St Mary's Catholic Primary School

SAFE RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND PRE-EMPLOYMENT VETTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus

Approved by[1]	
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Proposed review date[2]**:**	February 2027

REVIEW SHEET

Each entry in the table below summarises the changes to this policy and procedures made since the last review (if any).

Version Number	KAHSC Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	Feb 2016
2	Updated to include changes to mandatory requirement for Governors to have appropriate DBS Disclosures	Mar 2016
3	Updated to remove reference to attendance records in references requested prior to interview.	Jun 2016
4	Updated to reflect changes in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' – September 2016	Aug 2016
5	Revision to link to remove reference to contractors and reformatted. Addition of link – Contractor Risk Assessment	Sept 2017
6	Revised to take account of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018	Aug 2018
7	Revised to take account of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019	Sept 2019
8	Updated to take account of Safer Recruitment Consortium guidance on content of application forms	Nov 2019
9	Minor revisions to clarify information on the requirement for pre-appointment health checks for all new employees	Dec 2019
10	Revised to take account of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020	Sept 2020
11	Updated to include changes following UK exit from the EU, Ministry of Justice (MoJ) filtering rules which came into effect in November 2020 and schools' access to the Children's Barred list.	Apr 2021
12	Minor changes to ensure clarity (page 5 of procedures only)	May 2021
13	Added statement to account for future pandemics; Model risk assessment form for new employees awaiting DBS Disclosure and minor changes in the body of the procedures; updates to comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021.	Sept 2021
14	Minor updates and minor amendment to the self-disclosure form linked.	Oct 2021
15	Updates to clarify prohibition checks for those other than teachers e.g. TA's with QTS and HLTA's where they carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work	Nov 2021
16	Updated in line with Keeping Children Safe 2022	Sept 2022
17	Updated with amended links to the KAHub, other external websites and minor changes to terminology in relation to KCSiE 2023 statutory guidance. Reviewed and updated by school	Sept 2023 May 2024
18	Updated with changes to reflect the DfE Sign-in 'Check a teachers record; Children's Barred List and Section 128 directions lists available from July 2024 and other minor changes.	Sept 2024
19	Updated with changes to reflect the revised EYFS statutory framework for	Sept 2025

Version Number	KAHSC Version Description	Date of Revision
	group and school-based providers (September 2025). Minor changes in relation to KCSiE 2025.	
20	Updated to include details on how from 21 January 2026, a self-employed person can apply personally to the DBS for an Enhanced or Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity (page 19 refers).	February 2026

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POLICY STATEMENT

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School (hereinafter referred to as the School) has created a culture that safeguards and promotes the welfare of children in the school. As part of this culture, we have adopted robust recruitment procedures that deter, reject or identify people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment or volunteering opportunities in our school. This Policy is supported by procedures which describe in detail those checks that are, or may be, required for any individual working in any capacity (paid or unpaid) in, or visiting, this School. The Governing Body will act reasonably in making decisions about the suitability of the prospective employee or other individual based on checks and evidence including: criminal background (via the Disclosure and Barring Service); barred list check; prohibition status (in the case of teachers and HLTA's); Childcare Disqualification Declaration (applies only to 'relevant' staff) and other necessary checks together with references and interview information. Some or all the above checks will apply to those recruited to a volunteer role.

In response to any future response to emergencies including local or large scale public health incidents, these procedures may require amendment in relation to checking ID documents and interviews, both of which may be required to revert to a virtual system. An additional addendum may be introduced in order to meet recruitment needs in the event of a future pandemic.

Safer recruitment is not just about carrying out the right checks prior to appointment and is not limited to recruitment procedures. Good safeguarding requires a continuing commitment from the Governing Body and all staff to ensure the safety and welfare of children is embedded in all of our processes and procedures and is enshrined in our ethos.

All recruitment will be in line with this Policy and procedures and will, without exception follow the process of safer recruitment. All offers of employment (whether paid or unpaid) will be subject to school staff and Governors being satisfied that the applicant or volunteer is a suitable person to work with children, young people.

DfE statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' states that schools should have in place a number of arrangements as part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In relation to safer recruitment, these arrangements include having safer recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work (paid or unpaid) regularly with children. This Policy and supporting procedures fulfil that statutory requirement.

All those involved with recruiting individuals to the school will be familiar with and fully understand Part three of the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers and the school Child Protection Policy and procedures.

All recruitment will be planned to ensure that there is adequate time and resources available to ensure that an individual is recruited safely.

Once an individual has been appointed, contracted or accepted as a volunteer, we will ensure that a full Induction takes place which will include our Child Protection Policy and procedures and provision of other related safeguarding documents both statutory and non-statutory (see Induction procedures).

We are committed to ensuring that throughout our recruitment and selection process, no applicant is disadvantaged or discriminated against because of their age, sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity status.

Any person who becomes or is made aware that the recruitment process set out in this Policy and accompanying procedures are not being followed must inform the Head teacher or Chair of Governors immediately.

The procedures supporting this Policy do not constitute a legal representation of **all** HR issues relating to Recruitment and Selection and as such will be used in conjunction with any other Recruitment and Selection guidance issued by the school's HR provider.

PROCEDURES

1. Planning and advertising

Refer to KAHSC Recruitment and selection checklist to help you through the process of recruiting safely.

Sufficient time and resources will be allowed to enable appropriate and full planning to take place prior to a post being advertised. This includes ensuring that a job description and person specification is current and in place. Volunteer posts may require a generic job description which would cover several voluntary roles in school.

Those involved in the recruitment process will be identified at this stage including those who will be responsible for short-listing and those involved in the formal interview process.

To convey that our school views safeguarding children as paramount, the following statement will be included in all advertisements:

"St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of its pupils, engages with young people and staff in policy and practice developments, proactively encourages feedback and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment".

The above statement will also be included in:

- Publicity materials
- The school website
- Recruitment partner websites
- Applicant information packs
- Job descriptions
- Person Specifications
- Induction programmes

So that individuals can make an informed decision about whether they wish to apply for a post, the advert and information will refer to the requirement to obtain a suitable Enhanced Disclosure (with relevant barred list check(s) if the post will be in Regulated Activity), an explanation of when in the process any criminal history is to be disclosed and discussed and, where appropriate to the post, a requirement to confirm that the applicant is not disqualified from working with children.

