

Safer Recruitment Policy

October 2018



**Saint Augustine Webster
Catholic Voluntary Academy**



Mission Statement

The school will aim to:

- develop an awareness of God's love and presence in individual's lives and to elicit a response to that;
- help pupils to develop a reasoned set of attitudes, values and beliefs allowing the individual to make sound and moral judgements in the light of personal commitment to the Lord, Jesus Christ;
- make prayer, worship and liturgy valued experiences;
- develop real links with home and parish;
- create caring relationships with all those children and adults who are involved in the school.

Safer Recruitment Policy

The safe recruitment of staff in schools is the first step to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in education. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to, and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.

This school recognises the value of, and seeks to achieve a diverse workforce which includes people from different backgrounds with different skills and abilities. The school is committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all who work within the school is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient, effective and promotes equality of opportunity. The school will uphold its obligations under law and national collective agreements to not discriminate against applicants for employment on the grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or creed. This document provides a good practice framework to comply with the principles set down in the school's Equality Policy.

The school will:

- ensure that appropriate staff who undertake recruitment have received safe recruitment training.
- work towards every appointment panel to include at least 2 members who have received safe recruitment training
- implement robust recruitment procedures and checks for appointing staff and volunteers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with children, or who is disqualified from working with children, or does not have the suitable skills and experience for the intended role.
- keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks in line with DCSF requirements
- require staff who are convicted or cautioned for any offence during their employment with the school to notify the school, in writing of the offence and the penalty.

The following pre-employment checks will be undertaken:

- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references, one of which will be from the former or most recent employer
- Verification of the candidate's identity in line with the requirements of The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006
- A satisfactory DBS clearance
- Verification of the candidate's medical fitness

- Verification of qualifications
- Verification of professional registration as required by law for teachers
- Verification of successful completion of induction period (for those who obtained QTS after 7 May 1999)

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the governing body to:

- Ensure the school has effective policies and procedures in place for the recruitment of all staff and volunteers in accordance with DCSF guidance and legal requirements
- Monitor the school's compliance with them

It is the responsibility of the headteacher and other managers involved in recruitment to:

- Ensure that the school operates safe recruitment procedures and makes sure all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers who work at the school
- Promote welfare of children and young people at every stage of the procedure

It is the responsibility of all potential and existing workers, including volunteers to comply with this document. It is the responsibility of the school's HR provider to:

- Deal with the administration of the disclosure system for the school in accordance with the School Staffing Regulations.

The governing body has delegated responsibility to the Headteacher to lead in all appointments outside of the leadership group

The Procedure

Advertising

To ensure equality of opportunity, the school will advertise all vacant posts to encourage as wide a field of candidates as possible. Normally this will entail an external advertisement. However, where there is a reasonable expectation that there are sufficient qualified internal candidates or where staff are at risk of redundancy, an internal advertisement may be considered appropriate.

Applications

The school requires candidates 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. 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 (eg: General Teaching Council for England).

References

References for shortlisted candidates will be sent for immediately after short-listing.

References must be in writing and be specific to the job for which the candidate has applied - open references or testimonials are not acceptable. The school will not accept references from relatives or people writing solely in the capacity as a friend. Only references from a trusted authoritative source will be acceptable.

Reference requests will ask for information under specific headings which are relevant to the job.

References will be compared to the application form to ensure that the information provided is consistent. Any discrepancies will be taken up with the applicant at interview. Any information about past disciplinary action or allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual case. Cases in which an issue was satisfactorily resolved some time ago, or an allegation was determined to be unfounded or did not require formal disciplinary sanctions, and which no further issues have been raised, are not likely to cause concern. More serious or recent concerns or issues are more likely to cause concern. A history of repeated concerns or allegations over time is also likely to give cause for concern.

Self-declaration of convictions by job applicants

The school's policy requires shortlisted applicants for all posts (including volunteers) to declare all criminal convictions whether "spent" or "unspent" and include any cautions and pending prosecution. Such declarations will be made on an appropriate form and should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked strictly private and confidential to the chair of the selection panel / Headteacher, prior to the interview. The chair of the panel / Headteacher will discuss relevant, positive declarations confidentially with the applicant at interview. The disclosure of convictions, cautions or pending cases will not necessarily prevent employment but will be considered in the same way as positive DBS disclosures.

Interviews

The selection process will always include the following:

- Face to face professional interview including a question related to safeguarding children (in line with NCSL Safer Recruitment Training)

Proof of Identity and Right to Work in the UK & Verification of Qualifications and/or Professional Status.

Shortlisted applicants for all posts will be required to provide proof of identity by producing documents on the day of interview in line with those set out in The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Similar information is also required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau check on the preferred candidate. Short-listed candidates will also be required to provide proof of their qualifications and professional status by producing documentation on the day of interview. The school will verify that candidates have actually obtained any qualifications legally required or

deemed essential for the job and claimed in their application by asking to see the relevant certificate, or a letter of confirmation from the awarding body / institution. If the original documents are not available, the school will require sight of a properly certified copy. Proof of identity and other documentation will be verified by the chair of the panel / Headteacher.

Employment Offer

It may be possible to negotiate a provisional start date with the preferred candidate, however, the checks detailed above must all be completed BEFORE a person's appointment is confirmed. Once all pre-employment checks have been satisfactorily completed / received, an offer of employment will be made and the contract of employment issued.

Record Retention / Data Protection

The school will retain all interview notes on all applicants for a 6 month period, after which time the notes will be destroyed (ie: shredded). The 6 month retention period will allow the school to deal with any data access requests, recruitment complaints or to respond to any complaints made to the Employment tribunal.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998, applicants have a right to request access to notes written about them during the recruitment process. Applicants who wish to access their interview notes must make a subject access request in writing to the chair of the panel / Headteacher within 6 months of the interview date.

Personal file records

From January 2010, the school will retain the following information which will make up part of the personal file, for the successful candidate :

- **Application form**
- **References**
- **Disclosure of convictions form**
- **Proof of identification**
- **Proof of academic qualifications**
- **Proof of registration with General Teaching Council (for teaching staff)**
- **Certificate of Good Conduct (where applicable)**
- **Evidence of medical clearance from Occupational Health (where applicable)**
- **Evidence of the DBS clearance (ie: the DBS certificate reference number)**

Single Central Record of Recruitment Vetting Checks

In line with DfE requirements, the school will keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks. The central list will record all staff who are employed at the school, including casual staff, volunteers, governors who also work as volunteers, and those who provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not staff members, eg: specialist sports coach or artist. The central record will indicate whether or not the following have been completed:

- Identity checks
- Qualification checks for any qualifications legally required for the job

- Checks of right to work in the United Kingdom
- DBS Enhanced Disclosure
- Further overseas records where appropriate

It shall also indicate who undertook the check and the date on which the check was completed or the relevant certificate obtained.

In order to record supply staff provided through an agency on the record, the school will require confirmation from the supply agency that it has satisfactorily completed the checks described above. The school does not need to carry out checks itself except where there is information contained within the disclosure. However identity checks must be carried out by the school to check the person arriving is the person the agency intends to refer to them.

The school has a specific safeguarding related whistle blowing policy which has been disseminated to all staff. The school adopts a culture of vigilance where all concerns are listened to and taken seriously. The school will follow DfE and North Lincs Safeguarding Children Board allegations procedures and refer any allegation for initial consultation with the Local Authority Designated Officer.

Dated: October 2018

Review: October 2019