

Safer Recruitment policy and procedure

Introduction:

The purpose of this policy is to set out Squirrels Nursery Ltd's commitment to fair, safe, and effective recruitment, and selection of both new and existing employees.

Squirrels Nursery Ltd is an equal opportunities employer and will not discriminate unlawfully against anyone but will select the best candidate for the job in terms of qualifications and abilities.

We are committed to safer recruitment practices that:

- Deter prospective applicants who are unsuitable to work with children or young people.
- Identify and reject applicants who are unsuitable to work with children or young people.

Guiding Principles:

- All recruitment and selection procedures must comply with all current legislation.
- A job description and person specification must accompany each vacancy.
- The job applicant pack working with children will receive additional information relating to the post.
- All members of the recruitment panel should be familiar with this policy and the accompanying selection and recruitment procedures.
- At least one person on each appointment panel should have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training in keeping with the requirements of the Safer Recruitment Consortium and Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE).
- The nursery's Safer Recruitment Procedures set out further guidance for appointments of those working with children. For example:
 - a curriculum vitae will not be accepted in lieu of an application form; the applicant will be required to declare any cautions and convictions etc that are not protected amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013)
 - references will be sought on all short-listed candidates and scrutinised before interview if consent is given by the applicant. Open references will not be relied upon and will be subject to confirmation from the referee.
 - all references must include a statement about someone's suitability to work with children.
- Equality monitoring is at the heart of our equal opportunities policy. Monitoring information in relation to job applicants will be to assist us in equality monitoring. The recruitment panel will not have access to job applicants monitoring information.

- All suitably qualified disabled applicants who meet the essential requirements of a post will be invited for interview where practical. Appropriate adjustments will be made to the interview arrangements where necessary.
- Every applicant must be assessed consistently against the criteria identified on the person specification. The selection panel must look for relevant objective evidence on which to make a decision.
- Questions asked of applicants must relate to the requirements of the post and should not be discriminatory, offensive or in any way off-putting to any person or group.
- Safer Recruitment Training provides further guidance as to how to ask further questions to test out someone's suitability to work with children and relevant to their application form and personal statement.
- The Equality Act 2010 (Section 60) prevents employers from asking applicants about their health or attendance before making an offer of appointment. Questions relating to the applicant's health or sickness absence history must not be asked at the interview stage unless it is for the following reasons:
 - Finding out whether a job applicant would be able to participate in an assessment to test their suitability for the work.
 - Making reasonable adjustments to enable a disabled person to participate in the recruitment process.
 - Finding out whether a job applicant would be able to undertake a function that is intrinsic to the job, with reasonable adjustments as required.
- To enable identification of suitable candidates for a job where there is a genuine occupational requirement for the person to be disabled.
- At the end of the interviews, each panel member should have recorded evidence of how each candidate has met each of the selection criteria. Systematic analysis and assessment against the Nursery's scoring system is important so that fair and justified decisions are made and so that constructive feedback can be given to candidates.
- The panel should then reach agreement on which candidate is to be appointed.
- Short summative verbal feedback should be offered to unsuccessful shortlisted candidates.
- All posts are subject to a fully completed application form, satisfactory employment references, medical clearance, evidence of the applicant's right to work in the UK and evidence of the required qualifications.

- All posts will require all the relevant pre-employment checks set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Squirrels Nursery LTD ensures that anyone working within the setting is suitable to work with children, this includes verifying qualifications ensuring they are full and relevant.
- All posts will undergo online searches for shortlisted candidates, this includes news articles and Social Media. This will support identify the suitability of the candidate.
- The verbal offer of employment and the initial offer letter must be conditional on all the required checks being completed. Candidates should be advised not to resign until their post is confirmed and all relevant checks must have been completed.
- Squirrels Nursery LTD ensures that anyone working within the setting is suitable to work with children, this includes verifying qualifications ensuring they are full and relevant.
- All new employees will receive a mandatory safeguarding induction in keeping with the DfE guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education & Early Years.
- Any complaints made in relation to the recruitment and selection process should be dealt with under the grievance procedures for internal candidates and school's complaints policy for external applicants.
- All employment offers including voluntary & student placement roles will be subject to two satisfactory reference checks being carried out before employment can commence. We obtain references by:
 - not accepting open references e.g. to whom it may concern
 - not rely on applicants to obtain their reference
 - ensure any references are from the candidate's current employer and have been completed by a senior person with appropriate authority (if the referee is school or college based, the reference should be confirmed by the headteacher/principal as accurate in respect of any disciplinary investigations)
 - obtain verification of the individual's most recent relevant period of employment where the applicant is not currently employed.
 - Not accept reference from a family member
 - secure a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children (if not currently working with children), if the applicant has never worked with children, then ensure a reference from their current employer, always verify any information with the person who provided the reference
 - ensure electronic references originate from a legitimate source
 - contact referees to clarify content where information is vague or insufficient information is provided

- compare the information on the application form with that in the reference and take up any discrepancies with the candidate
 - establish the reason for the candidate leaving their current or most recent post, and ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.
- All management roles will undergo Safer recruitment training every 2 years minimum.

