

*'...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow
weary,
they will walk and not be faint.'* Isaiah 40:31



connect | nurture | aspire | learn | excel | hope



Multi Academy Trust Policy

Recruitment Policy

Date adopted by Trust Board:

Date of Review: September 2018

Date of next Review: September 2020

Our Vision - *As an inclusive community built on friendship and love, Christian values inspire us through faith in God and hope for the future. Everyone is empowered to recognise their God-given potential and to become lifelong learners. We work together to ensure we achieve our aspirations and encourage independence.*

Love Friendship Kindness Truth Hope

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all academies within Aquila, the Diocese of Canterbury Multi Academies Trust Limited (hereafter referred to as the Trust) follow a robust, rigorous and fair process when recruiting staff, which minimises the risk of appointing people who may pose a risk of harm to children.

This procedure is effective from the 01 September 2014 as approved by the Trust.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to all staff who work in academies, including staff, volunteers and others engaged by the Academy to work with pupils.

In the case of senior leaders, this document should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Senior Leader Appointment Process.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Trust is the legal employer of all staff.

The Local Governing Body (LGB) is responsible for ensuring that the Academy has adequate staffing levels. The LGB will be involved in the recruitment and selection of staff, especially with regards to leadership posts, providing they have received appropriate training. Members of the LGB may be excluded from being involved in the recruitment and selection of staff providing it would constitute a conflict of interest. The LGB is responsible for ensuring that members of staff, who are responsible for appointments of new employees, have received Safer Recruitment training.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day organisation, management and control of the academy and in most cases will have a significant role in the appointment of staff to work in the academy. They are responsible for ensuring that staff undertaking recruitment and selection have the appropriate experience, skills and knowledge to do so.

All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure that the academy environment is safe and secure for children and that appropriate procedures are followed.

The Multi Academy Trust's advisers, who are currently Ellis Whittam, are responsible for providing advice and guidance to A regarding recruitment and the appointment of staff. The Trust Chief Operations Officer (COO) and Ellis Whittam will have an active role in the recruitment to leadership posts within each academy.

4. Principles

Employees play the most significant role in the success of our academies and the delivery of high-quality education provision and are, therefore, our most important asset. It is the policy of the MAT to ensure there is an adequate supply of suitably qualified and experienced staff to meet each academies staffing requirements and to deliver the academies improvement plan.

The MAT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.

The appointment of all employees to the MAT will be made on merit and in accordance with the provisions of employment law, the Education Act 2002, statutory guidance and the MAT's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Applicants will be 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, gender reassignment, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic background, or any other inappropriate distinction. Only where a person's job has a genuine occupational requirement may it be possible to take into account such characteristics, and this will apply only to a very small number of jobs.

It is the requirement of the MAT that those involved in the recruitment and selection of staff must have received appropriate training or briefing and that at least one member of every interview panel must hold a recognised safer recruitment qualification.

Where an Academy uses supply staff, they must be assured that these individuals have undergone the necessary checks to assess their suitability for the post.

Academies must retain proper records confirming the identity, qualifications, professional registration (where appropriate), eligibility to work in the UK and Disclosure and Barring clearance details of people appointed, including dates of when these checks were carried out.

5. Delegation of Appointments and Composition of Panels

The recruitment and selection of teaching and support staff within agreed staffing costs will be delegated to the Headteacher who will set up a recruitment panel of at least three members of the LGB and within the individual scheme of delegation. (See below authority table)

Where the Headteacher feels that recruitment of staff outside the set staffing budget is required then they must obtain authorisation from the MAT Directors by submitting a report outlining the business case for the role.

For leadership posts, authorisation to recruit must be gained from the MAT Directors. Please see the recruitment of Leadership process.

6. Safer Recruitment

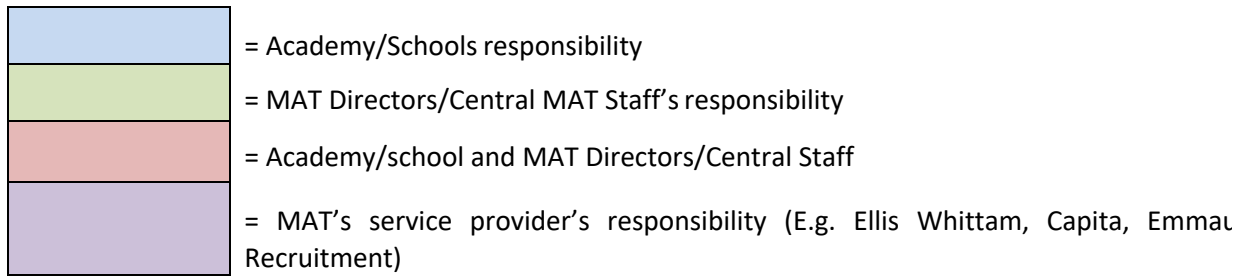
Safer recruitment means thinking about and including issues to do with child protection, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at every stage of the recruitment process. It starts with the process of planning the recruitment episode and where the post is advertised, ensuring that the advertisement makes clear the organisation's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It also requires a consistent and thorough process of obtaining, collating, analysing and evaluation information from and about candidates.

