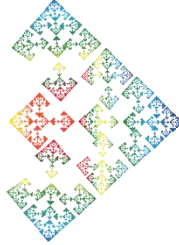


**Ridgeway  
Education  
Trust**  
Excellence Through  
Partnership



# Safer Recruitment Policy

RIDGEWAY EDUCATION TRUST

Approved by the CEO:

Review date: September 2025

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1. This Safer Recruitment Policy has been produced in line with the DfE guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024). This policy aims to ensure a safe and fair recruitment and selection is conducted at all times. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is an integral factor in recruitment and selection and is an essential part of creating safe environments for children and young people.

## **2. Recruitment and selection policy statement**

2.1 Ridgeway Education Trust (RET) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

2.2 RET is committed to attracting, selecting and retaining employees who will successfully and positively contribute to providing a valuable service. A motivated and committed workforce with appropriate knowledge, skills, experience and ability to do the job is critical to the school's performance and fundamental to the delivery of a high-quality service.

## **3. Purpose**

3.1 To ensure the recruitment of all staff is conducted in a fair, effective and economic manner.

3.2 To achieve this purpose, those that are responsible for each stage of the recruitment process will demonstrate a professional approach by dealing honestly, efficiently and fairly with all internal and external applicants.

## **4. Scope**

4.1 This policy applies to all the school employees, governors and trustees responsible for and involved in recruitment and selection of all staff.

4.2 Ridgeway Education Trust's scheme of delegation sets out the delegated authority for recruitment and selection.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

- To ensure that the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people is prioritised at each stage of the process.
- To ensure a consistent and equitable approach to the appointment of all school staff.
- To ensure all relevant equal opportunities legislation is adhered to and that appointees are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation.
- To ensure the most cost-effective use is made of resources in the recruitment and selection process.

## **6 Principles**

The following principles are encompassed in this policy:

- All applicants will receive fair treatment.
- All applicant packs will include a job description detailing the post holder's responsibilities for safeguarding.
- Employees will be recruited on the knowledge, experience and skills needed for the job.

- Selection will be carried out by a panel with at least two members. At least one panel member will have received appropriate Safer Recruitment Training as recommended by the OSCB.
- Selection will be based on a minimum of completed application form, short listing and interview, but, whenever possible, involve other assessments.
- Posts will normally be advertised on the MyNewTerm platform and the school website and the advert will include reference to the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children and young people.
- The Equality Act makes it a requirement to make reasonable adjustment to the recruitment process if an applicant makes the employer aware that they have a disability. This applies to the entire recruitment process, from advertisement to appointment.

## **7. Equal Opportunities**

7.1 RET is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all and ensuring that all stages of recruitment and selection are fair. Recruitment and selection procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

## **8. Safer Recruitment – Recruitment and Selection Training**

8.1 It is a requirement that at least one member of the interview panel has completed OSCB approved Safer Recruitment Training prior to the start of the recruitment process. A register of staff, governors and trustees having undergone safer recruitment training is maintained within our Management Information System.

## **9. Pre-recruitment Process**

### **9.1 Objective**

The objective of the recruitment process is to attract, select and retain staff who will successfully and positively contribute to the future development of the school. The first experience an individual has is important; therefore the experience should be positive and all those responsible for recruiting will:

- Leave a positive image with unsuccessful applicants.
- Give successful applicants a clear understanding of the post and what is expected of them.
- Take reasonable actions to reduce the risk of a bad selection decision recognising the potential cost and the school's commitment to safeguarding children and young people.

### **9.2 Application Form**

A standard application form will be used to obtain a common set of data from all applicants. The application process will be adapted for different posts but will always include key information on safeguarding. As such, candidates must provide information on employment history and, if appropriate, adequately explain the reasons for any gaps. The candidates must complete, sign and date the declaration and follow instructions regarding the appropriate disclosure of relevant criminal convictions. In line with requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024), this must be in the form of a physical signature on a hard-copy of the application form. As such, candidates will be asked to sign their application form at the point they attend any on-site selection activities.

