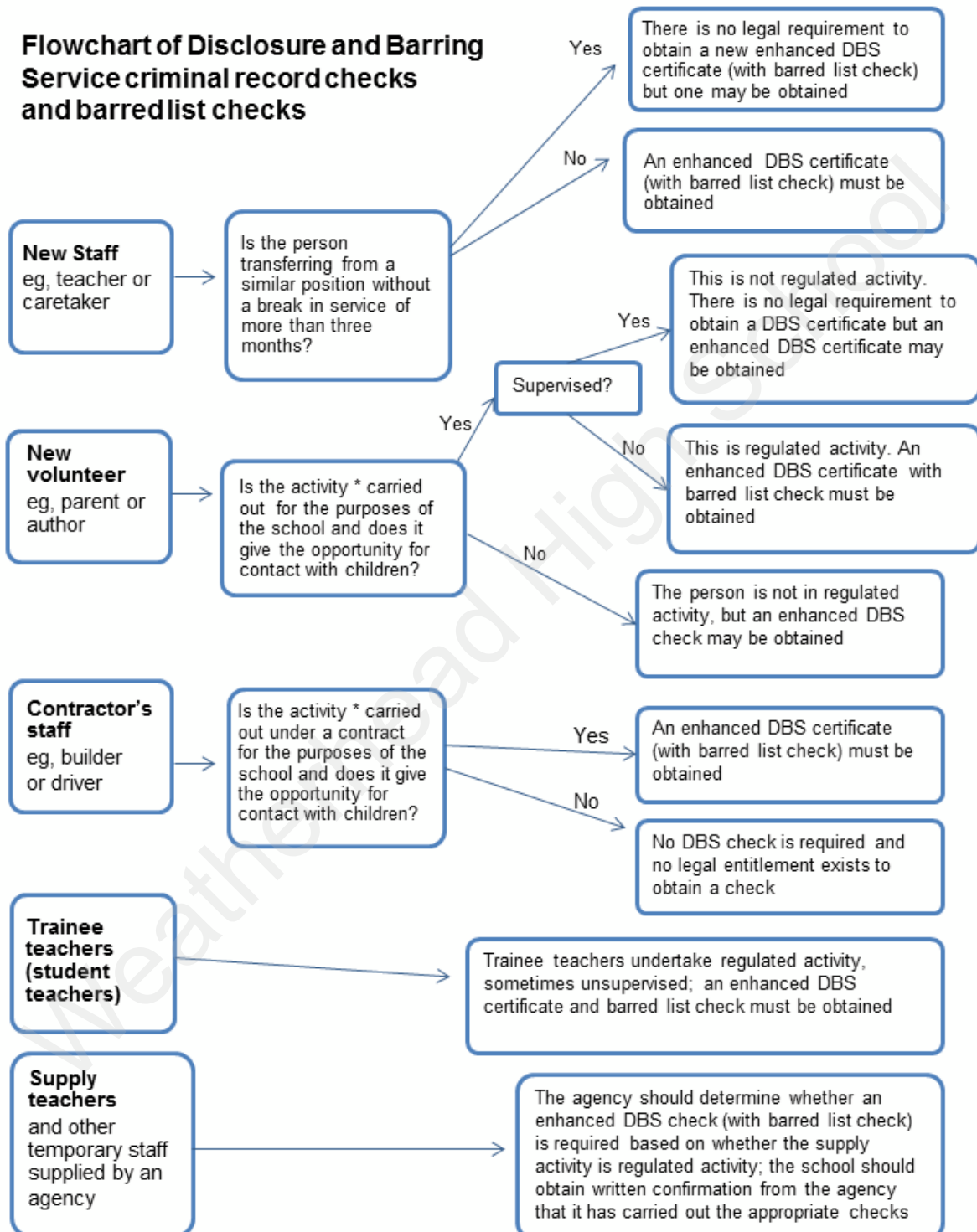
- 13.1 In accordance with legal requirements, Weatherhead High School will maintain and regularly update our single central record. All new employees will be added to the record, which will include:
- All staff (including supply staff) who work at the school.
 - All others who work in regular contact with children in the school or college, including volunteers.
- 13.2 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
 - Disqualification by Association checks for qualifying staff
 - Section 128 prohibition checks for qualifying staff

Signed by:

Miss A Whelan Headteacher Date:

Mrs J Owens Chair of Governors Date:

Annex 1: Flowchart of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and barred list checks.



* Activities listed under the guidance's definition of regulated activity and which are carried out 'frequently'