



Olga Primary School

Safer Recruitment Policy

Policy Date: May 2025

Review Date: May 2026

Introduction

This framework sets out an agreed set of recruitment and selection standards which the Governing Body of Olga Primary School have adopted.

This Policy takes into account relevant legislation, including equalities legislation, and has been revised in light of the statutory DfE guidance entitled Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024. Olga Primary School is totally committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its children, and views these recruitment & selection standards as an essential tool in this process. All Staff and volunteers are expected to share in this commitment, and to make every reasonable endeavour to ensure that such recruitment and selection standards are met.

These standards, which should be adhered to at all times when recruiting and selecting Staff, are also strongly recommended for use by external agencies/contractors appointing workers who will have access to the Schools' premises as part of their role. It is the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that relevant agencies are made aware of these minimum standards.

The Governing Body of Olga Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all Staff and volunteers to demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.

The Governing Body of Olga Primary School regards its Staff as its most important asset. It is the policy of the Governing Body to ensure that all Staff are suitably qualified and experienced in order to meet the needs of the School and its community and to support School development.

The appointment of all employees at Olga Primary School will be made on merit and in accordance with the provisions of Employment Law, the Education Act 2011, Part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, the DfE guidance Staffing and employment advice for Schools: Departmental advice for School leaders, governing bodies, academy trusts and local authorities (October 2018) (the Managing Staff Guidance) and the School's Equal Opportunities policy. It is a requirement under Reg 9 of the 2009 Regulations that every appointment panel must have at least one member who has undertaken the Safer Recruitment Training.

Safer Recruitment Training was undertaken by:

- Lisa Bradley-Jones (Headteacher) - 19th Nov 2019
- Jasmine Kodi (Deputy Headteacher) - 22nd June 2021
- Hasib Hikmat (School Business Manager) - 30th Nov 2020
- Lee Davis (Governor) - 15th Jan 2020

Training is valid for 5 Years.

The procedure for the appointment of the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher differs from that of other Staff. The Governors will follow the Managing Staff Guidance.

1. Aims

Adoption of Safer Recruitment and Selection Standards will:

- Ensure Schools meet their statutory obligations.
- Help promote equality of opportunity, and assist Schools to attract and retain a workforce that reflects the community they serve.
- Ensure that Schools employ the best candidate for the job, regardless of race, sex, marital status, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, etc.
- Help Schools recruiting and selecting Staff to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children, or who are otherwise unsuited to work with them.

2. Specific Equalities Considerations

Equalities implications will inevitably be involved whenever an employment procedure is applied. Application of these recruitment & selection standards will have particular implications for the workforce and the community we serve. In order to monitor the impact of these standards on minority groups, recruitment & selection within Schools will continue to be monitored and analysed by race, gender, disability, and age.

Whilst it is not currently possible to monitor by reference to other protected characteristics, the LA reserves the right to request such information from applicants/new recruits (to be provided on a voluntary basis only) to assist in their analysis of the impact of these standards.

The Governing Body will ensure that people are treated solely on the basis of their abilities and potential, regardless of any characteristic protected under the Equality Act 2010 (i.e. race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religious belief or affiliation (or lack thereof), age, sex, gender reassignment/gender identity, sexual orientation and disability) and also trade union membership, socio-economic background, or any other inappropriate distinction.

3. General Principles

When recruiting and selecting workers and Staff, the School will:

- Ensure its practices and systems are transparent, objective, consistent and thorough.
- Ensure those involved in the recruitment & selection process have received appropriate training.
- Include safeguarding children issues at every stage of the procedure.
- Avoid over-reliance on criminal record checks (DBS checks, barred list, prohibition checks) as a means of 'sifting' out candidates unsuited to working with children. (Note: Only a small proportion of individuals unsuited to working with children actually have a criminal conviction).
- Constantly endeavour to raise awareness of child protection issues, and create an open and supportive climate in which such issues and concerns can be appropriately discussed and acted upon.

