

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST



SAFER RECRUITMENT POLICY

Policy written by:	Mrs K Moore / Mr M J Scott
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Next review due:	January 2024

1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set out the minimum requirements of a recruitment process that aims to:

- attract the best possible applicants to vacancies;
- deter prospective applicants who are unsuitable for work with children and young people;
- identify and reject applicants who are unsuitable for work with children and young people.

2. Identification of Recruiters

Subject to the availability of training, the school will maintain a position in which at least one recruiter has successfully received accredited training in safe recruitment procedures. A person who has received Safer Recruitment training will be on each interview panel.

3. Inviting Applicants

3.1 Advertisements for posts, whether in newspapers, journals or on-line, will include the statement: “The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and satisfactory references (including one from your current employer).”

3.2 Prospective applicants will be supplied, as a minimum, with the following:

- job description and person specification;
- the school’s Child Protection Policy;
- the school’s Recruitment Policy (this document);
- the timeline for the recruitment process;
- an application form.

3.3 All prospective applicants must complete, in full, an application form. CVs are not accepted.

4. Shortlisting and References

4.1 Shortlisting of candidates will be against the person specification for the post.

4.2 Where possible, references will be taken up for shortlisted candidates before the interview stage, so that any discrepancies can be probed during the interview stage.

4.3 References will be sought directly from the referee. References or testimonials provided by the candidate will never be accepted.

4.4 Where necessary, referees will be contacted by telephone or email in order to clarify any anomalies or discrepancies. A detailed written note will be kept of such exchanges.

4.5 Where necessary, previous employers who have not been named as referees will be contacted in order to clarify any anomalies or discrepancies. A detailed written note will be kept of such exchanges.

4.6 Referees will always be asked specific questions about:

- the candidate’s suitability for working with children and young people;
- any disciplinary warnings, including time-expired warnings, that relate to the safeguarding of children;
- the candidate’s suitability for this post.

4.7 School employees are entitled to see and receive, if requested, copies of their employment references.

5. Secretary of State Prohibition Orders (teaching and management roles)

5.1 In all cases where an applicant is to undertake a teaching role of any kind, a Prohibition Order check will be made using the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) website. This will occur before any firm offer of employment is made.

5.2 Prohibition orders prevent a person from carrying out teaching work in schools, sixth form colleges, 16 to 19 academies, relevant youth accommodation and children’s homes in England.

A person who is prohibited from teaching must not be appointed to work as a teacher in such a setting.

- 5.3** Prohibition orders are made by the Secretary of State following consideration by a professional conduct panel convened by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA). Pending such consideration, the Secretary of State may issue an interim prohibition order if it is considered to be in the public interest to do so.

6. The Selection Process

- 6.1** Selection techniques will be determined by the nature and duties of the vacant post, but all vacancies will require an interview of short-listed candidates.
- 6.2** Interviews will always be face-to-face or online if overseas. Telephone interviews may be used at the short-listing stage but will not be a substitute for a face-to-face interview (which may be via visual electronic link).
- 6.3** Candidates will always be required:
- to explain satisfactorily any gaps in employment;
 - to explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to recruiters;
 - to declare any information that is likely to appear on an Enhanced DBS check;
 - to demonstrate their capacity to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

7. Employment Checks

7.1 All successful applicants are required:

- to provide proof of identity;
- to complete an Enhanced DBS application with Children's Barred List check and receive satisfactory clearance;
- have a satisfactory certificate of good conduct relating to time spent living outside of the UK, where applicable;
- to pass a prohibition from teaching check;
- to pass a prohibition from management roles (Section 128) check where applicable;
- to provide actual certificates of professional qualifications, as deemed appropriate by the school;
- to complete a confidential health questionnaire and be deemed mentally and physically fit to perform the role;
- to provide proof of their right to work in the United Kingdom.

7.2 Proof of identity, Right to Work in the UK and Verification of Qualifications and/or professional station

All applicants invited to attend an interview at the school will be required to bring their identification documentation such as passport, birth certificate, driving licence etc. with them as proof of identity/eligibility to work in the UK in accordance with those set out in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and DBS Code of Practice Regulations.

In addition, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have actually obtained any academic or vocational qualifications required for the position and claimed in their application form.

7.3 Fitness to undertake the role

A confidential pre-employment health questionnaire must be completed to verify the candidate's mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibilities. A job applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health in order to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.

7.4 Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK

When appointing a UK citizen who has lived overseas or a non-UK citizen, a Certificate of Good Conduct must be obtained (where possible) from the embassy of the country the

applicant has specified they have spent a significant period of time in. This must happen where the applicant has lived or worked (including studying) in a foreign country for a period of 12 months within the last 10 years while aged 18 or over.

There are a number of exemptions to this:

- If the applicant is currently employed by the school and has already provided the certificate, which can be used for future appointments providing that there is no break in service.
- Applicants that have spent time overseas as part of Her Majesty Service i.e. Army, Navy, Airforce.
- Applicants that are seeking asylum will be unable to provide such documentation, as contacting the embassy may jeopardise their safety.

If an applicant is unable to provide a Certificate of Good Conduct, evidence must be presented to show that an attempt to obtain a copy has been made.

Any costs incurred for obtaining a Certificate of Good Conduct must be met by the individual and will not be reimbursed.

If an applicant is unable to obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct then a Risk Assessment Form must be completed and signed off. All other pre-employment checks must be completed. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 states “In addition, schools and colleges must make any further checks they think appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. These further checks should include a check for information about any teacher sanction or restriction that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed, using the TRA web page”. Alternative checks could include references obtained from all employers abroad in the last 10 years that clarify that there are no disciplinary records in regard of safeguarding and that the previous employer has no concern regarding the potential employee working with children in a safeguarded environment (see paragraph 4.6). If the outcomes of these references are satisfactory then a risk assessment can be considered to progress the employment process and meet statutory guidance.

8. Offer of appointment

The appointment of all new employees is subject to the receipt of a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Certificate with Children’s Barred List check, references, medical checks, prohibition checks, copies of qualifications and proof of identity.

9. Single Central Record

The school will keep a single central record, referred to in the regulations as the register. The single central record must cover all staff (including supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school. Confirmation that these checks have been carried out along with the date the check was undertaken/obtained must be logged on this record for all employees of the school.

10. Induction

10.1 The school recognises that safer recruitment and selection is not just about the start of employment, but should be part of a larger policy framework for all staff. The school will therefore provide ongoing training and support for all staff.

10.2 All staff who are new to the school will receive induction training that will include the school’s safeguarding policies and guidance on safe working practices including Child Protection, PREVENT, FGM awareness, CSE and Online Safety.

10.3 Regular meetings will be held during the first three months of employment between the new employee(s) and the appropriate manager(s).

11. Governors

The nominated Governor for Safer Recruitment is Judith Macpherson.