



Safer Recruitment Policy

Policy Updated: September 2023

Approved by Executive Leadership Team

Policy Review: September 2024 or sooner if required

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Statement of intent

This policy is designed to assist with recruitment and selection at Elston Hall Learning Trust. It outlines our recruitment procedure and is in-line with the DfE statutory guidance on safeguarding.

Through this policy Elston Hall Learning Trust aims to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures to ensure a more robust safeguarding culture within our Trust and its schools.

1. Roles and responsibilities:

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring there are effective policies and procedures in place to ensure recruitment at Elston Hall Learning Trust is in-line with DfE guidance and legal requirements.

At Elston Hall Learning Trust our Trustees strive to ensure that staff recruitment is safe and fair, and the Trust Board continues to monitor this aspect of the Recruitment Policy alongside legal and statutory compliance.

The Chief Executive / Executive Leaders will assist the Trustees and Local Governing Boards in ensuring that staff recruitment is safe, fair and compliant. They will also ensure appropriate checks have been carried out on staff, volunteers, contractors and agencies working within the school.

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

2. Inviting applications – advertisements

Vacancies will be advertised through external media, keeping in mind the Trust's Equality Policy and the need to reach disadvantaged groups. A commitment to equal rights will be stated in advertisements.

Advertisements will include a job description, outline the person specifications potential candidates should display, and detail the closing date.

Recruitment will not be through 'word of mouth' and advertisement will aim to reach as broad an audience as possible.

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.

Included in adverts will be a statement about the Trust' commitment to safeguarding and that the school expects all applicants to share that commitment and all successful applicant's will require an Enhanced DBS check.

3. Information for candidates

Information for candidates will generally be provided along with the advert and on the Trust website. This will include:

- A copy of the advertisement
- A job description
- A person specification
- A brief outline of the Trust / school, values and aims.
- Recruitment of Ex Offenders Policy
- Example of the reference form used by the Trust
- Application form

4. Identification of the recruitment panel

The recruitment panel will be made up according to the Appointment of Staff Grid which is determined by the Board of Trustees.

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

5. Shortlisting

All application forms (whether incomplete or completed) must be taken into account when shortlisting candidates for an interview.

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.

Online searches of shortlisted candidates may be carried out and findings will be recorded and retained as part of the recruitment process. Any concerns will be explored with the applicant during the interview.

6. Interview invitations

Once a shortlist has been decided, the successful applicants will be contacted and a suitable interview time decided.

Candidate's references will be called prior to interview, where possible but always before appointment.

7. References

Two referees, one of which must be the candidate's most recent employer, will be contacted, ideally before candidates are interviewed. The Trust has a standard form for requesting references that should be used wherever possible. All references must be validated to ensure authenticity.

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.

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.

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

8. Self-Declaration

Shortlisted applicants will be asked upon invite to interview to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or any information that would make them unsuitable to work with children, so that they have the opportunity to share relevant information and discuss it at interview stage. The information we will ask for includes:

- i. If they have a criminal history
- ii. Whether they are included on the barred list
- iii. Information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales
- iv. Any relevant overseas information

The form must be signed to confirm the information they have provided is true.

9. Digital Footprints

At Elston Hall Learning Trust we are committed to ensuring that safeguarding is a top priority.

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

This process may include a search for the candidate via:

Google, Twitter and any other relevant social media sites.

10. Selection process

Where possible the selection process will involve a competency based task as well as an interview.

During interviews, candidates will be asked standard form questions and their responses recorded for ease of comparison.

Any concerns raised through contact with referees will be put to the candidate at this stage.

Any gaps in applications or areas for further conversation will be addressed at this stage and responses will be recorded.

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.

11. Employment checks and DBS checks (inc. "regulated activity")

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

The employee will be responsible for the care or supervision of children on a regular basis.

The employee will regularly work in the school while children are on the premises (whether or not the person is directly employed by the school, is a contractor or a volunteer).

The employee will come into contact with children under 18 years old on a regular basis.

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:

Relevant personal care, or health care provided by or provided under the supervision of a health care professional:

- 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.
- Health care means care for children provided by, or under the direction or supervision of, a regulated health care professional.

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.

Elston Hall Learning Trust 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, a risk assessment will be completed and the applicant will be supervised.
- Where applicants have subscribed to the DBS Update Service, and give permission for this to be accessed, this service will be used instead.
- A prohibition from teaching check must be completed for any candidate who has a teacher number. Successful candidates for teaching positions must not be subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State. This will be done using the Employer Access Online service. Prior to 1 January 2021, a European Economic Area (EEA) check was completed if required to check for information about any teacher

sanction or restriction that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed. From 1 January 2021, Teachers that have lived or worked outside the UK will be requested to provide proof of their past conduct as a teacher. This should be a letter of professional standing issued by the professional regulating authority in the country in which they worked.

- The successful candidate has a right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, we will follow advice on the GOV.UK website and seek further advice from our HR provider.
- Relevant and necessary Qualifications for the post are seen.
- Where a candidate has worked overseas, that appropriate checks are carried out per this policy.
- Candidates for leadership positions or who will have financial responsibilities will have a section 128 check.

NOTE: There is **no requirement** to obtain an enhanced DBS check if, in the three months prior to beginning work in their new appointment, the applicant has worked:

- In a school in England in a post which brought them into regular contact with children or in any post in a school since 12 May 2006; or
- In a college in England in a position which involved the provision of education and regularly caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children or young people under the age of 18.

But a school or college **may** request an enhanced DBS check with barred list information should there be concerns and bearing in mind the duty schools and colleges are under not to allow a barred person to work in regulated activity.

