



Safer Recruitment Policy

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Role	Name	Signature	Date
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Safer Recruitment Policy

Statement of intent

This policy is designed to assist with recruitment and selection at Discovery Education. It outlines our recruitment procedure and is in-line with our statutory guidance on safeguarding.

Through this policy Discovery Education aims to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures to ensure a more robust safeguarding culture at our company.

1. Roles and responsibilities:

- 1.1. The company directors are responsible for ensuring there are effective policies and procedures in place to ensure recruitment at is in-line with legal requirements.

At Discovery Education we strive to ensure that staff recruitment is safe, fair and alongside legal and statutory compliance.

- 1.2. The directors will ensure that staff recruitment is safe, fair and compliant. The directors will also ensure appropriate checks have been carried out on staff, volunteers, contractors and agencies working within the company.

The directors are also responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision of employees/volunteers is organised, where necessary, and for promoting the safety and wellbeing of students and customers generally and throughout this process.

2. Inviting applications – advertisements

- 2.1. Vacancies will be advertised through external media, keeping in mind the company's Equal Opportunities Policy and the need to reach disadvantaged groups. A

commitment to equal rights will be stated in advertisements.

- 2.2. Advertisements will include a job description, outline the person specifications potential candidates should display, and detail the closing date.
- 2.3. Recruitment will not be through 'word of mouth' and advertisement will aim to reach as broad an audience as possible (i.e. local advertising may not be appropriate).
- 2.4. The contact point for telephone or email enquiries will be clearly outlined and it is advisable that application forms are accessible both on the school's website, as well as being sent out to applicants.

3. Information for candidates

- 3.1. Information for candidates will generally be provided in the form of an information pack. This will include:
 - A copy of the advertisement.
 - A comprehensive job description.
 - A comprehensive person specification.
 - Equal rights material.
 - A brief outline of the company, its values and aims.
 - An application form – to assist with fair comparisons between applicants. This will also include a section for references to be recorded, one of which should be the candidate's most recent employer.

4. Identification of the recruitment panel

- 4.1. The recruitment panel will comprise of an 'appointing officer' who will be identified at the beginning of the process. This person will be responsible for the management of the entire recruitment process.

- 4.2. At least one member of the panel should have successfully completed training in safer recruitment.

5. Shortlisting

- 5.1. All application forms (whether incomplete or completed) must be taken into account when shortlisting candidates for an interview.
- 5.2. Candidates who are shortlisted should meet all the essential aspects of the person specification requirements. This process will be as systematic as possible and all selectors will read through all applications, each creating their own shortlist. These will be collated and discussed between selectors before a final shortlist is decided on.

6. Interview invitations

- 6.1. Once a shortlist has been decided, the successful applicants will be contacted by the selection chair and a suitable interview time decided.
- 6.2. Permission will be asked to contact the candidate's referees prior to interview.

7. References

- 7.1. Two referees, one of which must be the candidate's most recent employer, will be contacted by the chair of the selection committee, ideally before candidates are interviewed.
- 7.2. Structured questionnaires are a useful method of questioning referees.
- 7.3. Questions will include:

- General information about the candidate's previous professional performance and suitability for the post.
- The candidate's suitability to work with children and young people.
- Any disciplinary warnings, including time-expired warnings, relating to the safeguarding of children and young people.
- The applicant's disciplinary record.
- If the candidate is applying for a teaching post and is not currently employed as a teacher, the school/college/local authority where they were most recently employed as a teacher should be contacted.

7.4. Records will be kept of these conversations, or written references requested, and any uncertainties or issues followed up with the referee verbally will be recorded.

7.5. Following reference checks, any concerns raised by referees will be put to the candidate at interview. Such conversations will also be recorded.

7.6. **Digital footprints**

At Discovery Education we are committed to ensuring that safeguarding is a top priority.

7.7. In light of this commitment, where appropriate, potential candidates' social media or other online activity will be checked prior to interview and records made of any offensive or inappropriate material.