In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education paragraph 221, our application form does not ask questions about criminal history, prohibitions or relevant Disqualifications. In order to support this change, the following paragraph is published on the school website vacancies page:

All posts involving direct contact with children are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974 and the successful applicant will be required to hold or undergo a suitable enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure at the appropriate level. However, amendments to the ROA 1974 (Exceptions Order 1975 (2013 & 2020)) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are considered 'protected'. This means that they do not need to be disclosed to employers, and if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Guidance about whether a conviction or caution should be disclosed can be found on the Ministry of Justice website or Unlock.org.uk.

Short-listed candidates will be asked to complete a criminal record and other sanctions self-disclosure form to provide details of all unspent convictions and those that would not be filtered or protected, prohibitions and disqualifications, to be returned to the school prior to the date of the interview. You may be asked for further information about your criminal history during the recruitment process. If your application is successful, this criminal record self-disclosure information will be checked against information from the Disclosure & Barring Service before your appointment is confirmed.

In addition to the above, as part of our due diligence checks, the school reserves the right to carry out an online search on short-listed candidates. This will only include a search for information which is publicly available online.

Please note it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated

activity relevant to children.

All advertisements will refer to the school's ethos in relation to equality of opportunity for all.

2. Job description/Person specification

The job description will include and clearly state:

- the main duties and responsibilities of the post;
- the extent of contact/responsibility for pupils;
- the school's expectations and the post-holder's individual responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the children the individual will be responsible for or come into contact with;
- whether or not the post is in regulated activity with children and/or adults;
- line management accountability for supervision and performance.

The person specification will:

- clearly convey the selection criteria against which the applicant's ability to do the job will be assessed;
- contain selection criteria which specifies the experience, skills, qualifications and personal qualities required;
- explain how these requirements will be tested and assessed during the selection process, e.g., by interview, tests, presentations, observation of group exercises etc.

It is vital that applicants are aware that, in addition to their ability to perform duties of the post, selection will consider their personal suitability for the role. This includes their:

- motivation and suitability to work with children;
- attitude towards the use of authority and control;
- integrity and ability to form and maintain appropriate professional relationships with children;
- emotional resilience when working with challenging behaviours and situations.

3. Information pack to applicants

All information provided to interested applicants will highlight the importance of the rigorous selection processes and the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Information in the pack makes clear to applicants that proof of identity will be required as well as a criminal history self-disclosure and, for the successful candidate, a DBS Disclosure of the appropriate level.

Our Information Pack also includes a copy of, or link to:

- the application form and explanatory notes about completing the form;
- the job description and person specification;
- relevant information about the organisation and the recruitment process;
- the school's Child Protection Policy and procedures;
- a statement of the terms and conditions relating to the post;
- the employee/workforce privacy notice;
- the school's Recruitment of ex-offenders' Policy and procedures;
- the equality and diversity form.

4. Application form

We will only accept a copy of a curriculum vitae (CV) alongside an application form. We do not accept CVs in place of an Application form since this will generally contain only the information the applicant wishes to present. The Application form allows for a common set of core data that can then be used as a part of the full vetting and verification of short-listed applicants.

We do not ask applicants to return a criminal record self-disclosure form with the application pack nor does the application form ask questions about whether the applicant has a criminal history, prohibition or other relevant disqualification. The criteria for short-listing will be the same for all candidates and is related to the job description and person specification. It would be unfair to discriminate against a candidate at this

stage solely based on the grounds that they have a criminal record.

Our Application form includes requests for the following essential information:

- Full identifying details including current and former names, current address and National Insurance number. It is important to be sure that the person is who they claim to be, this includes being aware of the potential for individuals changing their name. Best practice is checking the name on their birth certificate, where this is available. Further identification checking guidelines can be found on the GOV.UK website.
- Academic and vocational qualifications, including awarding body, name of institution and date achieved.
- Full employment chronology including any voluntary or part-time work with start dates, explanations for periods not in employment or education/training and reasons for leaving employment.
- Details of all post education training including dates and awarding bodies.
- A statement of the skills and abilities, and the competencies/experience that the applicant believes are relevant to his/her suitability for the post and how s/he meets the person specification.
- Declaration of any family or close relationships to existing employees or employers including governors, trustees etc.
- Details of at least two referees. One from current or most recent employer. In addition, where an applicant is not currently working with children, but has done so in the past, a reference will be requested from the employer by whom the person was most recently employed in work with children. References will not be accepted from relatives or friends.

5. Scrutinising and short-listing

Individuals will be short-listed equally against the requirements of the person specification. In all cases of those who are applying for paid employment, the same selection panel will both short-list and interview the applicant. In the case of volunteers applying to work in the school, a more informal approach will be taken which will generally involve only a Senior Member of staff.

At least one member of the 'panel' will have undertaken accredited safe recruitment and selection training which will as a minimum cover the content of Part three of the DfE statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

As part of our due diligence checks, the school reserves the right to carry out an online search on short-listed candidates. This will only include a search for information which is publicly available online. Information relating to any online search will be recorded using an Online search record form or similar.

The outcome of the short-listing process will be recorded, and information retained for a period not exceeding 6 months from the date of appointment of the successful candidate, after which it will be securely destroyed.

The equal opportunities/diversity monitoring form will be removed from the application pack prior to the short-listing process beginning.

The short-listing panel is responsible for scrutinising the application forms and identifying any gaps in employment or other areas that may affect an applicant's suitability to work with children and young people. All application forms will be scrutinised to ensure:

- they are fully and properly completed - incomplete application forms will not be accepted;
- the information is consistent and does not contain any discrepancies;
- any anomalies, discrepancies or gaps in employment/training and the reasons for this, or a history of repeated changes of employment are identified;
- the form is appropriately signed. Electronic copies should be physically signed by the applicant at the interview stage.

A satisfactory explanation for any concerns will be obtained from the applicant during the interview process.

6. Criminal self-disclosure

Foreseeability and certainty are in the best interests of applicants with a criminal history. All short-listed candidates will be provided with a criminal history/suitability self-disclosure form to complete and return no later than one day prior to interview. Failure to return the self-disclosure will result in the interview being withdrawn. Applicants will be provided with clear information about who in the organisation they should return the self-disclosure to. A model Criminal Record self-disclosure form is available via the KAHub.

