

*This policy is informed by our Trust's vision of inspiring all - pupils, staff and our communities - to believe in their own ability in order for them to achieve the best possible outcomes, both academically and socially. By living by our values of being innovative, responsible and caring, we create powerful learning communities - positively impacting all of the Weaver Trust community.*

## **1. Scope and Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy of this policy is to set out the requirements for the recruitment of teaching and support staff at the Trust. The aim of the Trust is to:
  - 1.1.1 attract the best possible applicants to vacancies;
  - 1.1.2 deter prospective applicants who are unsuitable for work with children or young people;
  - 1.1.3 identify and reject applicants who are unsuitable for work with children and young people.
- 1.2 Decisions concerning the need to recruit staff are delegated to the Headteacher by the Trust. All decisions will be made with regard to curriculum needs and financial circumstances.
- 1.3 Decisions regarding remuneration for posts will be made in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy.
- 1.4 This policy takes into account the takes into the account the provisions of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE September 2016). The Trust will ensure that the statutory requirements for the appointment of some staff will be met. Requirements will change from time to time and this policy will be updated accordingly.
- 1.5 The Trust is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all staff and job applicants and will abide by existing legislation including the Equality Act 2010. The Trust does not unlawfully discriminate against staff on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (Protected Characteristics).
- 1.6 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time on consultation with recognised unions.
- 1.7 In this policy references to personnel/bodies are to the personnel/bodies present within the school at which the particular member of staff reviewing the policy is engaged.

## **2. Who is Responsible for the Policy?**

- 2.1 The Trust has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. The Trust is also responsible for monitoring compliance by the Trust with this policy.
- 2.2 The Trust has delegated day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review to the Headteacher.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and other managers involved in recruitment to:
  - 2.3.1 Ensure that the Trust operates safe recruitment procedures;
  - 2.3.2 Ensure all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers who work at the school;
  - 2.3.3 Monitor contractors' and agencies' compliance with this document;

2.3.4 Promote welfare of children and young people at every stage of the recruitment process.

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

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

### **3. Safer Recruitment Training**

3.1 Subject to the availability of training, the Trust will ensure that the Headteacher and at least one governor have successfully completed accredited training in safe recruitment procedures.

3.2 The Trust must ensure that one person on any recruitment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training.

### **4. Advertising Posts**

4.1 Advertisements for posts – whether in newspapers, journals or online – and application booklets issued to prospective applicants will include the following statement:

“Weaver Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects its entire staff to share this commitment. All post-holders will be required to have an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).”

4.2 Prospective applicants will be supplied, as a minimum, the following:

4.2.1 Job description and person specification;

4.2.2 The Trust’s Safer Recruitment Policy;

4.2.3 The selection procedure for the post;

4.2.4 An application form.

4.3 Applicants will also be made aware of the relevant school policies, including the Child Protection Policy.

4.4 To ensure equality of opportunity, the Trust will advertise all vacant posts to encourage as wide a field of applicants as possible, normally this will entail an external advertisement (such advertisements will usually appear on the school website, a suitable national website and in some cases a local newspaper or recruitment paper).

4.5 However, where there is a reasonable expectation that there are sufficient qualified internal applicants or where staff are at risk of redundancy, an internal advertisement alone may be considered appropriate.

4.6 Advertisements will specify: the main subjects to be taught and/or the nature of any leadership allowance; the start date of the appointment and whether the post is permanent or fixed term and, in the case of fixed term contracts, the end date of the contract; the remuneration for the post will be expressed in terms of the applicable pay scales and the closing date for applications will also be stated.

### **5. Applications**

5.1 Prospective applicants will respond to the advertisement by requesting or downloading further information and an application form which includes an equal opportunities monitoring form. The application form will be returned to the Trust by the specified closing date accompanied by a supporting letter. Other forms of curriculum vitae are not acceptable in place of a completed application form.

5.2 Applications received after the published closing date will not be considered unless there is clear evidence that the late receipt of the application has been caused by a postal delay. Such evidence would generally be an application with franking showing that it was posted first class at least one day before the published closing date. Applicants are advised to submit their applications by e-mail to avoid late arrival.

- 5.3 The Trust will require applicants to account for any gaps or discrepancies in employment history on this application form. Where an applicant is shortlisted, these gaps will be discussed at interview.
- 5.4 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.