### **9.3 Job Description and Person Specification**

A job description and, where applicable, a person specification will be issued for all posts. The job description will have a clear reference to an individual's responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

#### **9.4 Criminal Self-Disclosure**

All short-listed candidates will be asked to complete a self-disclosure form with their invitation to interview. **Please see Appendix 2 for further guidance.**

#### **9.5 References**

9.5.1 The purpose of seeking references is to obtain objective and factual information to support appointment decisions. They will always be requested directly from the referee using the standardised school form.

9.5.2 References will be sought on all short-listed candidates and will be obtained, where possible, before interview so that any issues or concerns they raise can be explored further with the referee, and/or taken up with the candidate at interview.

9.5.3 The school will take reasonable steps to verify references received electronically; this could include telephoning the referee.

#### **9.6 Online Search**

As advised in KCSIE, an online search will be conducted for all shortlisted candidates; candidates are informed that these searches will take place. A copy of the online search proforma can be found in [appendix C](#). Relevant incidents/issues that are publicly available on-line will be explored at interview with the candidate.

### **10. Interviews**

10.1 The interview will assess the merits of each candidate for the post, including at least one question exploring their suitability to work with children and young people. The selection process for people who will work with children and young people will always include a face-to-face interview even if there is only one candidate.

#### **10.2 Interview Panel**

10.2.1 A minimum of two interviewers will form the interviewing panel.

10.2.2 The members of the panel will:

- have the necessary authority to make decisions about appointments;
- be appropriately trained (at least one member of interview panel will have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training).
- before the interview, ensure that they have:
  - reached a consensus about the required standard for the job to which they are appointing;
  - considered the issues to be explored with each candidate and who on the panel will ask about each of those.

10.2.3 Where a candidate is known personally to a member of the selection panel this will be declared before shortlisting takes place. It may then be necessary to consider changing the selection panel to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

#### **10.3 Scope of the Interview**

10.3.1 In addition to assessing and evaluating the applicant's suitability for the particular post, the interview panel will also explore:

- the candidate's attitude toward children and young people;
- his/her ability to support the school's ethos for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- any gaps in the candidate's employment history;

- any concerns or discrepancies arising from the information provided by the candidate and/or a referee.

## **11. Conditional Offer of Appointment: Pre-Appointment Checks**

11.1. An offer of appointment to the successful candidate will be conditional upon:

- verification of the candidate's identity;
- verification of eligibility to work in the UK;
- appropriate overseas check, and references from any overseas education employer if appropriate;
- verification of the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their role;
- the receipt of at least two satisfactory and verified references;
- verification of qualifications;
- verification of professional status where required e.g. QTS status (unless properly exempted);
- a check of the DfE Barred List;
- a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure, with the certificate seen and verified by the school
- a check using the Employer Access Online Service to see if a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State for Education or GTCE sanction exists against the individual (for posts carrying out 'teaching work');
- verification of successful completion of statutory induction period (applies to those who obtained QTS after 7 May 1999) unless the successful candidate is an NQT undertaking their statutory induction (for teaching posts);
- Any additional checks as deemed appropriate.

11.2 All checks will be appropriately documented and retained on the individual's personnel file with information recorded on the school's central record in line with the statutory requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2024). Where information is unsatisfactory or there are discrepancies in the information provided this will be followed up.

11.3 Where:

- the candidate is found to be on the relevant barred List, or the DBS Disclosure shows s/he has been disqualified from working with children by a Court; or,
  - an applicant has provided false information in, or in support of, his/her application; or,
  - there are serious concerns about an applicant's suitability to work with children,
- this will be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

11.4 If an individual's DBS certificate is not completed a member of staff would only be able to commence work if the school is satisfied that:

- appropriate supervision is in place;
- other checks (references etc) have been completed satisfactorily;
- the DBS barred list check has been completed; a risk assessment is in place, documenting these checks and taking into account any other relevant considerations. This will be reviewed and signed by the headteacher or CEO.

