

Recruitment, Selection & Disclosure Policy

BETHANY SCHOOL
CURTISDEN GREEN
GOUDHURST
KENT

Why the pupils think Bethany needs a recruitment, selection & disclosure policy.

The school takes care when appointing staff because it wants to make sure that the staff are the right ones to teach us.

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1. Introduction

Bethany School ("the 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 as follows: -

- To ensure that the best possible staff are recruited on the basis of their merits, abilities and suitability for the position;
- To ensure that all job applicants are considered equally and consistently;
- To 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;
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, recommendations and guidance including the statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education (SCSRE), Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2020 (KCSIE), Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (DUCA), the Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015 (the Prevent Duty Guidance) and any guidance or code of practice published by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS); and
- To 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;
- To fully comply with the requirements of Standard 14 of the National Minimum Boarding Standards;

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

2. Data protection

The School is legally required to carry out the pre-appointment checks detailed in this procedure. Staff and prospective staff will be required to provide certain information to the School to enable the School to carry out the checks that are applicable to their role. The School will also be required to provide certain information to third parties, such as the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Teaching Regulation Agency (previously known as the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)). Failure to provide requested information may result in the School not being able to meet its employment, safeguarding or legal obligations. The School will process personal information in accordance with its Staff Privacy Notice.

3. Recruitment & Selection Procedure

All applicants for employment, including ancillary staff, sessional staff, peripatetic staff, volunteers who have regular/frequent contact with pupils 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 where the deadline for completed application forms has not passed. Should there be any gaps in academic or employment history, a satisfactory explanation must be provided. A Curriculum Vitae will not normally be accepted in place of the completed Application Form.

All applicants will receive an application form, job descriptions with personal specifications and the School's Child Protection Policy are available to download from the School's website and can be printed and forwarded to the applicants on request.

The applicant will then be invited to attend a **Formal Interview** at which his/her relevant skills and experience will be discussed in more detail. All shortlisted applicants will be tested at interview about their suitability to work with children. A written record will be kept of the interview. At least one member of the Bethany Staff who has successfully completed DfE accredited Safer Recruitment training will be involved in the interview process. Currently, the trained staff are:

Francie Healy – Headmaster
Stuart Harris - Bursar
Emily Hill - Deputy Head Curriculum
Alan Sturrock –Deputy Head Pastoral
Toni Carter – Human Resources Manager
Roger Stubbs – Chairman of Governors
Wendy Kent – Vice Chair of Governor

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);
- verification of qualifications, whether professional or otherwise, which the School takes into account in making the appointment decision, or which are referred to in the application form, whether a requirement for the role or not;
- verification of the applicant's employment history;
- the receipt of two references (one of which must be from the applicant's most recent employer) which the School considers to be satisfactory;
- for positions which involve "teaching work", information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to, or is the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by the Teaching Regulation Agency which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the School;
- for applicants who have carried out teaching work outside the UK, information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to, or is the subject of a sanction issued by a

- regulator of the teaching profession in any other country which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the School;
- where the position amounts to "regulated activity (see section 4.3.2 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 4.3.2 below) confirmation that the applicant is not named on the Children's Barred List: *
 - information about whether the applicant has ever been subject to a direction under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the School;
 - for management positions, information about whether the applicant has ever been referred to the Department for Education, or is the subject of a direction under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 which renders them unable or unsuitable to work at the School;
 - confirmation that the applicant is not disqualified from acting as a trustee / governor or senior manager of a charity under the Charities Act 2011 (if applicable, see section 4.6 below);
 - confirmation that the applicant is not disqualified from working in connection with early or later years provision (if applicable, see section 4.7 below);
 - verification of the applicant's medical fitness for the role (see section 4.8 below);
 - verification of the applicant's right to work in the UK;
 - any further checks which the School decides are necessary as a result of the applicant having lived or worked outside of the UK which may include an overseas criminal records check, certificate of good conduct or professional references; and
 - For volunteers, no concerns are raised by others in the School community.

