

## The STAR Multi Academy Trust Recruitment and Selection Policy & Procedure

Date reviewed	September 2022
Changes made	EPM – update to reference KCSIE 2022 updates
Date adopted by Trust Board	7 December 2021

<b>Section</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Purpose	2
2	Scope	2
3	Principles	2
4	Statutory Obligations	3
5	Overview of the recruitment process	5
6	Preparation	5
7	Identifying the need	5
8	Job description and person specification	6
9	Vacancy advertising	7
10	Shortlisting	8
11	Compliance/Employment clearances	9
12	Interview and assessment	10
13	Decision making	11
14	Probationary periods	12
15	Appendix 1	14
16	Appendix 2	17

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 At all times recruitment and selection must be fair, effective, robust and safe for the purpose of building and maintaining an effective workforce, ensuring individuals with the right skills are in the right post at the right time and that vulnerable children have their needs securely met.

## **2.0 Scope**

- 2.1. The Recruitment and Selection Policy will apply to the appointment of all roles within the Academy Trust and sets out the standards and stages for all recruitment activities.
- 2.2 The Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) will have reference to additional guidance and the statutory requirements with regards making a headteacher/Executive headteacher appointment; this is detailed in the separate Headteacher Recruitment Section.

## **3.0 Principles**

- 3.1 The following principles will be adhered to at all times:

- To apply equality, diversity and safer recruitment considerations consistently throughout the recruitment, selection and appointment process
- To ensure vacancies are advertised through appropriate media, giving consideration as to how to bring vacancies to the attention of suitable candidates to achieve maximum benefits and value, for example by maximising the use of e-methods when appropriate
- To present a positive and professional image of the schools and the Trust

## **3.4 Equality and recruitment and selection statement**

The Academy Trust is committed to equality, and to making fair and equitable treatment an integral part of everything we do. We will take action to identify and eliminate all forms of discriminatory practice that act as barriers to achieving this.

- 3.5 All arrangements for and the implementation of all recruitment and selection activities must comply with the Equalities Act 2010 and the 'protected characteristics' within it – age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy

and maternity.

3.6. All appointment decisions will be demonstrably free from any form of bias and will be based on merit determined by predefined selection criteria. All applicants will have complete equality of opportunity, the recruitment and selection process will be fair and transparent at every stage.

### 3.7. **Safer Recruitment and safeguarding statement**

The Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and young people. We have a robust Child Protection Policy and all staff will receive training relevant to their role at induction and throughout their employment within the Trust. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

3.8. All recruitment processes will adhere to the key elements of safer recruitment;

- including information on the school's commitment to safeguarding children in the advert, job description, person specification and any other relevant documentation
- obtaining and scrutinising comprehensive information from all applicants, investigating any discrepancies or anomalies, including gaps in employment
- obtaining robust, relevant and appropriate references that fully cover the candidate's recent work history
- ask specific questions relating to the applicant's suitability to work with children, exploring at interview the applicant's suitability to work with children
- verifying the successful applicant's identity, medical history, qualifications, employment history and experience
- obtaining a satisfactory DBS clearance prior to the candidate commencing in post, except in exceptional circumstances and with an appropriate risk assessment

## 4.0 **Statutory Obligations**

4.1 This Policy recognises the requirements to comply with the following legislation:

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018
- Working Time Directive 1993 and Amendment 2000
- Equality Act 2010
- Agency Workers Directive 2011

- The Education Act 2002
- The School Staff (England) Regulations 2009
- Guidance on Managing Staff Employment in Schools
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

#### 4.2 Disqualification under the childcare act 2006 – amended regulations

Updated legislation (The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.) **is effective from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and the government has released revised guidance.** Download the guidance

