



Safer Recruitment Policy

October 2021

Safer Recruitment Policy Queensgate Foundation Primary School

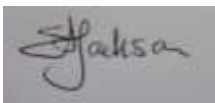
Policy Review

This policy was adopted from School Bus and will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 14th October 2021

It is due for review on October 2022 (up to 12 months from the above date).

Signature  Head Teacher Date: 14th October 2021

Signature  Chair of Governors Date: 14th October 2021

Policy control

Date	Amendments / additions	Reason

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Statement of intent

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

Through this policy Queensgate Foundation Primary School 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 Queensgate Foundation Primary School is in-line with DfE guidance and legal requirements.

At Queensgate Foundation Primary School our Governing Board strives to ensure that staff recruitment is safe and fair, and the Governing Board continues to monitor this aspect of the school's Recruitment Policy alongside legal and statutory compliance.

- 1.2. The headteacher will assist the Governing Board 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.

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 Queensgate Foundation Primary 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 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, which may include but is not limited to:

Google
Facebook
Linked In
Other Social media accounts

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, and the need for any potential adjustments to environments
- 9.4. Candidates shall not be discriminated against on the grounds of political, religious, gender or age

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. Queensgate Foundation Primary School 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"

10.6.1. 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 Queensgate Foundation Primary 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.
- 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 Queensgate Foundation Primary School, 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 Queensgate Foundation Primary 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 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

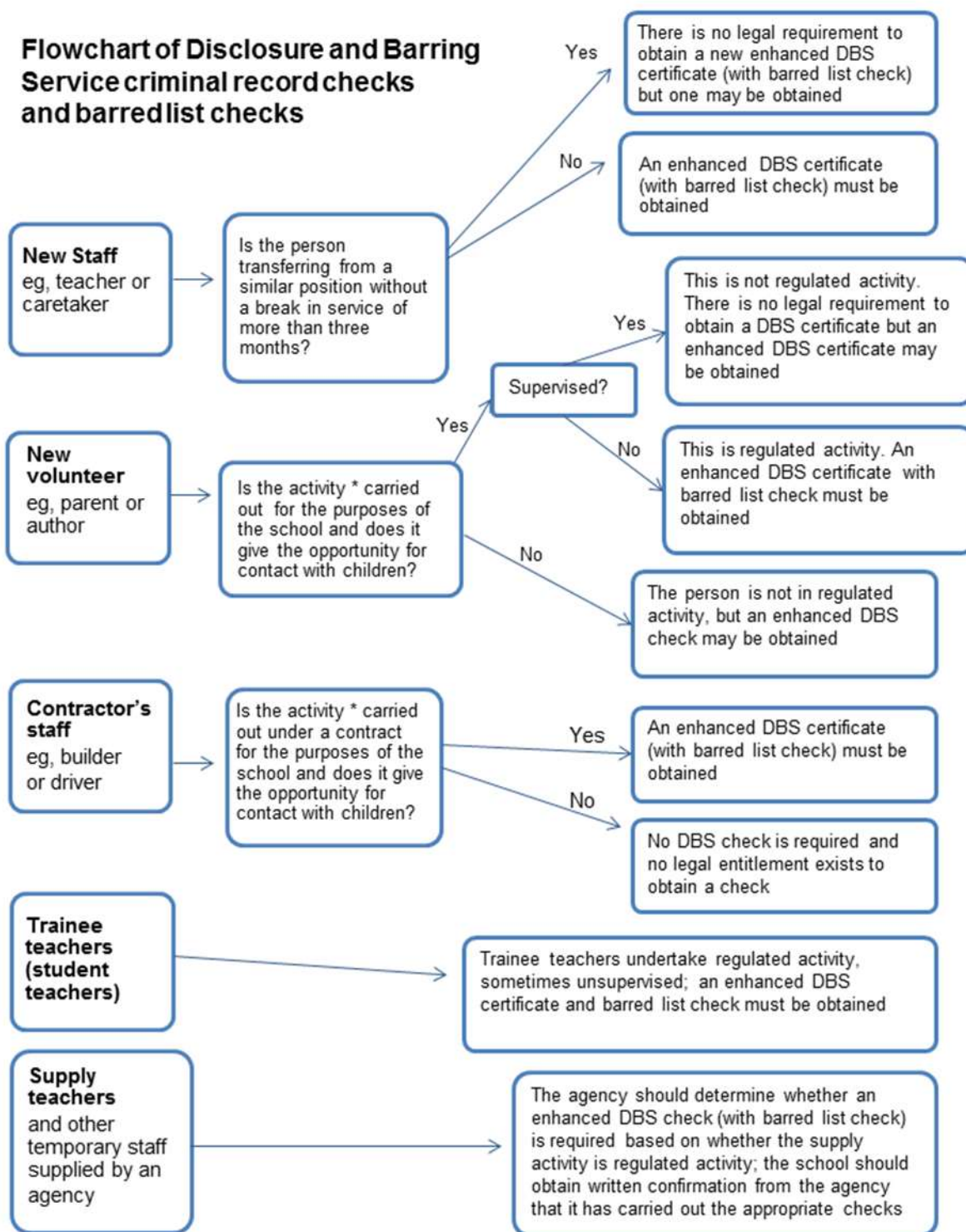
- 12.1. Per legal requirements, Queensgate Foundation Primary School will maintain and regularly update our single central record. All new employees will be added to the record, which will include:

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.

- 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
 - Date staff were asked to annually self-declare they are not disqualified under the childcare Act 2006
- 12.3. DBS checks will be recorded electronically on the Single Central Record and all data will be retained until such time as an employee, volunteer, Agency or third party staff no longer attends Queensgate Foundation Primary School.

Appendix A: 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'

Appendix B: Staff Appointment Check list

This document is to be completed for the appointment of any new member of staff and retained on their file in school.

Name of new member of staff		
Post appointed to		
Type of contract (permanent / fixed term)		
Start date		
Contract end date (if fixed term)		
Pay scale starting point		
References received – one of which must be last employer	Reference 1	
	Reference 2	
Qualification check (if teacher – also prohibition). Details of certificates (Tchr. number)		
Paperwork received	Right to work UK	
	DBS application completed	
	DBS clearance received	
	Certificates incl. Educational, Safeguarding Level/FGM/Prevent	
	Driver details –Business insurance cover	
	Signed Policy Sheet	
	Critical Incidents Form	
	P45	
	P46	
	Proof of address/date of birth	
	National Insurance number	
	Bank details	
Application form/ interview details/offer of post on personnel file		
New starter form completed		
Employee set up on HR/Payroll provider portal		
SIMS updated		
Employee number received		
Contract received in school/signed		
Single Central Record updated		
Name Badge provided		

Completed by.....Date.....

Approved by.....Date.....