The School is not permitted to check the Children's Barred List unless an individual will be engaging in 'regulated activity'. The School is required to carry out an enhanced DBS check for all staff, supply staff and governors who will be engaging in regulated activity. However, the School can also carry out an enhanced DBS check on a person who would be carrying out regulated activity but for the fact that they do not carry out their duties frequently enough i.e., roles which would amount to regulated activity if carried out more frequently. Whether a position amounts to 'regulated activity' must therefore be considered by the School in order to decide which checks are appropriate. It is however likely that in nearly all cases the School will be able to carry out an enhanced DBS check and a Children's Barred List check.

Appointment of 'gap' student staff includes every element of the above recruitment checking system that is possible (even if the student concerned is already known to the school or to a trusted school abroad or is recruited through an agency).

Where 'gap' student staff are recruited from abroad, the school obtains a 'certificate of good conduct' or equivalent from the relevant authorities of the student's home country where such facilities are available. A DBS check will be initiated as soon as is practically possible upon their arrival in this country.

4. Pre-employment checks

In accordance with the recommendations set out in KCSIE, DUCA and the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Boarding schools: national minimum standards. The School carries out a number of pre-employment checks in respect of all prospective employees.

In addition to the checks set out below, the School reserves the right to obtain such formal or informal background information about an applicant as is reasonable in the circumstances to determine whether they are suitable to work at the School. This may include internet and social media searches.

In fulfilling its obligations, the School does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sex or sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, disability or age.

4.1 Verification of identity, address and qualifications

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; and

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

Where an applicant claims to have changed their name by deed poll or any other means (e.g., marriage, adoption, statutory declaration) they will be required to provide documentary evidence of the change.

The School asks for the date of birth of all applicants to assist with the vetting of the applicants. 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.

The School asks for this information at interview to ensure that the person attending interview is who they claim to be, to ensure that they are permitted to work for the School if appointed and that they hold the qualifications that have been requested (if any).

4.1.2 COVID 19, Vetting Requirements

In light of COVID local, national, or international restrictions, if an applicant is unable to attend School to verify their documents face to face, DBS have confirmed scanned images and live video links for **urgent** cases are applicable. However, these documents will then need to be shown to HR when the individual first attends School.

4.2 References

References will be taken up on short listed applicants prior to interview. Please note that no questions will be asked about health or medical fitness prior to any offer of employment being made.

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. Referees will also be asked to confirm that the applicant has not been radicalised so that they do not support terrorism or any form of "extremism" (see the definition of "extremism" at section 7 below). 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, sickness* 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), except where the issues were deemed to have resulted from allegations which were found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious;
- whether any allegations or concerns have been raised about the applicant that relate to the safety and welfare of children or young people or behaviour towards children or young people, except where the allegation or concerns were found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious;
- whether the applicant could be considered to be involved in "extremism" (see the definition of "extremism" at section 7 below).

(*questions about health or sickness records will only be included in reference requests sent out after the offer of employment has been made.)

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 will be taken up with the applicant and the relevant referee before any appointment is confirmed.

Where a reference is not received prior to interview it will be reviewed upon receipt. Any discrepancies identified between the reference and the application form and/or the interview assessment form will be considered by the School. The applicant may be asked to provide further information or clarification before an appointment can be confirmed.

If factual references are received i.e., those which contain limited information such as job title and dates of employment, this will not necessarily disadvantage an applicant although additional references may be sought before an appointment can be confirmed.

The School may at its discretion make telephone contact with any referee to verify the details of the written reference provided.

All internal candidates who apply for a new role at the School will have their application assessed in accordance with this procedure. References will be taken up on all internal candidates as part of the application process but can be provided by colleagues as the School will be the most recent employer.

4.3 Criminal records check

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.

4.3.1 DBS filtering rules

With effect from 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 filtering rules developed by the DBS and the Home Office designate certain spent convictions and cautions as "protected". "Protected" convictions and cautions are not included in a DBS certificate and job applicants are not required to disclose them during the recruitment process. It is unlawful for an employer to take into account a conviction or caution that should not have been disclosed. If a protected conviction or caution is inadvertently disclosed to the School during the recruitment process it must be disregarded when making a recruitment decision.