The self-disclosure form will include an explanation of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, Exceptions Order 1975 and the 2020 filtering rules. The form includes a link to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) guidance on protected offences, a reminder that the applicant should take legal advice before completing the self-disclosure if they are unsure, and the contact details of organisations that can provide impartial advice.

Once the self-disclosure form is received in school, any disclosed information will be checked to ensure it is relevant. Relevant criminal history will be shared with the Chair of the recruitment panel prior to interview to allow time to assess relevance and agree what questions should be asked during the interview process.

Any short-listed candidate who discloses criminal or other suitability information will be given an opportunity to discuss the context and relevance with the recruiting panel. We will assess cases fairly, on an individual basis. A decision not to appoint someone because of their conviction(s) will be clearly documented in line with our Policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders. We will also consider the incident(s) in the context of the Teachers' Standards and Teacher misconduct guidance, if the applicant is applying for a teaching post/teaching work.

Where we decide or decline to appoint a candidate who has self-disclosed relevant criminal convictions and/or relevant criminal convictions are apparent on their DBS Certificate, we will ensure that a 'Cause for concern' risk assessment is carried out to fully document our decision to either appoint or not.

For the successful candidate, the self-disclosure will be compared with the enhanced DBS certificate on receipt to ensure consistency.

7. References

Generally, there is no legal obligation to provide a reference and employers are entitled to refuse. However, there are some exceptions. In certain sectors, providing a reference is obligatory, for example, for candidates applying for a position at an academy or maintained school in England. EYFS providers are required under the statutory framework to both seek and provide references. The DfE have created an Early years employment reference template for use/adaptation by EYFS provision although they can create their own and use the template as a guide..

When asked to provide a reference, we will ensure the information confirms whether we are satisfied with the applicant's suitability to work with children and provide the facts (not opinions) of any substantiated safeguarding concerns/allegations that meet the harm threshold[1]. We will not include information about concerns/allegations which are unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious.

The School will always ask for written references. Each request will be accompanied by the job description and person specification. One of the references will be requested from the current or most recent employer, training provider or education setting which has been completed by a senior person with appropriate authority. If the referee is school or college based, the reference should be confirmed by the Head teacher/Principal/other senior person with appropriate authority as accurate in respect of any disciplinary investigations. If an applicant for a teaching post is not currently employed as a teacher, we will check with the school, college or local authority at which they were most recently employed to confirm details of their employment and their reasons for leaving. The purpose of seeking references is to obtain subjective and factual information to support appointment decisions.

[1] The harm test is explained in the Disclosure and Barring service Guidance: Making barring referrals to the DBS and Section 35(4) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

As a result of the Equality Act 2010, it is no longer appropriate to ask referees for information relating to absence or sickness record until after the preferred candidate has been selected unless the post has an exception. However, under the Education (Health Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, schools should ensure that anyone employed to work in an education setting is physically and mentally fit to do so and recruiters may ask relevant questions at interview if they think this is appropriate. (See also Section 9. below).

All offers of employment will be conditional upon receipt of at least two satisfactory written references. References received will be scrutinised and any concerns resolved satisfactorily before the appointment is confirmed. References will always be requested by the school directly from the referee. Any provided by the applicant, a family member or open references i.e., those prefixed by 'To whom it may concern' will not be accepted under any circumstances.

We will secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children), if the applicant has never worked with children, then we will ensure a reference from their current employer, training provider or education setting.

Where the applicant is not currently employed, the referee will be asked to verify the most recent relevant period of employment.

References will be sought on all short-listed applicants, including internal ones and, where required, we will verify any information with the person who provided the reference. Wherever possible, these will be obtained prior to the interview and absolutely prior to employment, so that any issues of concern they raise can be explored further with the referee and taken up with the individual at interview.

Reference requests will specifically ask:

- about the referee's relationship with the applicant;
- whether the referee is completely satisfied that the individual is suitable to work with children and, if not, for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes that the person might be unsuitable.

Referees will also be asked, where relevant, to confirm details of:

- how the person meets the requirements of the specification and his or her capacity to carry out the duties set out in the job description;
- the applicant's current post and salary;
- the reason for the candidate leaving their current or most recent post;
- effectiveness of the applicant's interactions with children and other adults;
- performance history and conduct;
- any disciplinary procedures in which the sanction is current;
- any disciplinary procedures involving issues related to the safety and welfare of children, including any in which the sanction has expired and the outcome of those;
- whether, in the case of an applicant for a teaching post, that teacher has been in capability procedures during the previous two years;
- any outstanding complaints or investigations against the applicant that could bring the school into disrepute at a later stage;
- any 'substantiated' safeguarding concerns or allegations (including a group of low-level concerns about the same individual) that meet the harm threshold and the outcome of the concerns or allegations;
- whether they would re-employ the applicant and if not, why not.

Where a reference has not been received on the preferred applicant before the interview, once received it will be scrutinised and any concerns resolved satisfactorily before the individual's appointment is confirmed.

Where electronic references are received, these will be checked to ensure they originate from a legitimate source.

On receipt of references, they will be checked to ensure all questions have been answered satisfactorily. Where information is vague or insufficient, we will contact the referee to clarify content and will compare

the information on the application for that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the candidate. We will ensure that any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before the appointment is confirmed.

A character reference will be sought for volunteers as if they were to be employed.

8. Qualifications and employment history

Qualifications will be validated only on receipt and sight of original certificates. Qualifications required will be those which are listed as being a pre-requisite of the post advertised.

The School will always ask for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. Full employment history is required. Where there are gaps of unemployment, this must be explained on the application form.

9. Health

DfE statutory guidance '[Keeping Children Safe in Education]' emphasises the importance of anyone appointed to a post involving regular contact with children or young people must be medically fit. There is a statutory duty on employers to satisfy themselves that individuals have the appropriate level of physical and mental fitness before the appointment is confirmed. Any offer of employment will, therefore, be subject to satisfactory health checks. A Pre-employment medical screening form will be provided to the successful candidate following a verbal offer of employment with responses reviewed by the School's Occupational Health provider, where necessary. Dependant on the response, a face-to-face appointment with the Occupational Health provider or further details from the candidates GP may be required.

Assessment of physical fitness will be considered within the context of the Equality Act 2010 which allows for reasonable adjustments to be made.

