

Safer Recruitment Policy

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Recruitment, Selection & Disclosure Policy and Procedure

1. Introduction

Box Hill School ("the school") is committed to providing the best possible care and education to its pupils and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The school is also committed to providing a supportive and flexible working environment to all its members of staff. The school recognises that, in order to achieve these aims, it is of fundamental importance to attract, recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre who share this commitment.

The school aims to recruit staff that share and understand our commitment and to ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly by reason of a protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

The aims of the school's recruitment policy are as follows: -

- To ensure that the best possible staff are recruited based on their merits, abilities and suitability for the position;
- To ensure that all job applicants are considered equitably and consistently;
- To ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly on any grounds including race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender reassignment, marital status, disability or age;
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, recommendations and guidance including the statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), Keeping children safe in education (September 2024) (KCSIE), Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (DUCA), the Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2023 (the Prevent Duty Guidance) and any guidance or code of practice published by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS);
- To ensure compliance with the Department for Education Boarding Schools National Minimum Standards April 2015 - Standard 14 (or as updated from time to time);

- To ensure that the school meets its commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people by carrying out all necessary pre-employment checks.

Employees involved in the recruitment and selection of staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with and complying with the provisions of this policy.

2. Scope of this Policy

The Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy and Procedure herewith refers and applies to staff directly recruited and employed by the school. In the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2014, staff are defined as:

Any person working at the school whether under a contract of employment, under a contract for services or otherwise than under a contract but does not include supply staff or a volunteer.

In the case of agency or contract workers, the school shall obtain written confirmation from the agency or company that it has carried out the appropriate checks.

Any staff who TUPE transfer into the school's staff, will be required to undertake the statutory requirements with regard to safer recruitment checks.

3. Recruitment & Selection Procedure

At all stages of our recruitment process, our determination to safeguard children will be stated to deter the minority of adults who we know may seek positions in order to abuse that position. As part of the recruitment process the school will carry out an online search on shortlisted candidates as part of our due diligence when recruiting staff.

3.1 Application Form

All applicants for employment will be required to complete an application form containing questions about their academic and employment history and their suitability for the role. Incomplete application forms will be returned to the applicant where the deadline for completed application forms has not passed. Should there be any gaps in academic or employment history, a satisfactory explanation must be provided. A curriculum vitae will not be accepted in place of the completed application form.

The school will make candidates aware that all posts in the School involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post. Candidates for employed posts will receive a Job Description and Person Specification for the role applied for.

As the position for which candidates are applying involves substantial opportunity for access to children, it is important that applicants provide the school with legally accurate answers. Upfront disclosure of a criminal record may not debar a candidate from appointment as the school shall consider the nature of the offence, how long ago and at what age it was committed and any other relevant factors. Information should be submitted in confidence enclosing

details in a separate sealed envelope which will be seen and then destroyed by the Headteacher or Chief Operating Officer. If candidates would like to discuss this beforehand, they are asked to please telephone in confidence to the Headteacher or Chief Operating Officer for advice.

Any unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings must be disclosed to the school. However, amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected' and are not subject to disclosure to employers, and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found at the Disclosure and Barring Service website.

The successful applicant will be required to complete an online Enhanced Disclosure Application through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for the position and to sign up to the DBS update service (this is a contractual requirement of employment).

Failure to declare any convictions (that are not subject to DBS filtering) may disqualify a candidate for appointment or result in summary dismissal if the conviction comes to light subsequently.

If the candidate is currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, the school will ask their current employer about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences relating to children or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether the candidate has been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure.

If the candidate is not currently working with children but has done so in the past, the school will ask the previous employer about disciplinary issues. Where neither the current nor previous employment has involved working with children, the school will still ask the current employer about the candidate's suitability to work with children. Where the candidate has no previous employment history, the school may request character references which may include references from the candidate's school or university.

All candidates should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal by the school if they have been appointed, and a possible referral to the police and/or DBS.

3.2 Invitation to Interview

The school will short list applicants according to the relevance and applicability of their professional attributes and personal qualities to the role. Short-listed applicants will then be invited to attend a formal interview at which his/her relevant skills and experience will be discussed in more detail.

