



**SEDBERGH SCHOOL
AND
CASTERTON, SEDBERGH PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Recruitment & Selection Policy	
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Policy Owner	Bursar
Governor	Safeguarding Governors
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Safeguarding Statement

Sedbergh School is committed to safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all Staff and Volunteers to share this commitment by complying with the School's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy & Staff Code of Conduct at all times.

References

ISI Handbook for the Inspection of Schools – The Regulatory Requirements April 2016

DfE Statutory Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', September 2016

Sedbergh School Safeguarding Policy 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

We aim to achieve this commitment through effective recruitment and retention of competent, motivated staff members who are suited to, and effective in their roles.

Scope of this Policy

The Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedure herewith refers and applies to staff directly recruited and employed by the School. In the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014, staff are defined as:

“Any person working at the School whether under a contract of employment, under contract for services or otherwise than under a contract, but does not include supply staff or a volunteer.”

In the case of agency or contract workers, the School shall obtain written confirmation from the agency or company that it has carried out the appropriate checks. The School conducts identity checks on agency and contract workers on arrival in school and, in case of agency workers, the School must be provided with a copy of the DBS check for such staff.

Any staff who TUPE transfer into the School’s staff, will be required to undertake the statutory requirements with regard to safer recruitment checks.

This policy applies to all sections of the School. Its purpose is to ensure the practice of safe recruitment of staff appointed to Sedbergh by:

1. attracting the best possible applicants to vacancies;
2. deterring prospective applicants unsuitable for work with children;
3. identifying and rejecting applicants unsuitable for work with children.

The recruitment and selection process will identify the person best suited to the job based on the applicant’s abilities, qualifications, experience and merit, measured against the job description and person specification.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to:

1. Ensure the School has effective policies and procedures in place for recruitment of all staff, contractors, volunteers and agency workers in accordance with legal requirements and ISI guidance.
2. Monitor the School’s compliance with them.

It is the responsibility of the Headmaster, Bursar, HR Manager and other Managers involved in recruitment to:

1. Ensure that the School operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff, contractors who work at the School, agency workers and volunteers before the work or volunteering commences.
2. To monitor contractors’ and agencies’ compliance with this document.
3. Promote the welfare of children and young people at every stage of the procedure.

All line managers should be aware that:

1. Satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosures must be received for all new staff.
2. The Headmaster, Bursar, Second Master or HR Manager may authorise a new member of staff to start work prior to receipt of a satisfactory DBS disclosure providing that:
 - a) the Enhanced DBS disclosure has been applied for before the start date;
 - b) a satisfactory separate Barred List check has been completed;
 - c) all other checks (including references) have been completed;
 - d) and a written risk assessment has been conducted, with satisfactory measures put in place to supervise the new member of staff. This risk assessment must be reviewed fortnightly until the satisfactory DBS disclosure is received.

The following procedures and practices are in place to ensure the safe recruitment of staff:

Stage 1: Advertising & Process of recruiting

Advertising

To ensure equality of opportunity, the School will generally advertise vacant posts to encourage as wide a field of applicants as possible. Normally this entails internal and external advertisement in relevant publications or websites, including the School's own website. Any advertisement will include a clear statement of the School's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at Sedbergh School & Casterton Sedbergh Prep School.

If appropriate, teaching vacancies may be advertised directly with an agreed list of ITT providers or university departments.

Job Description

The job description outlines the general nature of the post including the main duties and responsibilities and it will identify the Line Manager for the post. It also incorporates the person specification (qualifications, attributes and skills required) and it is these criteria that are used as short-listing criteria by those scrutinizing the applications.

Other information included is a description of the School and/or department; background information to the post; further details such as closing date, salary, accommodation etc.

Application Pack

Prospective applicants are supplied with:

- an acknowledging covering email or letter, explain the process;
- a School Application Form;
- the Job Description.

Sedbergh uses its own School Application Form. All applicants for employment are required to complete this form before their application can be considered. This form contains questions about their academic achievements and full employment history. All applicants are required to account for any gaps or discrepancies in employment history and provide reasons for

moving between posts. Please note any CVs, without an application form, will not be accepted.

The application form includes the applicant's declaration regarding convictions and working with children, and will make it clear that the post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants will be made 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 (e.g. National College for Teaching and Leadership; Disclosure and Barring Service).

The application form should be accompanied by a covering letter, when requested, outlining the applicant's suitability for the role.