10.Interviews

A face-to-face interview will take place for all applicants to all posts including volunteering roles. Wherever possible, the interviewing panel will consist of at least 2 people. At least one member of the panel will have successfully completed an accredited safer recruitment training course. Volunteers will be informally interviewed by either the Head teacher or a member of the School Leadership Team.

Members of the panel will:

- have the necessary authority to make decisions about the appointment;
- meet before the interview to agree their assessment criteria in accordance with the person specification and to prepare a list of questions they will ask all interviewees relating to the requirements of the post. These could include:
    - finding out what attracted the candidate to the post being applied for and their motivation for working with children;
    - exploring their skills and asking for examples of experience of working with children which are relevant to the role; and
    - probing any gaps in employment or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, asking about the reasons for this;
- identify any issues they wish to explore with each applicant based on the information provided in their application form and in the references;
- have clarified whether any criminal information disclosed in the self-disclosure is relevant and, if so, agreed what questions will be asked to understand the context of the offending and whether it affects the suitability of the candidate to take up the post;
- consider, in the circumstances of the individual case, any information about past disciplinary action or substantiated safeguarding concerns or allegations;
- allocate specific question sets to each member of the panel which will ensure that someone asks the questions and another member of the panel can at the same time record the applicant's answers. A copy of the notes and any scoring sheets will be collated by the Chair of the Panel and retained for a period outlined in the school's data retention procedures.

A record of the questions asked, and responses provided, will be retained with the other interview notes.

Those whose application forms provide information that best meets the criteria of the job description, person specification, experience and qualifications are invited for interview.

All applicants will be asked to bring with them documentary evidence of their identity and their 'right to work in the UK'. Where available, a full birth certificate will also be requested.

Evidence of identity can include a current driving licence or passport including a photograph, a full birth certificate and a document such as a utility bill or financial statement that shows the applicant's current name and address (no more than 3 months old) and, where appropriate change of name documentation.

Accepted evidence for their 'right to work in the UK' will be a current British passport. Where no British Passport is available, proof of a National Insurance number, e.g., NI card/letter or P60 and a copy of their Birth Certificate are required. From 1 July 2021, employers can no longer accept EU passports or ID cards as valid proof of right to work, with the exception of Irish citizens. For further information on what is required for foreign nationals, reference should be made to the Government document 'Checking a job applicant's right to work'. To carry out an online right to work check, we will require the applicant's date of birth and their share code which they will have obtained when they proved their right to work online.

Applicants must also bring:

- documents confirming any educational and professional qualification(s). If this is not possible, written confirmation must be obtained from the awarding body; and,
- documentation of registration with any appropriate professional body.

A copy of the documents used to verify the successful applicant's identity, qualifications and right to work in the UK will be retained on their personnel file.

Where an individual has submitted an electronic application form, they will be asked to sign the form prior to the interview.

11.Other selection methods

In addition to a face-to-face interview with an Interview Panel, a variety of other selection methods may be used, such as:

- observation of teaching practice either in the proposed school or in the applicant's current setting;
- one or more additional panel interviews e.g., a panel made up of pupils from the school;
- a presentation;
- in-tray exercises;
- psychometric testing.

Those involved in the recruitment process for a specific post will determine the selection method(s) to be used. The methods will be relevant and appropriate to the role and will be based on the requirements for the post as set out in the job description and person specification.

Applicants will be informed in advance if any selection methods are to be used in addition to a face-to-face interview and the format these will take.

12.Involving children and young people

We have developed a culture of listening to children. Children and young people can make a valuable contribution to the recruitment process and their participation may be considered for key strategic and managerial posts as well as posts where staff will have a high level of responsibility for children's day to day care.

Where pupils are involved in the recruitment process this will be done in a meaningful way. Observing short-listed candidates and appropriately supervised interaction with pupils is common and recognised as good practice.

13.Conditional offer of employment – pre-employment checks

An offer of appointment to the successful applicant will be conditional upon any or all of the following:

- the receipt of at least two satisfactory references (where not received before interview). Where possible, these will also be confirmed by telephone. See Section 7 for further details;
- verification of the individual's identity (if that could not be verified at interview) preferably from current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available. Best practice is checking the name on their birth certificate, where this is available;
- verification and/or evidence of the individual's right to work in the UK (if that could not be verified at interview);
- receipt of a satisfactory enhanced DBS Disclosure Certificate (with relevant barred list check(s) if the post will be in Regulated Activity). Where the individual is registered, this may be via a check with the DBS Update Service;
- a **separate** children's Barred List check[2] for those with a 'portable' DBS Enhanced Certificate for Regulated Activity (having worked in a school in England in the previous 3 months) or who start work in regulated activity before the DBS Certificate is available. Such individuals will be subject to reasonable supervision until a new Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity is received. A risk assessment for those awaiting the DBS Certificate will also be completed prior to employment commencing. A copy of this risk assessment will be retained on the personnel file;
- further checks on the individual if they have lived or worked outside of the UK for a block period of 12 months or more in the last 10 years while the person was aged 18 or over. These further checks might include a check for information about any teacher sanction or restriction that an overseas professional regulating authority has imposed. (See Sections 14.3 and 14.6 below for further information);
- verification of the individual's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role (S60 Equality Act 2010 refers). See Section 9 for further details;
- verification of qualifications (if not verified at interview). For teachers, this will include checking that the individual has the required teaching qualification;
- verification of professional status where required e.g., QTS (unless properly exempted);
- verification of previous employment history and experience, including exploration of any gaps and anomalies;
- (for teaching posts) verification of successful completion of statutory induction/probationary period;
- (for teaching posts, including unqualified teachers and HLTAs who are permitted to teach undirected or unsupervised) verification that the individual is not subject to either a Prohibition Order or an Interim Prohibition Order (using the TRA page accessed via DfE Sign-in website);
- (for teaching posts, including unqualified teachers and HLTAs who are permitted to teach undirected or unsupervised) verification that the individual is not included in the list of people sanctioned by the GTCE (using the TRA system as above);
- verification that a person taking up a management position as described at paragraphs 14.4 and 21 below is not subject to a Section 128 direction made by the Secretary of State;
- where required, verification that the individual is not disqualified from caring for children under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018 – Childcare Disqualification declaration or criminal record self-declaration form completed.