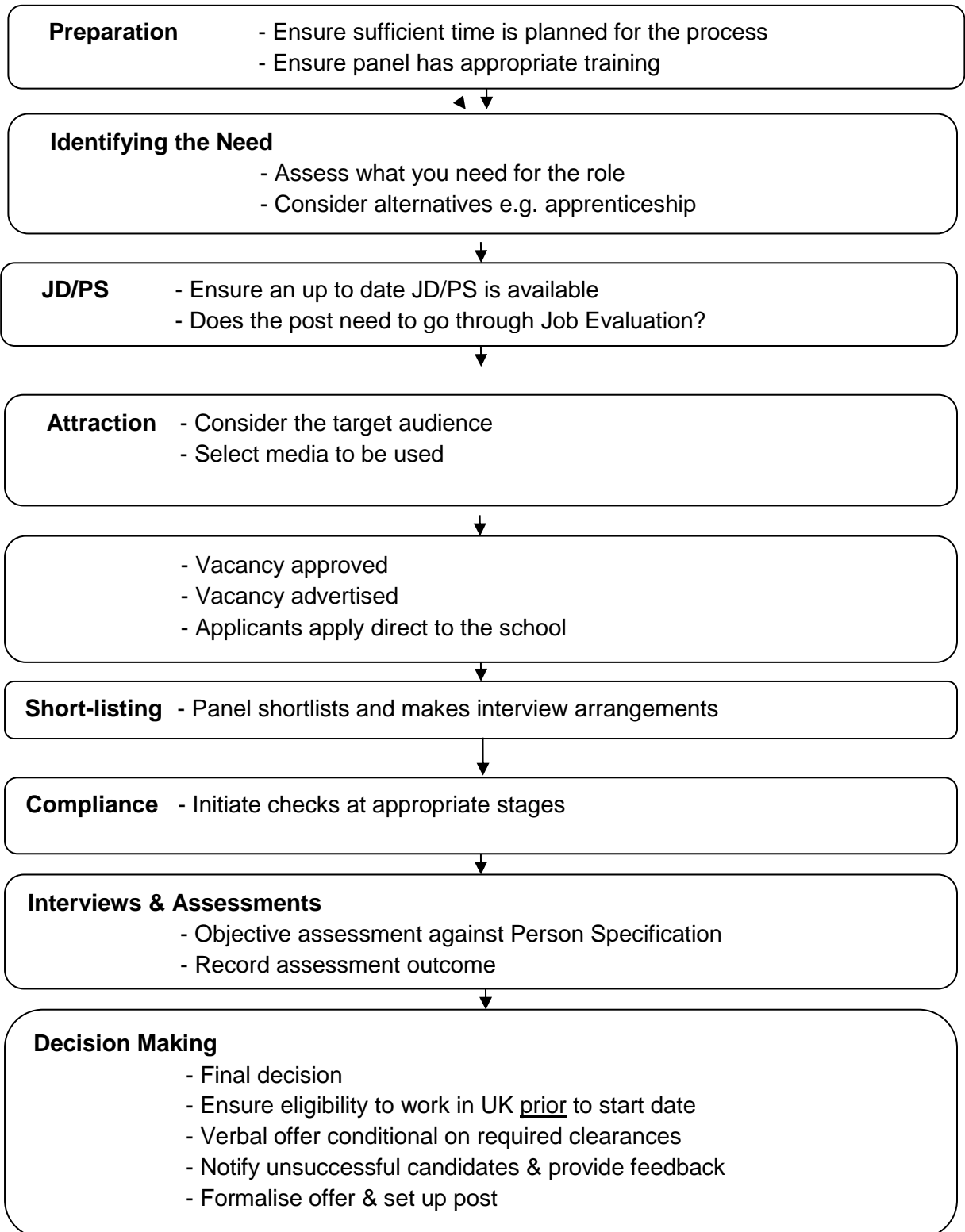
[Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 - GOV.UK](#)

The main change in the new legislation is that schools/academies are no longer required to establish if staff, including those working with under 5s or under 8s in wrap around, extended hours or childcare, are disqualified by association. That is if they share a house with someone who would be disqualified from working with children. This means that schools no longer have to ask their staff questions about cautions or convictions of anyone living or working in their household. However, schools/academies will still need to satisfy themselves that staff working in a relevant setting are themselves not disqualified under the Childcare Act.

