

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Developing Church of England Education



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STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

Part of the Federation's HR Policy Handbook

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

STAFF RECRUITMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This policy sets out the Governing Body's requirements for staff to follow when recruiting employees and the process to take on the exit of employees.

1.2 It does not apply to the hiring of **agency workers**. The School must have in place a process to ensure that any agency supplying staff to it has confirmed that it has conducted the checks at **Paragraphs 13-19** and **21** below and verify that the person for whom the checks has been conducted is the person who has turned up for work.

2. IDENTIFYING THE VACANCY

2.1 The Governing Body shall approve a Staffing Structure for the Koinonia Federation. During the period of expansion, this is revised on an annual basis.

2.2 The Federation may advertise for any vacant posts on the-approved Staffing Structure.

2.3 If the Federation wishes to advertise for a Leadership or TLR post not on the current approved Staffing Structure it must first obtain approval from the Governors Business Committee.

3. ADVERTISING THE JOB

3.1 All vacant posts must be advertised internally and others also externally. This can be achieved by:

- a) Emailing all staff with details of the vacancy;
- b) Placing an advert on the staff room noticeboard and;
- c) Placing details of the vacancy on our website.

3.2 In addition to those activities the Federation can at its discretion place external adverts

for vacancies with appropriate national and local print and on-line media.

3.3 In selecting appropriate media the Federation may advertise in media accessed by groups who are under-represented in our workforce as a means of lawful positive action.

3.4 As set out in our **Teacher Pay policy** any vacant posts for classroom teachers will be advertised as being between the minimum of the Main Pay Range and the Maximum of the Upper Pay Range by reference to the values in Appendix I to the **Teacher Pay policy**.

3.5 As set out in our **Teacher Pay policy** the range for a Leadership role will be set by the Governing Body and will ordinarily be a 7 point range for Executive Co-Headteachers and Principal of Secondary phase and a 5 point range for other employees on the Leadership Pay Range. These ranges should be advertised.

3.6 For support staff the Federation should advertise the rate for the role as set out in the support staff pay scales adopted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

3.7 The Federation may not advertise that a role is reserved for any person with a protected characteristic under the **Equality Act 2010** unless prior approval for the text of the advert has been obtained from the Board of Education.

3.8 Every advert (whether internal or external) must include the following wording:

“As this role will involve contact with children we will endeavour to take up at least two references before interview asking about your suitability to work with children. Any job offer will be conditional on you having a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Criminal Records

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

Check and Barred List Check, having the legal right to work in the UK and having satisfactory overseas criminal records checks if deemed necessary.”

3.9 The Federation should ensure that either the advert links to a person specification (showing essential and desirable characteristics for the ideal candidate) and a job description of the role or that candidates who have expressed an interest in the role are sent copies of those documents.

4. APPLYING FOR THE JOB

4.1 All external candidates for jobs be required to complete SDBE application form or the TES teacher’s application form which will be available on our website. Internal candidates need to submit statement of interest.

4.2 We request the contact details of two referees from all external applicants their current or immediately previous employer and a second employer. If an applicant has not been employed, we will ask the applicant to provide contact details for an academic and a character referee.

4.3 We will not accept C.Vs.

5. SHORTLISTING

5.1 The Executive Co-Headteachers, Campus Leaders, School Business Manager, Facilities Manager, some Designated Safeguarding Leads, Safeguarding Governor and Co-Chairs of Governors must have completed training on safer recruitment within the last three years.

5.2 Anyone involved in shortlisting must withdraw from the process immediately if it becomes apparent that a Connected Person (as defined in our **Code of Conduct**) has applied for the role.

5.3 Once the deadline for applications for the following roles has passed the following people shall assess all the application forms

against the essential and desirable criteria in the Person Specification.

5.4 It is recommended that no more than 6 people on a shortlist. Only if there is one application may there be a shortlist of one.

5.5 The Shortlisters will agree the structure of the assessment process.

5.6 The Primary and other Shortlisters will be determined in accordance with Appendix I depending on the role.

6. CALLING THE CANDIDATES FOR ASSESSMENT

Each shortlisted candidate will be:

- (a) invited to the assessment process;
- (b) given an opportunity to visit the relevant school campus before the assessment; and
- (c) informed in general terms of the structure and timings of the assessment process.

7. TAKING UP REFERENCES PRE-ASSESSMENT

7.1 HR, after shortlisting, will write to the named referees of each shortlisted candidate asking them to complete a **pre-employment reference questionnaire**.

7.2 References must be obtained direct from the referee. We will not rely on references provided by candidates or an open reference (“to whom it may concern”), as there is no way of checking authenticity and accuracy per Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.

7.3 Information contained within a reference is highly confidential and will not be disclosed to any person not involved in the recruitment process. References for unsuccessful candidates will retained for **6 months** in the event of any legal challenged and will then destroyed.