The following safer recruitment practices should be undertaken:

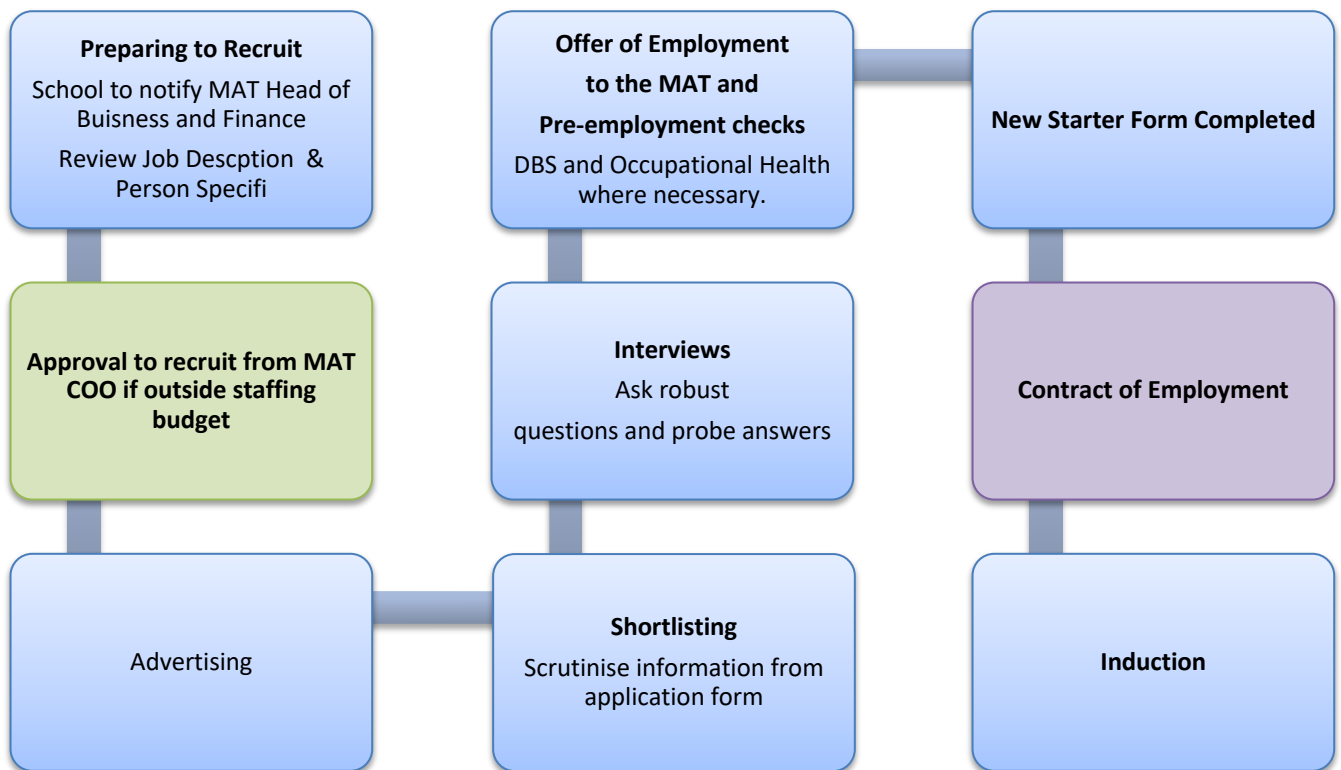
- The job description should make reference to the responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children such as "the post holder is responsible for ensuring that the Academies Safeguarding/Child Protection policy is adhered to and concerns are raised in accordance with this policy"
- The person specification should include specific reference to "suitability to work with children."
- Application forms should be scrutinised, including checking the candidate's previous employment history and experience and ensuring that any discrepancies, gaps or anomalies are satisfactorily explained
- Obtaining independent professional references that ask specific questions to help assess the applicant's suitability to work with children and following up any concerns
- A face to face interview that explores the applicant's suitability to work with children, as well as their suitability for the post

- Verifying the successful applicant’s identity
- Verifying the successful applicant’s academic qualifications
- A Disclosure and Barring Service check

