

Apprentice Recruitment Policy

Policy Code:	VO7
Policy Start Date:	March 2020
Policy Review Date:	September 2022

Please read this policy in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- VO6 Apprentice Initial Assessment Policy
- VO3 Vocational Assessment and Appeals Procedures Policy
- VO2 Apprenticeship Assessment and Review Policy
- HR4 Recruitment and Selection Policy

1 Policy Statement

- 1.1 The policy applies to all staff at The Priory Federation of Academies Trust and outlines any procedure for the Apprentice Recruitment.
- 1.2 References to the Trust or Academy within this policy specifically include all primary, secondary and special academies within the Trust, as well as Robert De Cheney Boarding House, the Early Years setting at the Priory Witham Academy, Priory Training, Priory Apprenticeships, Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliance and the Lincolnshire Teaching School Alliance SCITT.
- 1.3 This policy does not form part of any member of staff's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.
- 1.4 The Trust is committed to leading a mentally healthy organisation, which includes a commitment to and promotion of emotional wellbeing and mental health. Therefore, all Trust policies and procedures ensure this commitment is incorporated in order to support all staff and students. Members of staff are encouraged to speak to their line managers, and students are encouraged to speak to any member of staff, if they feel any part of this policy would affect their emotional wellbeing and mental health. Any such comments should be passed to the Trust's HR department (via FederationHR@prioryacademies.co.uk) for appropriate consideration at the next available point in the policy review cycle.

2 Roles, Responsibilities and Implementation

- 2.1 The Pay, Performance and HR Committee has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. This committee delegates day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review to the Human Resources Director.
- 2.2 Leaders and Managers have a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of this policy and all member of staff are responsible for supporting colleagues and ensuring its success.

3 Aims and Objectives of the policy

3.1 Aims

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust (The Trust) is committed to ensuring that learners are recruited fairly and openly prior to commencement of their apprenticeship and/or training programme.

3.2 Objectives

- a) To identify the most appropriate form of training for individual or organisation wishing to undertake training with Priory Training.
- b) To identify the most appropriate course of action for any individual where a suitable training opportunity cannot be found.
- c) To keep the individual and employer fully informed throughout the recruitment process.
- d) To identify any further development needed in order to be eligible for a training programme.
- e) To ensure all documentation and data entry is timely and accurate.
- f) To ensure all learners have an understanding of the training programme.
- g) To ensure the timely completion of all health, safety, equality and diversity documentation.

4 Range and Scope of the policy

The policy covers all apprenticeship/training-related courses offered within the Trust but may also apply to other vocationally related courses should they become a part of the curriculum in future.

5 Procedure

5.1 Pre Visit

Potential employers are identified through cold calling, media or other recognised sales processes. Promotional meetings with prospective employers should identify funding body requirements. All learners wishing to join a training programme must be interviewed in accordance with the Apprenticeship Initial Assessment Policy.

Consideration must be given to:

- Requirements of the learner
- Requirements of the employer
- Training available at the placement
- Time needed by the trainer assessor and learner to complete the programme
- Participation by the learner to assist the learner

5.2 **Employer Pre-qualification**

The employer must have the appropriate policies and procedures to allow training to take place. Employers are advised of their options, ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities and are committed to supporting learners on their learning programmes. All employers must undergo a Health and Safety Risk Assessment prior to, or on commencement of, the training programme. The Employer Handbook is to be provided to the employer with a full explanation of the employer's roles, responsibilities and options at this stage.

The Recruitment team are to complete the following forms with the employer at this stage:

- Health and Safety Risk Assessment
- Equality and Diversity Checklist
- Apprenticeship Agreement & commitment statement
- Training contract (External companies)

5.3 **Promotion of Vacancies**

Using the vacancy template, the vacancy details will be collected from the employer by the recruitment team who will then input the details on to the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) online system.

The recruitment team will manage the applications and respond appropriately to all applicants.

