



**The Westminster
School**


Safe, Happy and Learning Together

www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk

School Safer Recruitment Policy

2022-2023

Building foundations and providing opportunities to create confident, aspirational, and independent members of our community.

Approved by Governing Body on:	15 September 2022
Signed by Chair of Governors:	
Head Teacher:	O M Flowers
Lead Personnel:	A Gibson
Date of Review:	15 September 2025

Introduction

The Westminster School (TWS) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, site staff, personnel from alternative providers and 3rd party contractors to share this commitment.

TWS is committed to recruiting and selecting high quality staff with the necessary skills, experience and aptitude to care for, nurture and enable the pupils to learn and thrive in a happy, caring and safe environment. This continues the School's vision of Safe, Happy and Learning.

When recruiting any staff, there is always at least one member of staff of the interviewing panel who has completed the Safer Recruitment Training. This training is provided by a recognised training provider with the relevant skill sets and expertise to deliver topics pertinent to the qualification obtained on completion.

All staff employed at TWS, including volunteers, casual staff, and university and college students will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS and Barring Check. This is renewed in line with Sandwell Local Authority Guidelines on a three-year cycle.

Safer Recruitment Procedure

New Staff

When a post becomes vacant or is created then the following procedure takes place:

1. Job and Person Specification

For every vacancy a job and person specification will be written and approved by the Head Teacher. Each role is tailored to take into account the following:

- General Professional Duties and Responsibilities
- Knowledge and Understanding
- Planning, Teaching and Classroom Management
- Sickness Absence and Disability
- Qualifications
- Experience
- Disposition
- Practical and Intellectual Skills
- Other Professional Requirements
- Legal and Legislative Requirements (e.g. Enhanced DBS and Barring Check, Criminal Convictions, Childcare Disqualification Declaration and other pre-employment checks relevant to Sandwell Council's Schools Model Recruitment and Selection Policy).

2. Job Advertisement

All posts will be advertised internally and externally in order to attract a wide field of candidates as possible. The exception to this is where internal applicants are required due to budgetary challenges.

All advertisements for posts will include:

- Our school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- That safeguarding checks will be undertaken
- The safeguarding requirements and responsibilities of the role, such as the extent to which the role will involve contact with children

- Whether or not the role is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020. If the role is exempt, certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed, and if they are disclosed, we cannot take them into account.

3. Application Form

- Include a statement saying that it is an offence to apply for the role if an applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children (where the role involves this type of regulated activity)
- Include a copy of, or link to, our child protection and safeguarding policy and our policy on the employment of ex-offenders

4. Shortlisting and References

- All applications will be looked at in detail and scrutinised by at least two members of SLT or the Governing Board.
- They will consider any inconsistencies and look for gaps in employment and reasons given for them and explore all potential concerns
- All applicants for any post within the school will be required to complete an application form - a curriculum vitae will not be accepted.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted, and may be returned for completion.
- Applicants will be shortlisted for the post if they meet the particulars of the job description and person specification.
- Immediately after shortlisting, references will be sent for those candidates identified.
- All applicants will be asked to provide two referees, one of whom should be the applicant's current or most recent employer. NB where an applicant who is not currently working with children, has done so in the past, it is important that a reference is also obtained from the employer by whom the person was most recently employed in work with children.
- When seeking references we will:
 - Not accept open references
 - Liaise directly with referees and verify any information contained within references with the referees
 - Ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and completed by a senior person. Where the referee is school based, we will ask for the reference to be confirmed by the headteacher as accurate in respect to disciplinary investigations
 - Obtain verification of the candidate's most recent relevant period of employment if they are not currently employed
 - Secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the candidate worked with children if they are not currently working with children
 - Compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any inconsistencies with the candidate
 - Resolve any concerns before any appointment is confirmed.
- All referees will be asked if the candidate is suitable to work with children, has any disciplinary procedures relating to the safety and welfare of children, or any details of allegations/concerns/bad behaviour relating to the safety and welfare of children (see appendix 1).
- The HR provider or other nominated person will inform those shortlisted immediately after the shortlisting process has taken place. Unsuccessful applicants will not always be informed due to the potential volume of applications the school may experience.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022) all shortlisted applicants will be subject to an online search as part of our due diligence. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened and are publicly available online, which the school may wish to explore with the applicant at

interview. This search does not form part of the shortlisting process and you will have the chance to discuss any issues of concern that come up during the search at interview.”