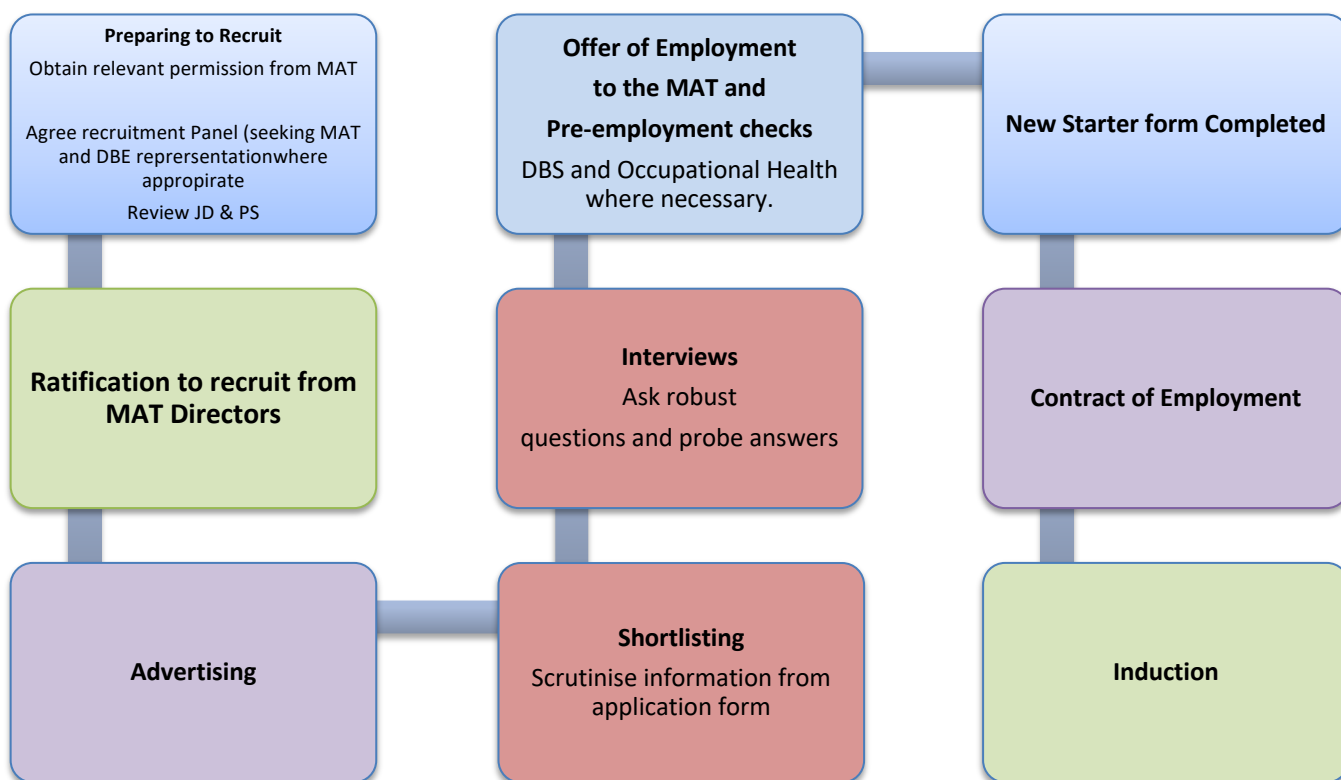
7. Stages of the Recruitment Process



Process for the recruitment to all roles, except leadership positions



Process for the recruitment to Senior Leadership positions



8. Preparing to Recruit

The first step in the recruitment process is ensuring that the appropriate authorisation to recruit is obtained (see section 5).

The recruitment process should be planned from the outset. Planning will ensure that sufficient time is allowed at each stage of the recruitment process, it will ensure that applicants are given essential information regarding the post that they are applying for and will help to ensure that the right people apply for the role.

In preparation, the academy should review the job description and person specification and consider how and where the post should be advertised.

9. Advertising

Every vacant post (including posts which are being acted up to) should be advertised appropriately to bring it to the notice of all persons qualified to fill the post, and should be accessible to all ensure compliance with the MAT's Equal Opportunities Policy. It is expected that all leadership posts will be advertised externally unless there is good reason not to do so.

Where a post is advertised internally, the details should be posted, in writing, on the staff notice board(s) giving at least 5 working days for applications to be made.

All advertised posts should include an explicit statement regarding the MAT's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. A statement should be included in the advert as well as in the application pack. The statement may be as follows: "The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

along with other relevant employment checks.”

Candidate application packs should include:

- Job Description outlining the duties of the post and adherence to the Financial Management Standards (where applicable), with an indication of where the post fits the organisational structure of the Academy;
- A Person Specification indicating the qualifications, skills and types of experience or expertise which the academy regards as essential or desirable in relation to the job. Any job involving financial management responsibilities, should clearly specify the essential requirements of the role as part of the person specification, and the recruitment process should test these competencies.
- MAT Application Form.
- Information about the MAT, Academy and Other General Information:
 - a description of the Academy relevant to the vacant post
 - a statement about access to the academy for applicants who may wish to see it or who may wish to consult the Headteacher before making an application;
 - a statement that canvassing any member of staff or member of the LGB, directly or indirectly, is prohibited and will be considered a disqualification;
 - reference to the MAT’s policy on Equal Opportunities;
 - reference to the legislation concerning the Protection of Children;
 - the name of any person who will be available to provide additional information about the post; and
 - Information about the recruitment and selection process e.g. the closing date for the receipt of applications and interview dates.
 - Salary level of the post.

10. MAT Application Forms

MAT Application forms must be completed by all applicants; it is not acceptable practice to rely on CVs. Applicants who make speculative contact should be asked to apply for a specific post and to complete the relevant application pack.

By completing and submitting an application form, applicants give a signed declaration (even if this sent by email) that the information provided is factually correct and that they possess the qualifications, skills and experience that they have stated on the form.

Posts involving regular contact with children or young persons are exempt under The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, by virtue of The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975. Applicants for such posts are required to declare any criminal convictions, including spent convictions, that they have or any cautions, reprimands or final warning that they have been subject to in relation to any offences.

11. Short Listing

A minimum of two people from the panel should carry out the short listing process, one of whom should have completed appropriate safer recruitment and selection training. Good practice would dictate that all members have undertaken this training where possible.

Short listing will be based only on substantial information. The job description and the person specification will be used to set the criteria and standards for inclusion on the long list and for reducing this to the shortlist of candidates to be invited for interview. For template Shortlisting Assessment Form, please see the MAT

website.

The criteria for selection will be consistently applied to all applicants.

All applications should be carefully scrutinised to ensure they are fully and properly completed. Any anomalies or discrepancies or gaps in service employment should be accounted for and checked. Reasons for repeated and regular changes in employment should be explored.

If the field of applicants is felt to be unsuitable then the post should be re-advertised.

References should be taken up between shortlisting and interview so that any necessary information can be followed up.

The selection panel will take up two references on each short-listed candidate. For Leadership roles, a third reference should be included.

For teaching and leadership posts the references will, where appropriate, include the applicant's current Headteacher/Principal or Local Authority or University Tutor. Please refer to section 19 for further details on obtaining references.

References should be kept as confidential and should only be seen by the selection panel and the person delegated to obtain the references. References will be sought against the requirements specified in the job description and person specification, and information should be sought about any issues relating to safeguarding/child protection. Where there is concern regarding a reference, advice should be sought from Ellis Whittam who may need to see the reference.