All checks will be:

- confirmed in writing;
- documented and retained on the personnel file (subject to data protection and DBS requirements);
- for teachers only, the TRA record will be printed or saved digitally and retained on the personnel file;

[2] Special Schools/Units with pupils up to and including the age of 19 should ensure that application forms make reference to both the Children's and Adults Barred Lists for those staff likely to be working in regulated activity with over 18's

- followed up where they are unsatisfactory or there are discrepancies.

14.Recruitment checks

14.1 Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The DBS is responsible for administering three types of check insofar as they relate to the education sector:

- **Standard Disclosure:** a check of the Police National Computer (PNC) records of convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings regardless or not of whether they are spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This type of check is not normally requested in educational settings;
- **Enhanced Disclosure:** a check of the PNC records as above, plus additional information held by the Police such as interviews and allegations and other information held by the Police that is considered relevant and ought to be disclosed; and
- **Enhanced Disclosure with barred list information (aka Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity):** for people working in 'regulated activity' with children. This adds a check of the DBS Children's Barred List to the enhanced disclosure. In addition, this check can also include information as to whether an individual is subject to a Section 128 direction where specific wording is used in the 'position applied for' field (see paragraph 264 of Keeping Children Safe in Education).

More information is available on the DBS website, and at paragraph 242 of DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

A DBS Disclosure Certificate for Regulated Activity will be obtained from the successful applicant before or as soon as practicable after appointment. There is **no requirement** to obtain an enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity or carry out checks for events that may have occurred outside the UK (although we will carefully consider if it would be appropriate to request one to ensure that we have up to date information) 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 an institution within the FE sector in England or in a 16-19 Academy in a post which involved the provision of education which brought the person regularly into contact with children or young persons.

All other pre-appointment checks must still be completed including, where the individual is engaging in regulated activity, a barred list check[3]. A check on the barred list status of an individual **must** always be undertaken prior to the individual commencing work at the school. This will be either through sight and verification of the 'new' original paper Disclosure Certificate for Regulated Activity with children initiated by the school or by checking the children's barred list independently where we have had sight of and verified the current original paper DBS Certificate under the '3-month rule' above. The date of the barred list check **must precede** the date the individual commences work.

Where there is a pressing need to start someone in employment before the new DBS certificate is received, a risk assessment for new staff awaiting the DBS Disclosure will be undertaken (the outcome of which will be confirmed by the Head teacher) and the school will request a stand-alone Children's Barred list check via the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). If, as a result of the check, there is a 'name match', the school **will not** allow the individual to start work until the situation has been clarified and the new paper DBS certificate has been received by the individual and seen and verified by the school.

Where the new employing school is accepting a DBS Certificate from a previous employment (3-month rule), the School **may** request a new enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity with children to ensure they have the most up to date information or should there be concerns and bearing in mind the duty the School is under not to allow a barred person to work in regulated activity.

No individual is permitted to commence in a post where they will be in regulated activity with adults before

[3] From 1 April 2021 schools can access the Children's Barred List via the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) and DfE sign-in.

the school has had sight of the original enhanced paper DBS certificate for regulated activity with adults. If there is an urgent need, the school may request an Adult First check of the adult barred list after the application for enhanced DBS with adult barred list check has been submitted to the Disclosure & Barring Service.

The School **may not** request an enhanced Disclosure with barred list check for anyone not engaging in or seeking to engage in regulated activity but **may** request an enhanced DBS check **without** a barred list check where the individual is working (paid or unpaid) on a regular or frequent basis in school.

A flowchart (extracted from Keeping Children Safe in Education) of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks and Barred List checks is available via the KAHub.

The level of DBS check required will depend on the role and duties of an applicant to work in a school (paid or unpaid) as outlined in this Policy.

A person will be in 'regulated activity' with children if, because of their work, they:

- will be responsible, on a regular basis, in any setting for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or
- will regularly work in a school at times when children are on school premises (where the person's work requires interaction with children, whether or not the work is paid (unless they are a supervised volunteer), or whether the person is directly employed or employed by a contractor; or
- engage in intimate or personal care or healthcare or any overnight activity, even if this happens only once.

A 'supervised' volunteer who regularly teaches or looks after children is not in regulated activity. The Department for Education (DfE) has published separate statutory guidance on supervision and regulated activity to which we have regard to when considering which checks should be undertaken on volunteers.

The full legal definition of regulated activity is set out in Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. HM Government have produced a factual note on Regulated Activity in relation to Children: scope.

Regulated activity with children 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.

Work under (a) or (b) is regulated activity only if done regularly[4]. Some activities are always regulated activities, regardless of their frequency or whether they are supervised or not. This includes:

c) 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.

Regulated activity will not be:

- paid work in specified places which is occasional and temporary and does not involve teaching, training; and
- supervised activity which is paid in non-specified settings such as youth clubs, sports clubs etc.

[4] Regular is generally defined as working (paid or unpaid) once per week but every week for a period of time; 4 times or more in any 30 day period or overnight between the hours of 2.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m.

When the DBS has completed its check(s) of an applicant, the relevant information is recorded on a certificate (the DBS Disclosure Certificate) that is sent to the applicant. The applicant **must** show the original paper DBS Certificate to the School (their potential employer) before they take up post or as soon as practicable afterwards, including when using the DBS update service. Where we allow an individual to start work in regulated activity with children before the DBS Certificate is available, we will ensure that the individual is appropriately supervised, an appropriate risk assessment is carried out and that all other checks, including a separate barred list check, have been completed. No 'relevant' individual will be permitted to start work in regulated activity with adults before the DBS certificate is available.

If we know or have reason to believe that an individual is barred, we commit an offence if we allow the individual to carry out any form of regulated activity. There are penalties of up to five years in prison if a barred individual is convicted of attempting to engage or engaging in such work.

14.2 Prohibition Orders/Interim Prohibition Orders

Teacher prohibition and interim prohibition orders prevent a person from carrying out teaching work in schools, sixth form colleges or 16 to 19 academies. A person who is prohibited from teaching or has an interim prohibition notice made against them will not be appointed to a role that involves teaching work in our setting. The Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012 define each of the following activities as 'teaching work':

- planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils;
- delivering lessons to pupils; and,
- assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.

