

Heathfield Knoll School

Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy and Procedure

This policy is supported and complemented by the following policies:

- Anti-corruption and bribery
- Flexible Working
- Retirement
- Safeguarding
- SCR and Staff Appointments

Key personnel:

Headteacher	DDSL	Lawrence Collins
Senior Deputy Head	DDSL	Emma White
Chair of The Local Advisory Board		Claudia Bickford - Smith

This document is reviewed at least annually by L. Collins, Headmaster or as events change or legislation requires. This is then approved by the Local Advisory Board.

The CEO of KSI schools and Chair of the local Advisory Board is Claudia Bickford-Smith. The Local Advisory Board Members have the skills to support and advise the school in its decision making.

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Introduction

Heathfield Knoll 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 aims of the school's recruitment policy are to:

- ensure that the best possible staff are recruited on the basis of their merits, abilities and suitability for the position;
- ensure that all job applicants are considered equally and consistently;
- 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, marital or civil partner status, disability or age;
- 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 (KCSIE – 2023), Disqualification Under the Childcare Act 2006 (DUCA) and any guidance or code of practice published by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS);
- 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 and by conducting the recruitment process in a way which prevents as far as possible the recruitment of individuals who are unsuitable to work with children.

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

1. Recruitment and selection procedure

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 if received before the published deadline for completed application forms. A curriculum vitae will not be accepted in place of the completed application form but may be submitted in addition to the completed application form.

Applicants will receive a job description and person specification for the role applied for. Application forms, job descriptions, person specifications and the school's Safeguarding Policy are available to download from the school's website and can be printed and /or forwarded to applicants on request.

Applicants will also be asked to provide information regarding any periods of overseas residence so that a decision can be made as to whether an overseas police check or additional references are required.

The applicant may then be invited to attend a formal interview at which his/her relevant skills and experience will be observed and discussed in more detail. Candidates will also be asked questions relating to child protection at interview to ascertain the level of their knowledge and the suitability of their answers. It is recognised that not all interviewees will have Child Protection experience or experience within schools. In such cases, questions

will be adapted to test applicants' responses to hypothetical safeguarding scenarios. At least one member of every appointment panel will have received safer recruitment training. In addition, any member of staff responsible for assessing pre-employment checks will have received the relevant training.

If it is decided to make an offer of employment following the formal interview, any such offer will be conditional on the following:

- the agreement of a mutually acceptable start date and the signing of a contract incorporating the school's standard terms and conditions of employment;
- verification of the applicant's identity (where that has not previously been verified);
- the receipt and verification of two references (one of which must be from the applicant's most recent employer) which the school considers to be satisfactory.
- a successful completion of a **probationary period**:

For non-teaching staff: that will be a period of 13 weeks. During which time the employee's performance and conduct will be monitored. At the end of the period if a satisfactory outcome is received the employee will be offered a confirmation of employment. If the employee's performance is not deemed satisfactory they will either be dismissed or the probationary period extended. During the first 4 weeks of the probationary period the employee's employment may be terminated without prior disciplinary warnings and without notice. For the remainder of the probationary period the employee's employment may be terminated without prior disciplinary warnings and by the employer giving the employee one weeks' notice.

For teaching staff: that will be a period of 12 months. During which time the employee will be subject to a successful completion of the probationary period and attainment of the required standard as reviewed by the Headteacher. During the probationary period either the employee or the school may terminate the employment on giving 2 months' written notice to expire at any time provided that this shall be no later than 31st July.