A conviction will always be disclosable if it was imposed for a "specified offence" committed at any age. A caution issued for a "specified offence" committed over the age of 18 will always be disclosable. However, a caution issued for a "specified offence" committed under the age of 18 is never disclosable. "Specified offences"

are usually of a serious violent or sexual nature or are relevant for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The list of "specified offences" can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-list-of-offences-that-will-never-be-filtered-from-a-criminal-record-check>

The filtering rules have recently been updated and work as follows:

For those aged 18 or over at the time of an offence

A spent criminal conviction for an offence committed in the United Kingdom when a person was over the age of 18 will not be disclosed in a DBS certificate (and does not have to be disclosed by the job applicant) if:

- (a) eleven years have elapsed since the date of the conviction;
- (b) it did not result in a custodial sentence; and
- (c) it was not imposed for a "specified offence".

A spent caution for an offence committed when a person was over the age of 18 will not be disclosed in a DBS certificate (and does not have to be disclosed by a job applicant) if:

- (a) six years have elapsed since the date it was issued; and
- (b) it was not issued for a "specified offence".

For those aged under 18 at the time of an offence:

A spent conviction for an offence committed when a person was under the age of 18 will not be disclosed in a DBS certificate (and does not have to be disclosed by a job applicant) if:

- (a) five and a half years have elapsed since the date of the conviction;
- (b) it did not result in a custodial sentence; and
- (c) it was not imposed for a "specified offence".

A caution issued for an offence committed when a person was under the age of 18 will never be disclosed in a DBS certificate (and does not have to be disclosed by a job applicant).

4.3.2 Regulated activity

The School applies for an enhanced disclosure from the DBS and a check of the Children's Barred List (now known as an Enhanced Check for Regulated Activity) 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 an Enhanced Check for Regulated Activity is to identify whether an applicant is barred

from working with children by inclusion on the Children's Barred List and to obtain other relevant suitability information. Any position undertaken at, or on behalf of the School will amount to "regulated activity" if it is carried out:

- (a) frequently, meaning once a week or more; or
- (b) overnight, meaning between 2.00 am and 6.00 am; or
- (c) satisfies the "period condition", meaning four times or more in a 30-day period; and
- (d) provides the opportunity for contact with children.

Roles which are carried out on an unpaid / voluntary basis will only amount to regulated activity if, in addition to the above, they are carried out on an unsupervised basis. It is for the School to decide whether a role amounts to "regulated activity" taking into account all the relevant circumstances. However, nearly all posts at the School amount to regulated activity. Limited exceptions could include an administrative post undertaken on a temporary basis in the School office outside of term time or voluntary posts which are supervised.

4.3.2 The DBS disclosure certificate

The DBS issues the DBS disclosure certificate to the subject of the check only, rather than to the School. 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. A convenient time and date for bringing the certificate into the School should be arranged with the HR Department as soon as it 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. Certified copies must be sent to the HR Department. Where a certified copy is sent, the original disclosure certificate must still be provided prior to the first day of work / or on the first working day].

Employment will remain conditional upon the original certificate being provided and it being considered satisfactory by the School.

4.3.4 Starting work pending receipt of the DBS disclosure

If there is a delay in receiving a DBS disclosure the Head has discretion to allow an individual to begin work pending receipt of the disclosure certificate. This will only be allowed if all other checks, including 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.

4.3.5 Applicants with periods of overseas residence

DBS checks will still be requested for applicants with recent periods of overseas residence and those with little or no previous UK residence. The School will take into account the "DBS unusual addresses guide" in such circumstances.

For applicants who are living overseas, or who have lived overseas previously, obtaining a DBS certificate may be insufficient to establish their suitability to work at the School. In such cases the applicant will be required to provide additional information about their suitability from the country (or countries) in which they have lived. The School's policy is to request such information from each overseas country in which the applicant has lived for a period of three months or more in the previous 10 years

When requesting such information, the School has regard to relevant government guidance and will therefore always require the applicant to apply for a formal check from the country in question i.e., a criminal records check (or equivalent) or a certificate of good conduct. If the applicant is unable to obtain a formal check themselves, support from the HR Department via an agency can be obtained but at a cost to the applicant. This will be discussed and agreed on an individual case by case base.

