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# The British School of Gran Canaria

## **Safer Recruitment**

### Policy Document

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# THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF GRAN CANARIA

## SAFE RECRUITMENT POLICY

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### 1. Scope

To cover all procedures and processes related to the recruitment and appointment of personnel to positions within the school. These processes extend to appointments, honorary positions and invitations extended to visitors who are not closely supervised.

### 2. Definitions

Throughout this document the following words, terms and phrases have the following meanings:

**The School** – The British School of Gran Canaria, including the sites in Tafira and Maspalomas.

**BSGC** – The British School of Gran Canaria.

**Governors** – members of the school's governing body.

**Head** – the Head of the British School of Gran Canaria

**Heads of Sector (HOS)** – line managers responsible for assigned sectors of the school i.e. Tafira Primary, South School and Secondary Assistant Head Teachers.

**Human Resources Supervisor** – manager responsible for Human Resources within the school, including the collection of employment background checks.

**DfE** – Department for Education, the UK Government Department responsible for education.

**DSL** – Designated Safeguarding Lead.

**KCSIE** – The UK Government document - Keeping Children Safe in Education.

**SCR** – Single Central Register.

**ICPC** – International Child Protection Certificate that confirms that a person has no criminal convictions that preventing working with children.

### 3. Rationale

The British School of Gran Canaria is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils in its care; the safe recruitment of staff is the first step in ensuring this standard of care. As an employer, the School expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The following policy is based on **Part 3 of DfE : Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory Guidance), 2021** and the **Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015** (the Prevent Duty Guidance) whilst contemplating that BSGC operates within Spain and is subject to Spanish laws and customs.

The BSGC aims to recruit the best possible staff based on their merits, abilities and suitability for the position and to ensure that all applicants are considered equally and consistently.

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

In order to ensure the effective implementation of this policy, specific responsibilities are assigned and outlined below.

It is the responsibility of the Governors to:

- Ensure the school has effective policies and procedures for the recruitment of all staff and volunteers in accordance with Spanish law and DfE guidance.
- Monitor the school's compliance with its policies and procedures in this area, including the identification of a Governor with assigned responsibility to supervise this monitoring.
- Monitor the School's Single Central Register.
- Ensure the periodic review and update of the school's Safe Recruitment Policy.

It is the responsibility of the DSL to:

- Ensure that the School implements the safe recruitment procedures set out in this policy.
- Ensure full information and safeguarding updates are shared and known by staff with safer recruitment responsibilities.
- Ensure training requirements are provided for staff, as outlined within the policy.

It is the responsibility of the Head to:

- Oversee the process and policy implementation.
- Maintain the SCR.
- Check all pre-employment documentation and background checks submitted, prior to commencement and enter this information into the SCR.
- When required documentation is lacking, deny permission for a new appointee to commence or agree to a risk assessment and temporary supervision provision.
- Provide training every two years for staff with identified responsibilities within the Safer Recruitment Policy.

It is the responsibility of the Human Resources Supervisor to:

- Oversee and monitor the collection of key documentation prior to the appointment of all school personnel.
- Oversee and monitor the collection of key documentation for any interns, volunteers, extra-curricular staff and governors prior to them commencing their tenure in the school.
- Before a new appointee is permitted to start work, notify the Head and relevant Heads of Sector if any required documentation is lacking.

- To control and ensure all extra-curricular providers, submit the required documentation prior to starting their activities within the school.

It is the responsibility of the Head, Heads of Sector, school's Human Resources Supervisor and staff with responsibility for administration, maintenance, kitchen and cleaning to:

- Understand this policy document and, failing that, to ask the Head for training.
- Assume responsibility for the collection and collation of the required background checks and documentation, as identified within this policy, for staff and volunteers working within their area of responsibility.
- When the Head's authorisation is given for an appointee to start without completed background checks, ensure a risk assessment is completed and fully implemented until the required documentation is submitted.
- Monitor the compliance with these expectations of contractors and agencies who work within their area of responsibility.
- Promote the welfare of children and young people at every stage of the procedure.

## **5. Recruitment and Selection Procedures**

Searching and Advertising – the school uses local and international recruitment avenues and agencies to share information on school vacancies in order to solicit high quality and appropriate applications for school posts.