For positions which involved **"teaching work"**:

- information about whether the applicant is, or has ever been, the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), which prevents them from working at the school or which, in the school's opinion, renders them unsuitable to work at the school;
- information about whether the applicant is, or has ever been, the subject of any proceedings before a professional conduct panel in the UK or an equivalent body in any other country for any reason which prevents them from working at the school or which, in the school's opinion, renders them unsuitable to work at the school; where the position amounts to "regulated activity" (see section 3.3 below) the receipt of an enhanced disclosure from the DBS which the school considers to be satisfactory;
- where the position amounts to "regulated activity" (see section 3.3 below) confirmation that the applicant is not named on the Children's Barred List¹.
- information about whether the applicant is, or has ever been, subject to a direction under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 which prohibits, disqualifies or restricts them from providing education at a school, taking part in the management of an independent school or working in a position which

involves regular contact with children or which otherwise, in the school's opinion, renders them unsuitable to work at the school;

For management positions: (applies to internal appointments also)

- information about whether the applicant is, or has ever been, the subject of 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 or which otherwise, in the school's opinion, renders them unsuitable to work at the school²
- information about whether the applicant is, or has ever been, the subject of a referral to, or proceedings before, the Department for Education or other appropriate authority where consideration was given to imposing a direction under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 which, in the school's opinion, renders them unsuitable to work at the school;

At the date of this policy review this will include additional checks on the Local Advisory Board members, Headteacher, member of the SLT (whether teaching or non-teaching staff) and department heads;

- confirmation that the applicant is not disqualified from working in connection with early or later years provision (see 3.6 below);
- verification of the applicant's medical fitness for the role (see paragraph 3 below);
- verification of the applicant's right to work in the UK;
- any further checks that the school deems appropriate as a result of the applicant having lived or worked outside of the UK (see 3.7 below); and
- 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).

¹ A check of the Children's Barred List is not permitted if an individual will not be undertaking "regulated activity". Whether a position amounts to "regulated activity" must therefore be considered by the school in order to decide which DBS checks are appropriate. It is however likely that in nearly all cases a Children's Barred List check will be carried out.

² The school carries out these via the Teacher Services' system (formally known as Employer Access Online). This service allows the school to identify existing prohibitions and sanctions made under section 142 of the 2002 Act; teacher prohibitions made under section 141 of the 2002 Act; any direction made under 128 of the 2008 Act; sanctions or restrictions imposed by the General Teaching Council for England before its abolition in March 2012; and teacher sanctions or restrictions imposed by European Economic Area regulating authorities on or after 18 January 2016.

2. 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 and sign to confirm that they know of no reasons, on grounds of mental or physical health, why they should not be able to discharge with due care and skill the responsibilities required by the post in question.

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, layout of the school etc.

If the school has any doubts about an applicant's fitness they will consider reasonable adjustments in consultation with the applicant. The school may also seek a further medical opinion from a specialist or request that the applicant undertakes a full medical assessment.

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.

3. Pre-employment checks

In accordance with the recommendations set out in KCSIE 23 and the requirements of The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations the school carries out a number of pre-employment checks in respect of all prospective employees. These include the following:

3.1 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;
- two further documents from either of Group 1, Group 2a or Group 2b, one of which must verify the applicant's current address;
- original documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications referred to in their application form.

Where an applicant claims to have changed his / her name by deed poll or any other means (e.g. marriage, adoption, statutory declaration) he / she 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 the Guidance. 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.

Should an applicant attend an interview without the above documentary evidence, without good cause, the interview may be cancelled and the school may choose not to progress their application further even upon subsequent submission of the documentation.

We will conduct an online search of all shortlisted applicants -this may identify any issues or incidents that have happened, and are publicly available online, which may need discussing at interview.

3.2 References

References will be taken up on short listed candidates prior to interview.

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. 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 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)
- whether any allegations or concerns have been raised about the applicant that meet the harm threshold of children or young people or behaviour towards children or young people, except where the allegation or concerns were found to be false, unsubstantiated, unfounded or malicious.

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 (e.g. expression of concern about the suitability of the candidate, doubt about the validity of the reference) will be followed up appropriately by the school. The school verifies all references by making contact with the referees via the referee's work telephone number and not private mobile numbers.

It is a criminal offence to falsify references. Any applicants or referees who are found to have submitted false references to the school will be referred to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO).

3.3 Disclosure and Barring Service Check

Due to the nature of the work, the school requires an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in respect of all prospective staff members, the Local Advisory Board members and volunteers deemed to be working in regulated activity.

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.

