



St Teresa of Calcutta MAC/ SCHOOLS

SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY
BASED ON BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL MODEL POLICY

Updated December 2023

Signed by Director of Academy Trust Company:

Signed by the CSEL:

To be reviewed (annually): January 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Board of St Teresa of Calcutta MAC (STOCMAC) has adopted this Safer Recruitment policy in accordance with the *School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 and Keeping children safe in education statutory guidance*, for the safe and legal employment of people to work in the school.

STOCMAC is committed to the welfare of children and young people in its care. It recognises that the legal requirements for recruiting and employing people to work in the MAC include provisions specifically to protect children from harm and that following these provisions is an essential part of its duty of care. It also recognises that the legal requirements for checking prospective employees' right to work in the United Kingdom protect those responsible for recruitment from fines for infringing the law. The Board has also adopted the model Safeguarding Policy recommended by Birmingham City Council. The Board and Local Governing Bodies will ensure that all employees are made aware of this policy, the Safeguarding and Data Protection Policy.

GUIDANCE ON THE LAW

STOCMAC is committed to following the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance. Headteachers are required to ensure that checks on the right to work in the United Kingdom complies with the requirements of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. STOCMAC is committed to its legal duties and responsibilities in respect of equality in employment.

CHECKS AND RECORDING

The Board commits the Local Governing Bodies and schools to working in compliance with the legal requirements on schools to undertake pre-employment checks as outlined in the School Staffing Regulations, Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance and other legislative provisions, including the Childcare Disqualification Regulations.

The Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee is required to:

- Ensure self-declaration forms are completed by all short-listed candidates, self-declaration forms should be used to document their criminal record or any information that would deem them unsuitable to work with children, the information should not be used to determine who will be short-listed but is their opportunity to share relevant information to be discussed and considered at interview (application forms will no longer ask for criminal convictions)
- Ensuring that all required pre-employment checks on new employees, including casual and short-term employees, are made and completed satisfactorily before a formal offer of employment is made and that these checks are recorded in the required register (known as the 'single central record').
- Ensuring that the single central record is kept of the checks already undertaken on existing employees.
- Ensuring that the required written confirmation of all required checks is obtained and retained on file, from agencies and third party organisations supplying staff to the school, including organisations providing specialist coaches or instructors and centrally managed services. Ensuring details of staff supplied by agencies and third-party organisations are recorded in the single central record, even if they only work for one day. Also, that the identity of each and every person supplied by an agency is checked by the school before the person starts work.

- Ensuring that self-employed people engaged directly by the school are subject to the same checks as would be the case if they were employed by the school.
- Ensuring that the checks involve copying (or electronic scanning) each specified document as required, signing and dating the copy and placing the copy in secure storage in accordance with Data Protection legislation. Photocopies or scanned images of DBS certificates will not be taken or held on file.
- Arranging for all volunteers to undertake an identity check
- Ensure a volunteer risk assessment is completed for all volunteers to determine whether they are deemed to be working in regulated activity or not, recording the decision as to why a barred list check is undertaken or not.
- Ensuring a DBS certificate with a barred list check is obtained for volunteers deemed to be working in regulated activity.
- Ensuring barred list checks are not carried out on any person, including volunteers, who are not in or seeking to enter regulated activity.
- Ensure that an online search is carried out on all short-listed applicants to help identify and incidents or issues that have happened, and are available to view publicly, which you may want to explore with the candidate at interview
- The Board will ensure that these requirements are applied to the selection of a Catholic Senior Executive Lead and CEO and Headteachers of schools in the STOCMAC. STOCMAC will ensure that it works with the local authority and complies with the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to refer prescribed information to the Disclosure and Barring Service when required to do so.

ENHANCED DISCLOSURE AND BARRING CERTIFICATE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

STOCMAC has discretion to use a person's previous DBS clearance, subject to carrying out a new barred list check if a requirement of the role, or carry out a check with the Update Service subject to the conditions outlined in the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance.

STOCMAC permits the commencement of employment before an enhanced criminal record certificate has been obtained only in justifiable circumstances approved by the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or Headteacher following a risk assessment and provided that an application for such a certificate has been submitted. If a requirement for the role, a new barred list check will be carried out prior to the person starting work while awaiting a certificate. In each case the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee or Headteacher is required by the Local Governing Body to record the risk assessment and the decision, monitor the situation every fourteen days until the enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service is received and to be accountable for the decision to allow the employee to start work.

STOCMAC will ensure that people who have lived/worked outside the UK for three months or more within the last five years or have come from overseas undergo the same checks as for all other appointments and volunteers, including obtaining enhanced disclosure and barring certificates.

