

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Application Form

It is imperative that the application form is completed in full and signed. Please follow the instruction to use black ink or typescript as your form may be scanned or photocopied. If you are submitting your application form electronically, you will be asked to sign the form should you be invited to interview.

When submitting your application, it is important that you relate your skills, experience and abilities against the person specification, identifying against each criterion, examples of your expertise. The shortlisting panel cannot guess or make assumptions.

Please do not attach a previously prepared CV as an alternative. It is important that we are able to compare candidates' experience by drawing on the same range of information. Statements in support of an application will often need to be longer than the space provided on the form, and these should be attached to the application on a separate sheet. Please refer to the information contained within the recruitment pack for the length and presentation of your personal statement.

The selection panel will look to see how well you have focused your application on the needs of the school in addition to relating your skills and knowledge to the person specification with supporting evidence which demonstrates how you meet the range of criteria.

Referees

We take up references on shortlisted candidates. Please give your current or most recent employer as one of your referees; as an applicant for a Headteacher post, you should provide the name and address of your Director of Children's Services, or CEO of your Academy Trust, together with a second referee who should be the Chair of Governors or in the case of a serving Deputy, the Headteacher of your current school. If you are applying for the post of a Deputy Headteacher, your referees should be your Headteacher and your previous employer.

We ask that you do not include photocopies of open testimonials. We will always write to your current or previous employer for a professional judgement of your suitability for the post. If you have been employed in your present school for less than five years, the governing body may wish to seek further supporting information from your previous employer(s).

If you are applying for a headteacher vacancy in a Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Voluntary Aided School, in addition to the two employment references, the Governing Board will also seek a third reference regarding the religious character of the requirements of the post. The application form sets out the information that is required in order to seek the third reference.

Qualifications

Please bring documentary evidence of your Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and other relevant qualifications (excluding GCSE, "O" and "A" levels) to your interview. The selection panel will ask to see the original certificate, and copies will be taken for your application. If you have achieved the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH) or any other professional qualifications e.g., National Qualification for School Leaders (NPQSL), National Qualification for Middle Leaders (NPQML), please bring copies of these qualifications to the interview for checking.

Medical Information and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure

Prior to appointment, you will need to complete a health statement which will be assessed by our OH referral service.

DCAT and The Ninfield Church of England School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff will be expected to hold or be willing to obtain an enhanced DBS disclosure issued with the school as the employer.

This disclosure will need to be approved by the school before we can fully confirm your appointment. Please note that having a criminal record does not automatically mean that an offer of appointment will be withdrawn.

Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (“the 2018 Regulations”)

The post of Headteacher is directly concerned with the management of early or later years provision; therefore, the post is covered by the 2018 Regulations.

The school will need to ensure that they are not knowingly employing a person who is disqualified under the 2018 Regulations in connection with relevant childcare provision. Accordingly, the successful candidate will be required to demonstrate to the school, by completing a self-declaration form as part of the pre-employment checks process, that they have not been disqualified under the 2018 Regulations.

If the preferred candidate is found to be disqualified under the 2018 Regulations, the offer of employment will be subject to the application by the preferred candidate to Ofsted for a waiver and the receipt of a waiver from Ofsted.

Eligibility to Work in the UK

In line with Safer Recruitment guidance issued by the DfE and other employment-

related legislation, you will be required to provide evidence of your identity and eligibility to work in the UK. The evidence required is one of the following documents:

- a full British passport (current or expired) or other passport stating your eligibility to work in the UK.
- a full birth certificate issued in the UK or Republic of Ireland AND an official document showing your National Insurance number, for example, P45, P60 or a document issued by HM Revenue & Customs or another Government Department. (A document showing a temporary NI number would not be satisfactory.)

Data protection

The Ninfield Church of England School will only process the information you have provided in this form for the purpose of recruitment and selection and, if you are successful in securing this position, for purposes relating to your employment.

Your details will be kept both electronically and in hard copy. We will not disclose this information about you to outside organisations or third parties unless there is a legal requirement to do so, or for the prevention and detection of fraud.

For further information, see our privacy notice for job applicants at [The Ninfield Church of England School - Job Vacancies](#)

Self-declaration Form – Short-listed Candidates

All candidates short-listed for interview will be sent a self-declaration form. The purpose of this form is to determine the suitability of candidates to work with children. This process follows statutory guidance set out in the DfE publication Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in working for our school and wish you all the best.