The School recognises that formal checks are not available from some countries, that they can be significantly delayed or that a response may not be provided. In such circumstances the School will seek to obtain further information from the country in question, such as a reference from any employment undertaken in that country.

In addition, where an applicant has carried out teaching work outside of the UK, the School will ask the applicant to provide proof of their past conduct as a teacher by obtaining a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority of the teaching profession in each country in which they have worked as a teacher. The School will also ask the applicant (and their referees) to disclose whether they have ever been referred to, or are the subject of a sanction issued by, the regulator of the teaching profession in the countries in which they have carried out teaching work.

The School may allow an applicant to commence work pending receipt of a formal check from a particular country if it has received a reference and/or letter of professional standing from that country and considers the applicant suitable to start work. Decisions on suitability will be based on all of the information that has been obtained during the recruitment process. Unless expressly waived by the School, continued employment will remain conditional upon the School being provided with the outcome of the formal check and it being considered satisfactory.

If no information is available from a particular country the School will carry out an assessment of whether the applicant is considered suitable to work at the School based on all the information that has been obtained as during the recruitment process. The School will take proportionate risk-based decisions on a person's suitability in these circumstances. All suitability assessments must be documented and retained on file.

If the formal check is delayed and the School is not satisfied about the applicant's suitability in the absence of that information, the applicant's proposed start date may be delayed until the formal check is received.

4.4 Prohibition from teaching check

The School is required to check whether staff who carry out "teaching work" are prohibited from doing so. The School uses the Teaching Regulation Agency Teacher Services system to check whether successful applicants are the subject of a prohibition, or interim prohibition order issued by a professional conduct panel on behalf of the Teaching Regulation Agency.

In addition, the School asks all applicants for roles which involve "teaching work" (and their referees) to declare in the application form whether they have ever been referred to, or are the subject of a sanction, restriction or prohibition issued by, the Teaching Regulation Agency or other equivalent body in the UK.

It is the School's position that this information must be provided in order to fully assess the suitability of an applicant for a role which involves "teaching work". Where an applicant is not currently prohibited from teaching but has been the subject of a referral to, or hearing before, the Teaching Regulation Agency (or other equivalent body) whether or not 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 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 2012 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.

The above activities do not amount to "teaching work" if they are supervised by a qualified teacher or other person nominated by the Head. 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.

4.5 Prohibition from management check

The School is required to check whether any applicant for a management position is subject to 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 (a section 128 direction).

The School will carry out checks for such directions when appointing applicants into management positions from both outside the School and by internal promotion. This check applies to appointments to the following positions made on or after 12 August 2015:

- Head
- teaching posts on the senior leadership team
- teaching posts which carry a departmental head role;
- support staff posts on the senior leadership team; and
- the School will assess on a case-by-case basis whether the check should be carried out when appointments are made to teaching and support roles which carry additional responsibilities.

It also applies to appointments to the governing body.

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 also be obtained through the Teaching Regulation Agency Teacher Services system. The School will use either, or both, methods to obtain this information.

In addition, the School asks all applicants for management roles to declare in the application form whether they have ever been the subject of a referral to the Department for Education or are subject to 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.

4.6 Disqualification from acting as a charity trustee or senior manager

4.6.1 Background

Under the Charities Act 2011 it is a criminal offence for a person to act as a trustee or senior manager of a charity when disqualified from doing so. The Charities Act 2011 sets out the grounds on which a person can be disqualified from acting as a trustee or senior manager. These include various spent and unspent criminal offences and other sanctions.

4.6.2 Who is covered

A person is considered to be a charity trustee if they are one of the people who have general control and management of the administration of the charity. In an independent school the trustees will typically be the governors of the school.

Senior managers include those employees who report directly to the charity trustees or have responsibility for the overall management and control of the charity's finances. At the School the disqualification rules will be applicable to all governors, the Head / Principal, Bursar and potentially other senior staff who report directly to the governors.

4.6.3 Self-declaration

All those who are covered by the disqualification rules are required to complete a self-declaration form to confirm whether, to the best of their knowledge, they are subject to any of the disqualification criteria.