The regulations provide that the above activities do not constitute 'teaching work' if they are carried out under the direction or supervision of a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the Head teacher.

A check of any prohibition can be carried out using the DfE Sign-in website. Prohibition orders are described in the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) publications Teacher misconduct: disciplinary procedures for the teaching profession, and Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers.

Prohibition of HLTAs/TAs

It is a statutory requirement to check on appointment that other members of school staff who may be engaged to carry out some teaching work unsupervised and/or undirected such as unqualified teachers, certain HLTAs or those with QTS who may in the future be engaged to carry out some teaching work without supervision, are not prohibited from teaching. Although such individuals may not have a Teacher Reference number, they must be checked against the 'GTCE' list and the 'Teachers and others prohibited from the profession' list.

There is no statutory requirement for a prohibition check to be made on applications for any other school staff position unless they will carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work. This means that, generally, when appointing into teaching assistant (TA) or other non-teaching positions, prohibition checks will not be required. If a TA later progresses within the school system to become an HLTA, there is no requirement to check the prohibition status at any stage in the promotion process.

Prohibition Orders are made by the Secretary of State following consideration by a professional conduct panel convened by the TRA. Pending such consideration, the Secretary of State may issue an Interim Prohibition Order if he considers that it is in the public interest to do so. There remain a number of individuals who are still subject to disciplinary sanctions which were imposed by the GTCE therefore both prohibition lists available through the TRA will be checked ('GTCE sanctions' **and** 'Teachers and others prohibited from the profession'). Further information is available from the DfE guidance Teacher status checks: information for employers

We will check the prohibition status of any teacher/HLTA/TA with QTS (or in the case of Academies, free and independent schools, individuals who are unqualified but being employed in a teaching position) prior to appointment either permanently or on a temporary supply basis (where the supply teacher is not appointed via a Supply Agency). No individual who is prohibited or has an interim prohibition order made

against them will be employed to teach unsupervised and/or undirected in this school. It is the responsibility of Supply Agencies to ensure that supply teachers used in this school are similarly checked to ensure that they are not prohibited from teaching.

The purpose of the regulatory requirement to check prohibition is to prevent a person from working in a role that would contravene any prohibition order in place i.e., a role that would require them to carry out unsupervised/directed teaching work. That is why there is no statutory requirement for a prohibition check to be made on applications for any school staff position, unless they will carry out unsupervised/undirected teaching work. This means that, generally, when appointing into teaching assistant (TA) positions, prohibition checks will not be required.

We may, however, choose to undertake additional checks to those required by legislation to ensure an individual's suitability and may want to do this, for example, where someone applying for a TA role indicates that they have qualified teacher status or have previously worked as a teacher. Where we intend to do this, we will be open about this in the application process so that it is seen as fair and transparent.

Prohibition from teaching would not preclude someone from being considered for a TA role. The reasons for prohibiting someone from teaching will not necessarily relate to safeguarding matters. Guidance is available that indicates the range of misconduct types that may be sufficiently serious to lead to prohibition. In addition, when determining the suitability of a prohibited teacher to be appointed to a non-teaching position, we will consider the circumstances surrounding the misconduct as set out in the relevant published decision document Teacher misconduct. This detail may help inform any subsequent risk assessment that we choose to carry out. A model 'Cause for Concern' Risk Assessment which may be used is available from the KAHub.

14.3 EEA teacher sanctions

EEA regulators of the teaching profession previously shared details of any sanction or restriction that they imposed on a teacher with all other EEA teacher regulators.

From 18 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, schools in England were required to use the DfE Sign-in website to identify any restrictions imposed by all authorities in the European Economic Area (EEA) for those applying for teaching posts and who were new to or returning to the UK. There is a statutory requirement to record the date of this check on the school's single central record.

This service is no longer available to schools in the UK; however, we will retain evidence of the checks for relevant staff appointed in 2016-2020.

No similar scheme is or has been available for non-teaching staff.

See Section 14.6 below for details of how we process applications from those living or who have lived abroad.

14.4 Section 128 direction

The DfE has issued guidance which provides information about section 128 and the associated 2014 Regulations, including which factors the Secretary of State may take into account when deciding whether an individual's conduct makes them unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school, a Governor/Trustee in an Academy, or a Governor in a maintained school.

Maintained Schools

A Section 128 direction prohibits a person from taking up a position as a Governor or continuing to hold office as a Governor of a maintained school. This includes the Head teacher who by virtue of their position is elected to the Governing body and any staff elected representative on the Governing body. We have checked to ensure no current Governor has been issued with a Section 128 direction and we will ensure that prior to appointing a new Governor, a check is undertaken for the existence of a Section 128 direction made by the Secretary of State. A check for a Section 128 direction can be carried out using the TRA page (via DfE Sign-in website). The date the Section 128 check was carried out will be recorded on the Single Central Record although this is not mandatory.

14.5 DBS Update Service

If the applicant has subscribed to it and gives permission, the School will undertake an online status check through the DBS Update Service. Individuals can join the DBS Update Service when applying for a new DBS check or within 30 calendar days of the Disclosure Certificate being issued; this will allow portability of a Certificate across employers when applying for similar jobs or where it is anticipated that they will have a break from working in regulated activity for 3 months or more. With the individual's consent, the School can go online and carry out a free, instant check to see if there has been any change to the information recorded since the initial Certificate was issued and advise whether the individual should apply for a new Certificate. DBS Update Service.

Before using the Update Service, schools must:

(a) obtain consent from the applicant to do so;

(b) confirm the Certificate matches the individual's identity; and

(c) examine the original paper Certificate to ensure that it is for the appropriate workforce and level of check e.g., Enhanced Certificate/Enhanced Certificate for Regulated Activity with children[5].

14.6 DBS and other checks for those living or who have lived abroad

Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK must undergo the same checks as all other staff in school. This includes obtaining (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate (including barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity) even if the individual has never been to the UK. In addition, the School will make any further checks we think appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered.

Overseas checks will generally be sought in the following circumstances:

- The applicant has been resident in the UK for most of his or her adult life and has spent a period of twelve months or more in an overseas Country within the last 10 years while they were aged 18 or over. This only applies where the applicant has lived continuously in at least one Country for twelve months or more.
- The applicant has moved to the UK within the last 10 years having previously lived abroad for most of his or her adult life.

