



DBS Policy Statement – Schools

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Date: 8th July 2024 – Version: 1.2

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Introduction

You are applying for a position in a school which involves working with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults or is a position of trust.

This post meets the requirements for a criminal record history check (DBS check, previously called a CRB check) under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order (as amended in 2013).

You are required to declare within your recruitment application whether you have any convictions (including spent convictions), cautions, reprimands or final warnings which would not be filtered from your DBS check.

This means you must declare the following requested on your recruitment application form:

- Cautions given less than 6 years ago (if you were over 18 at the time of caution);
- Cautions given less than 2 years ago (if you were under 18 at the time of caution);
- If you have more than one conviction, all convictions must be declared (all convictions will appear on the DBS Certificate, no conviction will be filtered);
- Convictions that resulted in a custodial sentence (regardless of whether served);
- Convictions given less than 11 years ago (if you were over 18 at the time of conviction);
- Convictions given less than 5.5 years ago (if you were under 18 at the time of conviction);
- Cautions and convictions relating to an offence from the list agreed by Parliament.

This list includes a range of offences which are serious, and which relate to sexual offending, violent offending and/or safeguarding.

For more information, please review List of offences that will never be filtered from a DBS certificate on the Government Website.

Any failure to disclose the appropriate information could result in the withdrawal of an offer of employment, dismissal or disciplinary action by the organisation you are applying to work for.

The information you provide will be treated in confidence and will not be considered by the recruiting manager until after an offer of employment has been made.

If you are successful in being appointed to the post, you will be required to apply for a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Guidance on how to do this will be provided following appointment.

Failure to comply with the request to apply for a DBS check will result in your conditional offer of appointment being withdrawn.

A DBS check will reveal any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings that are not subject to 'filtering' as listed above.

Information provided by you, or the Disclosure and Barring Service will be dealt with in a confidential manner in accordance with the DBS's Code of Practice.

You may view the Code of Practice on the DBS website or alternatively a copy is available on request.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working with us.

This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.

If you require any further information or advice regarding the disclosure process, please contact the HR Employment Services Team on hremploymentservicecentre@wigan.gov.uk or on 01942 827333.

Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders

As an organisation which uses the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, the school complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.

It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a DBS check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

For further information please review the Code of Practice for Code of Practice for Disclosure and Barring Service Registered Persons.

The school is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependents, age, physical or mental disability or offending background.

This is our written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is available to all applicants upon request.

We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.

We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.

A DBS check is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned.

For those positions where a DBS check is required, all application forms, job adverts, and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that a DBS check will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place about any offences or other matter(s) that might be relevant to the position.

Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to the withdrawal of an offer of employment.

We make everyone who is required to complete a DBS check aware of the existence of the DBS Registered Persons Code of Practice.

Policy Statement: Secure Storage, Handling, Use, Retention and Disposal of DBS Checks and Disclosure Information

General Principles

As an organisation using the DBS service to help assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust, the school complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice regarding the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosure information.

It also complies fully with its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosure information and has produced this written policy on these matters, which is available to those who wish to see it on request.

Storage and Access

Any paper-based Disclosure information is kept securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

Most Disclosure information is retained electronically within the e-Bulk system. Access to the information is strictly restricted by passwords and user profiles which are only allocated to nominated employees.

Handling

In accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997, Disclosure information is only passed to those who are authorised to receive it in the course of their duties. It is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.

Usage

Disclosure information is only used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Retention

Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made, we do not keep Disclosure information for any longer than is necessary. Throughout this time, the usual conditions regarding the safe storage and strictly controlled access will prevail.

Disposal

Once the retention period has elapsed, we will ensure that any paper-based Disclosure information is immediately and safely destroyed by use of a shredder and any electronic information removed from the system. All online data processed via the e-Bulk solution is removed from the system within 12 months.

However, notwithstanding the above, we may keep a record of the date of issue of a DBS Certificate, the name of the subject, the type of DBS Certificate requested, the position for which the DBS Certificate was requested, the unique reference number of the DBS Certificate and the details of the recruitment decision taken.

Statement of Fair Processing

All personal information provided will be treated with the strictest of confidence and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into effect on 25 May 2018.

Personal data will only be processed as part of administering a DBS application.

Any information provided will be securely held on a password protected database with access restricted to named individuals who require access as part of their normal duties.

Information will not be shared with any other parties outside of the employment contracts, except where required by Law, without the express consent of the individual.

If, as a Registered Body we utilise a third-party supplier who has access to DBS electronic application data, then this third party has been approved prior by the DBS to process and handle this data securely.

All information held following a DBS application will be securely destroyed when no longer required.

In line with the GDPR, an applicant will be provided with a copy of any information we hold on them, on request.

Further Information

Please contact the HR Employment Services Team for further information, advice and support hremploymentservicecentre@wigan.gov.uk or telephone 01942 827333 (Monday to Friday from 8:45am to 5:00pm)