As of 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 will be removed from a DBS disclosure if:

- 11 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 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 will be removed from a DBS disclosure if:

- 5 1/2 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 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](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-of-offences-that-will-never-be-filtered-from-a-dbs-certificate)

The school applies for an enhanced disclosure from the DBS and a check of the Children's Barred List, 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 a check is to identify whether an applicant is barred from working with children by inclusion on the Children's Barred List maintained by the DBS.

Any position undertaken at, or on behalf of, the school (whether paid or unpaid), will amount to "regulated activity" if it is carried out:

- frequently, meaning once a week or more; or
- overnight, meaning between 2am and 6am; or
- satisfies the "period condition", meaning four times or more in a 30 day period; and
- provides the opportunity for contact with children.

This definition will cover nearly all posts at the school. Limited exceptions could include an administrative post undertaken on a temporary basis in the school office outside of term time.

It is for the school to decide whether a role amounts to "regulated activity" taking into account all the relevant circumstances.

The DBS issues a DBS disclosure certificate to the subject of the check. 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 instead bring the original certificate into the school within two weeks of it being received. A convenient time and date for doing so should be arranged 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. Where a certified copy is sent, the original disclosure certificate must still be provided on the first working day prior to starting work. 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. This will only be allowed if all other checks, including receipt of satisfactory references and 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 including a risk assessment.

DBS checks will still be requested for applicants with recent periods of overseas residence and those with little or no previous UK residence. These applicants may also be asked to provide further information, including a criminal records check from the relevant jurisdiction(s) (see 3.7 below).

If a DBS check identifies a criminal record. The Headteacher will make a judgement about the candidate's suitability, taking into account only those offences which may be relevant to the particular job or situation in question, the nature of the office, the nature of the appointment, the age of the offence and the frequency of the offence. The Headteacher will confirm in writing whether the person can be employed and, if so, any mitigating actions and controls to be put in place. Further details on the school's policy on recruitment of ex-offenders is detailed in paragraph 7.

3.4 Prohibition from Teaching

The school is required to check whether staff who carry out "teaching work" are prohibited from doing so. The school uses the Teachers' Services System to check whether

successful applicants are the subject of a prohibition or interim prohibition order. In addition we ask all applicants for roles which involved “teaching work” to declare in the application form whether they:

- have ever been the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by the TRA, or any predecessor or successor body; and
- have ever been the subject of any proceedings before a professional conduct panel of the TRA, or equivalent body in the UK.

The school recognises that a prohibition from teaching order may not last indefinitely. The school also notes that professional conduct panels do not always impose sanctions on the subject of the hearing. However, in order to fully assess the suitability of an applicant the school considers it important that all such information is made available during the recruitment process. Where an applicant is not currently prohibited from teaching, but has been the subject of a professional conduct hearing whether 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 existence of any relevant information is not a bar to employment with 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 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.

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/assistants and technicians.

Following new guidance in January 2021 the TRA teacher services system no longer maintains a list of those teachers who have been sanctioned in EEA member states. KCSIE 2023 gives advice about how information about a teachers past can be obtained) For the same reasons as set out above the school will:

- complete the same checks as all other staff in schools. Additionally, employers must make any further checks they think appropriate. It is good practice to carry out checks for individuals who have lived or worked abroad for more than three months during their adult life. This allows any relevant events that occurred outside the UK to be considered as part of the recruitment process.
- Where practical schools should check whether the applicant has a criminal record from the relevant authority in that country. Where this information is not available schools should seek alternative methods of checking suitability and or undertake a risk assessment that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment.
- Not all countries provide criminal record information, and where they do, the nature and detail of the information provided varies from country to country. Schools should also be mindful that the criteria for disclosing offences in other countries often have a different threshold than those in the UK.
- The Home Office provides guidance on criminal records checks for overseas applicants which can be found on GOV.UK.

- Applicants for a teaching position may be able to provide a certificate of professional competence issued by the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant qualified as a teacher and or has worked, and this can be used to help assess the suitability of an applicant who has worked overseas. Although restrictions imposed by another regulating authority do not prevent a person from taking up teaching positions in England, schools should consider the circumstances that led to the restriction or sanction being imposed when considering a candidate's suitability for employment.