## **12. Post Appointment Induction**

There will be an induction programme for all staff which includes the arrangements for Child Protection and Safeguarding, Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 1 (or Annex A as appropriate) and Annex B) and Safer Working Practice Guidance. On induction all staff will be provided with, as a minimum:

- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Policy, including information about how to deal with disclosures
- Online Safety Policy

- Dealing with Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers Policy
- Children Missing from Education Policy.

Training around these policies will be provided, ensuring staff members understand their safeguarding responsibilities related to each of these areas of their work.

### **13. Supply/Agency Staff and Volunteers**

When the school needs to use the services of a supply agency, it will ensure the agency operates a safer recruitment process and provides confirmation that the following have been checked and judged as satisfactory:

- Identity;
- Enhanced DBS Disclosure;
- Right to work in the UK;
- The DBS Barred List;
- Any Prohibition Order, Interim Prohibition Order or GTCE sanction for those undertaking 'teaching work';
- Qualifications (where applicable);
- Overseas Checks, including and EEA check where applicable (see Appendix 1).

When the supply member of staff arrives at the school, their identity will be checked, and it will be confirmed that they are the same person on the documentation from the agency. The supply staff's details will be entered on the Single Central Record (SCR) for the time they are working in the school.

A DBS Enhanced Disclosure will be undertaken for all volunteers in student-facing roles, with the certificate seen and verified by the school prior to the volunteer beginning their role. Risk assessments will be carried out for volunteers in non student-facing roles to determine whether a DBS Enhanced Disclosure is required.

**An example of the Safer Recruitment Checklist which will be completed with supporting evidence and placed in the file of successful candidates can be found in [Appendix A](#).**

## Appendix A - Safer Recruitment Checklist

Post \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Recruitment and selection checklist	Initials	Date
<b>Pre-interview:</b>		
<b>Planning</b> - Timetable decided: job specification and description and other documents to be provided to applicants, reviewed and updated as necessary. Application form seeks all relevant information and includes relevant statements about references etc		
<b>Vacancy advertised</b> (where appropriate) Advertisement includes reference to safeguarding policy, that is, statement of commitment to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children and need for successful applicant to be DBS checked		
<b>Applications on receipt</b> - Scrutinised – any discrepancies/anomalies/gaps in employment noted to explore if candidate considered for short-listing		
<b>Short-list prepared</b>		
<b>References – seeking</b> Sought directly from referee on short-listed candidates; ask recommended specific questions; include statement about liability for accuracy		
<b>References – on receipt</b> Checked against information on application; scrutinised; any discrepancy/issue of concern noted to take up with referee and/or applicant (at interview if possible) <b>(If received by email – accompanying email to verify authenticity. If not from professional email address, follow up to ensure authenticity)</b>		
<b>Invitation to interview</b> - Includes all relevant information and instructions and the self-disclosure form.		
<b>Interview arrangements</b> - At least two interviewers; panel members have authority to appoint; have met and agreed issues and questions/assessment criteria/standards		
<b>Interview</b> - Explores applicants' suitability for work with children as well as for the post		
<b>Self-Disclosure</b> – Completed self-disclosure is submitted and seen by the member of the panel who is safer recruitment trained.		
<b>Note:</b> identity and qualifications of successful applicant verified on day of interview by scrutiny of appropriate original documents; copies of documents taken and placed on file; where appropriate applicant completed application for DBS disclosure		
<b>Conditional offer of appointment:</b> pre appointment checks. Offer of appointment is made conditional on satisfactory		