The school is legally required to ask all shortlisted applicants to provide certain information that is relevant to their suitability to work with children. All shortlisted applicants are required to complete a self-declaration form and return it to the school prior to interview. The interview will not take place if the applicant has not completed, signed and returned this declaration.

All formal interviews will have a panel of at least two people chaired by the Headteacher/Chief Operating Officer or another designated senior member of staff. It is recommended best practice and required by the school that at least one person on the appointment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training. The Chairman of Governors should chair the panel for the Chief Operating Officer/Head's appointment. The interviewers involved will be required to state any prior personal relationship or knowledge of any of the candidates and a judgement will be made by the Chairman as to whether or not an interviewer should withdraw from the panel. Should the Chairman have a conflict of interest, the Vice Chairman shall decide whether the Chairman should withdraw from the panel.

Interviews will be conducted in person in most cases but increasingly video conferencing can be used for part of the process. It is not expected that an appointment will be made without a face-to-face meeting but Skype or other video conferencing mechanisms can be used to make the process more efficient. Interviews will explore, inter alia, suitability to work with children. The school will explore at interview any unexplained breaks in the applicant's career. Notes made at interview are retained for future reference.

All candidates invited to interview must bring documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post (e.g. the original or certified copy of certificates, diplomas etc.). Where originals or certified copies are not available for the successful candidate, written confirmation of the relevant qualifications must be obtained by the candidate from the awarding body.

The School requests that all candidates invited to interview also bring with them:

1. A current passport.
2. A current driving licence including a photograph or a full birth certificate;

Photo ID must be provided.

3. A utility bill or financial statement issued within the last three months showing the candidate's current name and address;
4. Where appropriate any documentation evidencing a change of name;
5. Where the candidate is an overseas citizen proof of entitlement to work and reside in the UK will be required.

Please note that originals of the above are necessary. Photocopies or certified copies are not sufficient.

Candidates with a disability who are invited to interview should inform the school of any necessary reasonable adjustments or arrangements to assist them in attending the interview.

3.3 Conditional Offer of Appointment: Pre-Appointment Checks

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

1. The agreement of a mutually acceptable start date and the signing of a contract incorporating the school's standard terms and conditions of employment;
2. Verification of the applicant's identity (where that has not previously been verified);
3. The receipt of two references (one of which must be from the applicant's most recent employer), which the school considers to be satisfactory;
4. For positions which involve "teaching work", information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to, or is the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by, the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the school;
5. For applicants who have carried out teaching work outside the UK, information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to, or is the subject of a sanction issued by, a regulator of the teaching profession in any other country which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the school;
6. Where the position amounts to "regulated activity*" the receipt of an enhanced disclosure from the DBS, which the School considers to be satisfactory;

** As defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Act 2006 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, both as amended (in particular by, respectively, Section 64 and Schedule 7, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012).*
7. Where the position amounts to "regulated activity" confirmation that the applicant is not named on the Children's Barred List**;
8. Information about whether the applicant has ever been subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the school;
9. For management positions, information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to the Department for Education, or is the subject of a direction under Section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the school;
10. Confirmation that the applicant is not disqualified from working in connection with early or later years provision;
11. Verification of the applicant's medical fitness for the role;

12. Verification of the applicant's right to work in the UK;
13. Any further checks, which the school decides are necessary as a result of the applicant having lived or worked outside of the UK, which may include an overseas criminal records check, certificate of good conduct or professional references; and
14. Verification of professional qualifications, which the school deems a requirement for the post, or which the applicant otherwise cites in support of their application (where they have not been previously verified).

***The school is not permitted to check the Children's Barred List unless an individual will be engaging in "regulated activity". The school is required to carry out an enhanced DBS check for all staff, supply staff and governors who will be engaging in regulated activity. However, the School can also carry out an enhanced DBS check on a person who would be carrying out regulated activity but for the fact that they do not carry out their duties frequently enough i.e. roles which would amount to regulated activity if carried out more frequently.*

Whether a position amounts to "regulated activity" must therefore be considered by the school in order to decide which checks are appropriate. It is however likely that in nearly all cases the school will be able to carry out an enhanced DBS check and a Children's Barred List check.