Application Forms – a BSGC Application Form must be completed by all job applicants. The application form provides the school with details on the applicant's academic and employment history. Any gaps or discrepancies in their employment history require explanation.

In addition to background and previous employment information, the Application Form contains signed declarations from the applicant pertaining to:

- Acceptance that all required documentation must be presented prior to starting work at the school.
- Self-certification of medical fitness for their position.
- Acknowledgement of GDPR expectations.
- Declaration regarding previous criminal convictions.

The applicant must also confirm that they are not barred or prohibited from working with children as it is unlawful for the school to employ anyone who is barred in this regard and it is a criminal offence for any person who is barred to apply for a position at a school.

In addition to the above declarations, the Application Form also clarifies that providing false information is an offence and could result in an application being rejected, the applicant being summarily dismissed if already appointed, and that they could be referred to the police and/or relevant authorities.

The Application Form must be signed as firm confirmation of the above declarations. As many applicants are not living on Gran Canaria and these forms are sent electronically, this signing can be done on arrival to the island, before starting work at the school.

Governors and student teachers will submit a full and current CV. Extra-curricular providers must submit a Clubs and Activities Application Form.

Job Descriptions - A job description is a key document in the recruitment process as it clearly and accurately sets out the duties and responsibilities of the job role and therefore is provided for all posts.

All job descriptions will include the school's statement; 'BSGC takes safeguarding children very seriously, and all staff will be subject to rigorous checks and the interview process will include seeking information on safeguarding and staff conduct'.

References - References are required for all appointees, usually requested after shortlisting, and must use the BSGC format. The only exception being when an applicant indicates on their application form that they do not wish their current employer to be contacted. In such cases, the reference will be sought after interview. All offers of employment will be subject to the receipt of a minimum of two references that are considered satisfactory by the school. Should a telephone reference be requested it must be recorded on the school Telephone Reference Form.

The following guidelines clarify the school reference expectations.

- One of the references must be from the applicant's current or most recent employer if they have been previously employed. Someone who has not been previously employed will provide one reference from their last educational institution.
- Posts directly related to working with children must include a reference from the employer with whom the applicant most recently worked with children.
- The referee must not be a relative.
- References are requested directly from the referee by the school.
- The reference requests objective and factual information to support appointment decisions.
- Referees will need to state whether they believe the applicant is suitable for the job for which they have applied and if there are any reasons to believe that the applicant is unsuitable to work with children.
- Referees will have to confirm that the applicant has not been radicalised and that they do not support terrorism or any form of 'extremism'.
- References followed up with a phone call to verify authenticity and confirm facts.

Any discrepancies or anomalies in a reference are followed up with a phone call to the referee to clarify the concern.

The School does not accept open references, testimonials or references from relatives.

Extracurricular providers need to provide information on their application form for a person who can recommend their service.

Interviews – Whenever possible the school will conduct face-to-face, in-person interviews, and a minimum of two interviewers will see the applicants for the vacant position. However, as on-line interviews are often conducted, the face-to-face nature of an interview may be via webcam. The interview process will explore the applicant's ability to fulfil the job description and meet the school's requirements. It will enable the interviewers to explore any anomalies or gaps in an applicant's employment history and ensure they meet safeguarding expectations.

If there are any past disciplinary action or allegations, cautions or convictions, these will be raised during the interview process and considered in the circumstance of the individual case.

Background Checks - In accordance with the recommendations set out in KCSIE, BSGC carries out a number of pre-employment checks on prospective employees. If an offer of employment is made after a formal interview, then this will be conditional on satisfactory completion of the following:

- Completed BSGC Application Form.
- Receipt of two references that the school considers satisfactory and confirms the applicant's suitability to work within a school setting.
- Verification of the applicant's identity – using identity card, birth certificate and/or current passport.
- Confirmation of the right to work in Spain.
- Certificates of qualifications required for the post.
- Spanish background check - '*Certificado de Delitos de Naturaleza Sexual*'.
- If the applicant has worked or lived in the UK, an *International Child Protection Certificate* (ICPC) is required and, for all teaching posts, the *Prohibition from Teaching* check. Additionally, for management posts, a *Prohibition from Management – Section 128* check will be included. (See Appendix C for UK Company that makes these checks and issues clearance certification).
- Applicants, who have previously worked in a country other than Spain or UK for longer than 12 months, are required to provide a police background check from that country, or a certificate of good conduct of a similar status. (See Appendix C for website providing links for issuing authorities in numerous countries).