A failure to disclose relevant information, or the provision of false information, which subsequently comes to the School's attention may result in the termination of an appointment as a governor or senior manager or the withdrawal of an offer of employment and may also amount to a criminal offence.

All those who are required to complete a self-declaration form are also under an ongoing duty to inform the School if there is a change in their circumstances that results or may result in them becoming disqualified from acting as a governor or senior manager.

4.6.4 Checks by the School

To ensure that it has accurate and up to date information the School will also check the following registers in respect of each governor and senior manager who is already in post or is appointed in future:

- (a) the Insolvency Register;
- (b) the register of disqualified directors maintained by Companies House;
and
- (c) and the register of persons who have been removed as a charity trustee.

4.6.5 Waiver

A person who discloses that one or more of the disqualification criteria is applicable to them may apply to the Charity Commission for a waiver of the disqualification.

The School may at its absolute discretion withdraw an offer of employment for a senior manager or cease or terminate an appointment to the governing body if a waiver application becomes necessary or is rejected by the Charity Commission. The School is under no obligation to await the outcome of a Charity Commission waiver application before taking such action.

4.7 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. The School will arrange for the information contained in the Health Questionnaire to be reviewed by the School's medical advisor. 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's medical advisor has any doubts about an applicant's fitness the School 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.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a declaration of medical fitness confirming that there are no reasons, on grounds of mental or physical health, why they should not be able to discharge the responsibilities required by the role. If an applicant prefers to discuss this with the School instead, or to attend an occupational health assessment to consider their fitness for the role, they should contact HR Manager so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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.

5. Contractors, Agency Staff and employees of third parties (other than supply agencies)

The School must complete the same checks for contractors (and their employees) undertaking regulated activity at the School as it does for its own employees. The School requires written confirmation from the contractor that it has completed these checks on all of those individuals whom it intends will work at the School before any such individual can commence work at the School.

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 School will independently verify the identity of individuals supplied by contractors or an agency in accordance with section 4.1 above and requires the provision of the DBS disclosure certificate before those individuals can commence work at the School.

Temporary agency support workers which can include but is not limited to catering staff and/or taxi drivers, bus drivers, ISI staff, Young enterprise external staff, independent listeners, activity providers etc., will be required to have a letter from their employer confirming that all necessary vetting checks have taken place. They must also provide the enhanced DBS numbers and dates for such staff and if any adverse record is shown on the DBS, the School must be informed, and the Headmaster must make the final decision on whether or not that individual may offer his/her services to the School. These staff will also have their identity independently verified by the School upon their initial arrival on the School premises. All bus and taxi companies will be requested to ensure that all drivers wear photo ID cards while on duty with the School.

All agencies working under contract to the School will be made aware of their responsibilities to keep the School informed of any staff changes at the start of the contract and annually thereafter. The School will carry out regular checks on agency and contractors' personnel to ensure that information is up to date and compliant.

Builders and tradesmen employed to work at the School will be signed in at reception and will be accompanied to their place of work. Builders and Tradesmen who visit the School on a regular basis will be required to obtain DBS checks for their staff and the School will provide assistance and guidance where necessary. The sites of large building projects will be fenced with individual access and totally separated from the School campus. The employing contractor / site supervisor will be given a safeguarding brief at the start of the contract, during which they will be made aware of the School Safeguarding Policy and their responsibilities towards the pupils. The School will check regularly that such safeguards are being observed – for example self-certification of regular site staff, monitoring of visitors to site and no trespass out of the site compound.

6. Volunteers

The School will request an enhanced DBS disclosure and Children's Barred List information on all volunteers undertaking regulated activity with pupils at or on behalf of the School (the definition of regulated activity set out in section 4.3.2 above will be applied to all volunteers).

The School will request an enhanced DBS disclosure without Children's Barred List information on all volunteers who do not undertake regulated activity. This is likely to be because their volunteering duties are subject to regular, day to day supervision by a fully checked member of staff or by a volunteer who the School has deemed appropriate to supervise and ensure the safety of those pupils in their care.

Under no circumstances will the School permit an unchecked volunteer to have unsupervised contact with pupils.