12. Interviews

The format, style and duration of the interviews are matters for the panel to decide, but the following will be adhered to:

- **Briefing:** All candidates will be given relevant information about the Academy to enable the candidate to make further enquiries about the advertised job.
- A face to face interview takes place prior to any appointment. Before the interviews the selection panel will agree on the line of questioning to be followed and will ensure that the same core questions are put to each candidate (which can be followed up with different probing and follow-up questions). Interviews should assess the merits of each candidate against the requirements in the person specification and the job description. Interviews must also explore each individual's suitability to work with children by assessing attitudes and behaviors. No questions should be asked which would discriminate directly or indirectly on grounds of sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religious belief, disability or age. The interview should cover child protection and the candidate's suitability to work with children (see 12.8 and 12.9).

Before the interviews the panel, will decide a procedure for evaluating the candidates at the end of the interviews. The notes taken and documentation used in this evaluation process will form part of the formal record of why candidates were or were not selected and will be retained for six months; after that time they will be destroyed.

Before the interviews, the panel will decide the structure of the interview, determining which area each interviewer will cover and the approximate time allocation.

A robust selection process should not rely solely on the interview. A range of selection activities should be designed in order to help assess who is the most suitable candidate for the job. For teachers and teaching support roles, it is legitimate to involve pupils in the process. Pupils should not take part in assessing candidate suitability but can contribute to the panel's assessment of the ability to interact with children.

Alternatively panels may find it helpful to have someone present who can focus on taking notes. Where possible interview panels should consist of both male and female panel members to help ensure a fair interview process.

Panel members should meet beforehand to agree a relevant set of questions that will enable the candidate's suitability to be assessed against the selection criteria. They will also need to identify any issues they want to explore further from the candidate's application form and employment references.

Academies should ensure that sufficient staff and governors are trained in advance of recruitment activities to form interview panels when necessary.

Invitations to interview should;

- Detail all the arrangements such as date, time, panel members, length of the selection process and selection activities
- Remind candidates that the interview is assessing their suitability to work with children
- Remind them to bring all relevant documents, such as DBS disclosures where available, proof of qualifications, proof of identity. See Appendix 1 for template invite to interview letter.

Only originals of the required documentation can be accepted; copies should not be accepted. The Academy should take a copy of original documents to be kept on the academy file, before returning the originals to the candidate.

To assess the suitability of the candidate to work in the academy the interview should examine:

- The candidate's attitude towards children. This may be assessed through their personal statement and through interview questions that probe their values, belief and ethics.
- The candidate's motivation to work with children. Questions on their vision for education and the learning and development of children and young people, and what their role is in contributing towards achieving this vision can help you assess their motivation.
- Their ability to form relationships and respect professional boundaries. This should be assessed through focused questions and complementary activities, such as group exercises.
- Their emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours, their attitudes in managing discipline and towards authority. Questions asking them to draw on previously difficult situations and how they managed these will help assess this.
- Their ability to support the academies agenda for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Clarify their understanding of the academies approach towards child protection policies and procedures.
- Gaps in the candidate's employment history and explanation of repeated changes in career. These must be discussed and clarified, as should concerns or discrepancies arising from the information provided by the candidate and/or referees.
- Candidates should be asked to confirm whether they have any criminal convictions, reprimands and/or warnings.
- If for any reasons references have not been provided before the interview the candidate should be given the opportunity to declare/discuss anything that may come to light in the collection of references.

The following are example questions designed to examine an interviewee's attitudes toward safeguarding children:

- What do you feel are the main drivers that led you to want to work with children?
- How do you motivate young people?
- What has working with children, to date, taught you about yourself?
- Tell me about a time when you have been working with children when your authority was seriously challenged. How did you react? What strategies did you employ to bring things back on course? How did you manage the situation?
- Tell me about a person you have had particular difficulty dealing with. What made it difficult? How did you manage the situation?
- What are your attitudes to child protection? How have these developed over time?
- What are your feelings about children who make allegations against teachers or staff?
- How do you feel when someone holds an opinion that differs from your own? Give me an example. How did you behave in this situation?
- Have you ever had concerns about a colleague? How did you deal with this?
- Tell us about what you have done in the last 12 months to actually improve child protection in the workplace. How did this action arise? Who did you talk to? What were the results?
- What is the safeguarding policy in your workplace? How is it monitored? What steps have you taken to improve things?
- Give me an example of when you have had safeguarding concerns about a child. How did it arise? Who did you speak to? What actions did you take?
- Have you ever had to challenge the views of someone more senior than yourself in relation to safeguarding concerns? What were the circumstances? How did you go about it? What was the outcome?

Some questions will need following up. By asking a followup/probing question, you start to gain a better understanding of the initial answer and investigate the validity of the answers.

13. Offer of Appointment by the Selection Panel

It is essential that every offer of employment is made subject to satisfactory completion of all the relevant pre-employment checks, unless the full range of checks have been undertaken by the time an offer is made. Candidates should be made aware of this when offered a position.

Any offer of employment will be binding, subject to:

- receipt of at least two satisfactory references or three for leadership roles, where possible one reference should relate to the candidate's most recent employment;
- verification of identity (photographic evidence that includes a date of birth such as a passport or photographic driving license is the most suitable form of identification)
- Right to work in the UK (the UK Borders Agency website provides a comprehensive guidance with lists and images of documents that can be accepted evidence of an applicant's right to work in the UK)
- Enhanced DBS check (this includes a barred list check) where the employee will carry out regulated activity
- Medical clearance.
- For teaching posts – successful completion of the statutory induction year if a Newly Qualified Teacher, or verification of completion of statutory induction where required for experienced teachers
- Viewing the originals of academic and professional qualifications and taking copies for the personnel file.