4. Recruitment & Selection Standards

4.1 STAGE 1 - Recruitment Planning

As soon as a vacancy arises, the following will be reviewed by the Headteacher:

- Whether the post needs to be filled and/or whether the nature of the job has changed significantly.
- The Job Description: This should clearly state the post title, grade, School, reporting lines, resources (including Staff) for which the post holder is responsible. It should also include the purpose of the post, main duties and activities, as well as making it clear that the post holder will have responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children within the School. A review of the grade/salary will need to be carried out if the job description has been revised (other than in the case of minor amendments).
- The Person Specification: This should set out the essential requirements for the post in terms of qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience, aptitudes, and other competences or qualities that candidates will need to demonstrate. The person specification should make it clear that candidates will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the welfare of children, and that this will be tested at interview.
- The Information Pack For Applicants: This should include the Application Form and explanatory notes (including information relating to the rehabilitation of offenders); job description; person specification; other essential information about the School/local authority; relevant policies including child protection and behaviour; and details of the term and conditions relating to the post.

4.2 STAGE 2 - Recruitment

Particular care needs to be taken when drawing up the recruitment advert to ensure it is attractive, clear, and communicates the right messages. Specifically, the advert will include:

- Post title, and brief description of the associated duties - including the extent of contact with, and degree of responsibility for children.
- Remuneration.
- Hours/time of work, and other key working condition.
- A description of the key characteristics/ qualifications/ skills/ experience necessary for the job.
- Details of the School, and who to contact for further information.
- A statement illustrating the School's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and reference to the need for a successful applicant to undertake one of the three DBS checks.
- Olga will use the TES/School standard Job Application Form.
It includes:
 - Full identifying details of the applicant including current and former names, current address and contact details, date of birth, and National Insurance number.

- Details of academic/professional qualifications the applicant has obtained that are relevant to the post applied for, with details of the awarding body together with dates.
- Teachers are required to provide their DfE reference number, evidence of QTS status, and details of their registration with the General Teaching Council.
- Confirmation that the applicant is free to take up employment within UK with no immigration restrictions.
- A full chronological history since leaving secondary education, including periods of training, working (including voluntary work), with dates and an explanation for any periods not in employment, education or training, and reasons for leaving employment. Start and end dates should be provided in all instances.
- A declaration of any family or close relationship to existing employees, councillors or School Governors.
- Contact details for two referees (one of whom should be the applicant's current or most recent employer). Where the applicant's current job does not involve working with children, a reference should be sought from their most recent employer where it did.
- A statement of the knowledge/skills/experience/personal qualities that the applicant is able to bring to the job, and how they feel they meet the person specification.
- A signed, dated statement from the applicant that they are not on the barred list, prohibited from working with children.

Additionally:

- As curriculum vitae are not acceptable, job applicants must always complete a standard Application Form. This is clearly stated on the Application Form.
- Applicants must be provided with an explanation that the post is exempt from the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, which means that all convictions, cautions and bind-overs (including those regarded as 'spent' for other purposes) must be declared. Applicants must provide a signed statement declaring that they either have no convictions, cautions or bind-overs, or attaching details of their record (in an enclosed sealed envelope, marked confidential);
- Applicants must be informed that, where their current employment involves working with children, their employer will be asked about any disciplinary offences relating to children (including those that are 'time expired'), and whether the applicant has been the subject of any child protection concerns. Where the current employment does not involve working with children, but a previous position has, then that employer will be approached for such information.
- The School will seek references on shortlisted candidates and may approach previous employers for information to verify particular experience or qualifications before interview.

- Applicants must also be informed that providing false information is an offence, which could result in their application being rejected, or summary dismissal from employment with a possible referral to the police.

4.3 STAGE 3 - Selection

Short listing is the first stage of the selection process. The Headteacher will ensure that the following standards are met:

- The short-listing panel will be comprised of a minimum of two senior employees of the School or Governors. Those responsible for short-listing will (except in the rarest of circumstances) also take part in the interview process. Where it is not possible for the short-listing panel to meet together, the short-listing will be conducted by one member of the panel and checked by the absent member prior to inviting candidates for interview.
- A standard short-listing matrix will be used for recording job applicants and whether they met the short-listing criteria.
- All applications will be scrutinised as part of the short-listing process for consistency of information, gaps in employment, anomalies and discrepancies. Incomplete applications and curriculum vitae will not be accepted.
- All candidates will be assessed equally against the criteria contained in the person specification without exception or variation.
- Prior to inviting shortlisted candidates for interview/testing, the Headteacher will ensure that the following are sought for each candidate:
 - References (for detailed guidance on what information referees should be asked to provide, please refer to the DfE guidance 'Safeguarding Children: Safer Recruitment and Selection in Education 2009', Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024).
 - DfE Number (Teachers).
 - Whether she/he has Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) (Teachers).
 - Verification of qualifications and / or professional status.
 - Current photo evidence of proof of identity and address.

