

# The Application Process & Safer Recruitment

## **The Application Form**

- 1.1 Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing an application form in full. Candidates will be asked to sign and date a copy of their form if they attend for interview. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed application forms.
- 1.2 All posts in the Foundation involve some interaction with children and everybody has responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post.
- 1.3 Please disclose any convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings (not subject to the DBS filtering) on the application form. Please note that the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected' and are not subject to disclosure to employers and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found at the Disclosure and Barring Service website [www.gov.uk/dbs](http://www.gov.uk/dbs). You should be aware that the Foundation will institute its own checks on successful applicants for shortlisting with the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- 1.4 The successful applicant will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure Application Form authorising the school to complete an online DBS application. Employment is conditional upon a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and other appropriate checks for all applicants home and overseas. All vetting checks MUST be completed PRIOR to the successful applicant's start date.
- 1.5 An overseas national must have permission to work in the UK.
- 1.6 You should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if the applicant has been selected, and possible referral to the Police and/or the Disclosure and Barring Service and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency.
- 1.7 Details of anyone applying for a position which is a 'Regulated Activity' as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and who is barred from doing so by the DBS will be passed to the Police and/or the Disclosure and Barring Service.

## **2. References**

- 2.1 We will seek references on candidates invited for interview and may approach previous employers whether or not named as a referee for information at any stage following receipt of an application form. Current employers will only be approached once authorisation is given from an individual, however it is an expectation that for Teaching roles references will normally be taken up before interview.
- 2.2 Employment is subject to the receipt of satisfactory references from suitable referees and references may also be verified by a telephone call.
- 2.3 If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer must be listed as one of your referees. They will be asked about disciplinary offences relating to children or young persons (current or time expired) and whether you have been the subject of any Child Protection

allegations or concerns and, if so, the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, the previous employer will be asked about those issues (and should be listed as a referee). Where neither your current nor previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with children. They may, where appropriate, answer that your duties have not brought you into contact with children or young persons.

- 2.4 In the case of applicants who have been employed but who are currently unemployed, one of your listed referees must be the most recent employer. Early Career Teachers should also list their course tutor as one of their referees.

### **3. Interview and Identification**

- 3.1 If you are invited for interview, one of the areas which will be explored will be your suitability to work with children.
- 3.2 All successful candidates will be required, during the appointment process, to produce original documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications necessary or relevant for the post (e.g. the original of examination certificates, diplomas etc.). Where originals are not available, written confirmation or certified copies of the relevant qualifications must be obtained from the awarding bodies.
- 3.3 All successful candidates will also be required, during the appointment process, to produce original documents in order to satisfy the requirement for a DBS and Eligibility to Work in the UK; photocopies or certified copies are not sufficient:
- If you are invited for interview you will be provided with a list of acceptable documentation and in addition we ask that, where appropriate, you provide any document evidencing a change of name, such as a marriage certificate.
  - Acceptable documentation for verification of identification for an enhanced DBS check is a limited range. If those documents are unable to be produced, the candidate will be required to undertake an external ID verification check and if that does not provide appropriate confirmation the candidate will be required to undertake a fingerprint verification check with the Police.
- 3.4 Photocopies of the Identification and DBS documentation will be taken by the Foundation and retained on file for all successful candidates. The details will also be entered onto the Foundation's Single Central Register of staff, volunteers and Governors.
- 3.5 Candidates invited for interview will also be sent a self-declaration form which must be completed and returned to the Foundation's HR Department prior to their interview.
- 3.6 In addition, the Foundation will also undertake online searches of shortlisted candidates and any information requiring further clarification may be addressed and questioned at interview.

### **4. Conditional Offer of Appointment: Pre-appointment Checks**

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received)
- Verification of identity and qualifications – which must include a birth certificate
- A check of the DBS Barring List
- A satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure (where required)
- Verification of professional status (where required) (e.g. satisfactory completion of PGCE course)
- Declaration of medical fitness
- Confirmation of the candidate's right to live and work in the UK
- A Self Declaration made under the Childcare (Disqualifications) Regulations where applicable, or the Foundation Self-Declaration for roles not covered under the Regulations.

Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas since the age of 16 for a period of 3 months or longer within the last 10 years they MUST obtain such checks and confirmations as the Foundation may require in accordance with statutory guidance. These may include the equivalent of DBS checks from those countries (often known as Good Conduct checks) and may involve the taking of fingerprints and provision of detailed information to the embassies or police forces of those countries as well as additional references.

## **5. Warning**

Where a candidate is:

- found to be on the DBS Barring List, or the Enhanced DBS disclosure shows he/she has been disqualified from working with children; or
- found to have provided false information in support of his/her application; or
- the subject of expressions of concern as to his/her suitability to work with children,

the facts will be reported to the Disclosure and Barring Service and/or the Police and it is likely that any offer of employment by Pocklington School Foundation will be immediately withdrawn.

## **6. General**

The Foundation requests applications as soon as possible from interested applicants, reserving the right to offer the post at any stage in the appointment process or not to offer the post at all.

- 6.1 Offers of employment will be made on merit and in accordance with the Foundation's policy of equal opportunities.
- 6.2 Confirmation of a conditional offer of employment will only be made on satisfactory declaration of medical fitness, which may include a referral to Occupational Health if appropriate.
- 6.3 Confirmation of permanent employment will only be made on satisfactory completion of the probationary period.
- 6.4 Results for the statutory employment checks are recorded in the Foundation's Single Central Register of staff, volunteers and Governors.
- 6.5 The successful applicant will only be able to start when ALL the vetting checks have been completed.
- 6.6 For urgently required staff, an earlier start may be permitted but only once a risk assessment has been made and a supervisory regime put in place by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In these cases all pre-employment checks must be in place, with the exception of a DBS, which must have been applied for.