4.3 The Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) may delegate any of their functions relating to the appointment of teaching and support staff (other than the headteacher/Executive headteacher or Deputy Headteacher) to;

- The headteacher/executive headteacher
- When the appointment is not line managed by the headteacher/executive headteacher the headteacher/executive headteacher may further delegate appointments to other members of the senior leadership team.
- For the staff outside of the school structure, the appropriate Line Manager.

## 5.0 Overview of recruitment process



## **6.0 Preparation**

- 6.1 Planning the process in detail is essential to minimise the risk of making unsuitable appointments and ensure that sufficient time is scheduled to deliver an effective process.
- 6.2 By effectively utilising the appraisal process to identify a robust succession plan, managers will be able to ensure that the development of the services that they are responsible for is continuous, and that employee development is delivered.
- 6.3 Prior to taking the decision to advertise, managers should consider whether they need to replace the role, or whether the duties of the role could be fulfilled in an alternative way rather than replace 'like for like'. Changes to the staffing establishment must be agreed by the Local Governing Body and/or the STAR MAT Board of Trustees.
- 6.4 It is recommended that anyone responsible for recruitment and selection decisions undertake the Safer Recruitment and Selection workshop for schools covering the basic principals of recruitment, including relevant legislation, equalities, and selection procedures.
- 6.5 The KCSIE guidance refers to the School Staffing Regulations (2009) which require governing bodies of maintained schools to ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- 6.6 While there is no statutory requirement for academies to have any recruitment panel members trained it would be best practice to have at least one panel member who has undertaken training.
- 6.7 The NSPCC has developed an online recruitment training course in line with the KCSIE guidance, this training course follows the safeguarding framework for England. Details can be found at [Safer recruitment training for schools | NSPCC Learning](#)

## **7.0 Identifying the need**

- 7.1 Prior to advertising a vacancy the recruiting manager will consider the full requirements of the vacancy, the context of the role and the qualities and skills needed to perform it successfully. Having clearly identified the needs of the post, the manager will articulate the need in the job description and person specification.

## 8.0 Job description and person specification

- 8.1 The job description states the main duties and responsibilities of the post. The person specification details the skills, knowledge and experience required to do it. The person specification will be used to assess each candidate's suitability for the post, from short listing through to interview, assessment and selection.
- 8.2 Standard job descriptions are available on the Job description and Person Specification Section. Whenever a new post is introduced, or an existing post amended, it will be assessed through the job evaluation process in accordance with the guidance.
- 8.3 Genuine Occupational Requirements - There are a very small number of genuine reasons when an employer may need to discriminate. These situations are very rare and will be related to statutory responsibilities, for example where the post holder provides intimate care, or in a faith school for a teacher of religious education. If a post holds a Genuine Occupational Requirement, this must be made clear in the person specification and the advertisement.
- 8.4 To apply a Genuine Occupation requirement an organisation must show that it is: **A requirement of the job in order to keep the ethos of the organisation; and 'proportionate' to apply the requirement.** Managers should seek advice from their HR provider to determine if there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement and must not make the decision in isolation.

## 9.0 Vacancy Advertising

- 9.1 The Academy Trust is committed to the principle of open competition to attract the best candidates. However, we do have an internal recruitment process that provides valuable career opportunities and enables managers to target opportunities to existing staff. Any external vacancies advertised will also be open internally within the Academy Trust.
- 9.2 In exceptional circumstances, such as restructuring of departments, vacancies may be restricted to staff within a department or school. Advice should be sought from the Academy Trust HR provider.
- 9.3 Prior to advertising the vacancy, The Academy Trust may wish to consider employee's who may be available from within the wider Trust through redeployment, or whether the post may be suitable for an apprenticeship opportunity.

#### 9.4 **Target Audience**

Considering your target audience is a crucial stage in the attraction process and is the key to your success in attracting the right candidates. Vacancies should be advertised to ensure widest possible coverage on a value for money basis.

#### 9.5 **Equal Opportunity**

When seeking to making internal appointments the vacancy must be advertised within the Trust to give all staff a fair and equal opportunity to be considered for the post.

