

Guidance Notes for Candidates

Please read this information before you complete the application form.

Any part of our recruitment pack i.e. application form, job description, person specification or guidance notes is available in alternative formats on request. If you need a copy of this information in large print, Braille, another language or on cassette, please ask us.

Pre-Interview Visits (Applicants for Teaching Posts at Fortis Academy)

It is common for teachers to wish to look around a new school either before submitting an application or before attending for interview. Given the size of our School, it is very difficult for us to resource such requests. However, we recognise that successful recruitment depends as much on the ability of candidates to assess the employer effectively as it does on the ability of the employer to assess the candidates.

With this in mind, candidates who are invited to attend for interview will also undertake the following activities to ensure that they are able to obtain a full and realistic picture of the Academy:

- A tour of the Academy which is usually conducted by pupils giving candidates an opportunity to find out from the pupils what they think of the Academy
- An opportunity to meet with the Director of Subject and/or other key post holders in the Department so that candidates can find out about the way the Department operates, its aims etc.
- As part of the selection process, candidates will be required to teach a pre-prepared lesson lasting one hour to a full class (full details will be provided well in advance of the interview day). This gives the Academy an opportunity to assess candidates' skills and gives candidates a sense of what working at Fortis Academy will be like.

We believe that this provides candidates with a far better opportunity to find out about the Academy than is afforded by a pre-interview visit.

Making an Application

Thank you for expressing interest in this vacancy. .

- You must complete the **application form** to apply for this vacancy. You may send in a CV to support your application but you must still complete the application form in full.
Proper completion of this form is an essential part of the selection process.
- Each vacancy is based upon a **job description** and **person specification**. The job description lists the key responsibilities of the post. The person specification outlines the skills, knowledge, experience, and qualifications etc, which are either essential or desirable.
Remember you will be selected for interview based entirely on the information you provide in your application form. So read the job description and person specification

very carefully so that you know what the job involves, and match your skills, abilities and knowledge to it.

- **The completed application form must show that you meet all the essential criteria.** To make sure we treat all applicants fairly, we do not make assumptions about you; we only look at what you tell us about yourself in the application form.
- Complete all parts of the application form (including the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form) and ensure that the information that you supply is clear, precise and is aimed at the job you are applying for. Always ensure that any additional sheets are securely attached to your application form.
- Please make sure you return your application form by the closing date.

No applications can be accepted once shortlisting for the vacancy has begun.

- After the closing date, shortlisting will start. If we haven't contacted you within 28 days of the closing date you can assume that this time your application has been unsuccessful.
- Please keep free any interview date given, as it is not normally possible to re-arrange an interview.
- We welcome applications from all sections of the community and are pleased to help meet any requirements arising as part of the recruitment process, for example from disability. We have an **Interview Guarantee Scheme**. If you have a disability you are guaranteed an interview if you meet the **essential** requirements of the job as set out in the person specification.

Guidance Notes on completing the Application Form

- **Please complete the form electronically (preferred) or, if handwriting, use black ink/ball pen to complete the form, as it may be photocopied.**
- **Section titled Additional Information** - When completing this section of the application form please make sure that you describe fully here and how your experience, skills and abilities meet those described in the job description and person specification. The application form for Teaching Roles does not include this section; applicants should instead attach a separate letter of no more than 2 sides of A4 setting out how their skills and experience match the requirements for the post.
- **Sections titled Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, Immigration and Asylum Act and the Recruitment Monitoring Form** - Guidance on completing these sections and the recruitment monitoring form is provided in this pack.
- **Previous Employment / Education History** - Please ensure **all** gaps in employment and education history are fully explained on your application form. We may wish to verify this information during the recruitment process.
- Certain jobs, typically those involving substantial access to children or vulnerable adults, require disclosure of all criminal convictions or cautions whatever their nature and whenever they occurred. For these jobs there is an independent check before an appointment is confirmed. It is important that you volunteer such information at the

outset. Whether a job is of this type will be clear from the further particulars.

- **References** - In certain circumstances it may be necessary for us to contact more than 2 references. This might include contacting previous employers or to verify gaps in employment. In this situation you will be asked to provide contact information to enable us to take up these additional references.

In seeking references, the Academy is most interested in the views of current and recent employers.

For those leaving full time education or teacher training, a reference from your college and at least one from a school in which you did a significant placement will be most desirable.

If you are not currently working with children, one of your referees should be the last employer with whom you did work with children.

References from relatives or friends will not be accepted. You should state clearly the capacity of any referee – ie. their job role or relationship to you, eg. College Tutor, line manager etc. You should also declare any family or personal relationship you may have to any referee.

Whilst there is a space on the application form for the telephone numbers of referees, the Academy will not seek telephone references. Only references written on headed paper are likely to be accepted, though these may be emailed by referees to the Academy prior to the interview for purposes of speed. We will make initial contact with referees by email so please supply their correct business email address, not a personal email address.

You should be aware that employers will be asked for information on disciplinary proceedings or warnings, particularly those related to your conduct with children, even where warnings have expired for the purposes of further disciplinary action. You may therefore wish to give details about any relevant issues in your covering letter.

The Academy will aim to obtain all references prior to interview.

If you require any additional help or guidelines on completing your application please contact any names listed in the application pack. You may find it helpful to keep a photocopy of your application and any supporting information.

- **Date of Birth Information** - Individuals employed within Residential establishments must meet the minimum age requirements set out by the Department of Health

National Minimum Standard, published under the Care Standards Act 2000. Therefore the Trust will request age related information as part of the application process for positions within Residential establishments **only**. This information will not be used for any other purpose.

Equal Opportunities

We recognise the importance of promoting equality of opportunity across all service provision as well as in the employment of our staff. We aim to promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and we welcome applications from diverse candidates.

Our Equal Opportunities Strategy supports our commitment to promoting inclusion and the provision of high quality, accessible services that meet the needs of our diverse community, and we will work towards ensuring that our staff reflects the diversity of the community.

We will develop a culture where employees are treated as individuals, and where differences are welcomed and embraced. We believe that equality is the responsibility of all employees and every employee can influence how equality is achieved within the Academy. To deliver this we will create an awareness and understanding of equality by ensuring that training and development is an integral part of every employee's individual personal development. This will endorse our commitment to Investors in People.

Commitment to employees and potential employees

As a fair and reasonable employer we aim to provide equality for all our employees. To achieve this we will:

- Promote and implement best practice in recruitment and selection practices, including taking positive action to address identified imbalances.
- Put in place a fair and transparent pay structure.
- Treat employees with dignity and respect, acknowledge strengths and help to overcome any weaknesses through individual personal development plans and reviews.
- Promote equality of access to training, development and promotion.
- Create a working environment that challenges and eradicates prejudice, harassment, unlawful and unfair discrimination.
- Consult with employees regarding Wellbeing and work-life balance, implementing arrangements where they can be balanced with the needs of the Trust.
- Make reasonable adjustments for employees.

This policy will be supported, implemented and monitored through individual service and business plans.

Data Protection Act

The Data Protection Act 1998 places responsibilities on us to process personal data that we hold in a fair and proper way. The Act came into force on 1 March 2000 and regulates the use of personal data, including any data you supply on this application form.

The information you give us will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of personnel management.

The Academy may contact other organisations (such as the Criminal Records Bureau, previous employer(s), education establishments, etc) to check the factual information you have given on the application form. The information will be stored securely, both manually and electronically and destroyed after 12 months (maximum) if your application is unsuccessful.

If we offer you a job we will use some of the information you give us on the application form in your contract of employment.

The information you give on the recruitment monitoring form will **only** be used to monitor the application of our equal opportunities policy and the effectiveness of our recruitment and advertising strategies.

Submitting Your Completed Application:

Your completed application form (including a letter of application for those applying for Teaching roles) should be emailed to:

s.bhogal@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk

You may also post your application to:

Human Resources
Fortis Academy
Aldridge Road
Great Barr
Birmingham
B44 8NU

If posting the application, please ensure that you post in with sufficient time for it to arrive by the published closing date. Those arriving after the closing date may not be considered.

Further Information

The Immigration and Asylum Act 2006

We must take copies of evidence that you are able to legally work within the UK; the following list details the acceptable documents/ combinations of documents which we must see and copy:

Single documents (that we only need to see/copy once) -

- A United Kingdom Passport
- A Passport/National Identity Card from a country in the EEA Agreement stating that the holder is a national of that country
- A United Kingdom residence permit, registration certificate or document certifying or indicating permanent residence issued by the Home Office/ UK Border Agency to an EEA national.
- A permanent residence card issued by the Home Office, UK Border Agency to the family member of a national of an EEA country or Switzerland.
- A Biometric Immigration Document (ID Card) issued by the UK Border Agency to the holder which indicates that the person named in it is allowed to stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK.
- A Passport or other travel document stating the holder is 'exempt from immigration control', is allowed to stay indefinitely/has right of abode in the UK or has no time limit on their stay in the UK.

Combinations of documents (that we only need to see/copy once) –

- An official document giving the person's permanent National Insurance Number and their name issued by a government agency or a previous employer in combination with one of the following documents:
- An immigration status document issued by Home Office/ Border Agency to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the person named has no time limit on their stay in the UK
- A full birth OR adoption certificate issued in the United Kingdom/ the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Ireland
- A certificate of registration or naturalisation as British citizen
- A letter from the Home Office/ Border Agency confirming the individual can undertake the specific work in the UK

Documents that we need to see/copy every 12 months –

- A Passport or other travel document showing the individual can enter the UK and is allowed to do the type of work in question, provided it doesn't require a work permit
- An ID Card issued by the UK Border Agency to the holder which indicates that the person named in it is allowed to stay in the United Kingdom, and is allowed to do the work in question.
- A work permit or other approval to take employment issued by the Home Office or the UK Border Agency IN COMBINATION WITH a passport or another travel document/letter endorsed to show the holder can stay in the UK and is allowed to do the work in question.
- A Certificate of Application issued by the Home Office or the Border Agency to or for a family member of a national of a EEA/ Switzerland stating that the holder is permitted to take employment which is less than 6 months old IN COMBINATION WITH evidence of verification by the UK Border Agency Employer Checking Service
- A Certificate of Application issued by the Home Office or the Border Agency to or for a family member of a national of a EEA/ Switzerland stating that the holder is permitted to take employment, which is less than 6 months old

- An Application Registration Card issued by the Home Office or UK Border Agency stating that the holder is permitted to take employment IN COMBINATION WITH evidence of verification by the UK Border Agency Employer Checking Service
- An Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office/Border Agency to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the person named in it can stay in the United Kingdom, and is allowed to do the type of work in question IN COMBINATION WITH A document issued by a previous employer or Government agency which contains the National Insurance number of the holder.
- A letter issued by the Home Office or the UK Border Agency to the holder or the employer or prospective employer, which indicates that the person named in it can stay in the UK and is allowed to do the work in question IN COMBINATION WITH a document issued by a previous employer/Government agency which contains the NI number and name of the holder.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

What is the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act?

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act was introduced to make sure that you are not discriminated against when applying for jobs, if you have been convicted of a criminal offence and you have not re-offended for a period of time since the date of your conviction.

The Act allows certain types of convictions to be treated as "spent" after a certain (variable) period of time. You are no longer legally required to disclose to us convictions that have become "spent", unless the post you are applying for is exempted. In the case of more serious crimes, such as where the sentence is more than 30 months imprisonment, the conviction can never become "spent" and must always be taken into account.

Exceptions Orders exist to protect vulnerable client groups such as children, young people, the elderly, sick or disabled. In such cases, we are legally entitled to ask you for details of **all** convictions, even if they are "spent" or "unspent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Cautions, reprimands and final warnings are not criminal convictions and are not covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. They become "spent" immediately and we may only consider them when appointing to exempted posts.

Having an "unspent" conviction will not necessarily bar you from employment. This will depend on the circumstances and background to your offence(s). However, as some of our positions meets the requirements in respect of exempted questions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, **all applicants who are offered employment to one of these posts will be subject to a criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau before the appointment is confirmed.** This will include details of cautions, reprimands or final warnings, as well as convictions.

For all other criminal convictions you will only need to disclose any convictions that are **not** 'spent'. A conviction is regarded as spent if you have served a 'rehabilitation period'. These periods vary according to the sentence received as follows:

Rehabilitation Periods

Sentence	Age 18 or over when convicted	Under 18 when convicted
Prison and Young Offender Institution - sentence of 6 months or less	7 Years	3 Years
Prison and Young Offender Institution - sentence of more than 6 months – 2½ years	10 Years	5 Years
Fines, compensation order, probation (for people convicted on or after 3 Feb 1995), community service, combination order, action plan, curfew order, drug treatment, reparation order	5 Years	2 Years
Borstal (Abolished 1983)	7 Years	7 Years
Detention Centres	3 Years	3 Years
Absolute Discharge	6 Months	6 Months
Sentences for which the rehabilitation period varies		
Probation order (for people convicted prior to 3 Feb 1995), conditional discharge, bind over, supervision order, care order	Until the order expires (minimum period of 1 year)	
Attendance centre orders	Length of the order plus 1 year	
Hospital Order	2 years after the order expires (with a Minimum of 5 years from the date of conviction)	
Suspended Sentences		
A suspended prison sentence is treated as one that has effect and the rehabilitation period is the same as for the full sentence.		
Consecutive and Concurrent sentences		
An offender may be sentenced at one time for several offences. If the court decides that imprisonment is the right penalty for more than one offence, it can order this to run concurrently or consecutively. If a person is sentenced to two terms of imprisonment of six months each, to run concurrently, the person will be subject to a rehabilitation period of 7 years. If they were ordered to run consecutively, they would be subject to a rehabilitation period of ten years.		
Extension of Rehabilitation periods		
Rehabilitation periods may be extended if a person receives further convictions while an original rehabilitation period is still running.		
If the second conviction is for a summary offence, ie an offence that can be tried only in a magistrates' court, then the first rehabilitation period is not affected and both rehabilitation periods will run their separate course. If however, the second conviction is more serious and could be tried in crown court, then neither conviction will become spent until the longer rehabilitation period has expired.		
Where the original sentence resulted in a disqualification, prohibition or other penalty, the rehabilitation period will not be affected if the person is convicted of a further offence.		