



## **Boulevard Primary Partnership - Safer Recruitment Policy**

### **1 Introduction**

The Boulevard Primary Partnership is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Safer recruitment and selection procedures apply not only to staff employed directly by the school - it includes those who will be seen as trustworthy and safe because of their presence in the school e.g. unpaid volunteers, students on placement and staff employed by contractors.

### **2 Volunteers**

Safe recruitment measures are adopted by:

- conducting an informal interview to gauge the persons aptitude and suitability
- undertaking a DBS check
- Where feasible, seeking references

In some circumstances, where a volunteer's role will be 'one-off' e.g. accompanying on a school trip or helping at a sporting venue, those kinds of measures would be impractical and unnecessary provided that the person is not to be left alone and unsupervised. A member of the BPP staff should be present at all times.

### **3 Students on Placement**

Evidence from the course provider must be obtained that the student is following the course or is required to complete a placement prior to starting a course. Evidence of a satisfactory DBS check must be provided. For institutions which regularly place students in the school, assurances must be sought that safe recruitment practices have been followed including DBS checks.

## **4 Staff recruitment:**

Issues to do with safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children must be considered at every stage of the recruitment process. The recruitment procedure should be a consistent and thorough process of obtaining, analysing and evaluating the information from and about applicants. The BPP will use the MKC Safer Recruitment Toolkit as a reference when recruiting staff.

The process consists of:

### **4.1 Advertisement**

- Considering where the post is advertised.
- All adverts will also contain the following statement.

*“The school is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. We are an equal opportunities employer.”*

- The successful applicant will require an enhanced DBS check.

### **4.2 Job Description**

Ensuring the job description makes reference to the responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as well as the main duties and responsibilities of the post.

### **4.3 Person Specification**

Ensuring that the person specification includes specific reference to suitability to work with children

### **4.4 Application Form**

Obtaining and scrutinising comprehensive information from applicants and taking up and satisfactorily resolving any discrepancies or anomalies. The Local Authority application form is used for this purpose. This includes an explanation that the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Applicants will be informed that appointment will be subject to a satisfactory DBS check being obtained.

### **4.5 Information pack for candidates**

This will include the application form, the job description and person specification, and relevant school policies, as appropriate.

### **4.6 Scrutinising and short-listing**

Applications will be scrutinised to ensure that they are fully and properly completed, that the information provided is consistent and does not contain any discrepancies and to identify any gaps in employment.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Any anomalies or discrepancies or gaps in employment will be explored. The reasons for a history of repeated changes in employment without any clear career or salary progression or a mid-career change to supply or temporary work will also be investigated and verified. This information should be taken into account in making the decision whether to shortlist.

For individuals seeking employment who do have a criminal record, careful consideration must be given to whether that record should prevent them from being appointed. However, some offences are of such a nature that they constitute an automatic bar from any posts within the school. For all other offences a risk assessment will be carried out.

#### **4.7 References**

References will be sought to obtain objective, factual information to support appointment decisions directly from the referee. Open references and testimonials and those provided by the candidate will not be accepted.

References on all short-listed candidates including internal ones should be obtained before interview so that issues of concern they raise can be explored further with the referee and taken up with the candidate at interview.

In exceptional cases this may not be possible because of delays on the part of the referee or because the candidate strongly objects to his/her current employer being approached at this stage-however this needs careful scrutiny.

#### **4.8 Interviews**

All candidates should be requested to bring to interview documentary evidence of their identity that will satisfy DBS requirements and documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post.

Members of the interview panel should be appropriately trained and experienced to conduct the interview and have the necessary authority to make decisions about appointment.

Prior to the interview they should reach a consensus about the required standard for the job for which they are appointing, agree their assessment criteria in accordance with the person specification, and consider the issues to be explored with each candidate.

The interview panel should agree a set of questions they will ask all candidates in relation to the requirements of the post, and the issues they will explore with each candidate based on the information provided in the candidate's application and references (if available).

In addition to assessing and evaluating the applicant's suitability for the particular post the panel should also explore:

- The candidate's attitude toward and motivation to work with children and young people
- His/her ability to support the school's agenda for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

- Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and boundaries with children and young people
- Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours
- Attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline
- Gaps in the candidate's employment history
- Concerns or discrepancies arising from information provided by the candidate/referee
- Ask the candidate if they wish to declare anything in the light of the requirement for a DBS check.
- Conditional Offer of appointment: pre-appointment checks. An offer of appointment to the successful candidate should be conditional upon:
  - the receipt of at least two satisfactory references
  - verification of the candidate's identity including their right to work in the UK
  - a check of the Children's Barred list and satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure
  - verification of the candidate's medical fitness
  - verification of qualifications
  - verification of professional status where required (eg relevant NVQ, QTS etc)
  - verification of successful completion of statutory induction period

The school will seek advice from their HR department and follow relevant DBS guidance if a Disclosure reveals information that a candidate has not revealed as part of the selection process.

All checks should be:

- confirmed in writing
- documented and retained on the personnel file
- followed up where they are unsatisfactory or there are discrepancies in the information provided where the candidate is found to be on the Childrens Barred List or the DBS Disclosure shows s/he has been disqualified from working with children by a Court: or an applicant has provided false information in support of his/her application; or there are serious concerns about an applicant's suitability to work with children, the facts should be reported to the police and/or the DfE Safeguarding Operations Unit.

#### **4.9 Children's Barred List and DBS checks on Overseas Staff.**

These should be completed on staff from overseas unless it is verified that the applicant has not previously lived in the UK.

In cases where an applicant has worked or been resident overseas in the previous five years, where possible a check of the applicant's criminal record should be obtained from the relevant authority in that country.

It is a requirement that overseas staff should provide the school with a "Certificate of Good Behaviour" from their local Police force of their country. In cases where a criminal record check is not possible particular care should be taken with the other

required checks, especially those of identity and qualifications, and to obtain satisfactory references.

Where possible additional references should be sought and references followed up by telephone as well as letter.

#### **4.10 First Appointment Induction**

For all newly appointed staff and volunteers there is an induction programme regardless of previous experience. The purpose of induction is to:

- provide training and information about the school's policies and procedures
- support individuals in a way that is appropriate for the role for which they have been appointed
- confirm the conduct expected of staff within the school
- provide opportunities for a new member of staff or volunteer to discuss any issues or concerns about their roles or responsibilities
- enable the person's line manager or mentor to recognise any concerns or issues about the person's ability or suitability at the outset and address them immediately.
- include information about policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding and promoting welfare e.g. child protection, behaviour, anti-bullying, anti-racism, physical intervention/restraint and the Staff Code of Conduct.
- ensure safe practice and the standards of conduct and behaviour expected of staff and pupils in the school
- inform staff and volunteers how and with whom any concerns about those issues should be raised
- share information about other relevant personnel procedures

### **5 Continuing awareness**

Post appointment, there is a need to monitor that the BPP school's ways of working, policies and procedures are adhered to in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Procedures are in place (Child Protection policy, Complaints Procedure, Whistleblowing Policy) to enable concerns to be raised about what seems to be poor or unsafe practice by members of staff.

These concerns and those expressed by children, parents and others will be listened to and taken seriously.

### **6 Extended Schools Services**

Where Extended Schools services or activities are provided directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for appointments, recruitment and vetting checks and record keeping apply as do the school's arrangements for Child Protection.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Board should ensure that there are clear lines of accountability and written agreements setting out responsibility for carrying out recruitment and vetting checks on staff and volunteers. The Governing Board should ensure that the responsible body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place in regard to safeguarding children and child protection and arrangements made to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate

## **7 Single Central Record**

The BPP Schools maintain single central records of recruitment and vetting checks of the following people:

- All staff who are employed by the school
- All long term supply staff
- Volunteers who have regular contact with children (this does not include parents who volunteer for one off activities e.g. accompanying school trips)
- All members of the Governing Board
- People who provide specialist coaching or tuition (eg sports coaches)

The single central record details whether the following have been checked, when and by whom:

- Identity checks
- Qualification checks where these are legally required
- Checks of right to work in the U.K.
- Children's Barred List (List 99) checks
- DBS Enhanced Disclosure
- Further overseas record checks where appropriate