As outlined in section 14.1 above, there is no requirement for a school to carry out checks for events that may have occurred outside the UK if the applicant has worked in a school in England in a post where the 3 month rule applies.

It is usually the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the appropriate checks in the Country where they lived are sought. Not all countries provide criminal record information, and where they do, the nature and detail of the information provided varies from country to country. Advice on the criminal record information which may be obtained from overseas police forces, published by the Home Office, is on GOV.UK. Where this information is not available, we will seek alternative methods of checking suitability and/or undertake an overseas risk assessment that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment. In addition, we will always undertake an online search of individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK.

In addition to the above, for teaching positions, we may request from the applicant, a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant has worked. Advice about which regulatory or professional body applicants should contact is available from the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications (UK CPQ). Where available, such evidence can be considered together with information obtained through other pre-appointment checks to help assess their suitability. Holding a teaching qualification (wherever it was obtained) does not provide suitable assurances for safeguarding purposes that an individual has not been found guilty of any wrongdoing or misconduct, and/or is suitable to work with children. Where this information is not available, we will seek alternative

[5] Applies to special schools only

methods of checking suitability and/or undertake an overseas risk assessment and an online search that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment. Although sanctions and restrictions imposed by another regulating authority do not prevent a person from taking up teaching positions in England, we will consider the circumstances that led to the restriction or sanction being imposed when considering a candidate's suitability for employment. Further information can be found in DfE Guidance: Recruit teachers from overseas.

The Department for Education has also issued guidance Recruit teachers from overseas. This provides information on the checks required for employing a teacher who is a non-UK citizen.

Where overseas checks are relevant, we will endeavour to seek at least one overseas reference, even if no Police Certificate or Certificate of good conduct is available from that country.

14.7 Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018

Childcare disqualification is an additional requirement to the general child safeguarding arrangements provided under the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regime, which apply to all children.

The above legislation places separate and additional requirements on schools. At the point that an individual is convicted of, or cautioned for, a criminal offence of a specified type or category, or where they meet other disqualification criteria set out in the Regulations, the Act and Regulations disqualify staff from:

- providing early years childcare (including reception classes) or later years childcare to children who have not attained the age of eight; or
- being directly concerned in the management of that childcare.

To ensure that those relevant individuals working (paid or unpaid) in our School are not disqualified from working with the relevant pupils under the Childcare Disqualification Regulations 2018, the Governing Body require that, prior to appointment or at the short-listing stage, an individual completes a self-declaration form.

NOTE: Schools **must not** ask their staff or other adults questions about cautions or convictions of someone living or working in their household. Any disqualification declarations must limit questions to the 'relevant' individual only.

15 Single Central Record

The School will keep and maintain a Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is a record of the vetting checks specified in statutory legislation which have been carried out to verify, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the individual is an appropriate person to work within the setting. The SCR will include details of pre-employment checks carried out for the following people:

- all staff including teacher trainees on salaried routes, agency and third party supply staff (even if they work for one day);and,

We may also choose to record the vetting checks completed for volunteers, governors of maintained, foundation, voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools and regular contractors on the SCR.

For students, written confirmation will be sought confirming that the host School, College or University of the individual has carried out the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates, whether any enhanced DBS check certificate has been provided in respect of the individual, whether the relevant barred list check has been completed (if the student will be in regulated activity with children) and the date that confirmation was received.

The minimum information that must be recorded in respect of staff members (including teacher trainees on salaried routes) is whether the following checks have been carried out or certificates obtained **prior to appointment**, and the date on which each check was completed or certificate obtained:

- an identity check (GOV.UK How to prove and verify someone's identity);
- a standalone children's barred list check;
- an enhanced DBS check (with children's barred list check) requested/certificate provided;

- a prohibition from teaching check and GTCE check (where applicable);
- a Section 128 check (for all Governors and, in the case of Academies, management positions);
- further checks on people living or working outside the UK. This would include recording checks for those EEA teacher sanctions and restrictions described in paragraph 13.3 above undertaken between 18/01/16 and 31/12/20 and any additional checks undertaken for those applying for teaching posts;
- a check of professional qualifications, where required; and
- a check to establish the person's right to work in the United Kingdom.

For agency and third party supply staff, we will also include whether written confirmation that the employment business supplying the member of supply staff has carried out the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates, whether details of any enhanced DBS check certificate has been provided in respect of the member of supply staff, and the date that confirmation was received. See also paragraph 16 below.

The School does not keep copies of DBS certificates to fulfil the duty of maintaining the SCR unless we have a valid reason for doing so. To comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, where the School chooses to retain a copy of the DBS Certificate, they will be retained in line with the DBS guidance on retention (i.e. for no longer than 6 months). . A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful applicant's identity, right to work in the UK and required qualifications will be held on the personnel file along with the criminal self-disclosure, notes of any discussions with the employee about that self-disclosure and the risk assessment of suitability, where relevant criminal history was disclosed (see model Cause for Concern Risk Assessment).

The details of an individual will be removed from the single central record once they no longer work at the school.

16 Agency and third-party staff

The School will obtain written notification from any agency, or third-party organisation, we use that the organisation has carried out the necessary checks on an individual who will be working at the School that the school would otherwise perform. This will include, as necessary, confirmation that the following checks have been carried out prior to appointment:

- DBS Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity, including confirmation that the certificate has been obtained by either the employment business or another such business;
- Prohibition check(s) (those employed to teach only);
- Disqualification under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendments) Regulations 2018 declaration. This should include confirmation that the agency or organisation providing the staff has informed them that they will be committing and offence if they are deployed to work in relevant childcare settings if they are disqualified under legislation.

Where the position requires a children's barred list check, this must be obtained by the agency or third party by obtaining an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information, prior to appointing the individual.

The School will ensure that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made and will record the date this ID check was carried out (usually the first day the individual presents in school).

Regulations 18 and 30 of the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 requires that where the employment business has obtained an enhanced DBS certificate before the person is due to begin work at the school which disclosed any matter or information or any information was provided to the employment business from the Police, a copy of the certificate **must** be provided to the governing body (Head teacher) of the school so that we may decide whether or not the person is suitable to work with children. This applies to all supply staff including support staff who are appointed via a Supply Agency. Where a certificate is received, the Certificate number must be recorded on the Single Central Record.