3.4 Medical Fitness

The school is legally required to verify the medical fitness of anyone to be appointed to a post at the School, after an offer of employment has been made but before the appointment can be confirmed.

It is the school's practice that all applicants to whom an offer of employment is made must complete a Health Questionnaire provided and reviewed through the school's occupational health provider. This information will be reviewed against the Job Description and the Person Specification for the particular role, together with details of any other physical or mental requirements of the role i.e. proposed timetable, extra-curricular activities, and layout of the school etc. If the School's occupational health provider has any doubts about an applicant's fitness the school will consider reasonable adjustments in consultation with the applicant. The school may also seek a further medical opinion from its occupational health provider and could request that the applicant undertake a full medical assessment.

Successful applicants will be issued a declaration of medical fitness signed off by the school's occupational health provider confirming that there are no reasons, on grounds of mental or physical health, why they should not be able to discharge the responsibilities required by the role. If an applicant wishes to discuss this process further, they should contact the HR Manager in the first instance.

The school is aware of its duties under the Equality Act 2010. No job offer will be withdrawn without first consulting with the applicant, obtaining medical evidence, considering reasonable adjustments and suitable alternative employment.

4 Pre-employment Checks

In accordance with the recommendations set out in KCSIE, DUCA and the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Boarding schools: National Minimum Standards the School carries out a number of pre-employment checks in respect of all prospective employees.

In addition to the checks set out below, the school reserves the right to obtain such formal or informal background information about an applicant as is reasonable in the circumstances to determine whether they are suitable to work at the School; this will include internet and social media searches.

In fulfilling its obligations, the School does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender reassignment, marital status, disability or age;

4.1 Verification of identity and address

All applicants who are invited to an interview will be required to bring with them evidence of identity, right to work in the UK, address and qualifications as set out below and in the list of valid identity documents at Appendix 1 (these requirements comply with DBS identity checking guidelines):

- One document from Group 1; and
- Two further documents from either of Group 1, Group 2a or Group 2b, one of which must verify the applicant's current address; and
- Original documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications referred to in their application form.

Where an applicant claims to have changed their name by deed poll or any other means (e.g. marriage, adoption, statutory declaration) they will be required to provide documentary evidence of the change.

The school asks for the date of birth of all applicants (and proof of this) in accordance with KCSIE. Proof of date of birth is necessary so that the school may verify the identity of, and check for any unexplained discrepancies in the employment and education history of all applicants. The school does not discriminate on the grounds of age.

4.2 References

References will be taken up on short listed candidates prior to interview. Please note that no questions will be asked about health or medical fitness prior to any offer of employment being made.

All offers of employment will be subject to the receipt of a minimum of two references which are considered satisfactory by the school. One of the references must be from the applicant's current or most recent employer. If the current / most recent employment does / did not involve work with children, then the second reference should be from the employer with whom the applicant most recently worked with children. Neither referee should be a relative or someone known to the applicant solely as a friend.

All referees will be asked whether they believe the applicant is suitable for the job for which they have applied and whether they have any reason to believe that the applicant is unsuitable to work with children. Referees will also be asked to confirm that the applicant has not been radicalised so that they do not support terrorism or any form of "extremism". All referees will be sent a copy of the job description and person specification for the role for which the applicant has applied. If the referee is a current or previous employer, they will also be asked to confirm the following:

The applicant's dates of employment, salary, job title / duties, reason for leaving, performance, sickness and disciplinary record;

- Whether the applicant has ever been the subject of disciplinary procedures involving issues related to the safety and welfare of children (including any in which the disciplinary sanction has expired), except where the issues were deemed to have resulted from allegations which were found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious;
- Whether any allegations or concerns have been raised about the applicant that relate to the safety and welfare of children or young people or behaviour towards children or young people, except where the allegation or concerns were found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious;
- Whether the applicant could be considered to be involved in "extremism".

*(*questions about health or sickness records will only be included in reference requests sent out after the offer of employment has been made.)*

The school will only accept references obtained directly from the referee and it will not rely on references or testimonials provided by the applicant or on open references or testimonials.