It is the School's policy that a new DBS certificate is required for volunteers who will engage in regulated activity but who have not been involved in any activities with the School for three consecutive months or more. Those volunteers who are likely to be involved in activities with the School on a regular basis may be required to sign up to the DBS update service as this permits the School to obtain up to date criminal records information without delay prior to each new activity in which a volunteer participates.

In addition, the School will seek to obtain such further suitability information about a volunteer as it considers appropriate in the circumstances. This may include (but is not limited to the following):

- formal or informal information provided by staff, parents and other volunteers;
- character references from the volunteer's place of work or any other relevant source; and
- an informal safer recruitment interview.

7. Visiting speakers and the Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty Guidance requires the School to have clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or by pupils, are suitable and appropriately supervised.

The School is not permitted to obtain a DBS disclosure or Children's Barred List information on any visiting speaker who does not engage in regulated activity at the School or perform any other regular duties for or on behalf of the School.

All visiting speakers will be subject to the School's usual visitor's protocol. This will include proof of identification on arrival to the School Office, signing in and out at Reception, the wearing of a visitors' badge at all times and being escorted by a fully vetted member of staff between appointments. The line manager or staff member who has organised the visitor must complete a School Visitor form which will be kept by Human Resources.

The School will also obtain such formal or informal background information about a visiting speaker as is reasonable in the circumstances to decide whether to invite and / or permit a speaker to attend the School. In doing so the School will always have regard to the Prevent Duty Guidance and the definition of "extremism" set out in KCSIE which states:

"Extremism" is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations."

In fulfilling its Prevent Duty obligations the School does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or religious belief, sex or sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, disability or age.

7.1 Visitors who are not pupils of the school

Between 8am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday all visitors to the school **MUST** report to reception to be signed into school and be given a visitor's badge and escorted at all times.

Visitors to a boarding house outside 8am and 5.30pm **MUST** immediately report to the member of staff on duty within the boarding house so that they are aware of them visiting. Duty staff will then supervise the visit and will deem where it is appropriate for the visitor to be. For example, if other boarders are in the room and have gone to bed or may be changing, it is not appropriate for a visitor, even a parent, to be in the room.

7.2 Visitors of Staff

HR and SMT must be advised should any visitor want to stay overnight during term time in a boarding house or in onsite accommodation. This must be done by the completion of Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Supervision Plan for Regular Onsite Visitors.

Regular visitors to staff in boarding houses or in onsite accommodation who attend more than once a week or 4 times a month during term time are required to undertake an Enhanced DBS check.

Visitors in staff accommodation must not enter the boarding area of the house unless they are known to the school and are suitably vetted. It is the responsibility of the member of staff to ensure their visitors are aware of the importance of not engaging with pupils of the school. Staff must not host boarders in their accommodation while they have visitors without good cause to do so.

8. Policy on recruitment of ex-offenders

8.1 Background

The School will not unfairly discriminate against any applicant for employment on the basis of conviction or other details disclosed. The School makes appointment decisions on the basis of merit and ability. If an applicant has a criminal record this will not automatically bar them from employment with the School. Each case will be decided on its merits in accordance with the objective assessment criteria set out in paragraph 8.2 below.

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" except those received for an offence committed in the United Kingdom if it has been filtered in accordance with the DBS filtering rules (see section 4.3.1 above).

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 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.

8.2 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 applicant.

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.

8.3 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 Head of the School before a position is offered or confirmed.

If an applicant wishes to dispute any information contained in a disclosure, they may do so by contacting the DBS. In cases where the applicant would otherwise be offered a position were it not for the disputed information, the School may, 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.

8.4 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.

9. Whistleblowing and exit interviews

All staff are trained so that they understand they are expected and encouraged to raise concerns they have, whether related to the safeguarding and welfare of pupils, the conduct of staff or other matters, during the course of their employment in accordance with the School's policies (including

the whistleblowing policy, the safeguarding policy and the Staff code of conduct). Safeguarding children is at the centre of the School's culture and is accordingly considered formally during staff performance development reviews and appraisal and finally at an exit interview which are held with all leavers.