7.8. This process may include a search for the candidate via:

- Google
- Facebook
- Linked In

- Instagram

9. Selection process

- 9.1. During interviews, candidates will be asked standard form questions and their responses recorded for ease of comparison.
- 9.2. Any concerns raised through contact with referees will be put to the candidate at this stage.
- 9.3. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health in order to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.

10. Employment checks and DBS checks (inc. “regulated activity”)

10.1. For the purpose of this policy, and in accordance with the Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance, “regulated activity” means:

- a) The employee will be responsible for the care or supervision of children on a regular basis.
- b) The employee will regularly work in a school while children are on the premises.
- c) The employee will come into contact with children under 18 years old on a regular basis.

10.2. Regulated activity includes:

- a) Teaching, training, instructing, caring for (see (c) below) or supervising children if the person is unsupervised, or providing advice or guidance on well-being, or driving a vehicle only for children.

- b) Work for a limited range of establishments (known as 'specified places', which include schools and colleges), with the opportunity for contact with children, but not including work done by supervised volunteers.
- c) Work under (a) or (b) is regulated activity only if done regularly. Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not. This includes:
 - i. Relevant personal care, or health care provided by or provided under the supervision of a health care professional:
 - a. Personal care includes helping a child, for reasons of age, illness or disability, with eating or drinking, or in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing.
 - b. Health care means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional.

10.3. The level of DBS check, including whether a prohibition check is required, will depend on the applicant's role. For most appointments, i.e. those in 'regulated activity', an enhanced DBS check with barred list information is sufficient.

10.4. General recruitment

10.4.1. Discovery Education will take care to ensure that:

- A candidate's identity is verified, preferably from a current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available.
- Appropriate DBS checks are obtained for all candidates, including barred list information where the person is engaged in regulated activity.
- Where an individual is successful in their application, and begins work in a regulated activity before a DBS certificate is available, a separate barred list check will be obtained:
- Successful candidates for teaching positions are not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State. This will be done using the Employer Access Online service.
- The successful candidate has a right to work in the UK.
- Where a candidate has worked overseas, that appropriate checks are carried out per this policy.

10.5. Volunteers

10.5.1. Where a volunteer is recruited to engage in work which is not considered 'regulated activity', an enhanced DBS certificate will be obtained.

10.5.2. Volunteers recruited to take part in regulated activity must obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred list check.

10.5.3. Under no circumstances will a volunteer who has not provided a DBS certificate be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity

10.6. Individuals who have lived outside the UK

10.6.1. No exceptions will be made for candidates who have lived outside of the UK, all mandatory checks outlined in this policy will be carried out, along with additional checks where necessary.

10.7. Agency and third party staff

10.7.1. In the case of any employee working with Discovery Education sourced from an agency or third-party organisation, confirmation must be obtained from the organisation, in writing, that all necessary DBS checks have been completed.

10.7.2. Confirmation must also be obtained that the individual who presents for work is the same person on whom all checks have been completed. A copy of photographic identification is generally appropriate.

11. Decision making

11.1. At Discovery Education, we are committed to ensuring the best individuals are recruited to work at our company. Applicants will therefore be carefully checked against the selection criteria and all essential criteria from the person specification must be met before any offers of employment are made.

11.2. In line with our safeguarding obligations, we will carefully consider all information about past disciplinary action or allegations. This includes information obtained from the Employer Access Online checks.

12. Single central record

12.1. Per legal requirements, Discovery Education will maintain and regularly update our single central record. All new employees will be added to the record, which will include:

- All staff (including supply staff) who work at the company.
- All others who work in regular contact with children in the company or other environments, including volunteers.

12.2. For each individual, the single central record will outline whether or not the following checks have been carried out/certificates obtained, along with the date of the check:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check
- Further checks on people living or working outside the UK
- A check of professional qualifications
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the UK