

Clewer Green CE Aided First School

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Headteacher: Mr M Tinsley



'Inspiring Children'

Vision: Every child has been blessed by God with unique potential. Our vision for Clewer Green is to inspire and nurture children in a safe, happy and caring Christian community, where everyone is valued and enjoys learning.

'I can do all things through him who strengthens me'

Philippians 4:13

SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY

THIS POLICY **MUST** BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

AND

OUR CHILD PROTECTION COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Aim

Our aim, in line with our distinctively Christian values, is for every child to have the support that they need, and by example and direct teaching, promote a Christian ethos within the school whilst recognising that not all of its members will be practising Christians.

This policy has been developed to embed safer recruitment practices and procedures throughout Clewer Green CE Aided First School and to support the creation of a safer culture by reinforcing the safeguarding and well-being of children and young people in our care. This policy complies with guidance outlined in 'Keeping Children Safe In Education – 2018', 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education - April 2012' and 'Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against Teachers and other Staff' – DfE 2012.

This policy reinforces the school's whistle blowing policy which all staff are expected to be familiar with. All successful candidates for paid or volunteer employment will be made aware of these documents.

This policy is an essential element in creating and maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all pupils, staff and others within the school community and aims to ensure both safe and fair recruitment and selection of all staff and volunteers by:

- attracting the best possible candidates/volunteers to vacancies
- deterring prospective candidates/volunteers who are unsuitable from applying for vacancies
- identifying and rejecting those candidates/volunteers who are unsuitable to work with children and young people

Clewer Green CE Aided First School is committed to using disciplinary procedures that deal effectively with those adults who fail to comply with the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures and practices.

As an employer we are under a duty to refer any allegation of abuse against a member of staff to the Local Authority Designated Officer within one working day of the allegation being made. A referral will be made if a teacher or member of staff (including volunteers) has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

As an employer we are under a duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), any member of staff who, following disciplinary proceedings, is dismissed because of misconduct towards a pupil and we may refer any concerns we have before the completion of this process.

The School Office will check for updated relevant information about staff each term. All new staff will be subject to an initial enhanced check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). In addition, after the initial DBS check, all staff will be asked to register for the DBS Update Service offered by the DBS, the registration cost for which will be refunded by the school. This will be on a rolling programme and completed by September 2019.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board of the school will:

- ensure the school has effective policies and procedures in place for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers and for the fair selection of staff in accordance with Department for Education guidance and legal requirements
- monitor the school's compliance with them
- ensure that appropriate staff and governors have completed safer recruitment training

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that the school operates safe and fair recruitment and selection procedures which are regularly reviewed and up-dated to reflect any changes to legislation and statutory guidance
- ensure that all appropriate checks have been carried out on staff and volunteers in the school
- monitor any contractors and agencies compliance with this document
- promote the safety and well-being of children and young people at every stage of this process

Inviting Applications

All advertisements for posts of regulated activity, paid or unpaid, will include the following statement;

"Clewer Green CE Aided First School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people and demands that all of our staff and volunteers share this commitment. All post holders are subject to appropriate vetting procedures, Criminal Record checks and a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced check."

All applicants will receive a pack containing the following when applying for a post:

- A statement of the school's commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of the pupils
- Job description and person specification
- The school's Safeguarding Policies
- The school's Safer Recruitment Policy
- The selection procedure for the post
- A Privacy Notice for Job Applicants
- An application form

Prospective applicants must complete, in full, and return a signed application form. Incomplete application forms will be returned to the applicant where the deadline for completed forms has not passed.

Candidates submitting an application form completed on line will be asked to sign the form if called for interview.

A curriculum vitae will not be accepted in place of a completed application form.

Identification of the Recruitment Panel

At least 2 people will form the Selection and Recruitment Panel and at least one of whom will have successfully completed training in safer recruitment.

Short Listing and References

Candidates will be short listed against the job description and person specification for the post.

Two references, one of which must be from the applicant's current/most recent employer, will be taken up, where possible before the selection stage so that any discrepancies may be probed during this stage of the procedure.

References will be sought directly from the referee, and where necessary, will be contacted to clarify any anomalies or discrepancies. Detailed written records will be kept of such exchanges.

Where necessary, previous employers who have not been named as referees may be contacted in order to clarify any such anomalies or discrepancies. Detailed written records will be kept of such exchanges.

Referees will be asked specific questions about the following:

- The candidate's suitability to work with children and young people
- Any disciplinary warnings, including time-expired warnings, relating to the safeguarding of children and young people
- The candidate's suitability for the post

Reference requests will include the following:

- Applicants current post and salary
- Sickness record
- Attendance record
- Disciplinary record

All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, vetting procedures and DBS clearance.

Invitation to Interview

Candidates called to interview will receive:

- A letter (possibly via email) confirming the interview and any other selection techniques
- Details of the interview day including details of the panel members
- Further copy of the job description and person specification
- Details of any tasks to be undertaken as part of the interview process
- A Privacy Notice for Job Applicants
- The opportunity to discuss the process prior to the interview

The Selection Process

Selection techniques will be determined by the nature and duties of the post but all vacancies will require an interview of short-listed candidates.

Interviews will always be face-to-face.

Candidates will be required to:

- Explain any gaps in employment
- Explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to the panel
- Declare any information that is likely to appear on the DBS disclosure

- Demonstrate their ability to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

Employment Checks

An offer of appointment will be conditional and all successful candidates will be required to:

- Provide proof of identity
- Complete an enhanced DBS application and receive satisfactory clearance (there is no requirement to carry out an enhanced DBS check for an applicant from abroad who's previously worked in the UK)
- Provide proof of professional status
- Provide actual certificates of qualifications
- Complete a confidential health questionnaire
- Provide proof of eligibility to live and work in the UK

All checks will be:

- Confirmed in writing
- Documented and retained on the personnel file in accordance with the IRMS's Toolkit for Schools (www.irms.org.uk)
- Recorded on the school's Single Central Record
- Followed up if they are unsatisfactory or if there are any discrepancies in the information received.

Employment will commence subject to all checks and procedures being satisfactorily completed.

It is the employer that has a legal duty to make a referral to the DBS for consideration of whether inclusion on the barred lists is required

A settlement agreement shouldn't stop an employer from providing a reference to potential employers when requested

Induction

All staff and volunteers who are new to the school will receive an induction and information on the school's safeguarding and behaviour policies and procedures, staff code of conduct and procedures for managing children who are missing in education.

All successful candidates will undergo a period of monitoring and will:

- Meet regularly with their induction tutor
- Meet regularly with their line manager
- Attend any appropriate training

Supply Staff

Clewer Green CE Aided First School will only use those agencies which operate a Safer Recruitment Policy and supply written confirmation that all relevant checks have been satisfactorily completed. Any information disclosed as part of the DBS check will be treated confidentially.

Clewer Green CE Aided First School will carry out identity checks when the individual arrives at school.

Peripatetic Staff

Clewer Green CE Aided First School will require that all necessary checks and DBS requirements have been satisfactorily completed for peripatetic staff.

Revised: September 2021

Review date: September 2022

_____ Date _____

Sarah Langley, Chair of Governors