- If an employee will be required to drive on academy business, then academy should ask for evidence that the employee holds the appropriate and valid driving license to do so and is insured to undertake business journeys
- Evidence of professional membership/registration where applicable

All offers of employment will be confirmed in writing by the MAT.

The MAT does not recognise continuous service from another employer.

14. Pre-employment checks

The academy must undertake specific pre-employment checks on every person that they intend to engage/employ to work in their academy. The exact nature of these checks will depend upon the capacity in which the person will be working.

It is strongly recommended that all efforts are made to obtain all pre-employment checks prior to the commencement of employment, particularly in relation to references and DBS checks. Where this is not possible, appointments should be delayed until satisfactory checks are received or arrangements made for supervision of the employee until such time that they are received.

Original documents must be seen to verify; identity, the right to work in the UK, qualifications and for the purposes of DBS checks.

The academies should set up a personal file for the new employee and evidence of pre-employment checks should be stored in the file.

15. Qualified Teacher Status

Anybody appointed or engaged to teach in a maintained academy or non-maintained special academy in England must be a qualified teacher, as defined by The Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2009 (as amended), or satisfy the requirements of persons not qualified under Schedule 2 of The Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) Regulations 2009.

Teachers, who are qualified in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA now, have automatic QTS. However, they still need to apply to the Teaching Agency before they can be recognised as qualified teachers. They also still need to satisfy any Border Agency requirements.

Teachers in Further Education who have Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) and who are members of the Institute for Learning (IfL) are now recognised as qualified teachers in academies.

Candidates for Headteacher/Principal or Deputy Headteacher posts must hold QTS.

Teachers should produce a certificate confirming QTS.

16. Health

Anybody appointed to a post that involves regular contact with children should have the appropriate health and physical capacity to undertake the duties of that post.

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits all those involved in the recruitment process (except in specific very limited

circumstances) from:

- Asking applicants questions relating to their health, attendance record and/or disability
- Asking referees to comment on an applicant's health, attendance or disability
- Asking an applicant to complete a pre-employment medical questionnaire prior to having made the applicant a conditional offer of employment.

Once a candidate has been made a conditional offer of employment the Academy must ensure that candidates complete a medical screening form which may be sent to the MAT's Occupational Health Provider for assessment.

Where the applicant has a disability, the Headteacher must consider whether there are any reasonable adjustments that can be made to enable the applicant to perform the role, and should put these in place.

No employee may start work until medical clearance has been received.

17. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

The DBS Disclosure process checks a person's criminal record, including convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer. (The DBS was previously known as CRB).

From 17 June 2013, The DBS introduced an Update Service to carry out status checks on an individual's DBS Certificate, this service allows employers to check an individual's DBS certificate without applying for a check and therefore free of charge. Applicants can annually subscribe to the update service for a small fee, which allows applicants to have their DBS Certificate kept up-to-date and take it with them from role to role, providing it is within the same workforce group.

When a successful applicant is appointed they should be asked whether they are a member of the Update Service. If they are, and their original check is enhanced with the correct workforce group i.e. child workforce, their original DBS Certificate should be provided and checked, and then with the applicant's permission, their current DBS Certificate can be checked instantly online at www.gov.uk/dbs to see if any new information has come to light since its issue.

The Multi Academy Trust will need to be entered as the organisation; the person who is carrying out the check will need to enter their forename and surname and then the following details of the DBS Certificate that is being checked:

- DBS Certificate number
- current surname of the DBS Certificate holder - as specified on their DBS Certificate
- date of birth of the DBS Certificate holder - as recorded on the DBS Certificate

Enhanced update checks or DBS disclosures should be sought for staff who are employed by the Academy and volunteers who undertake 'regulated activity'. Regulated Activity may depend in many cases on whether it is supervised or not. 'Regular' means carried out by the same person frequently (once a week or more often), or on 4 or more days in a 30-day period. Regulated Activity for work with children and young people is:

- Unsupervised activities: teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children, or providing advice / guidance on well-being, or driving a vehicle only for children
- Work for a limited range of establishments ('specified places'), with the opportunity for contact, for example, Academies, children's homes, childcare premises (but not work by supervised volunteers).
- Relevant personal care, for example, washing or dressing; or health care by or supervised by a professional, even if done once.

Update checks or online DBS applications should be completed by all successful applicants who require a DBS

check.

Academies should recheck existing DBS disclosures or check their status on the update service every five years.

Newly appointed staff, that have lived outside the United Kingdom, must undergo the same checks as all other staff in academies. This includes a DBS Disclosure or update service check. Applicants, who have lived outside the UK in the past five years, will need to provide Criminal Convictions Clearance from the country or countries they were residing in because the DBS cannot generally trace individuals abroad. If the academy recruits an individual from overseas, or an individual who has lived abroad in recent years prior to appointment and needs to check their overseas criminal record, a DBS check may not provide a complete picture of the criminal record. The applicant must contact the relevant Embassy to obtain a disclosure that should not be dated more than 6 months ago at time of receipt.

A similar recruitment process should be used for volunteers, as for employees, including pre-employment checks. Volunteers in academy (including governors) are also subject to DBS checks.