Stage 2: Received applications and the short-listing process

Handling Applications & Initial Enquiries

Submitted applications receive an acknowledgement of application letter or email from the HR department or the Headmaster's office.

All applications are initially scrutinised by a member of staff who has completed safer recruitment training. Any applicant who has not completed the School's application form **in full** will be asked to do so if they wish to have their application considered further.

It is not the School's usual policy to allow **individual visits from prospective applicants** prior to short-listing or interview. In some instances, all candidates may be offered the opportunity to visit as part of the short-listing process.

Scrutinizing the applications

All those involved in the short-listing process have a responsibility to scrutinise the application forms and letters of application carefully. In addition to judging the application against the criteria for the post, anyone noticing an anomaly should make a written note to that effect.

The HR department will be responsible for collating a list of all applications as they arrive.

The HR department will have specific responsibility for ensuring that a thorough scrutiny of the application has taken place as safer recruitment guidelines, using the checklist for scrutinizing application forms, prior to the interview. This should include a month-by-month record of employment since leaving School to the present date. Any gaps should be noted and followed up either immediately before or at interview. This scrutiny will form part of the specific questions regarding safeguarding during the formal interview process.

Stage 3: References

References

References of applicants who meet the short-listing criteria will be taken up, where possible, before interview. Referees are sent the following:

- (a) Standard Letter or email
- (b) a copy of the Job Description and
- (c) School standard reference template, which should be completed in addition to any written reference provided.

Referees must include the **most recent employer** and the **most recent employer who has known the candidate working with children if relevant**. Open references or references that are solely character references from close family members or friends are **not acceptable**.

Where a reference appears inadequate or incomplete; invites further contact; or contains conflicting information contact should be made by a designated member of staff by telephone, to probe further.

*The referee's copy of the job description should not include the salary details where a precise figure or hourly rate is included (which is often the case in teaching support posts).

Short-Listing

Following the closing date a panel will independently scrutinise applications further using a Selection Matrix **when necessary** (a simple format, cross-referencing candidates against the criteria in the Job Description and the Person Specification).

In addition to judging the **Letter of application and Application Form** against the criteria for the post, anyone noticing an anomaly in the information provided will make a written note to that effect to be followed up at interview if applicable.

The final short-list will be drawn up by the panel at a short-listing meeting. In the case of a teaching vacancy this meeting will normally be chaired by the Headmaster, Second Master or Manager of the relevant Department. In the case of support staff it will be the Head of the Department and the HR Manager.

The short-listing meeting normally takes place within 5 days of the closing deadline. All those involved in the interview process should attend this meeting. Those unable to do so should send written recommendations to this meeting on the Selection Matrix.

Stage 4: Interview Process

Interview Arrangements & Invitations to Interview

All short-listed candidates are contacted by telephone or email to invite them to attend an interview and to ensure their availability. This will be completed by the HR Administrator. If the position is for a Teacher the interview schedule will be arranged by the Headmasters' PA and the information will then be forwarded to applicants by the HR Administrator.

The information Pack to contain:

- (d) The Interview Programme, including lesson background information sheet for Academic and a test maybe required related to role for any support staff;
- (e) School map;
- (f) Interview email or letter, detailing identification paperwork required, qualification certificates that should be provided on the day of interview.

Teaching candidates are very often invited to arrive the evening before. (This gives the opportunity to visit the School/department, see the room in which they will teach and to visit a boarding house to gain an impression of evening routine and what house tutoring duties involved).

Teaching candidates are offered overnight accommodation and asked to contact the Headmaster's PA regarding all arrangements, including any special dietary requests or assistance with travel arrangements. They will make bookings and arrange collection from the railways stations as appropriate.

If tour guides are required they will be arranged via the Headmaster's PA. Guides are usually senior pupils who study the relevant subject or may be a member of staff.

Teaching a lesson is an essential aspect of the process for making a teaching appointment. Information will be supplied to the Teacher ahead of the interview day providing the context and content of the lesson to be taught. It is completed by the Head of Department. They will also make direct contact with candidates to enable them to ask any further questions about this aspect of the interview process.

The School does not generally offer **telephone interviews**, although Skype may be appropriate in exceptional circumstances for example if the applicant is abroad.

Interview Programme

The interview process will explore the applicant's ability to carry out the job description and meet the person specification.