The school will compare all references with any information given on the application form. Any discrepancies or inconsistencies in the information will be taken up with the applicant before any appointment is confirmed.

All declared Referees are telephoned to verify qualifications and references.

4.3 Criminal Records Check

Prior to 29 May 2013 an enhanced disclosure contained details of all convictions on record (including those which are defined as "spent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) together with details of any cautions, reprimands or warnings held on the Police National

Computer. It could also contain non-conviction information from local police records which a chief police officer considered relevant to the role applied for at the school.

Since 29 May 2013 the DBS commenced the filtering and removal of certain specified information relating to old and minor criminal offences from all criminal records disclosures. The DBS and the Home Office have developed a set of filtering rules relating to spent convictions which work as follows:

For those aged 18 or over at the time of an offence

An adult conviction for an offence committed in the United Kingdom will be removed from a DBS disclosure if:

- Eleven years have elapsed since the date of conviction;
- It is the person's only offence; and
- It did not result in a custodial sentence.

It will not be removed under any circumstances if it appears on a list of "*specified offences*" which must always be disclosed. If a person has more than one offence on their criminal record, then details of all their convictions will always be included.

A caution received when a person was aged 18 or over for an offence committed in the United Kingdom will not be disclosed if six years have elapsed since the date it was issued, and if it does not appear on the list of "*specified offences*".

For those aged under 18 at the time of an offence

A conviction for an offence committed in the United Kingdom will be removed from a DBS disclosure if:

- Five and a half years have elapsed since the date of conviction;
- It is the person's only offence; and
- It did not result in a custodial sentence.

Again, the conviction will not be removed under any circumstances if it appears on the list of "*specified offences*", or if a person has more than one offence on their criminal record.

A caution received when a person was aged under 18 for an offence committed in the United Kingdom will not be disclosed if two years have elapsed since the date it was issued and if it does not appear on the list of "specified offences".

The list of "specified offences" which must always be disclosed

This contains a large number of offences, which includes certain sexual, violent and other offences that are considered so serious they will always be disclosed, regardless of when they took place or of the person's previous or subsequent criminal record. The list of "specified offences" can be found at:

[List of offences that will never be filtered from a DBS certificate - GOV.UK](#)

The school applies for an enhanced disclosure from the DBS and a check of the Children's Barred List (now known as an Enhanced Check for Regulated Activity) in respect of all positions at the School which amount to "regulated activity" as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as amended). The purpose of carrying out an Enhanced Check for Regulated Activity is to identify whether an applicant is barred from working with children by inclusion on the Children's Barred List and to obtain other relevant suitability information. Any position undertaken at, or on behalf of the school will amount to "regulated activity" if it is carried out:

- Frequently, meaning once a week or more; or
- Overnight, meaning between 2.00 am and 6.00 am; or
- Satisfies the "period condition", meaning four times or more in a 30-day period; and
- Provides the opportunity for contact with children.

Roles which are carried out on an unpaid / voluntary basis will only amount to regulated activity if, in addition to the above, they are carried out on an unsupervised basis.

It is for the school to decide whether a role amounts to "regulated activity" taking into account all the relevant circumstances. However, nearly all posts at the school amount to regulated activity. Limited exceptions could include an administrative post undertaken on a temporary basis in the school office outside of term time or voluntary posts, which are supervised.

The DBS now issues a DBS disclosure certificate to the subject of the check only, rather than to the school. It is a condition of employment with the school that the **original** disclosure certificate is provided to the school within two weeks of it being received by the applicant. Original certificates should not be sent by post. Applicants must bring the original certificate into the school as soon as is practical (ideally within two weeks of it being received). A convenient time and date for doing so should be arranged with the HR Manager as soon as the certificate has been received. Applicants who are unable to attend at the school to provide the certificate are required to send in a certified copy by post or email within two weeks of

the original disclosure certificate being received. Certified copies must be sent to the HR Manager. Where a certified copy is sent, the original disclosure certificate must still be provided prior to the first day of work / on the first working day. Employment will remain conditional upon the original certificate being provided and it being considered satisfactory by the school.

