



# Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (Exams)

Bridgnorth Endowed School

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Centre Name	Bridgnorth Endowed School
Centre Number	29025
Date policy first created	13/10/2023
Current Policy approved by	Mr D Street
Current policy reviewed by	Miss E Minifie
Date of next review	10/10/2024

### Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of Centre	Mr M Penn
Senior Leader (s)	Mr D Street Mrs L Tristham
Exams Officer	Miss E Minifie
Other staff (if applicable)	Mrs S Underhill

## **Purpose of the policy**

This policy details how Bridgnorth Endowed School, in relation to the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments, ensures that the moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is met.

The policy also details how staff are trained and supported to be alert to, and report, the signs of abuse and neglect and how they will follow centre procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection, and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff associated with the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments at BES.

## **Policy aims**

- To provide all exams-related staff at BES with the necessary information to enable them to meet their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities
- To ensure consistent good practice
- To demonstrate the commitment with regard to safeguarding and child protection to students, parents/carers and other partners when taking examinations and assessments at BES
- To contribute to the wider centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

## **Section 1 – Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)**

Mrs L Tristham (and any deputies) will take lead responsibility for child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments. The DSL will offer advice, support and expertise in all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding in relation to examinations and assessments etc.

### **Exams officer**

Miss E Minifie will support the DSL as directed, and undertake all relevant training etc.

### **Other exams staff**

Invigilators will undertake training as directed by the DSL, report child protection and safeguarding issues/concerns in line with centre processes/policy etc.

## **Section 2 – Staff**

### **Recruitment**

BES ensures that only 'suitably qualified and experienced adults' are employed in the management, administration and conducting of examinations and assessments. This is supported by the safer recruitment process which includes:

- completing an application form which includes their employment history and explains any gaps in that history
- providing two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- providing evidence of identity and qualifications
- verifying their mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities
- verifying their professional qualifications, as appropriate
- carrying out further additional checks, as appropriate, on candidates who have lived or worked outside of the UK, including (where relevant) any teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by a European Economic Area professional regulating authority, and criminal records checks or their equivalent
- asking for written information about previous employment history and check that information is not contradictory or incomplete. We will seek references on the candidate we select. We will scrutinise these and resolve any concerns before confirming appointments.
- if offered employment, be checked in accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations as appropriate to their role. This will include:
  - an enhanced DBS check and a barred list check for those including unsupervised volunteers engaged in Regulated Activity
  - an enhanced DBS check without a barred list check for all volunteers not involved in Regulated Activity but who have the opportunity of regular contact with children
  - if offered employment, provide evidence of their right to work in the UK
  - be interviewed by a panel of at least two school leaders/governors, if shortlisted]

## **DBS check information**

All information on the checks carried out on those who are employed solely for the purpose of periodic exams-related activity, such as external invigilators/facilitators, will be recorded in the centre's single central record (SCR). Copies of these checks, where appropriate, will be held in individuals' personnel files.

### **Existing staff**

Although there is no statutory requirement to update DBS checks for existing staff, external invigilators/facilitators will undertake a 'rolling DBS check' every **TBC**

If there are concerns about an existing member of staff's suitability to work with children, all relevant checks will be carried out as if the individual was a new member of staff. This action will also be taken if an individual moves from a post that is not regulated activity to one that is.

Anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child or vulnerable adult will be referred to the DBS:

- Where the 'harm test' is satisfied in respect of the individual (i.e., that no action or inaction occurred but the present risk that it could was significant)
- Where the individual has received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence
- If there is reason to believe that the individual has committed a listed relevant offence, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009
- If the individual has been removed from working in regulated activity (paid or unpaid) or would have been removed if they had not left

### **'Break in service'**

To comply with 'break in service' regulations, all external invigilators/facilitators will be required to register with the DBS Update Service on an annual basis and provide consent for the designated senior member of staff in charge of safeguarding arrangements to carry out an online check to view the status of their existing enhanced DBS certificate. This will not apply to any invigilators who meet the 'frequency test' at BES – e.g., working 3 or more times in a 30-day period, or attending the centre at least every 3 months for training, updates etc.

By registering with the Update Service, these staff will be permitted to attend on any day during an exam series (providing they can supply an updated Disclosure Certificate and ID) without the need for additional checks or any additional attendance at BES.

### **Agency staff**

Written notification will be obtained from any agency or third-party organisation that it has carried out the necessary safer recruitment checks that we would otherwise perform. A check will also be performed to confirm that the person presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.

## **Section 3 – Supporting staff**

All exams staff at BES are made aware of the good practice guidelines and staff code of conduct in relation to child protection and safeguarding.

They are informed and updated on the contents of the centre Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy through training and email.

## **Section 4 – Areas covered**

All exams staff will be trained/updated on the following areas to ensure that they are complying with the centre policy on child protection and safeguarding:

All exams staff will complete Safeguarding and Prevent Training through the National College.

## **Section 5 – Reporting**

The process for staff to report issues/concerns relating to child protection and safeguarding is:

Make a referral to the DSL using CPOMS. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to children's social care and/or the police directly, and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so.

If a member of staff needs to make a complaint/report a colleague or other adult who works with children (whistleblowing), they should speak to the Headteacher as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the Headteacher, speak to the Chair of Governors.

Where you believe that there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) to the headteacher, report it directly to the local authority designated officer (LADO).

## **Section 6 - Protocols for one-to one support/supervision**

Where staff are engaged in invigilation/facilitation and/or centre supervision on a one-to one basis with a candidate the following protocols should be followed.

### **Summoning immediate assistance in case of any concern**

Contact the Exams Officer on the mobile phone number given out in training or call the school admin office for assistance.

### **Leaving the examination room temporarily**

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate requiring a toilet break contact the Exams Officer on the mobile phone number given out in training who will accompany the candidate to the toilet. The candidate will be unaccompanied at the entrance to the facility, but the Exams Officer will remain outside the door. The facilities will be checked prior to the exam to ensure they are empty and these facilities are only used by the candidates for the duration of each exam.

Where a member of staff may accompany a candidate who is feeling unwell, contact the Exams Officer on the mobile phone number given out in training and they will come to assist.

## **References**

**Keeping children safe in education** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2)

**Check someone's criminal record as an employer** [www.gov.uk/dbs-check-applicant-criminal-record](http://www.gov.uk/dbs-check-applicant-criminal-record)

**DBS Update Service** [www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service](http://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service)

**DBS Checks for Schools** [www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk/job-sectors/dbs-checks-for-schools/](http://www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk/job-sectors/dbs-checks-for-schools/)