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

- 7.4 We do not accept or request oral or telephone references.
- ### 8. GAP ANALYSIS
- 8.1 The Primary Shortlister must prior to the assessment day, analyse the education and employment history of each shortlisted candidate to identify if there are any periods of time where the candidate has not indicated what they were doing. This Gap Analysis may reveal periods where the candidate acted so as not to be suitable to work with children.
- 8.2 The Primary Shortlister should bring the Gap Analysis to the assessment and ensure that any gaps are satisfactorily explained which may involve making contact with named organisations to establish if the newly supplied information is accurate. For example this may involve writing to previous employers to confirm the dates of employment and the reason for leaving.
- 8.3 The Gap Analysis will also check that all questions asked have been answered and that any vacancies.
- ### 9. ASSESSING SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES
- 9.1 The assessment process will have been designed by the shortlisters. In addition to a final interview it may involve:
- (a) a lesson observation (which must be at least Good to allow the candidate to proceed further in the assessment process);
 - (b) feedback from pupils on the observed lesson;
 - (c) an in-tray exercise;
 - (d) a pupil data exercise;
 - (e) an interview by pupils, reporting back to the Primary Shortlister;
 - (f) a presentation;
 - (g) an interview with other relevant stakeholders;
 - (h) a specific interview about any issues raised by the Gap Analysis or response to our reference requests.
 - (i) a psychometric test; and
 - (j) a practical task related to the position.
- 9.2 In the final interview the Primary Shortlister must ensure that at least one question relating to child protection is asked, in accordance with the specialist safer recruitment training.
- 9.3 The **Assessment Panel** must comprise the Primary Shortlister and at least one other person who either was or could have been a shortlister for that role.
- ### 10. DECIDING TO APPOINT
- 10.1 It is our firm policy that it is better to have an ongoing vacancy than to appoint an unsuitable candidate. If the Assessment Panel is not unanimous in supporting an appointment then ordinarily there would be no appointment.
- 10.2 The Primary Shortlister should ensure that all the notes taken by the Assessment Panel are collected and retained on file for at least **12 months** in case of a legal challenge under the **Equality Act 2010** by a candidate not appointed.
- 10.3 References should be considered by the Assessment Panel.
- 10.4 The Assessment Panel must also agree the starting salary to be offered to the successful candidate. For classroom teachers this must follow Section 5 of our **Teacher Pay Policy**. For Leadership roles this must be within the advertised 5 point pay range

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

unless explicit written approval is obtained from the Governors Pay Committee.

11. OFFERING THE JOB

The successful candidate will be made a formal offer of employment in writing which must subject to receipt of a number of pre-employment checks, which must be deemed satisfactory before a Contract of Employment will be issued.

12. POST-OFFER/ PRE-CONTRACT CHECKS

The pre-employment checks are as follows:

- (a) at least two satisfactory confidential references (which ought to have been seen prior to the assessment process) and any further references sought following up on earlier references or the Gap Analysis;
- (b) verification of identity and qualifications;
- (c) an Enhanced DBS Criminal Records Check;
- (d) a DBS Barred List Check;
- (e) an Teacher Services' Check www.gov.uk/guidance/teacher-status-checks-information-for-employers for Teacher Prohibition Orders and Section 128 directions as well as QTS status and induction status;
- (f) any overseas criminal records checks if relevant;
- (g) verification of entitlement to work in the UK; and
- (h) a health check to ensure mental and physical fitness to work in a school setting.

13. REFERENCES

- 13.1 Applicants **cannot** start working for us unless their references have been checked and deemed satisfactory together with the other pre-employment checks.

- 13.2 Under the Data Protection Act 1998, employees are not entitled to view references given in confidence by their employer or former employer. A candidate could apply to us for a copy of the reference which we received. However, disclosure of the reference would entail disclosure of its author's identity. If any such request is received, we will seek permission from the current or former employer for the reference to be disclosed. If permission is refused, we will consider whether we should still disclose all or part of the reference under the 1998 Act (including redacting any opinions or the identity of the referee).

14. VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

- 14.1 It is our policy to verify the candidate's identity by checking and copying at least one form of visual identity, preferably their current passport.
- 14.2 It is our policy to ask to see originals of academic qualifications referred to in the application form.

15. ENHANCED DBS CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

- 15.1 It is our policy that an employee cannot commence work at all unless either
 - (a) a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Criminal Record Check has been received; or
 - (b) the employee has worked in the **three months** before their start date with us:
 - (i) in a school in England which brought them into close contact with children or
 - (ii) in a college in England in a position which involved the care of children or young people under the age of 18.

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

15.2 In the event that a check discloses a criminal record an offer to appoint can only be made with the express prior approval of the Executive Co-Headteachers or Co-Chairs of Governors.