The programme normally includes:

- Tour of the Department that the individual is going to work within;
- Lesson (for teaching posts) (usually observed by a Head of Department) as appropriate);
- Admin staff a test relevant to post;
- Coffee and/or Lunch with staff members of the department/associated departments.

Each interview process must include **at least one person** who has successfully undergone **Safer Recruitment training** (e.g. the Chair of Governors; the Headmaster; the Bursar; the Second Master the HR Manager; or the HR Administrator).

Core questions to be asked of all candidates will be agreed by all interviewers prior to interview, as well as any specific questions relating to an individual's application.

During the interview

Candidates will always be required to:

- (a) Explain satisfactorily any gaps in employment or significant periods of time working or living abroad;
- (b) Explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to the interviewers;
- (c) Declare any information that is likely to appear on an Enhanced Disclosure;
- (d) Demonstrate their capacity to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

Notes are taken of responses and of any questions asked by the interviewee.

During the interview process relevant qualifications etc. will be scrutinised and checked by the Head of Section. Copies taken will be dated & initialled to show that originals have been seen.

Any information in regard to past disciplinary action or allegations, cautions or convictions will be discussed and considered in the circumstances of the individual case during the interview process.

Interview Expenses

Where relevant reasonable **travel expenses** for travel by car or by second class train journey are paid to applicants. Candidates provided with expense claim forms to complete should return them, with receipts to the Bursary for payment. All candidates are asked to detail the position that they had applied for accounting purposes.

Stage 5: Candidate selection

Final Selection Meeting

This is held as soon as possible after the interview candidates have departed. This meeting involves all those involved in the selection/interview process. A record of decision making to appoint an individual ahead of others must be noted, to ensure that there is a record to provide clear honest feedback to the unsuccessful candidate if required.

Interviewers bring any notes they have made with them (including lesson observations if applicable); these are collected and put with the application file at the end of the process. All notes are stored for a minimum of 6 months. Notes regarding the successful candidate are transferred to their personnel file.

Contacting Referees by Telephone

If there are any queries around information provided on a reference a verbal contact must be gained from the referee, ensuring that we are speaking directly with the referee, question the areas on the reference that require further clarification and evaluate the response.

Accurate notes of the telephone call should be made (the written references should be annotated, dated and initialled).

Communicating the Outcome

The Headmaster, Second Master, Bursar, HR Manager or Support Staff Head of Department telephones the successful candidate ASAP.

If verbal acceptance is received, the letter of appointment together with the contract of employment is drafted by the HR department. The Headmaster or Bursar approves and signs the letter.

The verbal and written email offers must state that it is a provisional offer, subject to the receipt of two satisfactory references (if both references not received prior to interview), and checks including a DBS Enhanced Disclosure, verification of identity, proof of right to work in the UK, original copies of any qualifications having been seen and confirmation of medical fitness for the post and prohibition form teaching (if teaching, coaching or instructing post) or Prohibition form management or leadership (if Head, member of SLT or Head of Department). When the written acceptance letter is received, regrets to non-shortlisted applicants will be sent by the HR department.

If the successful candidate declines the offer of the post, the selection committee reconvenes.

Unsuccessful short listed candidates are contacted by telephone or in writing by the Headmaster, HR Manager or a senior member of staff as appropriate.

Stage 6: New employee administration and induction

A personal HR File checklist will be used to track and audit paperwork obtained in accordance with Safer Recruitment guidelines. This checklist will be retained on personal files.

Pre-employment Vetting Checks and Commencing Employment

A new appointee should not commence employment until all criteria have been met. The process of checking qualifications, verifying identity and prohibitions, suitability of a newly appointed member of staff must be logged carefully on the Single Central Register.

Vetting checks will be determined by whether an individual will be involved in regulated activity. This will be based on the Flowchart from KCSIE (see Appendix B); and ISI guidance contained in Part 4 of the Integrated Handbook – Regulatory Requirements (January 2017).

The Single Central Register

In addition to the various staff records kept in School and on individual personnel files, a Single Centralised Record of recruitment and vetting checks is kept in accordance with DfE requirements. This is kept up-to-date by the HR Department.

The Single Central Register contains details of the following:

- (a) All employees who are employed to work at the School;
- (b) All employees who are employed as supply staff to the School whether employed directly or through an agency;

- (c) All others who have been chosen by the School to have regular contact with children. This will cover Volunteers, Governors, Peripatetic staff and people brought into the School to provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not staff members e.g. sports coaches etc.

