



Better Together
LEARNING TRUST

BETTER TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY

STATUTORY POLICY

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Glossary

The term '**School**' is used as standard to mean the educational establishment that is adopting this policy.

The term '**Headteacher**' is used to refer to the person with overall day-to-day responsibility of the **school**.

Directors are the Trustees of the Board.

LGB is the Local Governing Body.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Directors of Better Together Learning Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all staff and volunteers to demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.

The Directors regard its staff as its most important asset. It is the policy of the Directors to ensure an adequate supply of suitably qualified and experienced staff to meet the school's human resource requirements and to deliver the school improvement plan.

- 1.2 The appointment of all employees at Better Together Learning Trust will be made on merit and in accordance with the provisions of Employment Law, the Education Act 2002, the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 and the statutory guidance, Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education Settings and the Trusts Equal Opportunities policy.
- 1.3 The Directors will ensure that people are treated solely based on their abilities and potential, regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religious or political belief or affiliation, trade union membership, age, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic background, or any other inappropriate distinction.

1.4 The procedure for the appointment of the Head of School, Deputy Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher differs from that of other staff. The procedure is outlined in Appendix 1.

2. Delegation of Appointments

- 2.1 The Directors delegate all support staff appointments and all teaching appointments below Assistant Head/Deputy Head to the Head of School. A Governor who wishes to be considered for involvement will be expected to undertake recruitment selection training, including “Safer Recruitment” training, at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.2 No governor is to be excluded from being involved in staff appointments unless there is a conflict between the interests of the governor and the interests of the Directors.
- 2.3 An interview panel, if necessary, will be drawn from all governors who have undertaken Safer Recruitment training and who have advised the Chief Operating Officer of his/her wish to be involved in staff appointments. The interview panel will also include the Head of School and members of the School Leadership/Management Team as appropriate for the post.
- 2.4 The Head of School may appoint alone but only for the following categories of staff:
e.g. supply teachers, mid-day supervisors, cleaners
- 2.5 The Head of School may not delegate the final decision of appointment to any other senior manager or governor.

3. Advertising

- 3.1 Every vacant post (including acting posts of one term or more) will be advertised in a manner likely to bring it to the notice of persons qualified to fill the post and will be equally accessible to both sexes and all ethnic groups.
- 3.2 The Governors or Head of School may decide to appoint internally after internal advertisement. In cases of internal advertisement, the details will be emailed to all staff, giving at least 5 working days for applications to be made.

4. Information for Applicants

All our vacancies are advertised on www.mynewterm.co.uk where all applications should be made, The Trust no longer accepts paper applications or CV's. All vacancies are also advertised on our school and trust websites.

All applicants for all vacant posts advertised internally or externally will be provided with:

- 4.1 A Job Description outlining the duties of the post and an indication of where the post fits into the organisational structure of the school.
- 4.2 A Person Specification indicating the qualifications, skills and types of experience or expertise which the Interview Panel regard as essential or desirable in relation to the job.
- 4.3 Information about the School and other general information:
- a description of the school relevant to the vacant post.

- a statement about access to the school for applicants who may wish to see it or who may wish to consult the Head of School before making an application.
- a statement that canvassing any member of staff, or member of the Directors, directly or indirectly, is prohibited and will be considered a disqualification.
- reference to the school's policy on Equality and Diversity.
- reference to the legislation concerning the Protection of Children.
- the name of any person who will be available to provide additional information about the post.
- the closing date for the receipt of applications.
- salary range for the post.

5. Short Listing

- 5.1 Short listing will be the responsibility of the Head of School in conjunction with the HR Department (COO and Trust HR Officer) and the Interview Panel as indicated in paragraph 2 of this policy.
- 5.2 The selection panel will take up two references on each short-listed candidate. For all posts, the references will, where appropriate, include the applicant's current Headteacher or LA.
- 5.3 References shall be taken up by the person delegated to receive the application. References are the "property" of the selection panel and strict confidentiality will be observed. References will be sought set against the requirement of the job description and person specification and information regarding issues relating to child protection.
- 5.4 Short listing will be based only on substantial information. The job description and the person specification will be used to set the criteria and standards for inclusion on the long list and for reducing this to the shortlist of candidates to be invited for interview.
- 5.5 The criteria for selection will be consistently applied to all applicants.
- 5.6 If the field of applicants is felt to be weak the post may be re-advertised.

