

Olive Academies' safer recruitment and selection statement



Olive Academies is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in our academies:

- safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children and young people;
- promoting equality of opportunity and community cohesion where the diversity of different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued; and
- promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

We will implement robust recruitment procedures and checks for appointing staff and volunteers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with children, or who is disqualified from working with children, or does not have the suitable skills and experience for the role.

These are outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy which provides an overview of our procedures for safeguarding and safer recruitment. It is available here: <https://oliveacademies.org.uk/about-us/governance/policy-documents>

Shortlisting

Only those candidates meeting the essential criteria set out in the person specification will be taken forward from application.

Pre-employment vetting

As part of our safer recruitment and selection process, we operate a strict pre-employment checking procedure. Successful applicants will be required to undergo the checks outlined below.

Disclosure

OA requires all employees to undertake an enhanced DBS check before they start. A previously issued Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate will only be accepted in certain restricted circumstances based in a risk assessment. Where you subscribe to the DBS update service, we will expect you to show OA the original physical certificate prior to starting. Please ask to see a copy of our DBS procedures for further information.

You are required, before appointment to disclose any unspent conditional cautions or convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, and any adult cautions (simple or conditional) or spent convictions that are not protected as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974 (exceptions) Order 1975 (amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2020.

The amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1964 (exceptions) Order 1975 (2013 and 2020) provides that when applying for certain jobs and activities certain convictions and cautions are considered 'protected'. This means they do not need to be disclosed to employers and, if they are disclosed, employers cannot take them into account. Guidance about whether a conviction or caution should be disclosed can be found on the Ministry of Justice website or on the websites of charities NACRO and UNLOCK.

Applicants will not be asked to provide a self-declaration of any criminal cautions or convictions unless shortlisted – the request will be made prior to the interview itself.

Non-disclosure of the above may lead to termination of employment. However, disclosure of a criminal background will not necessarily debar you from employment. This will depend upon the nature of the offence(s) and when they occurred.

Where an applicant is not normally resident in the United Kingdom or has been resident outside the United Kingdom for more than 6 months, an additional police check will be carried out with the normal or most recent country of residence.

Qualifications

If the post applied for requires a specific qualification, the applicant will be required to bring the original certificate along to the interview. If the original certificate is unavailable, a certified copy of the document must be provided by the issuing establishment.

Registration with a professional body

If the post applied for requires registration with a professional body, the applicant will be required to bring the original certificate along to the interview. If the original certificate is unavailable, a certified copy of the document must be provided by the issuing establishment. OA will verify registration/membership with the relevant professional body.

References

Applicants are required to provide a minimum of two referees, one of whom must be your most recent employer. If your last employment was in a school, you must provide the name of the headteacher rather than a work colleague. Where relevant, one reference must be from a referee where the employment involved working with children and/or young people.

If you have not previously worked with children and/or young people, we may ask for a character reference using an OA reference form from someone who can confirm your suitability to work with children and/or young people. This would normally be someone in authority, e.g. a lecturer, doctor or community leader. Please note that character references are normally only accepted as a supplement to an employer's reference.

In addition, OA will seek references from educational establishments for those applicants with no previous employment history. Under no circumstances will open references or testimonials (i.e. addressed "to whom it may concern") be accepted.

References from previous and current employers will be taken up for shortlisted candidates, except if you have specifically indicated that you would prefer us to contact them only if you are made an offer of appointment. Where necessary, employers will be contacted to gather further information.

Eligibility to work in the UK

OA has a legal obligation to check documentary evidence to confirm that all potential employees are eligible to work in the UK.

Medical assessment

All offers of appointment will be subject to the satisfactory outcome of medical checks where appropriate.

We keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks, in line with the current DfE requirements.

Probation

All new staff will be subject to a probation period of six months which may, in certain circumstances, be extended. The probation period is a trial period, to enable the assessment of an employee's suitability for the job for which they have been employed. It provides the trust with the opportunity to monitor and review the performance of new staff in relation to various aspects of the role and also in terms of their commitment to safeguarding and developing positive relationships with students.

A commitment to encourage diversity

OA is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst our employees. Our aim is that our workforce will be truly representative of all sections of society and that each employee feels respected and able to give their best. To that end we are committed to the principles of equality and fairness for all in our recruitment and employment practices and not to discriminate on any grounds. We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination.

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