NOTE: A school or college **may not** request an enhanced DBS check with barred list check for anyone working in the school or college who is not in regulated activity, but may request an enhanced DBS check **without** a barred list check.

12. Volunteers & Agency

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

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

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

Note: Where a volunteer is to be placed under supervision, they are not considered to be taking part in regulated activity and therefore it is illegal for the school to request a barred list check on the volunteer.

Supervision must:

- Be by a person who is in regulated activity.
- Be regular and day to day.
- Be “reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children”.

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.

The DfE [guidance on the employment of overseas-trained teachers](#) will be consulted should an overseas candidate apply for a teaching position.

Agency - In the case of any employee working at Elston Hall Learning Trust sourced from an agency or third-party organisation, confirmation must be obtained from the organisation, in writing, that all necessary DBS checks and pre-employment checks have been completed.

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.

Trainee/student teachers - At Elston Hall Learning Trust we will ensure that enhanced DBS certificates and barred list checks are obtained on all ‘salaried’ applicants for initial teacher training.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks and provide written confirmation that these checks have been completed

13. Decision making

At Elston Hall Learning Trust we are committed to ensuring the best individuals are recruited to work at our school. 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.

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.

14. Single central record

Per legal requirements, Elston Hall Learning Trust will maintain and regularly update our single central records. Each School within the Trust maintain their own records. All new employees will be added to the record, which will include:

All staff (including supply staff) who work at the school.

All others who work in regular contact with children in the school or college, including volunteers.

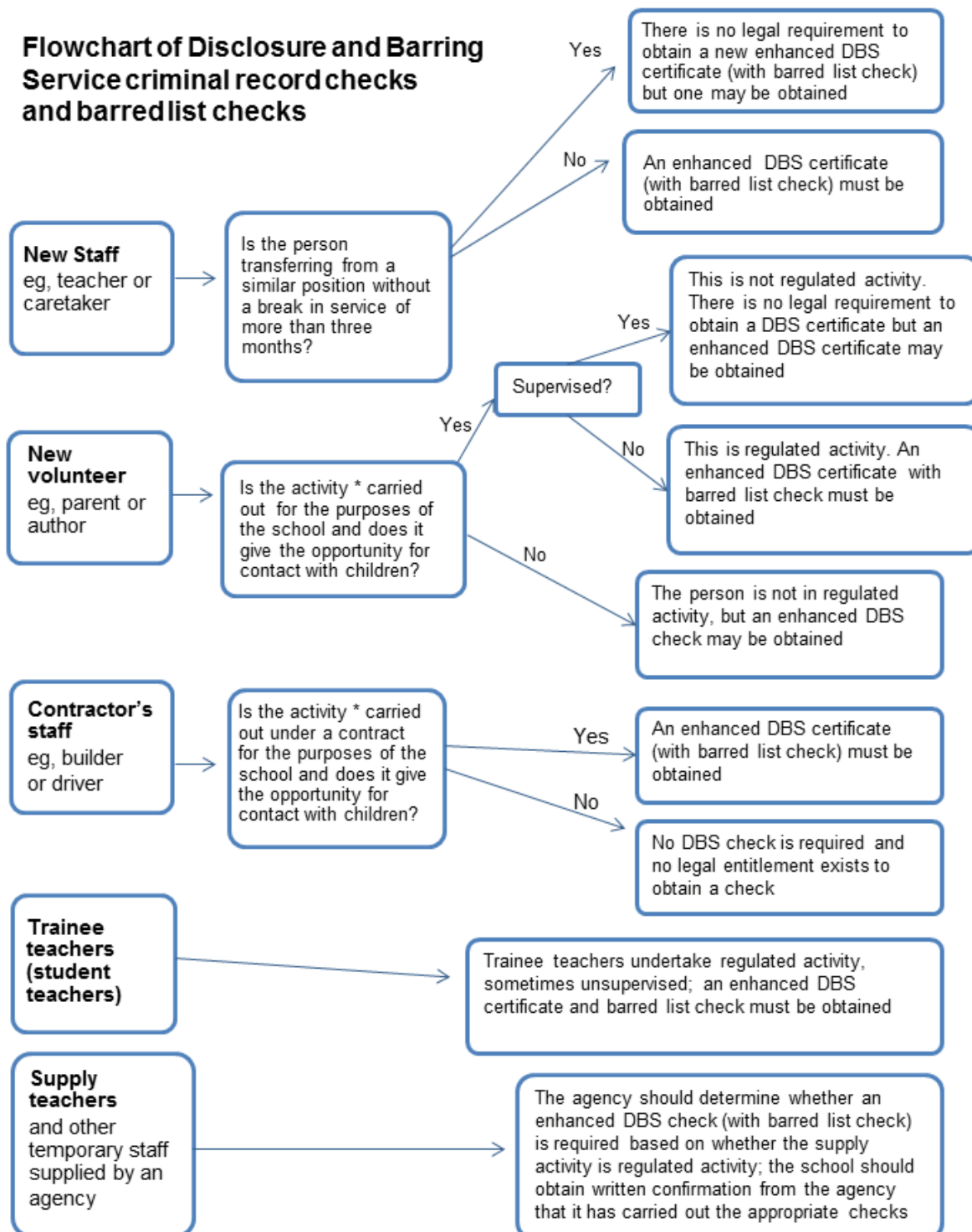
All Members, Trustees and Local Governors

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
- A section 128 check
- A prohibition from teaching check
- Further checks on people living or working outside the UK including the EEA check where applicable
- A check of professional qualifications
- A check to establish the person's right to work in the UK

Annex 1: Flowchart of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and barred list checks.

Flowchart of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and barred list checks



* Activities listed under the guidance's definition of regulated activity and which are carried out 'frequently'