6. Interviews

- 6.1 The format, style and duration of the interviews are matters for the Head of School in consultation with the Interview Panel involved in the process to decide, but the following will be adhered to:

6.1.1 Briefing:

All candidates will be given relevant information about the School/Trust to enable the candidate to make further enquiries about the advertised job.

6.1.2 The formal interview:

Before the interviews the selection panel will agree on the line of questioning to be followed and will ensure that the same questions are put to each candidate. The questions asked will be aimed at obtaining evidence of how each candidate meets the criteria listed on the person specification and each candidate will be assessed against all the criteria for the post. The same areas of questioning will be covered for each applicant and no questions which would discriminate directly or indirectly on grounds of sex, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religious belief, disability, or age will be asked. The interview will also deal with the issues of child protection with each candidate.

6.1.3 Before the interviews the Head of School, in consultation with the Interview Panel involved with the interview, will decide a procedure for evaluating the candidates at the end of the interviews. The notes taken and documentation used in this evaluation process will form part of the formal record of why candidates were or were not selected and will be retained for six months by the Trust HR Assistant or Chief Operating Officer; after that time, they will be destroyed.

6.1.4 Before the interviews the Head teacher, in consultation with the persons involved in the interview will decide the structure of the interview, determining which area each interviewer will cover and the approximate time allocation.

6.1.5 Safer recruitment checks will be carried out by the Trust HR Assistant or the Chief Operating Officer as part of the formal interview process.

7. Offer of Appointment by the Selection Panel

7.1 The offer of appointment by the selection panel is binding on both parties subject to staff qualification requirements, satisfactory ID Checks, DBS Check, Barring List, medical checks and satisfactory references. If any of these checks are deemed to be unsatisfactory, the Trust reserves the right to withdraw an offer of appointment.

APPENDIX I

The Selection and Appointment of the Head of School, a Deputy Head Teacher or an Assistant Head Teacher

1. The Directors will appoint a Selection Panel of at least three of the following: Governors, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer. The proceedings of the Selection Panel shall be under the control of the Selection Panel. The Directors will **not** delegate the power of appointment, only the selection process for the appointment of Head of School.
2. The Selection Panel will determine the interview process and seek approval from the Directors before commencing the process.
3. If the need arises the Selection Panel will appoint an Acting Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher. Where it is intended to fill an acting position by external temporary appointment of more than one term the post will be advertised within the area.
4. If an external appointment is to be made to an acting position the governors will seek to do so by secondment and will seek advice from the HR service provider on the contracting of such a secondment.
5. The Selection Panel will advertise the permanent post in such publications circulating throughout England and Wales as they consider appropriate. In the case of an Assistant Head teacher vacancy the Directors may decide that it will not be advertised nationally. All applicants will receive the information set out in paragraph 4 of the Directors' policy statement.
6. The selection panel shall shortlist such applicants for the post as they think fit. In the case of a Head or Deputy Head Teacher appointment, if it can do so, the Selection Panel will recommend one of the interviewed applicants to the Directors. The decision of the selection panel will be approved by a meeting of the Directors, which must be quorate. The Selection Panel may decide about the appointment of an Assistant Head Teacher without recommendation to the Directors.
7. If the Directors approve the recommended candidate for a Head or Deputy Head Teacher appointment, the applicant will be offered appointment subject to staff qualification requirement, medical, ID, DBS Disclosure check, medical check and references. A decision by the Selection Panel regarding the appointment of an Assistant Head teacher will also be subject to staff qualification requirement, ID, medical, DBS Disclosure check and references.
8. If the Selection Panel cannot agree or Directors does not approve the recommendation, then the Governors may re-advertise as in step 5 or may require the Selection Panel to repeat step 6.

If any of the required checks are deemed to be unsatisfactory, the Trust reserves the right to withdraw an offer of appointment.