When determining whether to apply for a DBS check or check the update service for a volunteer, Headteachers should decide whether the individual will regularly be undertaking regulated activity on an unsupervised basis:

- ‘Supervision’ must be regular i.e. on-going and day-to-day; and which is reasonable in all circumstances for the purpose of protecting the children concerned; and carried out by an individual who is engaging in regulated activity relating to children and has a DBS disclosure with barred list check.
- The definition of ‘regulated activity’ is “teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, or provide advice/guidance on well-being, or drive a vehicle only for children”.
- The definition of ‘regular’ activity is where a regulated activity is undertaken by the same individual as follows either once a week or more; on four or more days in a 30 day period; at least once, overnight and with the opportunity for face-to-face contact with children.

Where appropriate, volunteers should be subject to an enhanced DBS check or Update Service check and should not start work prior to receipt of a satisfactory check.

A DBS check or Update Service check is required for all supply teachers who are engaged directly by the academy and those working via an agency.

Academies, who engage supply teachers directly, are responsible for undertaking all of the required pre-employment checks including the DBS check/update service check. Where a supply teacher does no supply work for three months or more a new DBS check should be completed.

Before taking on a member of supply staff provided by a supply agency, the academy must obtain written confirmation from the agency that all necessary pre-employment checks have been carried out and are satisfactory. In relation to DBS Disclosures the written notification from the agency must confirm that a relevant DBS check has been requested, whether or not the disclosure has been received and if received whether the disclosure was clear or not. In the instance where a disclosure is not clear the reasons for any convictions, reprimands or warnings. The candidate should be requested to provide their DBS certificate and explain any relevant details, where a candidate refuses to do this they should not be used. If you want to engage the individual on a permanent basis a repeat check must be carried out by the MAT. The individual must not undertake any work until the DBS disclosure has been received.

Headteachers should check with any agency used that there are secure arrangements for DBS checks in place before accepting the member of agency staff.

Academies must ensure that contractors, agencies providing temporary staff and all those providing services to the Academy have clear vetting procedures. Such procedures should include overseas checks for each country that a worker has lived in. Where possible, these procedures should be specifically written into a service level agreement or contract by the Academy or Multi Academy Trust.

Electronic completion of DBS checks and the DBS update service means it is very unlikely that an academy will need an employee to start work before it has received the outcome of the check. In rare cases where a DBS check is required, and an application has been submitted but is delayed or outstanding, the individual may be allowed to work in academy, subject to the Headteacher's discretion and the following requirements:

- The Headteacher has conducted a risk assessment and does not have any concerns regarding a person's background
- The risk assessment includes reviewing the individual's employment history and reasons for any broken work history or career changes and checking all references have been received, are satisfactory and have been checked against the work history records. Advice on carrying out a risk assessment can be sought from Ellis Whittam.
- All other pre-employment checks have been completed.
- The individual is supervised until full DBS clearance has been received.

If the Headteacher has any doubts regarding a person's background, such as broken service, then the risk must be addressed. For example, arrangements may be made for the member of staff to undertake alternative work or to refrain from starting work. It is recommended that Headteachers contact Ellis Whittam for clarification and advice.

Supervision requires the Headteacher to ensure that individuals are not allocated duties that put them in an unsupervised situation with pupils, that they are accompanied when working by a member of staff with DBS clearance, that their whereabouts are known to a senior member of staff when they are not working (e.g. during break times), and that the individual fully understands their personal responsibility not to put themselves in a situation where they are alone with pupils and what to do if this situation arises

A written record should be made and retained when a Headteacher decides it is appropriate to allow an individual to work where a DBS check has been requested but remains outstanding (following a risk assessment by the Headteacher).

A positive disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service will indicate that the employee's Disclosure and Barring Check is not clear. The DBS will provide the candidate with details of the convictions, reprimands and warnings, however the MAT will not. The candidate should, therefore, be asked to share details of the reasons as to why their disclosure is not clear and should be asked to provide their Disclosure Certificate. If the employee is not prepared to explain details of their convictions, reprimands and/or warnings and are not prepared to provide a copy of their disclosure then the likely outcome is that the MAT will not employ the candidate.

Before a decision is reached on whether to offer or confirm employment to an individual, the individual should be offered the opportunity to discuss the contents of the disclosure with the Headteacher. A balanced decision to appoint should be based on:

- whether they are barred from appointment
- whether the conviction is relevant to the position
- the circumstances surrounding the offence, and any explanations provided by the applicant
- the seriousness of the offence
- the length of time since the offence occurred

- whether there is a pattern to the offending behaviour, or whether it was a one-off
- whether the applicant's circumstances have changed

Further discussion should take place regarding:

- whether the applicant disclosed the conviction(s)/cautions, warnings or reprimands at application or at interview stage
- what level of supervision the will post-holder receive
- whether the post involves responsibility for finance or items of value
- whether the nature of the role allows the applicant to potentially re-offend

The Headteacher will make the overall decision about whether or not to employ the person. All positive disclosures must be discussed with Ellis Whittam. Disclosures, which raise child protection issues, must be discussed with the MAT's designated Director for Child Protection. Where a decision to appoint is taken the information will be recorded and be stored on the person's file.

If an applicant has made a false declaration on the application form, or anywhere else, about convictions and cautions (or lack of them), this may render the offer of a contract of employment void.

It is an offence for a person who is on the barred list to apply for a role working with children.

It is an offence for an employer (the Academy or the Multi Academy Trust) to employ a person who is on the barred list.

18. Single Central Record of Recruitment Vetting Checks

As part of an Ofsted inspection, inspectors will want to view the academies single central record of recruitment checks. It is, therefore, important that such a record is kept and maintained. An academy is expected to have a record of:

- All staff employed to work at the Academy,
- Staff employed as supply whether employed directly or through an agency.
- Other staff who work in regular contact with children such as volunteers or specialist instructors.

