

Bowden House School

Safer Recruitment Selection Policy and Procedure

Bowden House School and its Governing Body are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and requires all staff to demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.

The school is committed to attracting, selecting and retaining employees who will successfully and positively contribute to providing high quality education and care for its students. A motivated and committed workforce with appropriate knowledge, skills, experience and ability is critical to the school's performance and fundamental in improving the outcomes and life chances of the students of our school

The school's selection and recruitment policies, practices and procedures comply with all relevant, statutory guidance on safer recruitment and act in accordance with the provisions of Part Three of the DfE Guidance on 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016' specifically the guidance for all staff considered to be in 'regulated activity' in the school and Working Together to Safeguard Children, March 2015 to minimise the risk of unsuitable persons being employed in this school. **Further Guidance relevant to Bowden House School includes Standard 14.1 (NMS April 2015 and School Staffing Regulations 2009 Statutory Guidance).**

The Governing Body will ensure that people are treated solely on the basis of their abilities and potential, regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religious or political belief or affiliation, trade union membership, age, gender reassignment, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic background or any other distinction.

The school complies with the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016, Part 3 with regard to Enhanced DBS and other pre-employment checks and this Policy should be read in conjunction with this Guidance.

The intention of this Policy is to ensure that all stages of the recruitment process contain measures to deter, identify, prevent and reject unsuitable applicants from gaining access to the students in our school. The Policy and implementation of the recruitment process aims to meet all legislative requirements detailed in paragraph 3 above.

Delegation of Appointments and Constitution of Appointment Panels

The Governing Body and all staff working in the school are committed to ensuring that the selection and recruitment of all candidates is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient and effective and promotes equality of opportunity. All those responsible for each stage of the selection and

recruitment process will be expected to adhere to this Policy and the Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016; seek to secure an on-going safe and secure environment for the students in this school and demonstrate a professional approach with all internal and external candidates. The ultimate responsibility for selection and recruitment lies with the school's Governing Body but it has delegated responsibility to the Headteacher for appointments other than those to the Senior Leadership Team.

The Governing Body delegates the power to offer employment for all posts below the level of Deputy Headteacher to the Headteacher. The Headteacher may not delegate the offer of employment to any other Senior Manager or Governor.

In accordance with the statutory requirement, every Selection Panel will have at least one member of staff or a Governor who has undertaken Safer Recruitment Training.

Advertising Vacancies

All advertisements will include a Safeguarding Statement:

"The school is committed to the Safeguarding and Protection of Children. We appoint staff in positions of trust and it is our duty under the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016' to ensure they are fit to work with vulnerable children and young people. References and an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check against the Teacher Services system as well as the PoCAL (Protection of Children Act List) that are satisfactory to us, will be a condition of appointment".

The school is responsible for the placing of advertisements with the exception of the Headteacher's post which is undertaken by the LA (the London Borough of Tower Hamlets). Vacancies are advertised using the media relevant to each position – the vacancies board in the school for internal and external posts; the school's web-site in addition to the TES for Teaching posts; the East Sussex website for Care posts and the FridayAd for Domestic posts.

Advertisements contain information concerning Bowden House School; an outline of the duties involved; salary guidance; qualifications required (if any) and an invitation to request an information pack and application form.

Advertisements for vacancies do not contain age or gender related criteria. However, an age restriction may be applied in certain posts due to the nature of the school. Certain posts are exempt from the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7(2)(E).

Application Pack

Upon request, candidates will be sent the following:

A covering letter which includes:

- a description of the school and how it meets the needs of its students
- reference to the school's Induction & CPD programmes
- the closing date for the receipt of applications

Attachments to the letter comprise of the following:

- a copy of the advertisement
- a copy of the latest Ofsted Inspection report(s)
- the Job Description setting out the nature and identifying the duties of the work which an employee is expected to perform and specifying the scope of that role
- Person Specification – which gives an indication of qualifications; type, length and range of experience; skills and abilities which are considered to be essential and/or desirable to the post and assist the applicant in deciding whether they meet the job requirements. The Safeguarding Statement is quoted again at the end of the Person Specification as a continued reminder of the school's diligent recruitment process and robust measures to deter unsuitable applicants
- an application form which includes the Safeguarding Statement detailed in the advertisement and a statement that canvassing any member of staff; the Governing Body or a member of the local authority, directly or indirectly, is prohibited and will be considered a disqualification
- the salary scale of the post as quoted in the advertisement and the Job Description
- Safeguarding & the Protection of Children Policy
- Safer Recruitment Selection Policy and Procedure
- Statement of Purpose
- Equality Statement
- Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders
- A DBS declaration form.