Shortlisted candidates will be made aware that an online search of publicly available information will be undertaken and will have an opportunity to address any issues of concern that arise during the search at interview.

The check will be made by a member of staff who is not part of the recruitment process (to prevent any unconscious bias) and the form for the check to be made is included as Appendix 5.

Shortlisted candidates will be sent:

- A self-declaration form to detail their criminal record or any information that would make them unsuitable to work with children, so that they have the opportunity to share relevant information and discuss it at interview stage. The information we will ask for includes:
 - If they have a criminal history
 - Whether they are included on the barred list
 - Whether they are prohibited from teaching
 - Information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales
 - Any relevant overseas information
 - They will be asked to sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true
- detailed documentation of the interview process

Shortlisted candidates will be asked if they have a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 and if they require any particular adjustments to accommodate their particular needs.

Also, they will be informed if they will have to undertake skill tests as part of the interview.

5. The Interview

- On the day of the interview all candidates will need to provide proof of identity, proof of their qualifications and proof of eligibility to live and work in the UK.
- The interview may consist of an activity, informal meetings with the Governing Board and representatives from the Local Authority, a meeting with the School Council and a Professional Interview.
- Teaching posts will require a short micro-teach and Classroom Support Staff posts will be required to support a class for a period of time.
- All candidates will be assessed for their suitability to the post and their capability to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people. This is to be assessed through specific Child Protection and Safeguarding questions coupled with e-Safety questions.
- During the interview, any discrepancies noted from the shortlisting, including any gaps in employment, will be explored. If the interviewing panel are not satisfied with any explanation given, the applicant will not be successful.

When interviewing candidates, we will:

- Probe any gaps in employment, or where the candidate has changed employment or location frequently, and ask candidates to explain this
- Explore any potential areas of concern to determine the candidate's suitability to work with children
- Record all information considered and decisions made

Pre-appointment vetting checks

We will record all information on the checks carried out in the school's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files. We follow requirements and best practice in retaining copies of these checks, as set out below.

New staff

All offers of appointment will be conditional until satisfactory completion of the necessary pre-employment checks. When appointing new staff, we will:

- Verify their identity – Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2021 states that best practice to do this is to check the name on the candidate's birth certificate where available
- Obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate, including barred list information for those who will be engaging in regulated activity (see definition below). We will obtain the certificate before, or as soon as practicable after, appointment, including when using the DBS update service. We will not keep a copy of the certificate for longer than 6 months, but when the copy is destroyed we may still keep a record of the fact that vetting took place, the result of the check and recruitment decision taken
- Obtain a separate barred list check if they will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available
- Verify their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- Verify their right to work in the UK. We will keep a copy of this verification for the duration of the member of staff's employment and for 2 years afterwards
- Verify their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- Ensure they are not subject to a prohibition order if they are employed to be a teacher
- Carry out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK. Where available, these will include:
 - For all staff, including teaching positions: criminal records checks for overseas applicants
 - For teaching positions: obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country where the applicant has worked

Regulated activity means a person who will be:

- Responsible, on a regular basis in a school or college, for teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children; or
- Carrying out paid, or unsupervised unpaid, work regularly in a school or college where that work provides an opportunity for contact with children; or
- Engaging in intimate or personal care or overnight activity, even if this happens only once and regardless of whether they are supervised or not.