The record must indicate whether or not the following checks have been completed:

- Identity
- Qualifications legally required
- Right to work in the United Kingdom
- Enhanced DBS
- Overseas checks where appropriate.

The record should also indicate the date on which each check was completed or the relevant certificate obtained and who carried out the check.

The date of the DBS check should be recorded on the central record of pre-employment checks. The Headteacher should place a copy of the email that confirms whether or not the disclosure is clear on the employee's file. If the disclosure was not clear and a risk assessment was completed, a copy of the risk assessment should also be kept on the employee's file. These documents should be retained permanently on file.

19. References

References should be taken up on all short listed candidates, including internal ones, before interviewing so that any concerns can be explored further with referees and investigated further at interview. At least two references but three for leadership posts should be taken up.

19.2 It is strongly advisable not to rely on testimonials or open references. On receipt of references, the author should be telephoned to ensure authenticity of the reference, and this should be logged.

19.3 Reference requests should contain details of the post on offer and should be structured to ask a referee to comment on specific areas relating to the post. Academies should always ask a referee to comment on the prospective employee's suitability to undertake the post on offer, to work with children and should specifically request any information on criminal convictions or disciplinary offences.

The purpose of collecting references is to obtain objective and factual information to support the appointment decision. The use of a pro forma, tailored to the specific needs of the academy, will help achieve this. Job descriptions and person specifications should always be provided so that the referees can comment on the individual's suitability for the specific post in question.

Every reference request must ask the following (Please see Appendices, 2 and 3 for reference request templates):

- Referee's relationship to the candidate – how they know them, how long they have known them and in what capacity.
- Whether the referee is satisfied that the person has the ability and is suitable to undertake the job in question, based on the information provided in the job description and person specification.
- Confirmation of person's current job title and salary
- Specific verifiable comments about applicant's performance and conduct
- Details of any disciplinary procedures in which the sanction (e.g. a written warning) is current
- Details of any disciplinary procedures the applicant has been subject to involving issues related to safety and welfare of children or young people, including any in which the sanction has expired
- Details of any formal capability procedures within the past two years
- If any concerns or allegations about the candidate's suitability to work with children have arisen, what these were and how they were dealt with

On receipt of these references, any anomalies or areas that are vague should be thoroughly investigated. Where necessary, clarification should be sought by telephone and referees asked to confirm in writing any key extra information provided. A written record of any telephone conversation must be kept with the personnel notes.

Any information about past disciplinary action, allegations or concerns (including those with child protection connotations) should be considered in the circumstances of the individual case. Where there are concerns or a history of repeated concerns or allegations, it is strongly advised that you contact Ellis Whittam for more advice.

20. Recording, Retaining and Sharing Information

All paperwork relating to unsuccessful applicants should be retained for an initial 6-month period and then confidentially destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations.

Confidentiality will be maintained in relation to the information obtained during the process and about the selection process itself.

21. Induction

The importance of a structured induction process for all new appointments is recognised to ensure that new recruits are effectively initiated into their jobs and integrated into the Academy, refer to the MAT's Staff Induction Policy for further details.

Appendix 1 – Template Invite to Interview Letter

Insert school logo

NAME ADDRESS

DATE

Dear NAME,

POST, ACADEMY

Following receipt of your application form, I am pleased to inform you that you have been short-listed for the above post and I am therefore delighted invite you to attend interview on the DATE.

The Selection day will be held at VENUE, ADDRESS. Please visit the schools/academies website for the location and more information – INSERT LINK TO WEBSITE. There is parking on the premises, although it is limited.

Please arrive at TIME, ready to start your interview at TIME. Please report to reception on arrival. It is anticipated that the selection process will last until TIME

Include if lunch is being provided - Lunch will be provided, therefore of you have any dietary requirements please could you let me know about these in advance.

Please could you advise me in advance if you have any access or other special requirements which affect your attendance at interview, your ability to participate fully in the interview or which may result in the need for us to make adjustments to the assessment process.

The interview panel will consist of the following members: Name,
jobtitle

Name, job Title

Name, Job title

The purpose of the interview is to assess your suitability for the above post and give both the panel and yourself an opportunity to gain further information before we make an appointment. It is also an opportunity to seek clarification of information that you have provided on the application form and accompanying information.

The interview will also assess your suitability to work with children and will include questions relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

If applicable, please include details of any presentations and activities, including timings, presentation titles and facilities available.

The selection process and interview questions have been structured around the person specification and job description that were provided with details of the vacant post. We have enclosed an extra copy of these with this letter to assist you with your preparation.

Please also bring with you **original documents** confirming your qualifications gained and an original document verifying your identity, e.g. a valid passport or driver's license. You also need to bring original documents that prove your entitlement to work in the UK.

Please also note that as stated in the application form references are requested after short-listing and therefore your nominated referees will receive a written reference request over the next few days.

I would be grateful if you could contact me to confirm your attendance at the interview. If you have any

questions/queries relating to the selection process, I will be happy to respond to them.
We look forward to meeting you on the **DATE**. Yours

sincerely **NAME JOB TITLE**

Appendix 2 – Reference request template for Teaching Staff

Insert school logo

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»

«JobTitle»

«Company»

«Address1»

«Address2»

«Address_3»

«Address_4»

«Address_5»

Dear «Title» «LastName»

«Post»

I have received an application from «**Candidate**» for the above post at XXXXX School/Academy. Your name has been given as a referee and therefore, I should be grateful if you would complete and return the attached form in relation to the above person. I attach a copy of the job description and Person Specification / Role Profile for your information.