	Recruitment Procedures:	Date:
1.	Post approved by HR & Directors	
2.	Job description and person specification drawn up (reference to safeguarding children and appropriate behaviours should be included in all relevant posts)	
3.	Job description, person specification and salary range agreed by Directors and whether the post ought to be held for redeployment	
4.	Appointments panel agreed with a minimum of two members. (Panel members should remain the same for each stage of the process). Selection methods agreed. Closing date, short-listing date and interview dates agreed.	
5.	Advert drawn up and agreed by HR. This post is subject to all the relevant pre-employment checks, including an enhanced DBS certificate with a barred-list check.	
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application pack prepared to include: an application form with guidance notes, job description and person specification and details of any probationary period, information about the organisation and recruitment of ex-offenders and terms and conditions relating to the post). Statement to also include: Due to the role involving regular engagement with children and young people, it is an offence to apply for the role, if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relating to children and young people. <p>The candidates pack should also include a Code of Conduct – Safer Working Practices Guidance and guidance that requires the disclosure of non-protected cautions and convictions. Candidates should be signposted to the Nursery website which contains further safeguarding policies. They should be advised</p>	

	<p>that CVs will not be acceptable for these types of posts. In addition, references will always be required from their current employer and settings where they have worked with children.</p>	
7.	<p>The application form will need to request the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Details of the applicant including current and former names, current address, and national insurance number and/or proof to work in the UK. If candidates have lived overseas in the last 3 years, additional checks will be required. - A statement of any academic and/or vocational qualifications the applicant has obtained that are relevant to the position they are applying for with the details of the awarding body and date of award. -A full educational, training and work history in chronological order since leaving secondary education with any gaps explained. - Details of two referees. One referee must be the applicant’s current or most recent employer and not family members. -An explanation that the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and that all convictions, cautions and bind overs, including those regarded as ‘spent’ must be declared unless protected. -a declaration that the person has no convictions, cautions, warnings, reprimands or bind-overs or where these exist details of the offence, including dates should be provided and will be discussed further at interview g. a declaration that should they provide false information or omit any material fact they will be liable to dismissal if appointed and possible referral to the police. 	
8.	<p>Post advertised via Indeed.</p>	
9.	<p>Shortlist applicants. The selection panel should identify those applicants who meet the criteria based upon their application form and personal statement. Applications for re-employment received from former employees should not be considered where this would breach the terms of any severance agreement. A scoring system should be used to assess each applicant against the criteria on the person specification: Provision should be made for disabled candidates to attend interview.</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p>References should be requested for all short-listed candidates whose posts will bring them into contact with children. All reference requests should ask: a. about the referee's relationship with the candidate, how long they have known them and in what capacity (if the reference is from a current or previous employer it should be from an appropriately senior member of the relevant organisation) b. whether the referee is satisfied that the candidate has the ability and is suitable to undertake the role in question c. whether the referee is completely satisfied that the candidate is suitable to work with children, and, if not, for specific details of the referee's concerns. d. details of whether the employee has been subject to employment tribunal or Employment Appeal Tribunal Reference requests from current or previous employers in work with children and vulnerable adults should, in addition to the above, ask for: a. confirmation of details of the applicant's current/previous post (s) including salary, job title, dates of employment and reason for leaving b. specific verifiable and relevant comments about the applicant's performance history and conduct. c. details of any disciplinary procedures the applicant has been subject to in which the sanction is still current. d. details of any disciplinary procedures the applicant has been subject to which related to the safety and welfare of children, including any in which the disciplinary sanction has expired and the outcome of those. References should be carefully checked against the application form for any discrepancies or anomalies. The references should be scrutinised before interview if applicant has given consent to consider any past behaviours, allegations and differences between the skills, responsibilities and experiences set out by the referee and candidate. Any omissions and or vague statements should always be followed up with the referee. Notes should be taken of any conversation. Further references may need to be taken up particularly if they are relevant to a post working with children.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>The panel should agree a set of questions to ask all candidates that cover the key aspects of the role and specifically those characteristics in the person specification that need testing out at interview.</p>	

12.	All candidates should be asked questions to include their attitude and motivation towards working with children and their ability to support the organisation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The panel should agree further questions to ask individual candidates based upon issues raised in their personal statement, references and application form including any gaps or discrepancies identified. Towards the end of the interview any cautions and convictions etc declared by the candidate should be discussed.	
13.	The appointments panel should select the successful candidate using the agreed scoring system. Each panel member will have been provided with an interview pack, setting out each question, possible positive and negative answers, and the scoring system. All unsuccessful interviewed candidates should receive short summative feedback agreed by the panel.	
14.	The successful candidate should receive a verbal offer, conditional to all the required checks being completed. They should be advised they will receive a conditional offer letter and that they shouldn't resign until they receive their confirmation letter with their start date, contract and particulars.	
15.	<p>The personnel file should evidence that all the required checks have been completed. A recruitment checklist for the personnel file should be signed off before their start date. The confirmation letter with start date can be sent once all checks are completed. These checks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verify a candidate's identity. Identification checking guidelines can be found on the GOV.UK website; - obtain (via the applicant) an enhanced DBS certificate; -obtain a separate barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available; -Verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role; - Verify the person's right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, then prospective 	

	employers, or volunteer managers, should follow advice on the GOV.UK website; -if the person has lived or worked outside the UK, make any further checks the Nursery consider appropriate; - verify professional qualifications, as appropriate.	
16.	Appropriate induction activities should be provided for all new employees. All staff should read and all key Nursery Policies and Procedures. The induction checklist should be completed and placed on their personnel file.	

Providing references for former employees:

When we receive employment references from other companies for past employees, we aim to complete and return these requests within 7 workings days.

Created 23/06/2022

Signed: D.Caliskan

Job title: Director

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To be reviewed annually