16. DBS BARRED LIST CHECK

It is our policy that an employee cannot commence work at all unless a clean Barred List Check has been received. It is a criminal offence for us to employ someone we knew or have reason to believe to be barred from working with children.

17. TEACHERS SERVICES CHECK

17.1 It is our policy that a teacher, cover supervisor, teaching assistant cannot commence work at all unless a clean Teacher Services Check has been obtained. This check will reveal if the person has:

- (a) Qualified Teacher Status;
- (b) completed their induction;
- (c) failed their induction or probation period;
- (d) an active teaching restriction;
- (e) been the subject of an investigation by the National College leading to a decision by the Secretary of State not to impose of prohibition order;
- (f) been prohibited from teaching in England;
- (g) a suspension or conditional order imposed by the GTCE which is still current;
- (h) has been barred from the management of an independent school under section 128 of the Education Act 2002; and
- (i) had restriction imposed by another European Economic Area regulating authority for teachers.

17.2 If the teacher has worked in Scotland Wales or Northern Ireland the School must make

further checks with the GTCS, GTCW and GTCNI as appropriate. These checks must be satisfactory.

17.3 Even if the candidate does not have a Teacher Reference Number the search must be undertaken and appropriate entries made on the Single Central Record.

18. OVERSEAS CRIMINAL RECORDS

18.1 It is our policy that if there is evidence that a successful candidate has lived or worked in a jurisdiction outside the UK as an adult for more than **3 months** we will request that they:

- a) carry out their own overseas criminal records check in each such jurisdiction, providing the HR Manager with evidence of the result; and
- b) initiate further reference requests in relation to any employer identified at that time, as deemed necessary.

18.2 Details of how to make overseas applications are set out by the Home Office:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants

19. VERIFICATION OF LEGAL RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UK

19.1 The School is at risk of a fine of up to **£20,000** per person us to employ anyone who does not have the right to work in the UK. This can include students with expired visas, students working more hours than they are allowed to, people on just a visitor's visa.

19.2 The Home Office has issued several documents and codes of practice to employers which the Human Resources should familiarise themselves with:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/employers-illegal-working-penalties

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

19.3 This includes the list of acceptable documents which must be obtained, checked and copied **before they commence work for us**, a list of EEA countries and guidance on avoiding race discrimination claims in making these enquiries.

19.4 If a person cannot show valid documents we must contact the **Home Office's Employer Checking Service**.

20. SINGLE CENTRAL RECORD

20.1 For all employees we must keep a Single Central Record identifying the dates when the checks set out at Paragraphs 14 -19 above were completed and the DBS check certificate numbers.

20.2 The documents at Paragraphs 14-19 and 21 should be retained on the employee's personnel records.

20.3 The Single Central Record will also contain information relating to volunteers, governors and contractors as set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding policies.

21. HEALTH CHECK

21.1 We have an obligation to be satisfied that a prospective employee is medically fit for work in a school setting.

21.2 Because of this legal requirement we are entitled to ask questions in the application form and in the assessment process about a person's health and its impact on their ability to fulfil the role.

21.3 Prior to commencement of employment we will ask applicants complete a confidential medical questionnaire to be sent to their Occupational Health Adviser who will in turn report to the School whether the candidate is fit to undertake the role.

21.4 When assessing any response to questions from the candidate or the Occupational Health adviser we must consider the duty under the **Equality Act 2010** to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person with a disability.

22. ISSUING CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

The successful candidate will be sent a contract of employment which includes conditions relating to pre-employment checks.

23. INDUCTING NEW EMPLOYEES

The Federation must ensure the induction of its employees and in particular ensuring that each employee is aware of and understands the **School's Child Protection and Safeguarding policies** from the first day of employment.

24. EQUALITIES MONITORING

24.1 As a matter of policy we include an equal opportunities monitoring form as part of our application pack.

24.2 The application form does allow for candidates to indicate if there are reasonable adjustments that could help them participate in the assessment process.

STAFF RECRUITMENT POLICY

Appendix I – Shortlisters/Assessment Panel

| <i>Advertised Role</i> | <i>Primary Shortlisters</i> | <i>At least two Shortlisters from:</i> |
|--|---|--|
| Teaching Staff | Headteacher, Principal, Vice Principal, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Principal | Governor, Leadership Team member |
| Support Staff | Relevant Senior Leader e.g. Inclusion Lead, Leadership Team Member, Business Manager | Business Manager, Facilities Manager, Governor, Leadership Team member |
| Leadership Team (other than Ex Co-Headteachers) & Business Manager | Headteacher/Principal and Executive Co-Headteachers | Headteacher/Principal and Executive Co-Headteachers, Co-Chairs or Vice Co-Chairs of Governors, Other Non-Staff Governors |
| Executive Co-Headteachers | Co-Chair of Governors | Other Non-Staff Governors, Board Of Education officers, Royal Borough of Greenwich representative. |