If there is a delay in receiving a DBS disclosure the Headteacher has discretion to allow an individual to begin work pending receipt of the disclosure certificate. This will only be allowed if all other checks, including a clear check of the Children's Barred List (where the position amounts to regulated activity), have been completed and once appropriate supervision has been put in place.

DBS checks will still be requested for applicants with recent periods of overseas residence and those with little or no UK residence within the last 10 years. These applicants will also be asked to provide further information, including a criminal record check from the relevant jurisdiction(s), a certificate of good conduct and/or references from any employment held. Work can only commence once the overseas information has been received and only if the School has considered that information and confirmed that the applicant is suitable to commence work at the School.

In addition, where an applicant has carried out teaching work outside of the UK, they will be asked to obtain a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority (this is often the Department/Ministry of Education but varies across the world) in the country (or countries) in which the applicant has worked confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions, and or that they are aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach. Applicants can find contact details of regulatory bodies in the EU/EEA and Switzerland on the [Regulated Professions database](#). Whilst the safeguarding and qualified teacher status (QTS) processes are different it is likely that this information will be obtained from the same place therefore applicants can also contact the [UK Centre for Professional Qualifications](#) who will signpost them to the appropriate EEA regulatory body.

4.4 Starting Employment before a DBS Check has been received

The following applies for posts involving regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults, including regularly caring for, training, teaching, supervising or being in sole charge of such people. In order to start employment at the School before a DBS check has been received the school will:

- Produce a Supervision Plan (SP) that ensures the employee is not left unsupervised at any time in the school when access to children is available;
- The SP will be signed by the Headteacher or Chief Operating Officer and the Employee so that the latter is fully cognizant of the details;

- The SP will be checked by the Deputy Head Academic (in the case of academic staff) or the Chief Operating Officer every two weeks and a note made in the appropriate place on the SP;
- A relevant note will be made on the Single Central Register with the date (in full) when the SP started and again when it ceased. The latter date will coincide with the arrival of the DBS check.

4.5 Prohibition from teaching check

The school is required to check whether staff who carry out "teaching work" are prohibited from doing so. The school uses the Department of Education Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) Teacher Services system to check whether successful applicants are the subject of a prohibition, or interim prohibition order issued by a professional conduct panel on behalf of the TRA.

In addition, the school asks all applicants for roles which involve "teaching work" (and their referees) to declare in the application form whether they have ever been referred to, or are the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by, the TRA or other equivalent body in the UK.

It is the school's position that this information must be provided in order to fully assess the suitability of an applicant for a role which involves "teaching work". Where an applicant is not currently prohibited from teaching but has been the subject of a referral to, or hearing before, the TRA (or other equivalent body) whether or not that resulted in the imposition of a sanction, or where a sanction has lapsed or been lifted, the school will consider whether the facts of the case render the applicant unsuitable to work at the School.

The school carries out this check, and requires associated information, for roles which involve "teaching work". In doing so the school applies the definition of "teaching work" set out in the Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012 which states that the following activities amount to "teaching work":

- planning and preparing lessons and courses for pupils;
- delivering lessons to pupils;
- assessing the development, progress and attainment of pupils; and
- reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.

The above activities do not amount to "teaching work" if they are supervised by a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the Head. If in any doubt or if the applicant has taught previously, or may teach in future, the check will be undertaken, including for sports coaches.

4.6 Prohibition from management check

The school is required to check whether any applicant for a management position is subject to a direction under Section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, which prohibits, disqualifies or restricts them from being involved in the management of an independent school (a Section 128 direction).

This check applies to appointments to the following positions made on or after 12 August 2015:

- Headteacher;
- Teaching posts on the Senior Leadership Team;
- Teaching posts which carry a departmental head role; and
- Support staff posts on the Senior Leadership Team.

It also applies to appointments to the governing body.

The relevant information is contained in the enhanced DBS disclosure certificate (which the school obtains for all posts at the School that amount to regulated activity). It can also be obtained through the TRA Teacher Services system. The school will use either, or both, methods to obtain this information.