Existing staff

In certain circumstances we will carry out all the relevant checks on existing staff as if the individual was a new member of staff. These circumstances are when:

- There are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children; or
- An individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is; or
- There has been a break in service of 12 weeks or more

We will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult where:

- We believe the individual has engaged in relevant conduct; or
- We believe the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant (automatic barring either with or without the right to make representations) offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009; or

- We believe the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e. they may harm a child or vulnerable adult or put them at risk of harm); and
- The individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

Agency and third-party staff

We will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. We will also check that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

Contractors

We will ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor, who is to work at the school has had the appropriate level of DBS check (this includes contractors who are provided through a PFI or similar contract). This will be:

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information for contractors engaging in regulated activity
- An enhanced DBS check, not including barred list information, for all other contractors who are not in regulated activity but whose work provides them with an opportunity for regular contact with children

We will obtain the DBS check for self-employed contractors.

We will not keep copies of such checks for longer than 6 months.

Contractors who have not had any checks will not be allowed to work unsupervised or engage in regulated activity under any circumstances.

We will check the identity of all contractors and their staff on arrival at the school.

Trainee/student teachers

Where applicants for initial teacher training are salaried by us, we will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out.

Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, we will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children.

Volunteers

We will:

- Never leave an unchecked volunteer unsupervised or allow them to work in regulated activity
- Obtain an enhanced DBS check with barred list information for all volunteers who are new to working in regulated activity
- Carry out a risk assessment when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check without barred list information for any volunteers not engaging in regulated activity. We will retain a record of this risk assessment.
- Ensure that appropriate checks are carried out to ensure that individuals are not disqualified under the 2018 Childcare Disqualification Regulations and Childcare Act 2006. Where we decide that an individual falls outside of the scope of these regulations and we do not carry out such checks, we will retain a record of our assessment. This will include our evaluation of any risks and control measures put in place, and any advice sought

Governors

All governors will have an enhanced DBS check without barred list information.

They will have an enhanced DBS check with barred list information if working in regulated activity.

All governors will also have a section 128 check (as a section 128 direction disqualifies an individual from being a maintained school governor).

Staff working in alternative provision settings

Where we place a pupil with an alternative provision provider, we obtain written confirmation from the provider that they have carried out the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise perform.

Adults who supervise pupils on work experience

When organising work experience, we will ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect children from harm.

We will also consider whether it is necessary for barred list checks to be carried out on the individuals who supervise a pupil under 16 on work experience. This will depend on the specific circumstances of the work experience, including the nature of the supervision, the frequency of the activity being supervised, and whether the work is regulated activity.

Further reading and other Policy information

It is important that this policy is read in conjunction with the school's Child Protection Policy and Guidance.

Where supply staff are used, compliance checks will be made ensuring that agencies provide written evidence of in date enhanced DBS.

Appendix 1 The Westminster School Reference Request Template

Appendix 2 The Westminster School SCR Headings.

Appendix 3 The Westminster School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. – Please refer to policy

Appendix 4 SIPS HR Pre-employment Checklist

Appendix 5 SIPS HR Fully Cleared Memo

Appendix 1

The Westminster School Reference Request Template



Head Teacher: Mr O M Flowers

Address: The Westminster School, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 9AL

Web: www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk Phone: 0121 561 6884 Email: headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk

Date

Dear

Appointment of:

Name:

Address:

Your co-operation in completing and returning the enclosed forms as soon as possible would be appreciated.

The above named is an applicant for the post stated and has given your name as a referee.

A Job Description and Personnel Specification, relating to the post are enclosed and I should be grateful if you would advise me as to whether you consider the applicant to be suitably experienced to fulfil the requirements of this post.

Please note that all school based posts are exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975 and I would therefore ask you to reveal information on any convictions that the applicant may have.

