



## **RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL**

Established 1979

Registered Charity No: 1026005

### **BAPTIST CHURCH HALL**

2 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2PT

Telephone 020 8883 4010

## **Recruitment, Selection and Suitability of Staff Policy**

### **Policy statement**

We are vigilant in our recruitment procedures aiming to ensure that all people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their role. We are committed to ensuring that all staff, including students, volunteers and any agency or supply staff are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their role in order to work with, or be in regular contact with, children.

We have effective systems in place to ensure that practitioners and any other person who may have regular contact with children are suitable, as part of the recruitment process as well as monitoring continued suitability, as part of regular staff and/or student supervision.

Every time we recruit a new member of staff to join our team, we follow these procedures:

### **1. Legal requirements**

- We abide by all legal requirements relating to safer recruitment set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and accompanying regulations, including our legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010
- We also follow any requirements or guidance given by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in relation to carrying out checks. We abide by the employer's responsibilities by informing the DBS of any changes to the suitability of our staff, whether this member of staff has left the preschool or is still under investigation. Please refer to the Safeguarding children and child protection policy for further information.

### **2. Advertising**

- When we have a vacancy, we post the details on our noticeboard, website & social media channels. We also post details on reputable job sites and send the adverts to Haringey Early Years Team so they can share to the early years' community in Haringey
- We ensure that all recruitment literature includes details of our equal opportunities policy and our safer recruitment procedures, including an enhanced DBS check and at least two independent references for every new employee. We also include the requirement for an additional criminal records check (or checks if more than one country) for anyone who has lived or worked abroad.

### **3. Interview stage**

- We shortlist all suitable candidates against pre-set specification and ensure all applicants receive correspondence regardless of whether they are successful in reaching the interview stage or not
- All shortlisted candidates receive a job description, a person specification, an equal opportunities monitoring form and a request for identification prior to the interview
- The manager decides the most appropriate people for the interview panel. There will be at least two people involved in the overall decision making
- At the start of each interview all candidates' identities are checked using, for example, their passport and/or photo card driving licence. All employees must be eligible to work in the UK. The interview will also cover any gaps in the candidate's employment history
- All candidates reaching the interview stage are questioned using the same set criteria and questions. These cover specific areas of childcare, including safeguarding the children in their care, planning suitable activities to enhance the child's development and their understanding of the legal frameworks applied to childcare and used in the preschool. The questions are value based and will ensure the candidate has the same values as the preschool with regards to the safety and welfare of the children in their care
- Candidates will be given a score for their answers including a score for their individual experience and qualifications
- Every shortlisted candidate will be asked to take part in a supervised practical exercise which will involve spending time in a particular age group in the preschool interacting with the children, staff and, where appropriate, parents
- In addition, the manager may choose to carry out an online search for every shortlisted candidate. This may help identify any incidents or issues publicly available online, which may be explored with the applicant at interview
- The manager and deputy will then select the most suitable person for this position based on these scores and their knowledge and understanding of the early year's framework as well as the needs of the preschool
- Every candidate will receive communication from the preschool stating whether they have been successful or not. Unsuccessful candidates are offered feedback.

### **4. Starting work**

- The successful candidate will be offered the position subject to at least two references from current and previous employment or, in the case of a newly qualified student, their tutor and a personal or professional reference. These references will be taken up BEFORE employment commences and will meet the requirements for references as set out in the EYFS under 'Suitable people'. We will obtain at least one written reference for any member of staff, student or volunteer before they are recruited. Other references may be verbal initially and then followed up with a written reference which will form part of their personnel file

- The successful candidate will be asked to provide proof of their qualifications, where applicable. All qualifications will be checked and copies taken for their personnel files where applicable
- Prior to employment but after the job has been offered, a health check questionnaire will be given to the employee and its results will be taken into account in making an overall decision about suitability, although these considerations will include ensuring that the preschool complies with the requirement to make reasonable adjustments for disabled employees. The preschool reserves the right to take any further advice necessary in relation to a person's physical and mental fitness to carry out their role. Please see the Absence management procedure for more details about how the preschool manages health problems including access to medical records
- All new starters, and volunteers will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check prior to starting work/ volunteering in the setting.
- Volunteers not in regulated activity (those who occasionally volunteer for three days or less in a 30-day period - excluding overnight or personal care) will be fully supervised at all times
- An additional criminal records check should also be made for anyone who has lived or worked abroad (including further checks if the individual has lived in more than one country)
- The preschool will record and retain details about individuals, including staff qualifications, identity checks carried out and the vetting process completed. This will include the DBS reference number, the date the disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it. The preschool will not retain copies of the disclosure itself once the employment decision is taken
- There may be occasions when a DBS check is not clear, but the individual is still suitable to work with children. This will be treated on an individual case basis and at the \*manager's/\*owner's discretion taking the following into account:
  - seriousness of the offence or other information
  - accuracy of the person's self-disclosure on the application form
  - nature of the appointment including levels of supervision
  - age of the individual at the time of the offence or other information
  - the length of time that has elapsed since the offence or other information
  - relevance of the offence or information to working or being in regular contact with children
- New starters are required to sign a disclosure form to state that they have no criminal convictions, court orders or any other reasons that disqualify them from working with children or identify that they are unsuitable to do so.
- All new members of staff will undergo an intensive induction period during which time they will read and discuss the preschool policies and procedures and be assigned a mentor or buddy who will introduce them to the way in which the preschool operates
- During their induction period all new staff will receive training on how to safeguard children in their care and follow the Safeguarding children and child protection policy, Lock down policy, Inclusion and equality policy and health and safety issues.
- New staff members will have a probationary period for the first 6 months of work during which suitability for the position to which they have been appointed will be assessed. During the probationary

period there will be regular interim interviews, structured monitoring and benchmarks, early intervention on issues and clear setting of expectations at the outset and when identifying areas for improvement along the way.

- The new member of staff will have regular meetings with the manager and their mentor or buddy during their induction period to discuss their progress, support required and/or further training and professional development opportunities.

## **5. Ongoing support and checks**

- All staff are responsible for notifying the manager in person if there are any changes to their circumstances that may affect their suitability to work with children (staff suitability status will also be checked through an annual 'staff suitability questionnaire'). This includes any incidents occurring outside the preschool. Staff will face disciplinary action should they fail to notify the manager **immediately**
- We act on any information that comes to our attention that suggests someone may no longer be suitable for their role
- All members of staff will update a health questionnaire on an annual basis to ensure management have a good knowledge of any changes that may require support or additional resources to aid them to carry out their day-to-day duties. This will also be discussed at staff supervisions and review meetings. Management may require this more regularly where health circumstances change. There are more details about how the preschool deals with any health problems in the Absence management procedure
- The preschool manager will review any significant changes to an individual's circumstances that may suggest they are no longer suitable to work with children and take appropriate action to ensure any unsuitable or potentially unsuitable employee does not have unsupervised contact with children until the matter is resolved. Please see the Disciplinary procedure for further details
- Every member of staff will have one supervision meeting in each term.
- The manager and deputy will be responsible for any support the staff team may have between these supervision meetings. This includes mentor support, one-to-one training sessions, ongoing supervision, work-based observations and constructive feedback.
- We will ensure staff receive continuous support, training and supervision from management in order to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all children in the preschool
- The preschool will provide appropriate opportunities for all staff to undertake professional development and training to help improve the quality of experiences provided for children.

## **6. Students and agency/supply staff**

- All students will receive an interview to ensure they are suitable for the preschool and an induction process to ensure they fully understand and are able to implement the preschool procedures, working practices and values

- All students will be fully supervised to ensure they receive the appropriate support, training and information they may require
- We request confirmation that all necessary checks have been completed by the agency before using any supply or agency staff. Once checks are obtained, we record the DBS check reference number, the date the check was obtained and details of who obtained it
- We have a short induction prior to agency staff working with the children. It is our policy that all agency and supply staff are fully supervised and not left alone with children
- Students on long term placements and volunteers (aged 17 or over) and staff working as apprentices in early education (aged 16 or over) may be included in the ratios at the level below their level of study, if the provider is satisfied that they are competent and responsible.

## **7. Children on work experience placements**

- A student aged 16 plus on work experience in the nursery is considered to be engaging in regulated activity.
- The student would require the work experience provider, e.g. school or sixth form college, to complete a DBS enhanced check prior to their placement in the setting.