Vetting Checks

Identity Checks and Right to Work:

All applicants invited to attend an interview at the School will be required to bring their identification documentation such as: passport; birth certificate, driving licence etc. with them as proof of identity/eligibility to work in the UK in accordance with those set out in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and the DBS Code of Practice Regulations. Copies of these original documents should be taken, dated and signed to verify that the originals have been seen and these should be retained on personnel files.

DBS:

All employees of the School are in regulated activity and therefore the Enhanced DBS Disclosure, including Barred List check will be required.

If the candidate does not have a DBS in place at their current employment that can be used (three month rule), the HR department writes directly to the successful candidate regarding arrangements for an **Enhanced Disclosure** application from the Disclosure and Barring Service. This is before any start date, and as soon as practicable after an appointment, but no earlier than 3 months before employment commences.

No staff undertaking boarding duties should commence work or take up residence in boarding accommodation until the Enhanced DBS Disclosure has been received and cleared.

It is the School's policy to re-check employee's DBS certificates for any employee who takes leave for more than three months (eg career breaks etc.) must be re-checked before they return back to work. Parallel entries of subsequent DBS checks will be recorded on the Single Central Register.

Members of staff at Sedbergh School are aware of their obligation to inform the Headmaster or Second Master, Bursar or HR Manager of any cautions or convictions that arise between these checks taking place.

Barred List:

A separate barred list check must be undertaken in the event that an enhanced disclosure is not received in advance of a member of staff starting work in regulatory activity **or** where a 'portable' disclosure is used. It is illegal for Schools to employ anyone who is on the barred list.

Medical Fitness:

There are certain questions the School may ask at an interview stage to determine whether applicants can undertake a function which is intrinsic to the job.

Anyone appointed to a post involving regular contact with children must possess the appropriate level of physical and mental fitness before any appointment offer is confirmed. All successful applicants are requested to complete a confidential Medical Questionnaire and where appropriate a doctor's medical report may be required.

All teachers and managers* (including SMT, Heads of Department and Senior House Staff) will be checked against the DfE Employer Online service for the following:

- (a) Those that have been prohibited from teaching, including (if applicable) EEA checks
- (b) Those that have failed to successfully complete their induction or probation period
- (c) Those that may be the subject of a suspension or conditional order imposed by the General Teaching Council for England (prior to abolition) that is still current
- (d) Those that have been prohibited from management*

A Prohibition Order aims to protect pupils and to maintain public confidence in the profession.

Qualifications:

If necessary, new employees will be asked to bring in original documents or certificates of relevant registration, training or qualifications so that copies can be lodged on their personnel file.

Disqualification:

Under the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 staff can be disqualified, including by association, from working in or being concerned in the management of childcare. Any employee likely to fall into this category completes a declaration form and is asked to keep the School informed of any changes in their personal circumstances. Annual written reminders of this requirement are sent.

Additional checks on those who have lived abroad:

The application for an Enhanced DBS check may be submitted whilst an applicant is overseas so long as identity documents have been checked from a reliable source.

If the applicant has lived abroad for more than three months in the last five years they will be required to provide the School with evidence, such as an official certificate of good conduct, or police or criminal record check from their country of origin. Extra references may also be required.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Disclosure

The School is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all convictions, cautions and bind-overs, including those considered as 'spent', must be declared. If an applicant has a criminal record this will not automatically debar them from employment. Each case will be assessed fairly by reference to the School's objective assessment procedure.

Any employee who is convicted of, or cautioned for, any offence during their employment with the School must immediately notify in writing the Headmaster, Bursar or HR Manager of the offence and penalty.

Induction

All staff new to Sedbergh will be required to undertake induction training. This will include:

- (a) Induction meeting and briefing with their Line Manager and/or HR Department;
- (b) Safeguarding training;
- (c) Provision of key safeguarding policies: KCSIE (September 2016); the Safeguarding Policy; the Staff Code of Conduct; Equal Opportunities Policy; and the Whistleblowing Policy ;
- (d) Health & Safety Training;
- (e) Completion of a written induction checklist(s) for each role they take at School.

Other:

Record Retention/Data Protection

Sedbergh School will retain all interview notes on all applicants for a period of 6 months after which time the notes will be destroyed (i.e. shredded). The 6 month retention period is in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will also allow the School to deal with any data access requests, recruitment complaints or to respond to any complaints made to an Employment Tribunal.