completion of the following pre- appointment checks and, for non-teaching posts, a probationary period		
<b>References before confirmation of appointment:</b> (if not obtained and scrutinised previously) <b>(If received by email – accompanying email to verify authenticity. If not from professional email address, follow up to ensure authenticity)</b>		
<b>Identity</b> (if that could not be verified at interview)		
<b>Qualifications</b> (if not verified on the day of interview)		
<b>Permission to work in UK, if required</b>		
<b>School record sight of DBS certificate</b> - where appropriate satisfactory DBS certificate.		
<b>DBS Barred list check</b> – applicant is not barred from working with Children <b>(this must be completed before the applicant commences work)</b>		
<b>Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 Letter</b> – for any staff who work in childcare provision or who are directly concerned with the management of such provision as defined in the statutory guidance.		
<b>Health</b> – the candidate is medically fit Medical Pre-Employment Questionnaire		
<b>Prohibition from Teaching Work Check</b> – For those carrying out teaching work <b>(see below)</b> the teacher has not been included in the prohibition list or interim prohibition list or has a GTCE sanction.		
<b>Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Check</b> – (for teaching posts in maintained schools) the teacher has obtained QTS or is exempt from the requirement to hold QTS (for teaching posts in FE colleges) the teacher has obtained a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) or Certificate of Education (Cert. Ed) awarded by a higher education institution, or the FE Teaching Certificate conferred by an awarding body		