#### 9.6 **Advert content**

The content of the advert will be influenced by the choice of media. Words cost money in the press, so this will need succinct and appropriate phraseology. Sufficient information should be provided to attract attention of appropriate candidates. The following information should be included:

- Job title
- Location
- Salary
- Hours
- Closing date
- How to access application forms
- Any additional school specific details, for example the use of school logo and number on roll
- Child protection statement

9.7 In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education, the school will consider carrying out an online search as part of the due diligence on shortlisted candidates. Where an online check will be carried out, this will be indicated in the advert and/or recruitment pack.

9.8 Applicants must be provided with the following documentation as a minimum:

- Job description
- Person specification
- Application form
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring form
- The School Child Protection Statement



## 9.9 **Application process**

It is good practice to only accept application forms and to state that CV's will not be accepted under any circumstances. It is recommended that vacancies are advertised for two weeks, preferably including two weekends, to give applicants sufficient time to apply.

## 10.0 **Short-listing**

- 10.1 The recruitment panel are responsible for short listing through to selection. They must be appropriately trained, consistent and provide balanced representation. There should be more than one panel member involved in the short listing.
- 10.2 Panel members must disclose any conflict of interest in making appointment decisions. In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias, panel members should not be involved in any appointment where they are related to or have a close personal relationship outside work with the applicant.
- 10.3 Where possible, Panel members will comprise of a mixture of gender.
- 10.4 Once the advertisement has reached the closing date the panel can consider all applications / redeployment profiles that have been submitted for the vacancy. On receipt of each application form the completed Equal Opportunities monitoring forms should be assigned a reference number then detached from the application form. All completed application forms will be anonymised before shortlisting.
- 10.5 Candidates must be consistently assessed against the person specification according to the agreed marking criteria. Candidates who do not meet the essential requirements will not be shortlisted.
- 10.6 It is the responsibility of the recruiting manager/ recruitment panel to select the applicants most suitable to attend an interview.
- 10.7 Where the Trust has carried out an online search on shortlisted candidates as part of the due diligence, any concerns which arise may be discussed with the applicant at, or prior to the interview stage.
- 10.8 The Safer Recruitment Shortlisted Candidates Checklist at Appendix 1 gives details of key points to cover once candidate are selected for interview.
- 10.9 Where schools have adopted the 'Two Ticks' accreditation any applicant who meets all of the demonstrable essential criteria and has indicated that they

have a disability must be short listed.

10.10 Applicants have the right to request to see any notes or documentation relating to the short listing of their application.

10.11 This information is kept for 6 months from the interview date.

## **11.0 Compliance/Employment clearances**

11.1 Whilst some of the employment clearances may not be completed until after an offer of employment, the process must in all circumstances be initiated at the application stage and checks undertaken to ensure that we will be in a position to carry out our compliances/ employment checks.

11.2 The Academy Trust must undertake the required employment checks. Failure to carry out these checks could have very significant implications.

11.3 The following checks must be completed;

- **DBS clearances**

- once offer has been made but prior to start

- **Prohibition from teaching**

- all teaching appointments including headteacher posts must be checked against the Teaching Regulation Agency, and complete the Single Central Record to evidence that the check has been completed

- **References**

- between short listing and assessment, to allow any concerns to be fully investigated, must not include health related questions.

- **Qualifications**

- original qualification documents to be check and copied

- **Proof of Eligibility to Work in the UK**

- **Mandatory questions**

- **Health Clearance**

- once offer has been made but prior to start

11.4 No employee will be authorised to commence employment until all appropriate employment clearances have been fulfilled and are applicable to all candidates – internal, redeployees and external appointments, except in exceptional circumstances.

## **12.0 Interview and assessment**

- 12.1 All Interview and Assessment events are a two-way process; an opportunity for the manager to select the best candidate for the role, and also an opportunity for a candidate to determine whether the Academy Trust is the right organisation for them.
- 12.2 A scoring matrix should be used to ensure objective assessment against agreed criteria

Please note it is important that you only assess skills/behaviours essential to the role which appear in the job description / person specification. The marking system agreed beforehand must be used and applications must be scored separately before a final mark is given.