In all cases, only original documents are accepted, with the school taking photocopies.

## **6. Single Central Register (SCR)**

The SCR is the school's register of information and documentation pertaining to the recruitment and background checks for:

- All school employees;
- Anyone employed on a temporary basis as substitute cover for school staff;

- Anyone who enters the school and is in regular contact with children. This includes Governors, interns and university student placements and those contracted to provide additional teaching or instruction for pupils but who are not BSGC staff e.g. sports coaches.

The SCR is an electronic register recording the collection dates of all the required documentation prior to work commencement. Additionally, a physical file storing the collated documentations, forms, photocopies and signed checklists is maintained.

In order to support the efficient and timely collection of documentation, a Recruitment Checklist (Appendix A) is used to record and monitor the recruitment process for each employee, volunteer and governor. The use of this checklist guides and clarifies responsibilities for BSGC staff and helps to ensure that checks are complete **before employment, or commencement of a position within the school.**

The first section of the Recruitment Checklist is completed by the line-manager responsible for the school area where the new person will work; the second part is the responsibility of the Human Resources supervisor. On receipt of the Application Form, the line-manager will review the applicants background, identifying the required background checks and making these on the checklist prior to passing onto HHRR

On receipt of each identified document, the person responsible must sign and date the Checklist. On completion of their area of responsibility, the line manager must sign that they have completed their section of the checklist before passing on to the next responsible person. The person receiving the set of documents must review the Checklist, ensuring all information is complete and correct. If this is not the case, the documentation must be returned, identifying and requesting missed submissions.

When all information and documentation is collected and signed-off, the Human Resources supervisor will pass the documentation and checklist to the Head for 'signing off'; i.e., confirmation that all checks have been completed appropriately. The Head will enter the information and dates of the checks into the SCR spreadsheet, and store the hardcopy file of documents in the secure filing cabinet.

Each term the assigned Governor for Safe Recruitment will monitor the implementation of the Policy and the maintenance of an accurate and up-to-date SCR, reporting to the Board of Governors on compliance and any identified issues. The DSL will also conduct, additional periodic reviews of the SCR.

**Ongoing Employment** – BSGC recognises that safe recruitment and selection is part of the school's larger policy framework. The school, therefore, provides ongoing training and support for all staff that includes an Induction Programme, the Performance Development Process and Learning Walks. Intrinsically linked to the Safe Recruitment Policy, and read in conjunction, are the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Safe Working Practice Policy.
- Health and Safety Policy.
- Concerns and Complaints Policy.
- Whistle Blowing Policy.



- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Ethical Channel

## **7. Induction Programme and On-going Support**

All new employees will participate in an induction programme that will identify and clarify school policies and procedures, including the Child Protection and Safeguarding and Safe Working Practice Policies, and outline expectations that will govern how staff carry out their roles and responsibilities.

All new teaching staff, as part of Induction, will participate in the school's Performance Development Process that includes professional reflection and self-evaluation, lesson observations and feedback meetings. These opportunities provide a forum from which professional expectations can be clarified and aligned, as well as professional judgements made as to the suitability of the new staff member.

Regular training on Safeguarding and Child Protection is a feature of the school, as is the desire to encourage vigilance and openness for sharing concerns without reproach. BSGC will also require all staff to sign an Annual Safeguarding Declaration, confirming alignment and acceptance of the school's policies and procedures, and provide an opportunity for staff to update the school of criminal or disciplinary issues.

## **8. Visiting Speakers (and Prevent Duty)**

The Prevent Duty Guidance (2015) requires the school to have clear protocols to ensure visiting speakers are suitable for a school and the age of the students involved, and that they are always appropriately supervised. When considering and inviting in a visitor, the school will always pay close attention to the Prevent Duty Guidance (including the definitions of extremism and radicalisation) and the guidance outlined in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (See Appendix B).