References should include all matters that might have any relevance to protection of children, including information on **attitudes and approaches to children, past incidents of concern *even when these have been resolved*, and any guidance given** relating to child protection issues. They should also include information on performance, attendance and absence, whether dealt with formally or informally.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the reference is accurate and does not contain any material misstatements or omissions. The information you provide will help us ensure that we are able to make a fair and safe appointment and is being requested in line with the DfE Safer recruitment guidance 2007 and the DfE Guidance – “Sharing Information on Children and Young People” December, 2005.

I should be grateful to receive a reply, by <<Date>>. All replies will be treated in complete confidence. Alternatively I can email you this form and you can return via email, or by post to the address above.

Please accept my thanks in anticipation of your assistance. Yours

sincerely

Headteacher

Enclosed – Reference request form

**[Academy Name] Reference
Request Form**

Candidate:

Post:

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?	
Dates of employment and dates of continuous local government service (if applicable)	
Please confirm the applicant's current salary and job title?	
Please provide any information with regard to disciplinary or non-health/disability related capability proceedings taken against this individual.	
Please provide any information relating, however indirectly to child protection concerns.	
Was this individual confirmed in their role with your organisation following the completion of a satisfactory probationary period? If no, please explain the reason(s) why?	

Please complete the form below as comprehensively and accurately as possible.

Person Specification and Job description Criteria	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
<<Insert as many lines as required reference the PS and JD>>					
The candidate has excellent professional knowledge.					
The candidate has undertaken a broad range of professional development.					

There are no concerns in relation to the candidate's suitability to work with children.					
The candidate has established excellent working relationships with colleagues. By this they are able to motivate, lead and support colleagues.					
The candidate has established excellent and appropriate working relationships with pupils.					
The candidate has developed good working relationships with parents					
The candidate is able to exercise appropriate classroom control and management of pupil behaviour.					
The candidate has taken part in a range of extra-curricular activities.					
The candidate's punctuality is excellent.					
There are no pending, current or past disciplinary offences relating to this candidate. (if there have been any offences please provide details separately)					
The candidate has no criminal offences.					
I am satisfied that the person has the ability and is suitable to undertake the post. I would recommend the candidate for this post without reservation.					
I would re-employ this person.					

<p>Please record any additional comments that you would like to make in relation to this candidate, in particular with reference to candidate's performance history and conduct.</p>

Please also provide details of any allegation or concerns that have been raised about the applicant that relates to the health and safety and welfare of young people or behaviour towards children or young people, and the outcomes of those concerns e.g. whether the allegations or concerns were investigated, the conclusion reached, and how the matter was resolved.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Position _____

In the event that we need to contact you for further details please provide a contact telephone number: Tel: _____

Appendix 3 – Reference Request for Non-Teaching Staff

Insert school logo

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»

«JobTitle»

«Company»

«Address1»

«Address2»

«Address_3»

«Address_4»

«Address_5»

Dear «Title» «LastName»

«Post»

I have received an application from «Candidate» for the above post at XXXXX School/Academy.

Your name has been given as a referee and therefore, I should be grateful if you would complete and return the attached form in relation to the above person. I attach a copy of the job description and Person specification / Role Profile for your information.

References should include all matters that might have any relevance to protection of children, including information on **attitudes and approaches to children, past incidents of concern *even when these have been resolved*, and any guidance given** relating to child protection issues. They should also include information on performance, attendance and absence, whether dealt with formally or informally.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the reference is accurate and does not contain any material misstatements or omissions. The information you provide will help us ensure that we are able to make a fair and safe appointment and is being requested in line with the DfE Safer recruitment guidance 2007 and the DfE Guidance – “Sharing Information on Children and Young People” December, 2005.

I should be grateful to receive a reply, if possible, by <<Date>>. Alternatively, I can email you this form and you can return via email, or by post to the address above.

Please accept my thanks in anticipation of your assistance. Yours

sincerely

Headteacher

Enclosed – Reference request form

**[Academy Name] Reference
Request Form**

Candidate:

Post:

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?	
Dates of employment and dates of continuous local government service (if applicable)	
Please confirm applicant's current salary and job title?	
Please provide any information with regard to disciplinary or non health/disability related capability proceedings taken against this individual.	
Please provide any information relating, however indirectly to child protection concerns.	
Was this individual confirmed in their role with your organisation following the completion of a satisfactory probationary period? If no, please explain the reason(s) why?	

Please complete the form below as comprehensively and accurately as possible.

Person Specification and Job description Criteria	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
The candidate has the required knowledge and experience for this role.					
There are no concerns in relation to the candidate's suitability to work with children.					
The candidate has established excellent working relationships with colleagues.					
The candidate has established excellent and appropriate working relationships with pupils.					
The candidate has developed good working relationships with parents					

The candidate's punctuality is excellent.					
There are no pending, current or past disciplinary offences relating to this candidate. (if there have been any offences please provide details separately)					
The candidate has no criminal offences.					
I am satisfied that the person has the ability and is suitable to undertake the post. I would recommend the candidate for this post without reservation.					
I would re-employ this person.					

Please record any additional comments that you would like to make in relation to this candidate, in particular with reference to candidate's performance history and conduct.

Please also provide details of any allegation or concerns that have been raised about the applicant that relates to the health and safety and welfare of young people or behaviour towards children or young people, and the outcomes of those concerns e.g. whether the allegations or concerns were investigated, the conclusion reached, and how the matter was resolved.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Position _____

In the event that we need to contact you for further details, please provide a contact telephone number: Tel: _____