May I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Mr O M Flowers
Head Teacher



The Westminster School



The information that you provide will normally be disclosed to the applicant, should they request to see their references under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. If you have any concerns about providing a reference under such circumstances, please contact the School dealing with this request on the telephone number on the accompanying letter

Section A

Name of applicant: _____

Position held by applicant: _____

From: _____ To: _____

Applicant's present salary: _____

In what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Reason for leaving: _____

Signature:	Date:
Name:	
Position:	Tel No:
Company Address (if applicable):	



Head Teacher: Mr O M Flowers

Address: The Westminster School, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 9AL

Web: www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk Phone: 0121 561 6884 Email: headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk

Section B

Please indicate the applicant's performance in the following areas:-

Please use the space below to comment further on your ratings.

Please tick appropriately

V Good	Good	Average	Poor	V Poor
--------	------	---------	------	--------

Attendance

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Quality of Work

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Attitude to Supervision

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Relationship with Colleagues

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Continued...

The Westminster School



Please tick appropriately:

V Good	Good	Average	Poor	V Poor
--------	------	---------	------	--------

Flexibility

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Timekeeping

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Honesty

--	--	--	--	--

Comments:

Any further comments regarding the above:-



Head Teacher: Mr O M Flowers

Address: The Westminster School, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 9AL

Web: www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk Phone: 0121 581 6884 Email: headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk

The Westminster School



Name of Applicant: _____

Please give details of any current disciplinary warnings or outstanding disciplinary issues pending, including the nature of the offence/alleged offence and sanction given. Please include details of any disciplinary procedures the applicant has been subject to involving issues related to the Safety and Welfare of children, young people or vulnerable adults, including any in which the disciplinary sanction has expired. If there are none, please state "None".

Please give details of any allegations or concerns that have been raised about the applicant that relate to the Safety and Welfare of children, young people or vulnerable adults or behaviour towards children, young people or vulnerable adults. If there are none, please state "None".

Please give details of the outcome of those concerns, for example, were the allegations/ concerns investigated? What conclusion was reached? How was the matter resolved?

Are you completely satisfied that the candidate is suitable to work with children?

If not, please give specific details of your concerns and the reasons why you believe the candidate might be unsuitable.



Head Teacher: Mr O M Flowers

Address: The Westminster School, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 9AL

Web: www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk **Phone:** 0121 561 8884 **Email:** headteacher@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk

To your knowledge, does the applicant have a criminal record?

For Teaching Posts only:

In accordance with School Staffing (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 please advise whether or not the member of staff has, in the preceding two years, been the subject of the Capability Procedures established by the governing body in accordance with regulation 8 and, if so, please provide details of the concerns which gave rise to this, the duration of the proceedings and their outcome.

Would you re-employ?

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

Please give any other information that may help us concerning the possible employment of this applicant?

Signature:	Date:
Name:	Tel No:

Appendix 2

The Westminster School SCR Headings.

ID Checks

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Address ID seen by and date
- Photo ID seen by and date
- Date started with School
- Position held

Prohibition from Teaching Check

- Check required (Yes/ No)
- Date of check
- Check undertaken by

Qualifications and Registration

- Teaching qualifications required (Yes/No)
- If required, teaching qualifications evidenced
- Teacher Reference Number
- If required, date teaching qualifications seen
- If required, date teaching agency reference seen

Vetting Checks

- Disclosure Number
- DBS date of issue
- DBS date of expiry
- DBS checked by and date
- DBS Countersignatory
- Barred list checked by and date
- Letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country where the applicant has worked
- For Staff Appointed Pre 01/01/2021
 - Overseas Police check required (Yes/No)
 - Overseas Check made by and date
 - EEA Check (Yes/No)
 - EEA Check made by and date
- For Staff Appointed post 01/01/2021
 - Has individual worked or lived outside of the UK
 - Appropriate checks completed (include details of checks)
 - Date checked and by
- Risk assessment (Yes/No)
- Risk assessment date