The school does not require full background checks for visiting speakers who do not engage in regulated activity or who are infrequent visitors. However, the school will obtain reasonable formal or informal background information about them in order to decide whether to invite/permit them to attend the school. If the school is happy with the information gleaned, the visitor will be asked to sign an agreement form that clearly states the expectations of the ethos of the school and what is acceptable conduct when interacting with students (see BSGC Guidance for Visitors form).

All visiting speakers will follow the school's protocols, including signing in and out at Reception, wearing a visitor's badge at all times and being escorted by a member of BSGC staff at all times.

## **9. Service and Extra-Curricular Providers**

All adults who work within the school are required, as a minimum, to provide a Spanish background check, Delitos Sexuales. Additionally, BSGC requires the following:

**Extra-Curricular Activities Providers** – a completed BSGC Application Form – Clubs and Activities, one recommendation (obtained by the school), a verified copy of DNI, TIE or passport, Delitos Sexuales certificate and, with a history of living outside of Spain of less than 10 years, background checks from previous countries of residence.

**Service Providers** – companies who are contracted with the school providing a service, e.g. Sanchez Bus, must provide an annual copy of each employee's Delitos Sexuales, accompanied by a signed statement confirming that they have checked and verified all their employees for suitability to work with children.

## **Processes**

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

At the start of each term, Primary Heads and Secondary Enrichment Coordinator to share the extra-curricular activities list, highlighting those provided by adults who are not BSGC staff.

HHRR to contact these identified providers, requesting a completed Extra-Curricular Activities Application Form. HHRR will follow-up by collecting a document of identification, letter of recommendation and relevant background checks (the minimum being Delitos Sexuales).

All this information is collated and checked against the Extra-Curriculars Checklist and, when completed and signed off, shared with the Head for final signing off and entered into the SCR. Only after this can the provider start working within the school.

### **School Providers**

At the start of the academic year HHRR will contact all companies that are contracted to BSGC to provide services, e.g. Sanchez Bus, UCMAS request the company statement, detailing the names and ID of all employees working with BSGC, and providing copies of the identification document and Delitos Sexuales.

This information is submitted to the Head and entry into the SCR.

## Appendix A – Recruitment Checklist - General



### BSGC Appointment Documentation Checklist - Reviewed in Jan 25

<b>Appointee's Name</b>			
<b>Post</b>			
<b>Manager Responsible</b>			
<b>Date Process Started</b>		<b>Start Date</b>	

✓	Management Responsibility		Date	Comments
	Application Form			
	Reference 1	Received		
		Telephone Follow-Up		
	Reference 2	Received		
		Telephone Follow-Up		
	GDPR Agreement			
	Medical verification			
	Applicant signs BSGC Application Form			
	Process passed to HR			Signature

HR Responsibility			Date	Comments
Identity verified		DNI/NIE/TIE		
		Passport		
		Birth Cert.		
Right to work		EU Nat.		
		Visa		
		Qualifications		
All		Delitos Sexuales		
Background Check	UK	Prohibited from Teaching		
		Management Check - 128		
	ICPC			
	Other Countries Checks			
Other	CP Policy sent			
All	Social Media check			
Complete for Head's Authorisation				Signature

Head's Authorisation		Date	Comments
	Full Documentation to Headmaster		
	Contract to commence on		
	Head's Authorisation		Signature

## Appendix B – Recruitment Checklist – Clubs and Activities



### BSGC Clubs and Activities Documentation Checklist - Jan 25

<b>Appointee's Name</b>			
<b>Post</b>			
<b>Manager Responsible</b>			
<b>Date Process Started</b>		<b>Start Date</b>	

✓	Management Responsibility		Date	Comments
	Application Form			
	Reference 1	Received		
		Telephone Follow-Up		
	GDPR Agreement			
	Medical verification			
	Working with Children			
	Criminal Conviction Disclosure			
	Applicant signs BSGC Application Form			
	Process passed to HR			Signature

HR Responsibility			Date	Comments
Identity verified		DNI/NIE/TIE		
		Passport		
		Visa		
Background Checks	Delitos Sexuales			
	ICPC			
	Other Countries Checks			
Other	CP Policy sent			
All	Social Media check			
Complete for Head's Authorisation				Signature

Head's Authorisation		Date	Comments
	Full Documentation to Headmaster		
	Contract to commence on		
	Head's Authorisation		Signature

## **Appendix C - Prevent Duty Guidance and the definition of ‘extremism’ set out in KCSIE and outlined in the school’s Safeguarding Policy**

### Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)

Key definitions (adapted):

**Extremism:** Vocal or active opposition to fundamental democratic values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

**Prevention:** Reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism [...].

**Radicalisation:** The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**Vulnerability:** open to moral or ideological attack or being susceptible to radicalisation.