## **6. Short Listing and References**

- 6.1 The selection panel will shortlist applicants against the person specification for the post. The criteria for selection will be consistently applied to all applicants. The selection panel will agree the applicants to be invited to interview.
- 6.2 Two references, one of which must be from the applicant's current/most recent employer, will be taken up before the selection stage so that any discrepancies may be probed during this stage of the selection process. Applicants are entitled to see and receive copies of their employment references and should request these from their referees.
- 6.3 References will be sought directly from the referee and, where necessary, he/she will be contacted to clarify any anomalies or discrepancies. Written records will be kept of such exchanges.
- 6.4 Where necessary, previous employers who have not been named as referees may be contacted in order to clarify any such anomalies or discrepancies. Written records will be kept of such exchanges.
- 6.5 If an applicant for a post working with children is not currently employed in a post working with children, a reference will be sought from the most recent employment in which the applicant has worked with children to confirm details of the applicant's employment and their reasons for leaving.
- 6.6 Reference requests will ask the referee to confirm, in writing:
- 6.6.1 The referee's relationship to the applicant;
  - 6.6.2 Details of the applicant's current post and salary;
  - 6.6.3 The applicant's performance history and conduct;
  - 6.6.4 Whether the applicant has been subject to capability procedures and the outcome of this;
  - 6.6.5 Whether the applicant has been subject to disciplinary action relating to the safety and welfare of children, including where the sanction has expired, and the outcome of this;
  - 6.6.6 Details of any substantiated allegations or concerns about the applicant relating to the safety and welfare of children;
  - 6.6.7 Whether the referee has any reservations as to the applicant's suitability to work with children and young people (if so, the school will ask for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes the applicant may be unsuitable to work with children);
  - 6.6.8 The applicant's suitability for the post with explicit reference to the job description and person specification.
- 6.7 All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, vetting procedures and DBS clearance.
- 6.8 Employer testimonials i.e. those provided by the applicant and/or marked 'to whom it may concern' will not be accepted. References must be in writing and be specific to the job for which the applicant has applied. The selection panel will not accept references from relatives or people writing solely in the capacity as a friend of

the applicant, for any post. References will be verified and any discrepancies or areas of potential concern will be discussed with the applicant at interview.

6.9 If the field of applicants is felt to be weak, the post may be re-advertised.

## **7. Interview and Selection**

7.1 Prior to the interview and selection process applicants will be given any relevant information, e.g. details of any selection methods that will be used.

7.2 Applicants who have a disability or any other particular needs will be given the opportunity to highlight this prior to any selection activities in order that reasonable adjustments may be made to the recruitment process.

7.3 All vacancies will require an interview of short-listed applicants. Interviews will always be face-to-face. Telephone interviews may be used at the shortlisting stage but will not be a substitute for a face-to-face interview (which may be via visual electronic link).

7.3.1 For all teaching vacancies across the Trust, the Director of Education must be involved in the interview process.

7.4 Whilst an interview is always likely to be used as the primary feature of the selection process, the selection panel will consider whether any additional selection methods are required to supplement the interview. These may include presentations, teaching observation, interaction with pupils, in-tray exercises and psychometric, verbal or numerical tests, according to the requirements of the role. Any psychometric tests used will have been validated in relation to the job, be free of bias, and be administered and validated only by a suitably trained person.

7.5 Whichever methods are chosen, the panel will use these to assess the merits of each applicant against the person specification and explore their suitability to work with children. This will include exploration of the applicants understanding of child safeguarding issues.

7.6 The selection panel will ensure that all applicants are asked the same main questions at interview based on the list of essential criteria for the post, although supplementary questions may differ according to the applicants' answers and backgrounds.

7.7 Applicants will always be required:

7.7.1 To explain satisfactorily any gaps in employment

7.7.2 To explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to the selection panel

7.7.3 To declare any information that is likely to appear on a DBS disclosure

7.7.4 To demonstrate their capacity to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people

7.8 The interview will also include a discussion of any convictions, cautions or pending prosecutions, other than those protected, that the applicant has declared and are relevant to the prospective employment.

7.9 Particular care needs will be taken to ensure that no questions or selection methods could be viewed as discriminatory.