Where it is not possible to obtain the above checks prior to or during interview, the recruitment panel may agree for them to be provided after the interviews have been conducted but before the successful candidates starts work.

Important Note: It is essential that references are compared to the Application Form in order to rule out possible anomalies. Where anomalies are found, or where references are vague, or unspecific, follow-up action will be taken by the Headteacher to establish the candidate's suitability for the post.

- The next stage of the selection process will normally be to conduct interviews. In this respect the Headteacher will ensure that:
 - No offer of appointment is made without the candidate having attended a face-to-face interview, save under exceptional circumstances.

- Interviews are conducted by a minimum of two interviewers at all times.
- Interviewers have received appropriate training and have appropriate experience.
- A core set of questions to be asked of all candidates is drawn up prior to interview, based on the person specification (these will normally be competence based).
- The interview panel reaches a consensus as to the required standards before the interviews take place and how those standards will be measured.
- The interview panel agrees beforehand what additional issues specific to each candidate need to be explored at interview (these will be based on the candidate's application and references).
- Candidates' attitude towards children is explored at interview, as well as the welfare of children including:
 - Motivation to work with children and young people.
 - Ability to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people.
 - Resilience in working with challenging behaviours and
 - Attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline.
- Candidates are asked at interview whether they wish to say anything in light of the fact that they will be subject to a DBS check and a prohibition check have applied for a post that involves working with children.
- Candidates being invited for interview are reminded that their identity will need to be checked, and that they will be subject to a DBS check and a prohibition check, and asked to bring current, relevant documentary evidence with them to the interview.

4.4 STAGE 4 - Pre-Appointments Check

The Headteacher will ensure that all appointments are offered on a conditional basis and that new recruits do not commence work without the following checks having been satisfied:

- Those already listed in section 4.3 above.
- DBS and Barred list checks.
- Prohibition check with the Teacher Services System.
- Verification of right to work in the UK in accordance with latest Home Office guidance.
- Verification of the candidate's medical fitness both mental and physical.
- Verification of successful completion of statutory induction period (applies to teachers who obtained QTS after 07/05/1999).

In addition, administrative Staff will be responsible for ensuring that all of the above checks are confirmed in writing; that the checks are followed up if they are unsatisfactory or where there are discrepancies; and finally that they are retained on the individual's personnel file.

4.5 STAGE 5 - Post-Appointments - Induction

There will be an induction program for all Staff and volunteers newly appointed, including teaching Staff, regardless of previous experience. The purpose of induction is to:

- Provide training and information about the establishment's policies and procedures.
- Support individuals in a way that is appropriate for the role for which they have been engaged.
- Confirm the conduct expected of teachers and support Staff within the School.
- Provide opportunities for a new Staff member or volunteer to discuss any issues or concerns about their role or responsibilities and
- Enable the Headteacher or mentor to recognise any concerns or issues about the person's ability or suitability at the outset and address them immediately.
- The content and nature of the induction process will vary according to the role and previous experience of the new Staff member or volunteer, but as far as safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is concerned the induction programme will include information about, and written statements of:
 - Policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding and promoting welfare e.g. Child Protection, Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies, Physical Intervention, Intimate care, Online Safety and any local child protection and safeguarding procedures;
 - Safe practice and the standards of conduct and behaviour expected of Staff and pupils in the School;
 - How and with whom any concerns about those issues should be raised
 - Other relevant personnel procedures e.g. Disciplinary, Capability and Whistle Blowing.
 - The program should also include attendance at child protection training appropriate to the person's role.

5. Additional Requirements For Childcare, Including Extended School

The School will ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals employed to work in reception classes, or in wraparound care for children up to the age of 8, are not disqualified from working in these settings under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations.

Appendix - Short-Listing Matrix

Allocate a Score of 0-3 for each Criteria.

Name:			Date:		
Person Spec 1					
Person Spec 2					
Person Spec 3					
Person Spec 4					
Person Spec 5					
Person Spec 6					
Person Spec 7					

Person Spec 8					
Person Spec 9					
Person Spec 10					
Person Spec 11					
Person Spec 12					
Score:					
Total Score:					
Interview ?					

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____