

Ironstone Academy Trust

SINGLE CENTRAL RECORD (SCR) POLICY

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This policy is reviewed annually	

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Statement of intent

At Ironstone Academy Trust (IAT) we are committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of our staff, pupils and visitors. Ensuring the safety of our school community is of paramount importance and, as a result, this policy has been created to establish a comprehensive safer recruitment procedure to help ensure the safety of pupils at school. The maintenance of an SCR is required as part of this process as it provides schools with a record of all pre-employment checks, ensuring staff are safe to work in the school. This applies to all Trust employees, at schools or centrally.

To ensure the Trust is recruiting suitable individuals for a role, employment checks will be carried out by the governing board and the headteacher, in line with the school's Safer Recruitment Policy. The checks will include identity checks, right to work in the UK checks, varying levels of DBS checks (depending on the role), as well as checks for staff who have lived or worked outside the UK so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered.

This policy outlines the school's procedure for maintaining an up-to-date SCR in line with government statutory requirements and guidance.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Education Act 2002
- **[Academy trusts]** The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- **[Academy trusts]** ESFA (2020) 'Academy trust chair suitability checks: guidance for applicants'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- GDPR documentation
- Safer Recruitment Policy

1. Roles and responsibilities

The local governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring all prospective members of staff and all employed members of staff have the required level of DBS checks.
- Deciding whether any prospective member of staff who holds a criminal conviction is suitable to work within the school.
- Informing the LA of any decisions made regarding disclosure of information.
- Ensuring the identity of all existing and prospective employees.
- Ensuring DBS checks are carried out on all members of the academy trust, individual trustees, and the chair of the board of trustees.
- Ensuring a suitability check is carried out on any new chairs of trustees.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Maintaining an up-to-date SCR by updating it upon employment of any member of staff, as well as recording the identity and background checks made for other visiting staff to school.
- Ensuring any cover teachers, volunteers, contractors and/or any other visiting party to school hold the relevant level of security check, including a DBS check.
- Analysing whether any members of staff or returning volunteers, contractors or any other visiting party require an updated DBS check.
- Ensuring the school obtains legible copies of documentation used to prove workers' right to work in the UK, e.g. a copy of a passport.
- Ensuring that documentation evidencing workers' right to work in the UK is up-to-date, especially if visas have an expiry date on them.
- Informing the LA of any decisions made regarding DBS and other security checks.
- Ensuring that the data stored in the SCR is stored safely.
- Acting in accordance with this policy.

School staff are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date information required for the SCR so that they can continue their employment at school.
- Informing the headteacher of any changes in personal data or additions that need to be made to the SCR.

Volunteers, contractors and other visiting parties are responsible for:

- Providing accurate and up-to-date information required for the SCR, so that they can continue their employment at school.
- Informing the headteacher of any changes in personal data or additions that need to be made to the SCR.

2. Contents of an SCR

The SCR will detail checks for the following:

- All staff, including teacher trainees on salaried routes
- All members of the governing board
- Agency and third-party supply staff
- ~~[Independent schools] All members of the proprietor body~~
- **[Academies and free schools]** All members and trustees
- Any other individual likely to work in close proximity to the school's pupils

When employing **agency staff** from a third-party organisation, the school will obtain written notification that the organisation has carried out all of the relevant checks and obtained the appropriate certificates. This declaration will be included in the SCR along with the date that confirmation was received any enhanced DBS certificate check has been provided in respect of the member of staff.

The headteacher must ensure that the individual who presents themselves on their first day of employment is the subject of all pre-employment checks.

A copy of photographic identification will be identified.

The SCR will record the following checks:

- An identity check
- A barred list check
- An enhanced DBS check/certificate
- A teacher prohibition check
- Right to work in the UK check
- Professional qualifications check
- **[Workers who have lived or worked outside the UK]** Further checks deemed appropriate to allow relevant events that occurred outside the UK to be considered, e.g. criminal records checks for overseas applicants
- **[Senior leaders in independent schools, including academies and free schools, and for governor positions in maintained schools]** A section 128 check

The SCR at each school will detail all checks carried out in each academy within the MAT. The information will be recorded in a way that allows for details for each academy to be provided separately, and without delay, to those entitled to inspect that information.

The SCR will also detail the following relevant checks:

- **Childcare disqualification**
- **Volunteers**

3. Storage

There will only be **one** copy of the SCR created on an **online spreadsheet, which is password protected**.

The school will not keep copies of DBS certificates for longer than six months. Staff must always be prepared to present them upon request.

The school will keep a legible copy of employees' evidence for their right to work in the UK, e.g. a copy of their passport in the SCR.

All other documentation used to verify the employee's identity and required qualifications, e.g. photocopied proof of qualifications, will be safely stored in a personnel file.

All certificates will be stored in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

4. Monitoring and review

The SCR will be updated after each instance of an individual attending school in an employment or voluntary capacity, or when any variation to the fields on the SCR is required.

Records kept on school leavers will be destroyed six months after their departure.

The SCR is a live document and will be updated as and when required, e.g. following each safeguarding check. The SCR will also be reviewed **termly** by the headteacher, ensuring all safeguarding checks are present and up-to-date.

The governing board will review this policy annually. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2021.

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.