Suitability checks – South East ITE providers
Information for schools

As in previous years it remains the provider’s responsibility and not the responsibility of individual partnership schools to ensure that all the necessary vetting and suitability checks are carried out on student teachers. These checks which include DBS, Barred List, Prohibited List and Childcare Disqualification Regulation checks all comply with relevant legislation.

All providers of ITT are required to comply with rigorous ITT criteria including those relating to suitability checks. The ‘Initial Teacher Training criteria and supporting advice’ document (DfE, 2017) contains clear criteria which providers must adhere to in relation to DBS and Childcare Disqualification Regulation checks. This is in accordance with Ofsted, DfE and DBS Code of Practice requirements.

We would also like to confirm that, although not a requirement, all tutors who are required to visit schools as part of their contractual/professional duties, will have undergone an enhanced DBS or CRB disclosure check through their employing University and will have been ‘cleared’ to visit schools.

The initial teacher training criteria supporting advice includes the following which is of direct relevance to partnership schools:

**DBS:**
Providers should confirm in writing to schools that a non-salaried trainee’s criminal record check, including a check of the children’s barred list, has been completed and that the individual has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children. Providers are not required to provide any information to schools in addition to this confirmation. Schools may wish to record this confirmation in their single central record, but they are not required to do so.

*In the case of salaried routes, the responsibility lies with the employer to ensure that checks have been carried out. The employing school should inform the provider that a satisfactory check has been obtained.*

The following extract is from Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) 151. Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, it is the responsibility of the initial teacher training provider to carry out the necessary checks. Schools and colleges should obtain written confirmation from the provider that it has carried out all pre-appointment checks that the school or college would otherwise be required to perform, and that the trainee has
been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children. There is no requirement for the school to record details of fee-funded trainees on the single central record.


Trainee teachers – In the case of trainee teachers and students on placement, if they are employed by the setting, school or college, they should be subject to the same checks under regulations as other members of staff. Where trainee teachers are fee-funded, the school or setting should obtain written confirmation from the training provider that these checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children. There is no requirement for a school to record details of fee-funded trainees on the single central record (SCR).

Childcare Disqualification Regulations:
The Department for Education has published statutory guidance on the application to schools of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006. ITT providers should have regard to this statutory guidance when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Where trainees are fee-funded, it is the responsibility of the training provider to ensure that the trainee is not disqualified from childcare or that the trainee has obtained a childcare disqualification waiver from Ofsted.

In light of the above, schools are reminded not to request access to DBS returns or any information contained in a disclosure carried out by the university or to request that student teachers provide the school with their DBS certificate or complete a CDR declaration.

For further information regarding DBS checks please refer to:

Ofsted:  http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/schools/for-schools/safeguarding-children

The Department of Education’s specific guidance for ITT:

UCET DBS Guidance for ITT:
https://www.ucet.ac.uk/information-guidance-advice/

For further information regarding Childcare Disqualification Regulations (CDR) Declaration: