



SEA MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Be Kind • Be Brave • Be your best

Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure

Reviewed and approved by:	Resources Committee
Date approved:	22 November 2023
Date of next review:	November 2024

Updates :
<i>Based on EPM policy last updated April 2023</i>
<i>Updated: no changes</i>

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices	Recruitment & Selection Policy and Procedures	Date	Nov 2023
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:	Jenny Dormer	EIA APPROVED BY:	Resources Committee

Groups that may be affected:

Are there any concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly: issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		X
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)		X
Gender Reassignment (transsexual)		X
Marriage and civil partnership		X
Pregnancy and maternity		X
Racial Groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)		X
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)		X
Gender (male, female)		X
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)		x

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

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Introduction

1. The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all employees and volunteers to demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.
2. The appointment of all employees will be made on merit and in accordance with the provisions of Employment Law, Keeping Children Safe in Education and the school's Equality and Diversity policy.
3. We will ensure that people are treated solely on the basis of their abilities and potential, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation, or any other inappropriate distinction.
4. We will comply with the requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education with regard to DBS and other pre-employment checks.
5. We will ensure compliance with the Data Protection regulations and the more stringent requirements contained within the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The GDPR encompasses the core principles of the DPA and provides more onerous responsibility and accountability for fair and transparent processing.

Delegation of Appointments and Constitution of Appointments Panels

6. The power to offer employment for all posts below the level of Headteacher is delegated to the Headteacher. The Headteacher may not delegate the offer of employment to any other senior manager or governor. The Headteacher is expected to involve at least one governor in the appointment of all teaching staff.
 7. Selection panels will comprise a minimum of two people (normally three). In accordance with the statutory requirement, every selection panel will have at least one member who has undertaken Safer Recruitment Training. In addition, at least one member will have undertaken general recruitment or equalities training.
- ### Advertising
8. All vacant posts will be advertised to ensure equality of opportunity and encourage as wide a field of candidates as possible. This will normally mean placing an advertisement externally. However, where there is a reasonable expectation that there are sufficient, suitably qualified internal candidates, or employees are at risk of redundancy, vacancies may be advertised internally before an external advertisement. In these circumstances, the selection panel may decide that certain parts of the recruitment process may be omitted but all candidates will be subject to a formal interview, the satisfactory reference requirements and any other necessary checks.
 9. The advert will include the level of DBS check required depending on the role being recruited for.
 10. The advert will specify whether the post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020, which means certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed to employers. If they are disclosed, they will not be taken into account.
 11. All adverts state the requirement for a certificate of good conduct where applicable, in addition, for teaching posts, a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which the applicant has worked.
 12. Within the advert the applicant will be signposted to the school's policy and practice in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
 13. In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education, the school will consider carrying out an online search as part of the due diligence on shortlisted candidates. Where an online check will be carried out, this will be indicated in the advert and/or recruitment pack.

Information for Applicants

14. All applicants for all vacant posts will be provided with:
 - A job description outlining the duties of the post.
 - A person specification may also be provided. This will include a criterion under special features regarding safeguarding so that candidates and employees are aware that appropriate disclosure and barring checks will be undertaken.
 - An application form. CVs will not be accepted.
 - Reference to the School's Equality Policy
 - Reference to the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - Reference to the School's Recruitment and Selection Policy.
 - The closing date for the receipt of applications.
 - DBS and other pre-employment checks required.
 - An outline of the terms of employment including salary.
15. An Information pack may be provided to provide more information on the school or job if required.

Short Listing and Reference Requests

16. The selection panel will use an agreed short listing form. The criteria for selection will be consistently applied to all applicants based on the essential and desirable criteria for the post. The selection panel will agree the candidates to be called for interview.
17. The selection panel will take up at least two references on each short listed candidate. If a candidate for a post working with children is not currently working with children, a reference will be sought from the most recent employment working with children to confirm details of their employment and their reasons for leaving. Reference requests will ask the referee to confirm:
 - The referee's relationship with the candidate.
 - Details of the applicant's current post and salary.
 - Performance history.
 - All formal time-limited capability warnings which have not passed the expiration date.
 - All formal time-limited disciplinary warnings where not relating to safeguarding concerns which have not passed the expiration date.
 - All disciplinary action where the penalty is "time expired" and relate to safeguarding concerns.
 - Details of any substantiated allegations or concerns relating to the safety and welfare of children.
 - Whether the referee has any reservations as to the candidate's suitability to work with children. If so, the School will ask for specific details of the concerns and the reasons why the referee believes the candidate may be unsuitable to work with children.
18. References are the "property" of the selection panel and strict confidentiality will be observed. Employer testimonials or 'bearer references' i.e. those provided by the candidate and/or marked 'to whom it may concern' will not be accepted. References must be in writing and be specific to the job for which the candidate has applied. The selection panel will not accept references from relatives or people writing solely in the capacity as a friend of the candidate. References will be verified and any discrepancies will be discussed with the candidate at interview.
19. References will be checked against information on the application; any discrepancy/issue of concern noted to take up with applicant.
20. On receipt, equality monitoring information must be separated from applications.
21. If the field of applicants is felt to be weak the post may be re-advertised.

22. Where the school has carried out an online search on shortlisted candidates as part of the due diligence, any concerns which arise may be discussed with the applicant at, or prior to the interview stage.
23. All shortlisted candidates will be required to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. For example:
 - If they have a criminal history
 - whether they are included on the barred list
 - whether they are prohibited from teaching
 - information about any criminal offences committed in any country in line with the law as applicable in England and Wales, not the law in their country of origin or where they were convicted
 - if they are known to the police and children's social care
 - have they been disqualified from providing childcare (Childcare Disqualification Regulations 2018)
 - any relevant overseas information
24. Applicants will be asked to sign a declaration confirming the information they have provided is true. Where there is an electronic signature, the shortlisted candidate will be asked to physically sign a hard copy of the application at the point of interview.

Interviews

25. The format, style and duration of the interviews are matters for the Headteacher to decide in consultation with any governors involved in the process but the following will be adhered to:
 - 25.1 Briefing:

All candidates will be given relevant information about the school to enable the candidate to make further enquiries about the suitability of the advertised job.
 - 25.2 The formal interview:
 - Before the interviews the selection panel will agree on the interview format [including any other assessment methods].
 - The questions asked will be aimed at obtaining evidence of how each candidate meets the requirement of the job description and the person specification and each candidate will be assessed against all of the criteria for the post.
 - The same areas of questioning will be covered for each applicant and no questions which would discriminate directly or indirectly on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 will be asked.
 - The selection process for every post will include exploration of the candidate's understanding of child safeguarding issues.
 - Any information about past disciplinary action or allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual case.
 - The interview will also include a discussion of any convictions, cautions or pending prosecutions, other than those protected, that the candidate has declared and are relevant to the prospective employment.
26. The recruitment documentation will be retained for six months from the date of interview. Applicants have the right to request access to notes written about them during the recruitment process. After 6 months all information about unsuccessful candidates will be securely destroyed.

Offer of Employment by the Selection Panel

27. The offer of employment by the selection panel and acceptance by the candidate is binding on both parties subject to:
 - Verification of identify
 - Verification of right to work in the UK
 - Proof of relevant qualifications
 - Satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure
 - A certificate of good conduct (if applicable) which may include EEA sanctions and restrictions
 - Barred list check
 - Teacher prohibition (if applicable)
 - Section 128 check (if applicable)
 - Pre-employment medical screening
 - Satisfactory references
 - Disqualification under the Childcare Disqualification Act 2006, as amended.
28. The successful candidate will be informed, normally by offer letter, that the appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of these checks.
29. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified. [Personnel File and Single Central Record](#)
30. Recruitment and selection information for the successful candidate will be retained securely and confidentially for the duration of their employment with the school including:
 - Application form – signed by the applicant
 - Interview notes – including explanation of any gaps in the employment history
 - References – minimum of two
 - Proof of identity
 - Proof of right to work in the UK
 - Proof of relevant qualifications
 - Certificate of Good Conduct (where applicable) which may include EEA sanctions and restrictions
 - Pre-employment medical questionnaire & Evidence of medical clearance from the Occupational Health service (if applicable)
 - Evidence of DBS clearance and barred list check
 - Teacher prohibition checks (where applicable)
 - Evidence of a Section 128 direction (where applicable)
 - Offer of employment letter and signed contract of employment
 - Disqualification under the Childcare Disqualification Act 2006, as amended (where applicable).
31. Retention of personal information for the successful candidate following the end of their employment will be in accordance with the school's data retention policy, which is compliant with relevant Data Protection Act. When retained documents have reached their data retention limit they will be securely destroyed.
32. The school will destroy information obtained by a vetting exercise as soon as possible or within six months.

33. The school will normally collect personal information from you only where we have your consent to do so, where we need the personal information to perform a contract with/involving you, or where the processing is in our legitimate interests and not overridden by your data protection interests or fundamental rights and freedoms. In some cases, we may also have a legal obligation to collect personal information from you or may otherwise need the personal information to protect your vital interests or those of another person.
34. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time and can do so by informing the school's Data Protection Officer, with the exception of documents that are required for a statutory requirement.
35. The school will maintain a Single Central Record of employment checks in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education. **Start of Employment and Induction**
36. The pre-employment checks listed in paragraph 6.1 above must be completed before the employee starts work. Exceptions will only be made in circumstances where a risk assessment has been undertaken. Exceptions will never be made in the case of the barred list and teacher prohibition checks.
37. All new employees will be provided with an induction programme which will cover all relevant matters of school policy but in particular safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.