In order for schools and childcare providers to fulfil the Prevent Duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools’ and childcare providers’ wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g., drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. Schools and childcare providers can also build pupils’ resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

For Early Years childcare providers, the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

### BSGC Safeguarding Policy Guidelines

At BSGC we recognise that children must be protected from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. All staff are asked to maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” in relation to vulnerability to radicalisation.

The school will ensure that staff have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school. This will be a part of any formal training on safeguarding provided to staff. Staff will be briefed and updated (at least annually) on their duty to report those students that may be at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremism to the DSLs.

The Head and the DSLs will assess the risk of pupils being drawn into extremist views. This risk assessment will consider the school’s curriculum, the use of school premises by external agencies and the systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the Internet in our school by using effective filtering and monitoring the correct implementation of the school’s E-Safety Policy.

Visitors to the school will be considered carefully and vetted in order to ensure they do not have any obvious extremist views or affiliations. Visitors will be asked to sign a document to ensure that they understand the School's stance on radical and extreme views. Please refer to the School's Guidance on Visitors for further information.

The school will ensure that the DSLs undertake Prevent awareness training and are able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

The DSLs must be used as a first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns in our school. This also applies to any concerns about a child that may be at risk of radicalisation. The usual Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures will be followed in these cases by the DSLs.

## **Appendix D – Notes on Background Checks**

### **Prohibition from Teaching**

This check confirms that the teacher is not excluded and prohibited from teaching.

### **Prohibition from Management**

Also known as the Section 128, this checks that the person has not been prohibited from positions of management in schools.

### **Criminal records for people who have worked outside of the UK and Spain**

All Applications can find information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants>

They will need to provide criminal record checks or good character references for all countries they have worked in outside of the UK and Spain.

### **The International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC)**

The ICPC is a criminal records check for UK nationals, or non-UK nationals who have previously lived in the UK, intending to work with children overseas. Many international schools and organisations around the world employ people from the UK as teachers, workers and volunteers. A police criminal record check is now available for UK nationals, and people who have resided in the UK, who are looking for work or are already employed overseas working with children.

The ICPC is a criminal records check against police and intelligence databases in the UK. The ICPC is similar to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (formerly CRB check) that is required for anyone working professionally with children in England and Wales.

The ICPC is issued following a check of relevant information held by the police and other law enforcement agencies in the UK. Certificates are prepared in accordance with the ACRO step-down model. This model is also applied to Northern Irish, military and overseas convictions. Please note that certificates will contain impending prosecutions and offences that are under investigation.

The certificate may also contain criminal conviction information about offences committed in other countries where such information has been disclosed to the UK through existing exchange mechanisms. Additionally, as part of the ICPC process, NCA-CEOP will make an assessment of available intelligence and information and disclose on the certificate anything it deems relevant in the interest of child protection.

The check confirms the applicant could be prohibited from working with the educational establishment. Local Authorities, Schools and further education institutions must check if a person has been prohibited before confirming the person's appointment.

### **Certificado de Delitos de Naturaleza Sexual**

This certificate, issued in Spain includes information on background checks completed in other EU countries (and also in countries which are members of the Council of Europe).

Spanish law (1110/2015) states:

*El Registro Central de Delincuentes Sexuales constituye un sistema de información, de carácter no público y gratuito, relativo a la identidad, perfil genético, penas y medidas de seguridad impuestas a aquellas personas condenadas en sentencia firme por cualquier delito contra la libertad e indemnidad sexuales o por trata de seres humanos con fines de explotación sexual, incluyendo la pornografía, regulados en la Ley Orgánica 10/1995, de 23 de noviembre, del Código Penal, con independencia de la edad de la víctima. Esta información se referirá a las condenas dictadas tanto en España como en otros países, en particular los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea y del Consejo de Europa.*