

Safer Recruitment and Selection Procedure:

To ensure that safer recruitment is effectively managed the College has put in place procedures to be followed by Employees, Managers and the Human Resources Department

1.0 Filling the Vacancy

- All vacancies require approval by a member of the Executive team prior to advertisement.
- A Risk Assessment of the post will be performed to determine level of Disclosure and Barring certificate eligibility required.
- A job description and person specification should be produced for every post
- Applicants should receive advice on visiting the RACC website
- Vacancies should be advertised in an appropriate medium.

1.1 Internal Redeployment

The College has the right to reasonably redeploy resource to fulfil the needs of the business.

Where the College wishes to redeploy an existing employee with the necessary skills, knowledge and abilities to an alternative role, they will inform and consult the employee/s as appropriate.

2.1 Safer Recruitment

In line with statutory changes, underpinned by regulations:

- A DBS Enhanced Disclosure will be obtained for all eligible new and existing appointments to the College’s workforce.
- an up to date single central record will be maintained, detailing a range of checks carried out on College staff;
- anyone appointed to the College workforce who has lived outside the UK will be subject to additional checks as appropriate;
- the College will ensure that eligible contract/agency staff have undergone the necessary checks and have been made aware of this policy;
- the College will deal with ex-offenders in an open and transparent way to ensure that safeguarding risks are mitigated but rehabilitation opportunities are available where appropriate (See: Section 4.2 (Recruitment of Ex-Offenders below);
- identity checks will be carried out on all appointments to the College workforce before the commencement of employment is made;
- candidates will be checked to ensure that they have the have a right to work in the UK.

1.3 Short Listing and Selection

- Candidates with a disability should be given the opportunity to make a request prior to the recruitment day that reasonable adjustments will be made for them.

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- Short listing will be based on the requirements of the job description and person specification and will be carried out by an appropriate manager and verified by an appropriate member of the Senior Management Team.
- The interview for established posts will be conducted by a panel normally made of three members, normally chaired by a member of the Senior Management Team. For Part-time teaching appointments panels are to be chaired by a Learning Director or Learning Manager (See: Recruitment flowchart). Appendix 2
- In addition to the interview the College may use a mixture of tools as part of its assessment process to ensure that the right candidate is selected which will include; written exercises; PC-based tests; presentations; mini teach sessions and group exercises etc.

3.0 Provisional offers of employment:

To ensure the College complies with all required safeguarding legislation and provides a safe environment for learners the College expects that everyone who is made a provisional offer of employment at the College will:

- Complete as appropriate, a disclosure and barring check (which includes a barred list check with the Disclosure and Barring Service), where applicable;
- Provide a minimum of two referees for previous employment (or appropriate) whom the College can ask about suitability to work with young people and vulnerable adults. One reference should be from their most recent employer. Further references may be sought if the College considers it necessary to obtain more information about an applicants' prior employment. Pre prepared references can NOT be accepted.
- Provide proof of relevant qualifications and right to work in the UK.
- Undergo induction, and complete any mandatory training.

3.1 Work Permits and Visas

Candidates requiring a work permit or visa to work in the UK will be required to secure this themselves before applying to work at the College. Only in exceptional circumstances will the College apply for a work permit or visa for a potential employee under the appropriate guidance from the UK Border Agency. A work permit or visa is required for all foreign nationals except those from the European Economic Area (EEA).

4.0 The Disclosure and Barring Service

A disclosure is a document provided by the Home Office containing information held by the Police and Government departments, which is used by organisations to make safer recruitment decisions. Disclosures provide details of a person's criminal record, including convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings.

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust, Richmond Adult Community College complies fully with the Code

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of Practice regarding the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of information. It also complies fully with its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Certificate information and has a written policy on these matters, which is available to those who wish to see it on request.

An Enhanced Disclosure (including a barred check list with the Disclosure and Barring Service) will be requested if the applicant is offered a post at the College that is considered to involve regulated activity. Other posts which are not defined as regulated activity may be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure that does not include a check with the Barring Service following an appropriate safeguarding risk assessment. (Please see Appendix 1)

Disclosure information will be used only for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's/ employees full consent has been obtained.

Generally due to the nature of work at the College Enhanced Disclosures will be requested.

Definitions:

Regulated Activity

“Regulated activity” is, as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 is defined as follows:

Child: a person under the age of 18

Regulated Activity: The new definition of regulated activity (i.e. work that a barred person must not do) in relation to children comprises, in summary:

- (i) unsupervised activities: teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, or provide advice/ guidance on well-being, or drive a vehicle only for children;
- (ii) work for a limited range of establishments ('specified places'), with opportunity for contact: e.g. schools, children's homes, childcare premises. Not work by supervised volunteers;

Adult : a person over the age of 18.