Recruitment and Selection will be as robust and as thorough as possible to protect the vulnerable students of Bowden House School. The following checks will be made on all potential employees:

- verification of the candidate's identity/entitlement to live and work in the U.K in line with the requirements of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 – National Insurance Number, passport, birth certificate, visa status, etc. and dates of any official Home Office letters (if applicable). There should be 2 forms of both photo and address identification
- receipt of a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check; the mandatory check of List 99 to verify current and previous names, e.g. maiden name or change of name document
- provision by overseas candidates or anyone who has worked overseas in the last 2 years of an Overseas Police Check (Certificate of Good Conduct)
- all applicants are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore will be required to declare spent and unspent convictions

- candidates should account for any gaps or discrepancies in employment history. A written record by the school with explanations of any gaps in employment will be sought and have to be considered satisfactory by the school
- details of at least three written references which must include the most recent employer, with a reference request letter that specifically asks all referees to state any known reason why the person should not be employed to work with children
- direct contact by the school with each referee to verify the reference
- verification of proof of relevant qualifications – only original or certified documents will be accepted

Selection for Interview

Candidates are selected for interview following a short-listing process by members of the Governing Body and/or the Senior Leadership Team of the school.

Bowden House School is committed to ensuring people who have been convicted of a criminal offence are treated fairly and given every opportunity to establish their suitability for positions. Having a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to an interview or obtaining a position.

Short-listed applicants will be sent a written invitation to attend an interview.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Applicants not selected for interview will be informed by letter. Bowden House School undertakes to offer an explanation to unsuccessful applicants upon request.

Interview Procedure

There are set questions/tasks for each job role which are reviewed regularly and set by the Governors and/or SLT of the school and circulated to the interviewing panel in addition to other exercises/presentations dependent upon the job role. The interview Panel will have the following documents to assist with the process:

- Interview Questions/score sheet
- An example of a standard rota/details of sleep-ins, etc for care staff
- Salary Scales applicable to the post
- Groupwork/scenarios and set questions, if applicable
- Job Description/Person Specification
- Relevant Job Advert

The interview questions; written and group scenarios (where applicable) are designed to assess the merits of each candidate against the requirements of the job and to explore their suitability to work with children and young people. The same areas of questioning will be covered for each applicant and no questions which would discriminate directly or indirectly on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, will be asked.

All the main terms and conditions of employment including whether the post is to be full or part-time; permanent/temporary or fixed term; salary and proposed start date are to be made clear to all candidates. All candidates are required to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to Safeguarding and the Protection of Children.

When the interviews have taken place, the interviewers will assess the candidates based upon:

- the Application Form
- the responses to the questions/scenarios/tasks, etc
- the knowledge, skills and experience they can offer
- the relevant qualifications (if required)
- the completed interview score sheet demonstrating the candidate's ability to meet the criteria and details of whether or not a position is to be offered.

The recruitment documentation will be retained for 6 months from the date of interview. Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 applicants have the right to request access to notes written about them during the recruitment process. After 6 months, all information about unsuccessful candidates will be securely destroyed.

Successful Candidates

The offer of employment by the Selection Panel and acceptance by the candidate is binding on both parties subject to verification of the right to work in the UK; qualifications requirements, satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure; teacher prohibition and barred list checks; pre-employment medical screening (if appropriate) and satisfactory written and verified references.

The successful candidate will be contacted by telephone followed by a Formal Offer Letter outlining the main terms and conditions of employment and informed that the appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of these checks. A copy of the Offer Letter is also enclosed with a request to sign the letter as acceptance of the appointment and returned to the school.

Also included in the Offer Letter are the following documents/instructions:

- an Occupational Health Medical Questionnaire (on-line)
- an opt in/- opt out Pension Form
- bank details form
- Enhanced DBS Application Form (on-line)

Completed forms/on-line documents, should be returned to the school or in the case of Headteacher appointments, the Local Authority.

Pre-appointment Checklist is completed prior to the formal processes by the School's Personnel Provider and the LA and before a start date can be offered.

At this stage of the recruitment process, all successful candidates, if applicable, will be asked to provide evidence of their entitlement to work in the United Kingdom.