## **8. Employment Checks**

8.1 All successful applicants are required to:

8.1.1 provide proof of identity (e.g. passport; driving licence photocard)

- 8.1.2 complete a DBS disclosure application and receive satisfactory clearance;
  - 8.1.3 obtain a barred list check if the individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available;
  - 8.1.4 provide actual certificates of professional qualifications (teaching staff and other posts where required)
  - 8.1.5 provide proof of address (e.g. recent utility bill, bank or credit card statement)
  - 8.1.6 provide proof of eligibility to live and work in the UK.
- 8.2 Documentation will be checked by a member of staff suitably trained in safer recruitment processes.
- 8.3 Once an applicant has been offered the post they may be required to complete a confidential health questionnaire to verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work

## **9. Confirming the Appointment**

- 9.1 The final offer of employment will be subject to:
- 9.1.1 a satisfactory enhanced DBS and barred list check;
  - 9.1.2 confirmation that the applicant does not live with a disqualified person (if the member of staff is expected to work with children under the age of 8);
  - 9.1.3 a check that the applicant is not subject to a prohibition order using the Employer Access Online Service (teachers only);
  - 9.1.4 receipt of a completed confidential health questionnaire which is required to verify the applicant's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work
  - 9.1.5 receipt of final references from previous employers;
  - 9.1.6 a valid work permit for overseas applicants;
  - 9.1.7 the applicant's details have been added to the school's Single Central Record (SCR).
- 9.2 The school reserves the right not to proceed with or to terminate employment with immediate effect if the DBS checks reveals convictions which have not been declared on the application form or if any of the documents provided 9 have been falsified in any way.

## **10. Induction**

- 10.1 All employees who are new to the school will receive full induction training that will cover all relevant matters of Trust policy including safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, child protection procedures, whistle blowing, and guidance on safe working practices.
- 10.2 Employees will also be required to read, and confirm that they have read, Part 1 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

## **11. Personnel File and Single Central Record**

- 11.1 Recruitment and selection information for the successful applicant will be retained securely and confidentially for the duration of their employment with the Trust including:
- 11.1.1 Application form – signed by the applicant;
  - 11.1.2 Interview notes – including explanation of any gaps in the employment history;
  - 11.1.3 references;
  - 11.1.4 Proof of identity;
  - 11.1.5 Proof of right to work in the UK;

- 11.1.6 Proof of relevant academic qualifications;
  - 11.1.7 completed a confidential health questionnaire and any medical clearance obtained from the Occupational Health service;
  - 11.1.8 Evidence of DBS clearance, Barred List (where applicable) and Teacher Prohibition checks (in accordance with the requirements of Keeping Children Safe);
  - 11.1.9 Offer of employment letter and signed contract of employment.
- 11.2 The Trust will maintain a Single Central Record of employment checks in accordance with relevant Department of Education guidance.

**12. Adults Working with Children Who Are Not Employed Directly by the Trust**

- 12.1 Supply Staff - The Trust will only use those agencies which operate a Safer Recruitment Policy and supply written confirmation that all relevant checks have been satisfactorily completed. The Trust will carry out identity checks when the supply staff member arrives on site.
- 12.2 Volunteers - The Trust will carry out DBS and pre-start vetting checks appropriate to the post (as above) and require regular volunteers to provide details of two referees. References are taken up, as detailed in this policy. Volunteers who help on an occasional basis (e.g. trips/PTA events) are supervised, in accordance with legislation.
- 12.3 Students on placement - When volunteers are working in school as part of a recognised training course (such as PGCE, NVQ etc.), references and completion of an application form will not be required. However, the Trust will require proof of DBS enhanced clearance with barred list check and will carry out identity checks when the student arrives at school. The Trust will also require students to complete a Disqualification by Association Declaration if they are working within the EYFS.
- 12.4 Students on work experience - Students on work experience will always be supervised.
- 12.5 Contractors - The Trust ensure that contractors, or any employee of a contractor, working at the Trust have been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check, if any such check is required. Contractors and contractors' employees for whom an appropriate DBS check has not been undertaken will be supervised if they will have contact with children. If a contractor working at school is self-employed and will be in regulated activity, the Trust will consider obtaining the DBS check, as self-employed people are not able to make an application directly to the DBS on their own account.

The Trust will check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school or college.

**Approved by:**

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**Chair of Trust**

**CEO**

**Date:**

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