



## Acceptable References

Here is a list of acceptable character referees that are sufficient in line with Smile Education's compliance and safeguarding process.

Please note your character referee must have known you for a **minimum of 5 years** and during your period of unemployment. Your referee must **not be a family member** and must have one of the professions stated on this list. We are unable to accept references from personal email accounts, so please only provide **professional email/contact details**.

- Accountant
- Airline pilot
- Articled clerk of a limited company
- Bank/building society official
- Barrister
- Broker
- Chairman/director of limited company
- Chemist
- Chiropodist
- Commissioner of Oaths
- Councillor (local or county)
- Director/Manager of a VAT registered Charity
- Director of a limited company
- Officer of a VAT registered company
- Designated Premises Supervisor (e.g. Person with responsibility for the running of a business)
- Dentist
- Driving Instructor (Approved)
- Engineer (with professional qualifications)
- Fire service official
- Funeral director
- Faith Leaders (e.g. Priest, Imam, Rabbi)
- Insurance agent (full time) of a recognised company
- GP/Doctor (Registered) - Please note, unless GPs know you personally outside of their practice, they are unlikely to consent to providing a character referee at all or may charge for this service.
- Journalist
- Justice of the Peace
- Legal secretary (members and fellows of the Institute of legal secretaries)
- Member of Parliament
- Member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces
- Nurse (Registered RN, SEN, or holder of a BA in Nursing)
- Officer of the armed services (active or retired)
- Optician
- Paralegal (Certified or Qualified Paralegals, and Associate Members of the Institute of Paralegals)
- Person with honours (e.g. OBE, MBE etc.)
- Personal Licensee Holders
- Photographer (professional)
- Police officer
- Post Office official
- President/Secretary of a recognised organisation
- Salvation Army officer
- Social Worker
- Solicitor
- Surveyor
- Teacher/Lecturer
- Trade union officer
- Travel agency (qualified)
- Valuers and auctioneers (fellow and associate members of the incorporated society)
- Warrant officers and Chief