<b>Overseas Checks</b> – for individuals who have lived or worked abroad in the last 10 years.** <b>(See Below)</b> <b>(For those carrying out teaching work within the EEA area this will include an EEA prohibition order check through Employer Access until Jan 21, after this date it will include a reference from any education employer overseas in the same period)</b>		
<b>Statutory Induction Completed</b> (for teachers who obtained QTS after 7 May 1999 and are not employed as NQTs)		
<b>Risk Assessment</b> – for Volunteers a written Risk assessment in relation to undertaking an Enhanced DBS		

<b>Child Protection &amp; Online safety training</b> and other induction such as H&S, Safe Working Practice / code of staff behaviour, etc (see 13.1 above for specific policies which must be covered)		
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Each of the following activities is teaching work: planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils, delivering\* lessons to pupils; assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.

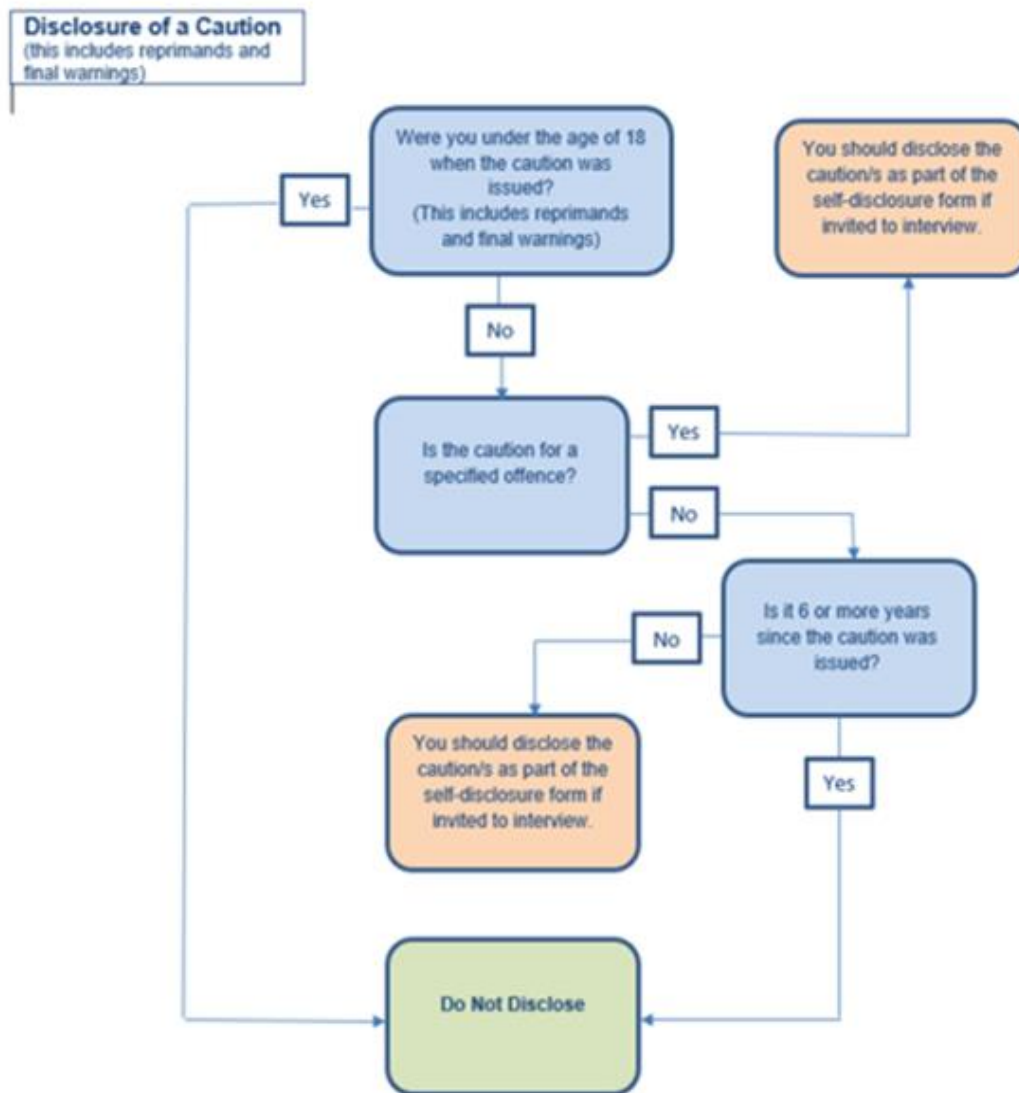
\* “delivering” includes delivering lessons through distance learning or computer aided techniques. The activities specified above are not teaching work for the purposes of the Regulations if the person carrying out the activity does so (other than for the purposes of induction) subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher(2) or other person nominated by the head teacher to provide such direction and supervision.

\* “delivering” includes delivering lessons through distance learning or computer aided techniques. The activities specified above are not teaching work for the purposes of the Regulations if the person carrying out the activity does so (other than for the purposes of induction) subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher(2) or other person nominated by the head teacher to provide such direction and supervision.

\*\* [The DfE does not issue guidance on which circumstances require these overseas checks, stating that it is for schools to determine. However, with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the Home Office confirmed that an overseas criminal check will be completed for everyone in an education role applying for a visa to work in the UK.](#)

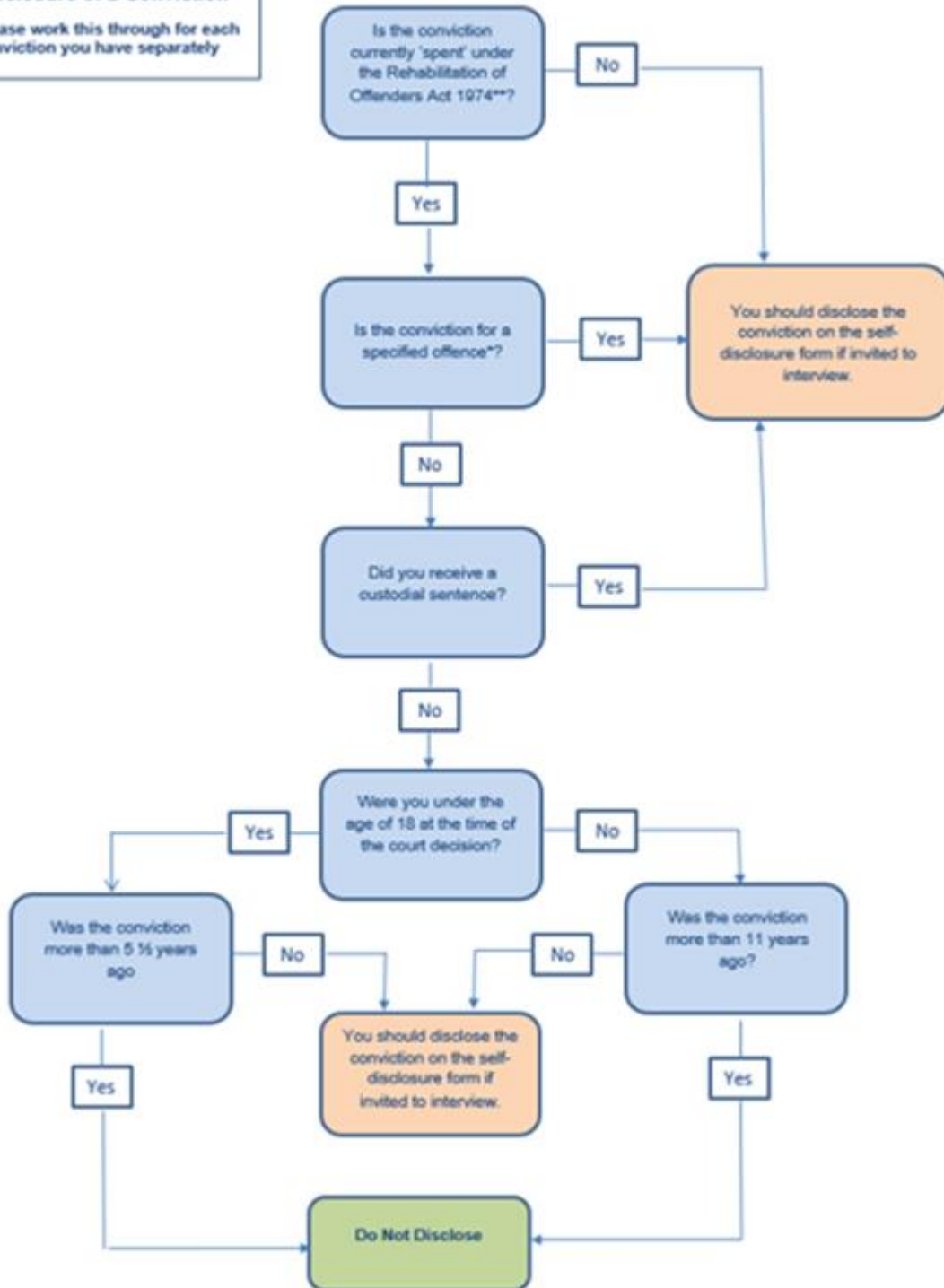
The requirement is mandatory to applicants from overseas applying under certain Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes, including teaching and school leadership. The requirement to provide an overseas criminal record certificate applies to anyone that has lived abroad for 12 months or more in the last 10 years. From April 2017 schools have a statutory duty to inform Tier 2 skilled worker applicants of the need to source and submit overseas criminal certificates as part of their visa application. You can find an FAQ document about obtaining overseas criminality information here: [Obtaining Overseas Criminal Record Checks](#)

## APPENDIX B: Criminal Self-Disclosure



## Disclosure of a Conviction

Please work this through for each conviction you have separately



## Appendix C: Online Search Form

### Online Search Record

How to use this form:

- A copy for each short-listed candidate should be given to the member of staff carrying out the searches. This member of staff should not be involved in carrying out interviews or making recruitment decisions
- The search should be carried out as directed by the search parameters listed below
- The forms should be returned to the person carrying out the interviews and any concerns raised should be discussed during the interview

**Candidate name:**

**Role shortlisted for:**

**Searcher name:**

**Date and time of online search:**

SEARCH PARAMETERS	CONCERNS RAISED
<p>Google search: The following terms, looking at the first page of results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Candidate name'</li><li>• 'Candidate name' + 'location'</li><li>• 'Candidate name' + 'location' + 'current school'</li><li>• Candidate name + overseas country (where applicable)</li></ul>	<p>Only record information that suggests the candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is unqualified for the role</li><li>• Poses a potential safeguarding risk</li><li>• Risks damaging the reputation of the trust</li></ul> <p><b>Don't</b> include any irrelevant personal information.</p>