In addition, the School asks all applicants for management roles to declare in the application form whether they have ever been the subject of a referral to the Department for Education, or are subject to a Section 128 direction or any other sanction which prohibits, disqualifies or restricts them from being involved in the management of an independent school.

It is the school's position that in order to fully assess the suitability of an applicant for a management role it must be provided with the above information. Where an applicant is not currently prohibited from management but has been the subject of a referral to, or hearing before, the Department for Education or other appropriate body whether that resulted in the imposition of a Section 128 direction or other sanction, or where a Section 128 direction or other sanction has lapsed or been lifted, the School will consider whether the facts of the case render the applicant unsuitable to work at the School.

5. Contractors and agency staff

Contractors engaged by the school must complete the same checks for their employees that the school is required to complete for its staff. The school requires confirmation that these checks have been completed before employees of the Contractor can commence work at the school.

Agencies who supply staff to the school must also complete the pre-employment checks which the School would otherwise complete for its staff. Again, the School requires confirmation that these checks have been completed before an individual can commence work at the school.

The school will independently verify the identity of staff supplied by contractors or an agency in accordance with section 4.1 above and will require the provision of the original DBS disclosure certificate where practical before contractor or agency staff can commence work at the School.

6. Volunteers

The school will request an enhanced DBS disclosure and Children's Barred List information on all volunteers undertaking regulated activity with pupils at or on behalf of the School (the definition of regulated activity as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Act 2006 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, both as amended (in particular by, respectively, Section 64 and Schedule 7, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) will be applied to all volunteers).

The school will request an enhanced DBS disclosure without Children's Barred List information on all volunteers who do not undertake regulated activity. This is likely to be because their volunteering duties are subject to regular, day to day supervision by a fully checked member of staff or by a volunteer who the school has deemed appropriate to supervise and ensure the safety of those pupils in their care.

Under no circumstances will the school permit an unchecked volunteer to have unsupervised contact with pupils.

It is the school's policy that a new DBS certificate is required for volunteers who will engage in regulated activity but who have not been involved in any activities with the School for three consecutive months or more. Those volunteers who are likely to be involved in activities with the school on a regular basis may be required to sign up to the DBS update service as this permits the School to obtain up to date criminal records information without delay prior to each new activity in which a volunteer participates.

In addition, the School will seek to obtain such further suitability information about a volunteer as it considers appropriate in the circumstances. This may include (but is not limited to the following):

- Formal or informal information provided by staff, parents and other volunteers;
- Character references from the volunteer's place of work or any other relevant source; and
- An informal safer recruitment interview.

7. Visiting speakers and prevent duty

The Prevent Duty Guidance requires the school to have clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or by pupils, are suitable and appropriately supervised.

The school is not permitted to obtain a DBS disclosure or Children's Barred List information on any visiting speaker who does not engage in regulated activity at the School or perform any other regular duties for or on behalf of the School.

All visiting speakers will be subject to the school's usual visitors protocol; this will include signing in and out at Reception, the wearing of a visitors badge at all times, and being escorted by a fully vetted member of staff between appointments.

The school will also obtain such formal or informal background information about a visiting speaker as is reasonable in the circumstances to decide whether to invite and / or permit a speaker to attend the School. In doing so the school will always have regard to the Prevent Duty Guidance and the definition of "extremism" set out in KCSIE which states:

""Extremism" is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations."

In fulfilling its Prevent Duty obligations the school does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sex or sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or civil partner status, disability or age.

The school reserves the right to obtain such information on any other person appointed to work for or at the School.

8. Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

8.1 Background

The school will not unfairly discriminate against any applicant for employment on the basis of conviction or other details disclosed. The school makes appointment decisions on the basis of merit and ability. If an applicant has a criminal record this will not automatically bar them from employment with the school. Each case will be decided on its merits in accordance with the objective assessment criteria set out in paragraph 8.2 below.

All positions within the school are exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. All applicants must therefore declare all previous convictions and cautions, including those which would normally be considered "spent" except those received

for an offence committed in the United Kingdom if it has been filtered in accordance with the DBS filtering rules (see section 4.3 above).