- 12.3 It is the Academy Trust responsibility to make reasonable adjustments for applicants, should they be required, in order to attend and participate fully with the selection and assessment process. The types of adjustments are wide ranging and varied and could arise for all sorts of reasons, such as requirements for additional time to undertake an assessment, flexibility regarding childcare arrangements or written materials in different formats. Reasonable adjustments are about ensuring that all applicants are given the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their ability for the task being assessed
- 12.4 Failure to make reasonable adjustments would contravene our duties under the Equalities Act 2010 and could result in a legal challenge.
- 12.5 Applicants should not be asked any health or sickness related questions prior to an offer of employment.

## **13.0 Decision making**

- 13.1 Once the formal assessment process is completed all members of the Selection Panel will need to reconvene to reach a final decision. You should ensure that you have all the information you need for each candidate to enable you to reach a decision. The selection should be made on the basis of which individual best fits the criteria set at the start of the recruitment process, using the scores and results of any assessments. Using a robust and consistent scoring procedure will ensure that you do this.

13.2 It is essential that only objective information is used in the decision making process and those decisions are justified, fair and evidence based. If the recruitment process is challenged, it is the responsibility of the Chair of the interview panel to demonstrate that discrimination has not occurred.

### 13.3 **Deciding not to appoint**

Selecting the best candidate for the role is essential and managers should not feel compelled to appoint a less than satisfactory candidate regardless of the demands of the service. Appointing the wrong candidate can be extremely costly and detrimental to the quality of education and services provided.

### 13.4 **Candidate Feedback**

The recruitment process is not complete until all candidates who have attended selection are aware of the outcome of the process. Any candidate who attends an interview or undertakes an assessment is entitled to feedback from the person responsible for making the decision. Failure to provide timely and appropriate feedback can result in negative perceptions of the organisation.

13.5 Where requested we would always aim to provide feedback to candidates who have been shortlisted for interview.

13.6 It is illegal to make an offer of employment unless as a minimum, eligibility to work in the UK has been verified.

13.7 A verbal offer of employment is legally binding, provided that it has been made by a person nominated within the organisation and deemed suitable to make such an offer (i.e. a manager). It is also subject to satisfactory employment clearances.

### 13.8 **Appointment**

It is essential that **all** employment clearances/ compliances are verified again at this stage to ensure that everything is in order. **Do not proceed if you do not have all the necessary clearances in place.**

13.9 The preferred candidate should be contacted to ascertain whether, following the assessment and selection process, they are still interested in the post. If so, they should be advised that the offer of employment is conditional upon receipt of satisfactory clearances and that they should not give notice to their

current employer at this stage. If references have not already been taken up it is important to express to the candidate that their referees will now be contacted and that they should advise them of this to ensure that there are no delays to their appointment.

#### 13.10 Setting up the post. Please see appendix 2

13.11 All documentation relating to the recruitment and selection process must be held securely for six months and then shredded. The application form and related documents for the successful candidate should be held on their personal file.

#### 13.12 **New Starter Engagement- Building the employment relationship**

The majority of candidates will have to give notice to their existing employer and, depending on the role, there will be some delay between the candidate being appointed and starting in post. It is important to maintain regular contact with your new appointee, providing them with any information that they need. The new employees career with the Trust starts now, so any development areas identified during the selection process should be used to inform their probationary and induction documentation.

### 14.0 Probationary Periods

14.1 **Non-Teaching Staff:** It is recommended that appointments of new non-Teaching staff are subject to a probationary period, normally of six months, although this can be extended in exceptional circumstances by mutual agreement. Please see the Trust Probation procedure for all employee's guidance for process and procedure.

14.2 **Teaching Staff:** Unless you are an Early Career Teacher (ECT), subject to separate induction arrangements, the first six months of the Employee's employment shall be a probationary period. Please see the Trust Probation procedure for all employee's guidance for process and procedure.