Part 4 of the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 requires that

Education Businesses who supply staff to Academies, Independent and Free Schools provide those settings with a copy of an individual's DBS certificate prior to placing the supply staff member. A person offered for supply by an employment business should only begin work at the school if the proprietor considers that the person is suitable for the work for which the person is supplied. The Certificate number which was received by the school must be recorded on the Single Central Record.

17 Trainee/Student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by the school, the School will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out as if the trainee were an employee including, where necessary, a Childcare Disqualification Declaration. As trainee teachers will generally be engaged in work that is regulated activity relating to children, an enhanced DBS Disclosure for Regulated Activity check will be obtained.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks, with written confirmation that the appropriate checks have been carried out, being given to the school in advance of the placement. We will not request copies of the Certificates but will ensure that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

18 Volunteers

Under no circumstances will a volunteer on whom no checks have been obtained be left unsupervised or allowed to work in regulated activity. Such volunteers will be subject to reasonable supervision by a person who themselves are in regulated activity.

For new volunteers in regulated activity who will regularly teach or look after children on an unsupervised basis or provide personal care on a one-off basis the School will obtain an enhanced DBS Disclosure with a Children's Barred list check. In addition, the Head teacher will determine whether a Childcare Disqualification declaration is required to be completed.

For new volunteers not in regulated activity we will undertake a risk assessment and use our professional judgement and experience when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check.

In undertaking the risk assessment, we will take the following into consideration:

- the nature of the work with children, especially if it will constitute regulated activity, including the level of supervision;
- what the establishment knows about the volunteer, including formal or informal information offered by staff, parents and other volunteers. We will also undertake an online search (not including social media);
- whether the volunteer has other employment or undertakes voluntary activities where referees can advise on their suitability; and
- whether the role is eligible for a DBS check and, if it is, the level of check, for volunteer roles that are not in regulated activity.

Details of the risk assessment will be recorded.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 amended the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, removing supervised volunteers from regulated activity and applying a duty on the Secretary of State to issue guidance to assist regulated activity providers such as schools, to decide what level of supervision is required so that this exclusion would apply. If the volunteer is to be supervised while undertaking an activity which would be regulated activity if it was unsupervised, the statutory DfE guidance will be followed. The guidance issued following this change requires that, for a person to be considered supervised, the supervision **must** be:

- by a person who themselves are in regulated activity;
- regular and day to day; and
- reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure the protection of children.

There are certain circumstances where schools may obtain an enhanced DBS certificate (not including barred list information), for volunteers who are not engaging in regulated activity. This is set out in DBS

workforce guides, which can be found on GOV.UK

Employers are not legally permitted to request a barred list check on a supervised volunteer as they are not considered to be engaged in regulated activity.

Volunteers engaging in regulated activity do not have to be re-checked if they have already had a DBS check (which includes barred list information if engaging in regulated activity) unless the school has any concerns. If, however, the volunteer who works in regulated activity has a break (3 months or more) from volunteering in the school, it is good practice to seek a new DBS certificate. Such volunteers should, however, be strongly encouraged to register with the DBS Update service. Other DBS checks for volunteers not in regulated activity can be re applied for at the level appropriate to the volunteer role if the school have any concerns.

19 School Governors (maintained schools)

School and college Governors of maintained schools who are volunteers are required to have an Enhanced Disclosure as a minimum. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to apply for the certificate for any governors who do not already have one. Governance is not a regulated activity relating to children however, where a Governor also has unsupervised access to children on a regular basis, they will be required to hold an Enhanced Disclosure for Regulated Activity i.e., with a Children's Barred List check. Refer also to Section 14.4 (checks for Section 128 directions).

Associate members are appointed by the Governing Body to serve on one or more Governing Body Committees. The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 made enhanced DBS checks mandatory for maintained school governors but do not apply to associate members unless they also engage in regulated activity at the school.

20 Alternative Provision

21 Where we place a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and, as such, we will obtain written confirmation from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the establishment i.e. those checks that we would otherwise perform in respect of our own staff. This includes written confirmation that the alternative provider will inform the school of any arrangements that may put a child at risk (i.e. staff changes) so that we can ensure ourselves that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on new staff.

22 Others with the potential for contact with children

23.1 Contractors

Where we use contractors to provide services, we will set out our safeguarding requirements in the contract between the organisation and the school.

The School will ensure that any contactor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check. Contractors who are engaging in regulated activity will require an Enhanced DBS check for Regulated Activity i.e. including a children's barred list check. For all other contractors who are not engaging in regulated activity, but whose work provides them with an opportunity for **regular** contact with children, an enhanced DBS check will be required. In considering whether the contact is regular, it is irrelevant whether the contactor works on a single site or across a number of sites. In cases where the contractor does not have opportunity for regular contact with children, we will decide whether a basic DBS disclosure would be appropriate.

Under no circumstances will a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity. Schools are responsible for determining the appropriate level of supervision depending on the circumstances and risks to children involved. A model Contractors on site risk assessment (child protection) is available from the KAHub.

From 21 January 2026, if an individual working in school is a self-employed sole trader, in specific circumstances, they are able to apply themselves for a DBS Enhanced Disclosure (with or without a children's barred list check) by approaching a DBS Umbrella Body. The eligibility criteria which determines

what level of DBS is required for particular roles has not changed. The DBS provides an electronic eligibility tool which can help determine what check is available to whom. See DBS checks for self-employed people and personal employees for further information. Alternatively, where a self-employed individual is contracting services to a school, the school may apply on the individual's behalf.

We will, however, always check the identity of contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

For additional information on the safe appointment of contractors we will refer to our 'procedures for protecting children when contractors are working in educational settings'.

23.2 Visitors

For visitors provided by a third party e.g. educational psychologists, social workers etc and those connected with the building/grounds maintenance see Section 16 above. We will ensure that ID checks are carried out and seek assurance that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check for work with children and that where unsupervised access to a child is required, this includes the Children's Barred list check (or the visitor's employers have confirmed that their staff have appropriate checks, including, where necessary, the Children's Barred List check. We will not ask to see the certificate in these circumstances).

The School does not have the power to request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates, for visitors to the school who are not working directly with children e.g. children's relatives or other visitors attending an activity in school. Staff in this School will use their professional judgement about the need to escort or supervise visitors.