A failure to disclose a previous conviction (which should be declared) may lead to an application being rejected or, if the failure to disclose is discovered after employment has started, may lead to summary dismissal on the grounds of gross misconduct. A failure to disclose a previous conviction may also amount to a criminal offence.

It is unlawful for the school to employ anyone who is barred from working with children. It is a criminal offence for any person who is barred from working with children to apply for a position at the school. The school will make a report to the Police and / or the DBS if:

- It receives an application from a barred person;
- It is provided with false information in, or in support of an applicant's application; or
- It has serious concerns about an applicant's suitability to work with children.

8.2 Assessment Criteria

In the event that relevant information (whether in relation to previous convictions or otherwise) is volunteered by an applicant during the recruitment process or obtained through a disclosure check, the school will consider the following factors before reaching a recruitment decision:

- Whether the conviction or other matter revealed is relevant to the position in question;
- The seriousness of any offence or other matter revealed;
- The length of time since the offence or other matter occurred;
- Whether the applicant has a pattern of offending behaviour or other relevant matters;
- Whether the applicant's circumstances have changed since the offending behaviour or other relevant matters; and
- The circumstances surrounding the offence and the explanation(s) offered by the applicant.

If the post involves regular contact with children, it is the school's normal policy to consider it a high risk to employ anyone who has been convicted at any time of any the following offences:

- Murder, manslaughter, rape, other serious sexual offences, grievous bodily harm or other serious acts of violence; or
- Serious class A drug related offences, robbery, burglary, theft, deception or fraud.

If the post involves access to money or budget responsibility, it is the school's normal policy to consider it a high risk to employ anyone who has been convicted at any time of robbery, burglary, theft, deception or fraud.

If the post involves some driving responsibilities, it is the school's normal policy to consider it a high risk to employ anyone who has been convicted of drink driving within the last ten years.

8.3 Assessment Procedure

In the event that relevant information (whether in relation to previous convictions or otherwise) is volunteered by an applicant during the recruitment process or obtained through a disclosure check, the school will carry out a risk assessment by reference to the criteria set out above. The assessment form must be signed by the Chief Operating Officer or the Headteacher of the School before a position is offered.

If an applicant wishes to dispute any information contained in a Disclosure, he/she can do so by contacting the DBS direct. In cases where the applicant would otherwise be offered a position were it not for the disputed information, the school will, where practicable, defer a final decision about the appointment until the applicant has had a reasonable opportunity to challenge the Disclosure information.

9. Following Appointment

All new staff, volunteers, and governors will receive induction appropriate to their role in School, which includes Health and Safety, the School Child Protection Policy and procedures, and basic awareness training, our Code of Staff Conduct, Whistleblowing policy and IT Acceptable use Policy.

Monitoring and support from a senior member of staff will be provided as appropriate, to ensure all adults are clear about the safeguarding requirements and behaviours appropriate to their role in school.

It is important to us that we all contribute to an **ongoing culture of vigilance**, in the belief that "it could happen here". Part of this depends on everybody being willing to notice and refer concerns, and self-report if they are in difficulty, or feel something may lead to a complaint

10. Retention and Security of Disclosure Information

The school's policy is to observe the guidance issued or supported by the DBS on the use of disclosure information.

In particular, the school will:

- Store disclosure information and other confidential documents issued by the DBS in locked, non-portable storage containers, access to which will be restricted to members of the school's senior leadership team;
- Not retain disclosure information or any associated correspondence for longer than is necessary, and for a maximum of six months. The school will keep a record of the date of a disclosure, the name of the subject, the type of disclosure, the position in question, the unique number issued by the DBS and the recruitment decision taken;
- Ensure that any disclosure information is destroyed by suitably secure means such as shredding; and
- Prohibit the photocopying or scanning of any disclosure information without the express permission of the individual to whom the disclosure relates.

11. Retention of Records

The school is legally required to undertake the above pre-employment checks. Therefore, if an applicant is successful in their application, the school will retain on their personnel file any relevant information provided as part of the application process. This will include copies of documents used to verify identity, right to work in the UK, and qualifications. The school's occupational health advisers retain medical fitness information. Medical information may be used to help the school to discharge its obligations as an employer e.g. so that the School may consider reasonable adjustments if an employee suffers from a disability or to assist with any other workplace issue.