3.5 Prohibition from Management of Independent Schools (Section 128).

The school will check whether applicants appointed to management positions after 12th August 2015 are subject to a Section 128 Direction. This will include all appointments made internally.

The scope of the barring directions (as detailed in the DfE's confirmation letter of 11th August 2015) covers membership of proprietor bodies and all staff positions as set out in Appendix 2.

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 be obtained through the Teachers' Services System. The School will use either, or both, methods to obtain this information.

In addition we ask all applicants for management roles to declare in the application form whether they:

- have ever been the subject of a section 128 direction or any other sanction which prohibits, disqualifies or restricts them from being involved in the management of an independent school; and
- have ever been the subject of a referral to, or proceedings before, the Department for Education or other appropriate authority where consideration was given to imposing 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.

3.6 Disqualification.

The Childcare Act 2006 (2018) and the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 (2018) state that it is an offence for the school to employ anyone in connection with early years

provision (EYP) or later years provision (LYP) who is disqualified, or for a disqualified person to be directly involved in the management of the EYP or LYP.

3.7 Overseas Checks

In addition to DBS checks, applicants with periods of overseas residence and those with little or no previous UK residence will also be asked to provide further information, including a criminal records check from the relevant jurisdiction(s). There is no mandatory period of time spent overseas which requires additional checks to be complete with guidance stating that "such further checks are made as the school considers appropriate having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State". The school will assess each applicant individually, and will usually undertake an overseas criminal record check if a candidate has resided overseas for a period of 3 months or longer in the five years prior to applying for a position at the school. In some cases it may be deemed necessary to request a criminal record check for each country in which an applicant has lived or worked for a minimum of three months since the age of 18. In addition a criminal record check from the country of nationality may be requested.

The school refers to Home Office guidance on what checks are available from different countries. Extra references are requested for applicants from countries which do not provide criminal record checks.

4. Contractors, supply 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 (in writing) that these checks have been completed before employees of the Contractor can commence work at the school. The DSL must also see a copy of the DBS certificate for those supplied by an agency or businesses.

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 email containing all the information should also contain a photograph of the member of supply staff so that identity can be confirmed on arrival.

The school will independently verify the identity of staff supplied by contractors or an agency in accordance with section 3.1 above.

5. Volunteers

Under no circumstances will a volunteer, in respect of whom no safeguarding checks have been undertaken, be left unsupervised with children or allowed to engage in regulated activity.

Prior to engaging a volunteer to carry out any activities for or on behalf of the school, the member of staff with responsibility for the volunteer appointment will discuss the proposed activities to be undertaken by the volunteer with the Headteacher. A decision will be made as to what vetting checks are required. A risk assessment will be carried out. The ISI Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements (Sept 2023) will be used to determine which checks are necessary.

6. The Local Advisory Board

All the Local Advisory Board members must have ID checks, right to work checks, an enhanced DBS, prohibition from management checks, overseas checks if applicable, barred list checks if in regulated activity and a teaching prohibition check if doing any teaching work.

Local Advisory Board members not engaging in regulated activity are required to carry out an enhanced DBS check without barred list.

The Chair of the Local Advisory Board is also subject to an enhanced DBS check (either including or not including barred list information as appropriate) obtained through the DfE (Secretary of State)

7. Policy on recruitment of ex-offenders

7.1 Background

As an organisation using the DBS Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for all positions at the school, the school complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.

tively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential. As a school providing education to children we request an enhanced DBS Disclosure on all candidates who have been offered employment. All application forms and job descriptions contain a statement that a DBS Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.

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", when applying for a position at the school. 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 attempt 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.

We ensure that all those in the school who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought.

7.2 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 convicted person.

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.

7.3 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 Headteacher before a position is offered or confirmed.

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 and at its discretion, defer a final decision about the appointment until the applicant has had a reasonable opportunity to challenge the disclosure information.

8. 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, but is under no obligation to do so.