14.3 Where an employee moves roles within the Academy Trust, there will be no probationary period associated with the new post.

14.4 **Early Career Teaching Staff:** Every teacher awarded qualified teacher status (QTS) is required to complete an induction period of six terms (or equivalent), underpinned by the Early Career Framework (ECF). Employment as a teacher in England is subject to satisfactory completion of the statutory Induction Period Revised QTS Standards. On completion of the relevant induction periods a recommendation is made on whether induction has been satisfactorily completed.

15.0 Appendix 1

**SAFER RECRUITMENT SHORTLISTED CANDIDATE CHECKLIST**

**Shortlisted Candidate Name/Ref No .....**

Shortlisted Candidate Name/Ref No ..... ..... .....		Y/N	Notes/Actions Required	By whom and by when
<b>Application form information/additional information provided by the candidate</b>	Is the application form fully completed?			
	Is there any information from the candidate which gives cause for concern? Are there any gaps in employment history? Any concerns re reason for leaving? etc.			
	Issues to be followed up at interview identified?			
<b>Reference requests</b>	Are referees suitable persons? Is one of the referee's current employer? Is one referee from last employment working with children and young people? Does the candidate need to be approached to request different/additional references?			
	Requested prior to interview? (only if permission granted by the applicant and only a partial reference should be requested prior to interview)			
	Sent to place of work, not home address?			
	Reference proforma seeks all relevant information re suitability to work with children and young people, asks re any previous			

	concerns and relates to job description and person specification which are enclosed with request			
<b>Reference information</b>	Have at least two suitable references been received?			
	Are the references fully completed and all information requested included?			
	Is there any information from referees which gives cause for concern? Could this be a compromise agreement reference?			
	Are applicant's and referees' information consistent?			
	Issues to be followed up at interview identified?			
<b>Online checks on shortlisted candidates</b>	Any issues? To be followed up with applicant at, or prior to interview stage			
<b>Pre-Interview consideration</b>	Should the interview go ahead?			
<b>Interview</b>	Questions re suitability to work with and safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people asked and followed up with supplementary questions where necessary			
	Additional questions asked and followed up with supplementary questions where necessary			
	Candidate reminded that appointments subject to satisfactory Enhanced DBS, prohibition from teaching and references, and asked if there is anything, they wish to declare			
	Documents relating to Identity, change of name D.O.B and qualifications seen, scrutinised and photocopied			

	Is there any information/concern which suggests that the candidate should be reported to police/ DBS /Regulatory body?			
	Is there any information which suggests that the candidate may be unsuitable to work with children or young people and should not be offered the post?			
	Is all of the information consistent? Is there any information/concern which needs to be followed up further?			
<b>Offer of appointment</b>	If the candidate to be offered the post:			
	All pre appointment checks and at least 2 suitable references are received and satisfactory. If partial reference has been obtained prior to interview, ensure the second part of the reference is completed. Risk assessment undertaken and recorded where any cause for concern.			
	Candidate not permitted to start work until all checks completed. In <b>exceptional</b> circumstances a candidate may begin work prior to receipt of checks and references only in circumstances where a risk assessment has been undertaken and risk control measures have been put in place e.g. no unsupervised access to children. It is made clear that should the checks be unsatisfactory that employment offer will be withdrawn.			



## 16.0 Appendix 2

### Setting up of a post (MAT process)

Process	Completed
Staff overseeing recruitment in the school are advised and forwarded all relevant paperwork (completed application form, job application pack, right to work / ID documentation, mandatory questions).	
An Offer letter is sent to the successful candidate enclosing Trust documentation to be completed and returned.	
Clearances sought: DBS procedure completed / full reference or part two where applicable/Medical.	
Set up personal file with checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Payroll provider is informed and contracts issued/returned.</li><li>• Outstanding references are chased</li><li>• Relevant staff are informed, eg, IT so the appropriate email accounts and log-in details are set up, the NQT coordinator.</li></ul>	
Update SCR	
Invite to induction day/meeting. Send induction and probation policy and forms to line managers & monitor return.	