All applicants will be screened, interviewed and initially assessed before being shortlisted. Shortlisted applicants will have their CVs sent to the employer for vetting.

Employers will arrange the interviews for candidates where appropriate with support from the recruitment team. Employers will need to complete an evaluation feedback form with the outcomes of the interview and return to the recruitment team.

Confirmation of the results of the interviews will be gleaned from the employer by the recruitment team. Priory Training will communicate suitable options that may be available for the candidates who are unsuccessful in securing employment.

5.4 **Learner Pre-Qualification**

Learners will be given impartial information, advice and guidance to help them make choices on learning programmes or employment. Furthermore, Priory

Training will ensure that the learner is suitable to receive ESFA funding and in a job role to complete a learning programme. If the learner is not eligible to receive government funding, private routes of provision should be highlighted to both the learner and the employer, and costs discussed.

5.5 **Initial Assessment of Learning Requirements** (See also Apprentice Initial Assessment Policy)

Learners' additional learning and support needs are identified to plan effective programme delivery, with additional learning and support needs highlighted to ensure funding enhancements are claimed. Learners are to be given the appropriate impartial information, advice and guidance to help them make choices on learning programmes. This is to ensure that the learner is in an appropriate job role and able to complete the learning programme.

The RDM Officer or other appropriate person will ensure the learner completes a recognised initial screening/initial assessment. The results of the assessments will be discussed in detail with the learner and used to identify any additional learning requirements which may affect programme delivery and/or funding.

Priory Training uses the Basic & Key Skills Builder (BKSB) initial assessment. BKSB results should be recorded on the initial assessment feedback form and the additional social needs assessment should be completed within the application form at interview stage. If either or both of the assessments, or any other assessments completed in addition to this as a part of the assessment policy identify that the learner has a ALN/ASN requirements, details should be provided in the relevant sections of the application form. Should the learner be subject to any additional funding, this will be claimed via the prime contractor.

All of the above are used in conjunction with Priory Training individualised initial assessment to match behaviours, skills and knowledge.

Once all assessments are complete and Priory Training is satisfied that a placement on the apprenticeship programme will be offered to the learner, the learner will transfer to the sign up phase.

5.6 **Sign-up Phase**

Priory Training will contact the learner confirming the outcome of the interview and assessments and inform them of the next stage, which could be one of the following options:

- The candidate has been successful and secured a placement with an employer. The candidate will then be invited to an induction.

- The learner is not suitable for an apprenticeship with Priory Training and will be advised of a further course of action based on the initial feedback form completed by the interviewer.

The recruitment team will update the recruitment spreadsheet and file the learners' details including the application form and assessment outcomes in the relevant location.

5.7 Induction

To ensure the learner has had an effective induction and that the activities are captured and auditable, all learners' inductions must include:

- An introduction to Priory Training
- Introduction to the programme of learning
- Introduction to functional skills Maths and English (if appropriate)
- Health and Safety induction
- Information about the appeals procedure
- Signing the ILR
- Issue and explanation of the portfolio pack (Employment, Rights and Responsibilities H&S Induction checklist)
- Discussion of day release for frameworks and standards

To meet their needs and ensure funding body data requirements are captured and are auditable, the relevant sections of the individual learning plan will be completed with information collected from the learner, including details of the additional support if applicable.

The learner should have access to their ILP on APTM once the trainer/assessor has completed the ILP and gained relevant signatures. It should then be copied and a copy issued to the learner. The ILP should reflect the learner's needs and abilities.

6 Policy changes

This policy may only be amended or withdrawn by The Priory Federation of Academies Trust.

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust Apprenticeship Recruitment Policy

This Policy has been approved by the Priory Federation of Academies Trust's Education and Standards Committee:

Signed..... Name..... Date:
Trustee

Signed..... Name..... Date:
Chief Executive Officer

Signed..... Name..... Date:
Designated Member of Staff

Please note that a signed copy of this agreement is available via Human Resources.