Regulated Activity: The revised definition of an adult, in respect of safeguarding, removes the word “vulnerable” and replaces it with a list of activities which could be undertaken for any adult and these activities are those that are defined as “regulated”. These activities are:

- Providing health care
- Providing personal care
- Providing social care
- Assistance with household matters i.e. managing cash/bills arranged under a third party
- Assistance in the conduct of a person's affairs by formal appointment

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4.1 Handling of Disclosure Information

1. Storage and access

Certificate information will be kept securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

2. Handling

In accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997, Certificate information is only passed to those who are authorised to receive it in the course of their duties. We maintain a record of all those to whom Certificates or Certificate information has been revealed and recognised and it is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.

3. Retention

Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made upon receipt of the disclosure, we do not keep Certificate information for any longer than is necessary. This is generally for a period of up to 6 months, to allow for the consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints and review by Ofsted. Throughout this time, the usual conditions regarding the safe storage and strictly controlled access will prevail.

4. Disposal

Once the retention period has elapsed, any Certificate information is destroyed by secure means, i.e. by shredding, pulping or burning. While awaiting destruction, Certificate information will not be kept in any insecure receptacle (e.g. waste bin). We will not keep any photocopy or other image of the Certificate or any copy or representation of the contents of a Certificate. However, notwithstanding the above, we may keep a record of the date of issue of a Certificate, the name of the subject, the type of Certificate requested, the position for which the Certificate was requested, the unique reference number of the Certificates and the details of the recruitment decision taken.

4.2 Recruitment of Ex-offenders

Richmond Adult Community College complies with the CRB Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a DBS check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

1. We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. A DBS with full barring check is required for all successful applicants where the role falls within regulated activity.

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2. We make provision for all candidates to have a confidential discussion prior to submitting an application form to a designated person in HR.
3. At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.
4. We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a DBS check with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

4.3 When assessing disclosures the College will:

- Ensure that requesting and handling of criminal records will always be dealt with in appropriate confidence and with discretion;
- Comply with Data Protection and Human Rights legislation;
- Ensure that access to criminal record information is only released to others on a need-to-know basis.

4.4 When considering the relevance of a disclosure, a decision on employment will be based on:

- The risk to students and other members of the College community;
- The seriousness of the offence(s);
- An examination of circumstances leading up to the offence;
- Repeat offences;
- The length of time since an offence(s) was committed;
- An individual's attempt to rehabilitate themselves;
- The capacity to manage risks and provide safeguards;
- Level of supervision required and available;

Where it is a requirement of the role, if a candidate will not give authorisation for a disclosure to be carried out, then any provisional offer of employment will normally be withdrawn. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought will normally lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment. The final decision on whether or not a conviction is a barrier to employment will be made by the Principal in conjunction with the Head of Staffing and HR Systems.

The College will not accept disclosures obtained from other organisations unless the candidate is registered with the DBS online update service and issues the College with the relevant certificate numbers, documents and authorisation.

4.5 Disclosures whilst in employment:

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If a current employee is convicted of an offence which impacts on either their ability to work with children or adults or their job role they must contact the human resources department immediately. Whilst there is no legal requirement for the College to recheck DBS disclosures, the College will do so if:

- They have concerns about the individuals suitability to work with children or to engage in regulated activity; or
- An individual moves to work that involves greater contact with children and or regulated activity and their previous role did not require one.

5.0 Commencement of employment prior to receipt of DBS disclosure information;

Ideally, where a DBS disclosure is required, it should be obtained before the individual begins work at the College. In all cases the request for a DBS disclosure must be submitted in advance of any start date given and the disclosure certificate obtained as soon as practicable after the individual starting work.

Managers must seek advice from HR, and ensure they liaise closely with the HR department in sufficient time, where commencement of a post is being considered prior to receipt of any necessary DBS disclosure information.

Whilst the disclosure application is being processed, a risk assessment MUST be completed before the employee can start employment in the new post. The appropriate manager should implement arrangements to ensure that no risk to children or vulnerable adults could arise while the College is waiting for Disclosure clearance. This would include ensuring that the employee does not have any individual unsupervised contact with children or engage in regulated activity with vulnerable adults.

6.0 Supervision: Guidance for Managers

Line managers should consider what is known about the person, their experience, the nature of their duties and responsibilities. For new starters with limited experience, where references have provided limited information and who have no previous disclosure information the level of supervision may be high. For new starters with more experience and strong references which give sufficient detail and evidence of good previous conduct in previous relevant roles may be permitted to work with lower levels of supervision.

It is only when the Principal formerly approves the proposed supervisory arrangements that the individual may commence employment with the College.

6.1 Appointment process

- The College’s Authority to Appoint form must be completed and signed by the Principal, the Deputy Principal in the absence of the Principal, prior to an offer of employment being made (in the case of part-time non-established roles the approval of a Learning Director is required).

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6.2 Induction

Safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults training.

All employees are expected to undertake appropriate Safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults training within the first month of employment. Where possible this should be completed before employment commences. Such procedures ensure targeted control and risk assessment strategies are employed at the earliest possible stages in order to adhere to the College's commitment to safeguarding its learners. (Please refer to the College's safeguarding policy for more details.)

Employees are expected to attend/ complete all mandatory training as requested.

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