Where obtaining a DBS certificate is not sufficient to establish that person's suitability to work in a school, because of the time spent abroad, Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee, Headteacher, Board or Local Governing Body will make such further checks as they consider appropriate by asking the person to provide a certificate of good conduct or equivalent,

and ensuring the person completes the overseas declaration form

POSITIVE DISCLOSURES

The Board requires the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee or Headteacher to carry out the appropriate risk assessment in connection with a positive disclosure obtained through a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service. STOCMAC expects the CSEL or Headteacher, where appropriate, to take advice from the Local Authority's LADO Team on a positive disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service, or appropriate other persons such as the Authority's Employee Relations Team as necessary and refer the matter to the relevant committee of the Local Governing Body or Board if advised to do so.

GENERAL RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

Where the Board of Directors has delegated its power of recruitment and selection to the Local Governing Body and/or Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or Headteacher it requires that they ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that:

- All vacancies, whether permanent or temporary, are advertised externally, unless this would result in displacement of existing staff or there is an urgent need to recruit temporary cover for absent staff, in which cases the Headteacher is required to invite applications or expressions of interest from all staff in the school, including existing temporary employees and agency workers. The Board notes that there is a legal requirement to make all such vacancies known to employees on maternity leave and parental leave and to agency workers. It expects details supplied to applicants to include a job description and person specification.
- All advertisements include a statement to the effect that the school "is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment" and a statement that the successful applicant will require an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service and an online search will be carried out on short-listed candidates to help identify and incidents or issues that can be discussed at interview
- All advertisements should also include a statement to state that the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Every job description includes a statement that the employee is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children for whom he or she is responsible or comes into contact.
- Every person specification includes a clear statement about the requirements for any applicants to demonstrate their suitability to work with children and that this will include motivation, ability to maintain appropriate relationships with children, emotional resilience to challenging behaviour, and attitudes to the use of authority and maintenance of discipline
- Unless the Board has adopted another application form complying with the statutory guidance, the school uses the current standard application forms prepared by the Catholic Education Service
- Any gaps in education or employment, or discrepancies between information on the application form and references are explored
- All short-listed candidates should be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children
- At least two job-related written references, including one from the current employer or most recent employer (or training establishment in the case of a newly qualified teacher or school for a young person with no previous employment experience) or most recent employer in respect of employment with children, are always obtained before interviews take place and

preferably before short-listing, that relevant questions are asked of the referee and employee in accordance with statutory guidance and any discrepancies are investigated that the assessment of candidates during selection process is properly recorded against the person specification and criteria set for the assessment

- A job is never offered subject to references and that if written references are not available before an interview selection of a candidate is deferred, with the panel adjourning and reconvening when the written references are available
- All persons invited for interview are informed in writing of the required pre-employment checks and asked to bring relevant documentation with them on the day of the interview
- Choose suitable people, one of whom must have completed the required training in safer recruitment, to interview candidates with the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or Headteacher or on their behalf and that the interviews are supplemented by other tasks and assessment as appropriate
- The recruitment and selection process is monitored in accordance with the Board's policy on the various equality duties required of schools
- All documentation about the recruitment and selection is retained securely for six months in accordance with data protection legislation, after which papers are destroyed, except for the items relating to the successful applicant

- All necessary relevant documentation for the successful applicant is held within a person's personnel file, including:
 - recruitment paperwork
 - two written references
 - evidence of right to work signed and dated with the following statement:
This right to work check was made on (insert date), and add your full name, printed, and signature
 - where applicable, the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2018 declaration form
 - evidence of a completed DBS check (including barred list where appropriate) via a 'snapshot' taken from the eBulk or equivalent system. Photocopies or scanned images of original certificates should not be taken or held on file.
 - evidence taken from Teacher Services of prohibition, and section 128 checks where applicable
 - evidence of pre-employment medical clearance
 - completed overseas declaration and further evidence if required such as a certificate of good conduct or a letter from professional regulating authority evidencing your past conduct as a teacher (if appointed to a teaching role)
 - evidence of qualifications essential to the role
 - written confirmation from agencies supplying staff
 - risk assessments pending the outcome of a DBS check to remain on file for the lifetime of the employee.

The Board of Directors will require selection panels for the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO and Headteachers. These should comprise representation from the relevant Local Governing Body and the Board. Foundation Directors should be in the majority on selection Panels and advisors from the Diocesan Education Service should also be invited to support the process and advise the Panel.

SAFER RECRUITMENT TRAINING

The Board and Local Academy Committees will arrange for all governors and trustees to receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction as per Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance.

The Board will follow the requirement in the School Staffing Regulations that at least one member of selection panels for Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO, Headteachers and deputies and any other interviewing panel including Directors, Governors or Academy Representatives have completed the required training in safer recruitment and that if selection has been delegated to the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or Headteacher both the Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO and Headteacher and any other employee assisting in the process with the interviews have completed the required training in safer recruitment.

INDUCTION

The Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee and Headteacher are required to ensure that arrangements are made for induction to include in the first week all relevant aspects of the Safeguarding Policy, including the identity of the school's Designated Senior Leader/s. This is in addition to statutory induction for newly qualified teachers and probation for new support staff. The Catholic Senior Executive Lead & CEO or his designated nominee or Headteacher are expected to ensure that arrangements are made for suitable induction and training for all other employees new to the school.