10. Referrals to the DBS and Teaching Regulation Agency

This policy is primarily concerned with the promotion of safer recruitment and details the pre-employment checks that will be undertaken prior to employment being confirmed. Whilst these are pre-employment checks the School also has a legal duty to make a referral to the DBS in circumstances where an individual:

- has applied for a position at the School despite being barred from working with children; or
- has been removed by the School from working in regulated activity (whether paid or unpaid), or has resigned prior to being removed, because they have harmed, or pose a risk of harm to, a child.

If the individual referred to the DBS is a teacher, the School may also decide to make a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency.

11. Queries

If an applicant has any queries on how to complete the application form or any other matter, he / she should contact the HR Manager in the first instance.

12. Shared responsibility

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that those who come to Bethany as employees or volunteers are recruited according to the above policy. Staff and volunteers are recruited in many aspects of school life and make initial contact through many members of staff. Therefore, all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, will be reminded, at the start of each term in staff meetings, of their shared responsibility, of the need to ensure that if they wish to bring anyone onto site for employment or as a volunteer, they must first contact the Human Resources Manager to gain advice and to set the recruitment process properly in motion. It will also be made clear that failure to follow this procedure represents a serious offence which is likely to have major disciplinary consequences for the member of staff who breached these conditions.

In addition, staff who regularly wish to recruit employees or volunteers in their areas of work (most specifically PE/Games, Activities, Music and Drama) will have their responsibilities specifically written into their job descriptions.

13. Suitability of another adult's resident on site

The school undertakes DBS checks on all adult's resident in onsite accommodation including children over 16 who are not pupils of school, this includes children over 16 of staff living in

boarding accommodation including those away at university. These checks are recorded on the single central register. All extended family members visiting staff living in boarding accommodation will be treated as visitors, those who are likely to stay regularly, i.e., weekly, must undergo a DBS check. The school will expect such family members who are resident onsite to sign an appropriate agreement which adheres to the school's expectations of people living on site.

A List of valid identity documents

Group 1: primary identity documents

- current valid passport
- biometric residence permit (UK)
- current driving licence photocard - full or provisional (UK / Isle of Man / Channel Islands and EEA)
- birth certificate - issued within 12 months of birth (UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands - including those issued by UK authorities overseas, such as Embassies, High Commissions and HM Forces)
- adoption certificate (UK and Channel Islands)

Group 2a: trusted government documents

- current driving licence photocard - full or provisional (all countries outside the EEA excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands)
- current driving licence paper version (UK / Isle of Man / Channel Islands and EEA; full or provisional)
- birth certificate - issued after time of birth (UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands)
- marriage / civil partnership certificate (UK and Channel Islands)
- immigration document, visa or work permit (issued by a country outside the EEA. Valid only for roles whereby the applicant is living and working outside of the UK. Visa / permit must relate to the non-EEA country in which the role is based)
- HM Forces ID card (UK)
- firearms licence (UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man)

All driving licences must be valid.

Group 2b: Financial and social history documents

- mortgage statement (UK or EEA) **
- bank / building society statement (UK and Channel Islands or EEA) *
- bank / building society statement (countries outside the EEA) *
- bank / building society account opening confirmation letter (UK)*
- credit card statement (UK or EEA) *
- financial statement - e.g., pension, endowment, ISA (UK)**
- P45 / P60 statement (UK and Channel Islands) **
- council tax statement (UK and Channel Islands) **
- letter of sponsorship from future employment provider (non-UK / non-EEA only; valid only for applicants residing outside the UK at the time of application; must be valid at time of application)
- utility bill (UK; not mobile telephone bill)*
- benefit statement - e.g., child benefit, pension (UK)*
- a document from central or local government/ government agency / local council giving an entitlement - e.g. from the Department for Work and Pensions, the Employment Service, HM Revenue & Customs, Jobcentre, Jobcentre Plus, Social Security (UK and Channel Islands) *
- EEA national ID card (must be valid at time of application)
- Irish passport card (cannot be used with an Irish passport; must be valid at time of application)
- cards carrying the PASS accreditation logo (UK and Channel Islands; must be valid at time of applications)
- letter from Head or College Principal (for 16-19-year olds in full-time education. This is only used in exceptional circumstances if other documents cannot be provided; must be valid at time of application).

Note

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