This documentation will be retained for the duration of the successful applicant's employment with the school.

If the application is unsuccessful, all documentation relating to the application will normally be confidentially destroyed after six months.

The school will comply with its data protection obligations in respect of the processing of criminal records information. More information on this is included in the Data Protection Policy.

The same policy applies to any suitability information obtained about volunteers involved with School activities.

12. Whistleblowing and exit interviews

All staff are aware of the relevant policies so that they understand they are expected and encouraged to raise concerns they have, whether related to the safeguarding and welfare of

pupils, the conduct of staff or other matters, during the course of their employment in accordance with the school's policies (including the Whistleblowing Policy, the Safeguarding Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct). Safeguarding children is at the centre of the school's culture and is accordingly considered formally during staff performance development reviews and appraisal and finally at an exit interview which is offered to all leavers.

13. Referrals to the DBS and Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)

This policy is primarily concerned with the promotion of safer recruitment and details the preemployment checks that will be undertaken prior to employment being confirmed. Whilst these are pre-employment checks the school also has a legal duty to make a referral to the DBS in circumstances where an individual:

- Has applied for a position at the school despite being barred from working with children; or
- Has been removed by the school from working in regulated activity (whether paid or unpaid), or has resigned prior to being removed, because they have harmed, or pose a risk of harm to, a child.

If the individual referred to the DBS is a teacher, the school may also be required to make a referral to the TRA.

14. Queries

If an applicant has any queries on how to complete the Application Form or any other matter they should contact the HR Manager.

Stuart Ansell Chief Operating Officer & Clerk to the Governors

September 2024

Review – September 2025 or as regulations change

Appendix 1 List of valid identity documents

Group 1: primary identity documents

- current valid passport
- biometric residence permit (UK)
- current driving licence (photocard with paper counterpart; full or provisional; UK / Isle of Man / Channel Islands and EU)
- birth certificate (UK & Channel Islands; issued at the time of birth (within 42 days of date of birth); full or short form acceptable including those issued by UK authorities overseas, such as Embassies, High Commissions and HM Forces)
- adoption certificate (UK and Channel Islands)

Group 2a: trusted government documents

- current driving licence (paper version; UK / Isle of Man / Channel Islands and EU; full or provisional)
- current driving licence (photocard; all countries; full or provisional)
- current non-UK driving licence (valid for up to 12 months from the date the applicant entered the UK)
- birth certificate (UK and Channel Islands; issued at any time after the date of birth by the General Registrar Office / relevant authority i.e. Registrars)
- marriage / civil partnership certificate (UK and Channel Islands)
- HM Forces ID card (UK)
- fire arms licence (UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man)

Group 2b: Financial and social history documents

- mortgage statement (UK or EEA)**
- bank / building society statement (UK and Channel Islands or EEA)*
- bank / building society account opening confirmation letter (UK)*
- credit card statement (UK or EEA)*
- financial statement - e.g. pension, endowment, ISA (UK)**
- P45 / P60 statement **(UK and Channel Islands)
- council tax statement (UK and Channel Islands)**
- work permit / visa (UK; valid up to expiry date)
- letter of sponsorship from future employment provider (non UK / non EEA only; valid only for applicants residing outside the UK at the time of application; must be valid at time of application)
- utility bill (UK; not mobile telephone bill)*

- benefit statement - e.g. child benefit, pension (UK)*
- a document from central or local government/ government agency / local authority giving an entitlement - e.g. from the Department for Work and Pensions, the Employment Service , HM Revenue & Customs, Job Centre, Job Centre Plus, Social Security (UK and Channel Islands) *
- EU national ID card (must be valid at time of application)
- cards carrying the PASS accreditation logo (UK and Channel Islands; must be valid at time of applications)
- letter from Head or College Principal (for 16-19 year olds in full time education. This is only used in exceptional circumstances if other documents cannot be provided; must be valid at time of application).

Note

If a document in the list of valid identity documents is: denoted with * - it should be less than three months old denoted with ** - it should be less than 12 months old