Right to work in the UK Check

- Evidence seen
- Evidence seen by and date

Appendix 4

SIPS PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

Surname:	Forenames:	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr
Appointment of:		TRN Number:
Location:		
Manager's Name:		
Permanent/Temporary	End Date:	Internal/External

Checks Completed	Date Sent	Date Cleared/Rec'd	Initials	Spreadsheet Updated
Added to New Starter Spreadsheet				
Provisional Offer Pack sent				
Application Form Signed				
Medical Sent to Occupational Health				
Reference 1 (Name)				
Telephone Verification Received (Shenstone only):				
Accepted by Manager: Y / N				
Reference 2 (Name)				
Telephone Verification Received (Shenstone Only):				
Accepted by Manager: Y / N				
A&I Cleared: Y / N Docs Seen:				
Does the post require a DBS? Y / N				
Does the post require 5128 management check? Y/N				
DBS Appointment Made				
Date Sent:				
DBS Disclosure number:				
DBS Date of Issue:				
Overseas check required: Y / N				
Child Care Disqualification: Y / N				
Qualifications Received and copied (where applicable)				
Teacher Qualification – Class of Degree				
QTS Date:				
QTS and Prohibition Checked:				
EEA Check Completed:				
Transfer of Service Y / N From:				
Bank Details and Pension Form Received:				
Manager Informed Applicant is Cleared:				

Appendix 5 – Full Cleared Memo



SIPS Education
Limited
Guardian House,
West Bromwich,
B70 8GS

MEMORANDUM

FROM: TO: Oliver Flowers

TEL: 0121 296 3000 DATE:

Name	
Post Title	
School	

I can now inform you that the above applicant is now fully cleared (see below) and you are able to contact them for a start date.



TYPE	CLEARED ON
Medical	
Reference 1 Received	
Reference 2 Received	
Telephone Confirmation Received	
Reference 3 Received	
Reference Confirmation Date	
Asylum and Immigration	
Asylum & Immigration – Document Seen	
DBS Disclosure No. Enhanced With Barring	
DBS Date of Issue	
DBS Certificate Seen by and Date Seen:	
Identity Check – Documents Seen	
Identity Check – Documents Seen by	
Identity Check – Date Checked	
Name of countersignatory	
Childcare Disqualification Declaration	
Overseas Check Required (If yes, provide details)	
Qualifications – Details and date seen	

I must point out that any start date agreed, must take into consideration Payroll lockout. This information must reach SIPS HR **BEFORE** the 1st of the month in order for the employee to be paid for that month's payroll. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the employee not being paid until the following month's payroll.



Please also note that, should you not appoint this person within the next three months, then their clearances will become invalid and you will need to either renew the clearances or remove the details from the computer.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

HR Business Support Assistant

☎ 0121 296 3000
@ enquiries@sips.co.uk
💻 www.sips.co.uk

Appendix 5 – Shortlisted Candidate Online Search Form and Risk Assessment Form



Online Search – Shortlisted Candidates

Candidate Name:

Role Shortlisted for:

Searcher Name:

Date online search conducted:

Search Parameter	Outcome of Search
Google: Candidate Name Candidate name and Job Title	
Linkedin:	Results of name found (attach a screen shot) No Results found
For staff undertaking Teaching work only (including Teachers/Unqualified Teachers): TRA hearing search	Search applicants name with TRA hearing (example: Jane Doe TRA hearing)

Risk Assessment needed: Yes/No



Online Search Risk Assessment

Name of individual		Discussed with individual	Date	
Post Applied for		School		
Head Teacher		Signed	Date	

Risk Assessment

Outline the explanation and/or circumstances provided by the applicant	
Are the search findings relevant to the position?	
Are you satisfied with the	

The Westminster School

candidate's explanation of the circumstances surrounding the online search findings?	
Do the online search findings impact on the candidate's suitability to work with children and young people?	
Do the candidate's referees identify any concerns?	

	Employ	Do not employ	Comments (including any adjustments required)
Decision (tick as applicable)			