All offers of employment are made subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and Enhanced DBS checks as detailed in Part 3 of the DfE Guidance on 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016'. **'Employment at the school will not commence until satisfactory references have been received and verified and the employee's original Enhanced DBS declaration form has been seen by the school and a copy taken for the employee's personal file. In the event that an employee has an Enhanced DBS declaration form from a previous post which is no more than 12 months old, they may commence employment providing the school complies with the DBS Guidance on Assessing Risk and in line with the DBS up-date service (Paragraph 68 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016'.**

Upon receipt of the copy of the signed Offer Letter, all relevant documentation is forwarded to the School's Personnel Provider who will issue a formal contract. A start date of employment will not be offered until all the conditions under the Offer Letter have been fulfilled. Completed DBS applications are forwarded to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for processing.

Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by telephone followed by a formal letter informing them of the decision and thanking them for the interest they have shown. Bowden House School undertakes to offer feedback to unsuccessful applicants, if requested.

Reference Requests

Upon receipt of the copy of the signed Offer Letter each potential employee's references will be taken up using a standard format letter. Before employment can commence, Bowden House School or the LA must be in receipt of three satisfactory references.

The school or the LA will follow-up all written references with telephone calls to verify authenticity.

Reference requests will ask the referee to confirm:

- the referee's relationship with the candidate
- details of the applicant's current post
- performance history and conduct
- any disciplinary action involving the safety and welfare of children including any in which the sanction has expired
- details of any substantiated allegations or concerns relating to the safety and welfare of children

- whether the referee has any reservations as to the candidate's suitability to work with children. If so, the school will ask for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes the candidate may be unsuitable to work with children.

References are the "property" of the Selection Panel and strict confidentiality will be observed. Employer testimonials or 'bearer references', i.e. those provided by the candidate 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 candidate has applied. The Selection Panel will not accept references from relatives for any post. References will be verified and any discrepancies will be discussed with the candidate at interview.

Personnel File and Single Central Record

In compliance with DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016', Bowden House School maintains a Single Central Record with name, address, date of birth, start dates, post and DBS/List 99/Overseas Certificate details, clearance/renewal date; disclosure number and in the case of teaching staff, a DfE number. The school complies with the requirement that Enhanced DBS checks are repeated every 3 years. The recruitment and selection information for the successful candidate will be retained securely and confidentially for the duration of his/her employment with the school including;

- application form – signed by the applicant
- interview notes – including explanation of any gaps in employment history
- references
- proof of identity
- proof of right to work in the UK
- proof of relevant academic qualifications
- Certificate of Good Conduct (where applicable)
- evidence of medical clearance from the Occupational Health Service (where applicable)
- evidence of Enhanced DBS clearance
- offer of employment letter and signed contract of employment.

Start of Employment and Induction

The pre-employment checks must be completed before the employee starts work.

All newly appointed staff will attend an Induction Programme which will cover all relevant matters of school policy/procedure but in particular Safeguarding Awareness and promoting the welfare of the students of Bowden House School. All staff will be expected to complete a 'Confidentiality Agreement'; a 'Code of Conduct' and 'Acceptable Use Agreement' during their Induction session and will receive guidance about safe working practices. Arrangements will be made for them to attend a range of statutory training courses including Safeguarding/Child Protection; First Aid and Positive Handling

(Team-Teach). In compliance with Standard 19.3 of the Residential Special Schools, National Minimum Standards, 2015 **'A school ensures that new staff undertake an Induction Programme designed and delivered to enable them to meet the range of needs of children at the school and fully equip them to identify and safely manage safeguarding issues. The programme should begin within 7 working days of starting their employment and be completed within 6 months'**.

Bowden House School complies with the statutory guidance that requires all its Governors to hold an Enhanced DBS certificate. The school will process the applications on behalf of the Governors.

This Safer Recruitment Selection Policy and Procedure contributes to the school's Safeguarding Policies which are located within the school and on the school's network.

Amended October 2013

Amended April 2014

November 2014

Up-dated April 2015

Up-dated September 2015

Up-dated July 2016

Up-dated April 2018

School: Bowden House

Policy: Safer Recruitment Selection Policy
& Procedure

Agreed: Autumn Term 2014
Amended Autumn Term 2015
Amended Autumn Term 2016
Amended Spring Term 2018

Responsibility: Governors

Review Date: Autumn Term 2020

Signed by: _____
Chair of Governors

Date _____