All information retained on employees is kept in either the Headmaster's Office or in the Bursary in a locked and secure cabinet.

The Goddard inquiry into historical abuse has directed that records should be retained for the duration of this inquiry.

Ongoing Employment

Sedbergh School recognises that safer recruitment and selection is not just about the start of employment, but should be part of a larger policy framework for all staff. The School will therefore provide ongoing training and support for all staff, as identified through the annual review/appraisal procedure.

Monitoring

The Bursar and HR Manager are responsible for ensuring that this policy is monitored and evaluated throughout the School.

The Bursar & the HR Manager have the responsibility for monitoring this policy and the Single Central Register.

Leaving Employment

All staff leaving Sedbergh's employment will be invited to attend an Exit Interview at which time an Exit questionnaire will be completed by the employee and Line Manager. This will be forwarded to the HR Manager for retention monitoring purposes and also to be included the individual's personnel file.

Use of Contractors

Contractors that are used within the Schools should comply with the Schools safeguarding and safer recruitment regulations. The identity of contractors will be checked on arrival by the head of department that they will be working in, they will also require a risk assessment.

Employees of contractors who work at School on a long-term basis will be subject to the same checks as School employees.

Supply Staff/Agency Workers

The School does not in general use the services of supply agencies. Should it do so, the School would request written confirmation from the Supply Agency that it has satisfactorily completed all relevant checks for that post, including an Enhanced DBS disclosure, and confirming whether the DBS discloses any information and that it is not more than 3 months old (or 3 years old if they have been in continuous employment with that same agency).

The agency and worker must provide to the School the following documents ahead of commencement:

- (a) Supply agency letter confirming that all relevant recruitment paperwork is in place;
- (b) Copy of the DBS certificate;
- (c) Photographic identification.

A record of the checks for Supply Staff will be included in the Single Central Register. Access to the check is only required where there is information contained in the Enhanced DBS Disclosure. Any such information would be treated as confidential and a documented risk assessment conducted.

Identity checks will be carried out by Sedbergh School to confirm that an individual arriving at the School is the individual whom the agency has referred and that any notes provided on the DBS of previous cautions or convictions noted are acceptable for the individual to be working within the School, this decision will be taken by the Headmaster or Bursar.

Volunteers

Volunteers who are working within the School, must do so on firstly gaining the authorisation of the Headmaster, Bursar or Second Master on the Volunteer Form, available from the HR Office. Volunteers are supervised and assessed to see whether they will be in regulated activity, if they are they will be asked to complete identity checks, a reduced application form, and an enhanced disclosure from the DBS will be applied for. They will also be asked for references and will require an informal interview. Where checks are carried out these will be recorded on the Single Central Register.

One off' volunteers for day outings, School concerts etc. do not require vetting checks but must never be left unsupervised or undertake personal care and must be risk assessed.

Regular volunteers receive a letter of agreement confirming that they will not be asked to take sole responsibility for any individual pupils, or groups and that they should always expect to have the support of a member of staff and work under their supervision, support and

guidance. This member of staff is identified in this letter. (For further details about supervision see Annex D of KCSIE).

All volunteers are asked to read the Staff Code of Conduct, the Safeguarding Policy and KCSIE and to acknowledge in writing that they have understood these and have no further questions.

Visiting Speakers

As visiting speakers are not left alone with pupils they are not subject to safe recruitment vetting checks; however, under the scope of the Prevent duty it is the School's responsibility to ensure that visiting speakers are suitable and that they are appropriately supervised. Invitations to guest speakers must be agreed with a member of the Senior Management team before the invitation is confirmed.

Visiting Professionals

The identity of visiting professionals should be checked on arrival. These include healthcare professionals, CCF instructors, referees, student teachers etc. Appropriate checks should have been carried out by their employing organization and confirmed to the School in letter form.

Governors

Will be subject to the following checks: an Enhanced DBS check; Barred List (only if engaging in regulated activity); ID checks; overseas checks (if applicable); Prohibition from Management (for appointments from 12 August 2015; and Right to Work. Disqualification checks would also be undertaken if they volunteer to work in relevant childcare on a regular basis or if they were to be directly involved in the day-to-day management of such provision.

Reviewed by: Debbie A Corney, HR Manager

Updated: October 2016

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Next review date: May 2018

Safeguarding Policy

Staff code of conduct

Guidance

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE): statutory guidance for Schools and colleges (September 2016)

Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

Equality Act 2010