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 the Headteacher and DSL;
- not retain disclosure information or any associated correspondence for longer than is necessary, and for a maximum of six months. If, in very exceptional circumstances it is considered necessary to keep certificate information for longer than six months we will consult the DBS about this and will give full consideration to the GDPR (2018) and Human Rights of the individual before doing so. 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;
- prohibit the photocopying or scanning of any disclosure information without the express permission of the individual to whom the disclosure relates.

The School complies with the provisions of the DBS code of practice, a copy of which is available on the DBS website.

9. 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 his/her 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, medical fitness and qualifications. 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 by the school for the duration of the successful applicant's employment with the school. It will be retained for a period of six years after employment terminates after which it will be securely destroyed.

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

10. Referral to the DBS and TRA

This policy is primarily concerned with the promotion of safer recruitment and details the pre-employment checks that any offer of employment is subject to. Whilst these checks are carried out pre-employment, the school also has a legal duty to refer to the DBS:

- Any applicant who has applied for a position at the school despite being barred from working with children; and
- Anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in a regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left.

Failure to refer in circumstances where the above criteria are met is an offence. Where there are serious concerns about a teacher's suitability to work with children, separate consideration will be given to whether a referral to the TRA should be made. This is the case irrespective of whether the DBS criteria have been met.

11. Amendments to the policy:

July 22	Changes staffing and KCSIE updates	T. Stooksbury
Aug 23	KCSIE updates - social media checks Minor edits, inc. date changes	T.Stooksbury L. Collins

Heathfield School Recruitment Stages of a Safer Recruitment Process

Identify vacancy
Design job description and person specification
Choose selection criteria
Choose methods of assessment (interview, role play etc)
Design interview questions, role play or other assessment
Train and brief those who are carrying out the interview or other assessments
Advertise the post
Send out information pack
Give information about safeguarding policies, procedures and checks to be carried out
Ask for a criminal record self-disclosure
Read application form and check information
Highlight any gaps to be explored
Shortlist
Carry out an online search
Invite to interview
Request references
Scrutinise references
Carry out an interview, role play or other assessment
Check gaps or issues on application form with candidate
Check identity documents
Check qualifications and professional registration
Discuss criminal convictions history with the candidate
Probe candidates' attitudes and motives towards safeguarding and children
Make a decision to offer the post to the individual
Make an unconditional offer of employment and give a start date
Request DBS check

NB: Stages highlighted in blue provide opportunities to scrutinise, probe, deter and reject candidates who may be unsuitable to enter the children's workforce.

References: ISI Commentary on the Regulatory Standards (Sept 2023); DfE Statutory Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

APPENDIX 1 - List of Valid Identity Documents

Group 1 – Primary Trusted Identity Credentials

- Current valid Passport
- Biometric Residence Permit (UK)
- Current Driving Licence (Full or provisional)
- Birth Certificate (UK & Channel Islands) - issued at the time of birth (within 42 days of date of birth)

Group 2a – Trusted Government/State Issued Documents

- Current UK Driving licence (old style paper version)
- 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)
- Marriage/Civil Partnership Certificate (UK and Channel Islands)
- Adoption Certificate (UK and Channel Islands)
- HM Forces ID Card (UK)
- FireArms Licence (UK and Channel Islands)

Group 2b – Financial/Social History Documents

- Mortgage Statement (UK or EEA)**
- Bank/Building Society Statement (UK and Channel Islands or EEA)*
- Credit Card Statement (UK or EEA)*
- Financial Statement ** - e.g. pension, endowment, ISA (UK)
- P45/P60 Statement **(UK & Channel Islands)
- Council Tax Statement (UK & Channel Islands)**
- Work Permit/Visa (UK) (UK Residence Permit) **
- Letter of sponsorship from future employment provider (Non UK/Non EEA only valid for applicants residing outside the UK at the time of application)
- Utility Bill (UK)* – Not Mobile Telephone
- Benefit Statement* - e.g. Child Allowance, Pension
- Letter from Head or College Principal (UK) for 16-19 year olds in full time education.

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, not denoted it can be more than 12 months old.