

RECRUITMENT POLICY – TEACHING STAFF

Last update: May 2021

This document describes the recruitment policy for all teaching staff at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. All provisions of the Keeping Children Safe in Education (January 2020) are incorporated within this policy. A separate policy covers associate (non-teaching) staff.

1 **Opening Statement**

- 1.1 This policy will apply to the recruitment of all teaching staff.
- 1.2 Decisions concerning the need to recruit staff are delegated to the Headteacher by the Governing Body. All such decisions will be made in the context of the relevant curricular needs and financial circumstances.
- 1.3 Decisions concerning the remuneration for posts will be made in accordance with the Governors' Pay Policy.

2 **Equal Opportunities**

The governing body will abide by all relevant legislation and, in particular, will not discriminate on grounds of any of the protected characteristics listed in the 2010 Equality Act:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation.

The governing body will promote equality in all aspects of school life, particularly as regards all decisions on advertising of posts, appointing, promoting and paying staff, training and staff development.

3 **Advertising teaching posts**

3.1 **Determination of the need to advertise nationally, locally or internally**

- 3.1.1 National advertisements will be placed for most permanent posts which are newly created or in those cases where the previous post holder has taken up a new post. Such an advertisement will be placed on the eTeach website. For some senior positions adverts will also be posted on the Times Educational Supplement (TES) website.
- 3.1.2 In cases where a member of staff is employed on a fixed term contract for a post which then becomes available as a permanent post, that member of staff may be offered the permanent post without further advertising subject to approval by the Governors' Staffing and Finance Committee.
- 3.1.3 For fixed term posts, such as those to cover maternity leave, the advertisement will normally be placed on the eTeach website and in the school newsletter.
- 3.1.4 Where staff are invited to take on a management or leadership responsibility for a fixed term in an acting capacity, the acting post will be advertised internally.

3.2 Content of advertisements

Advertisements will specify the main subjects to be taught and/or the nature of any management responsibility, the start date of the appointment, whether the post is permanent or fixed term and, in the case of fixed term contracts, the end date of the contract.

The remuneration for the post will be expressed in terms of the applicable pay scales for teachers published by the DfE.

The closing date for applications will be stated. In most cases, the date will be two weeks after the expected date of the first appearance of the advertisement.

Advertisements for teaching posts will include the following sentences:

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Appointment will be subject to references which are satisfactory for the advertised post, enhanced DBS with barred list information, prohibition order, qualifications and identity checks

4 Applications

4.1 Process

Prospective applicants will respond to the advertisement by requesting or downloading further information, an application form and an equal opportunities monitoring form. The application and equal opportunities forms will be returned to the school by the specified closing date accompanied by a supporting letter. Other forms of curriculum vitae are not acceptable in place of a completed application form.

4.2 Applications received after the closing date

Applications received after the published closing date will not be considered unless there is clear evidence that the late receipt of the application has been caused by postal delay or a computer/technical problem. Such evidence would generally be an application with franking showing that it was posted first class at least one day before the published closing date.

5 Selection process

5.1 Long listing and requesting references

When a large number of applications are received, a long list of the most suitable candidates will be drawn as follows:

- 5.1.1 For the post of Headteacher, a panel of at least 5 Governors which will include the Chair of Governors;
- 5.1.2 For the post of Deputy Headteacher, representatives from the finance and staffing committee of the Governing Body and the Headteacher;
- 5.1.3 For other teaching posts, the Headteacher together with one or more members of the Leadership Team and/or the relevant Head of Subject as appropriate.

The long listing will be carried out by considering each application against an agreed set of criteria. This will detail essential and desirable qualifications, qualities and experience for the postholder.

References will be requested for all applicants on the long list. Referees will be asked to complete the school reference request form which asks for confirmation about the suitability to work with children and whether the applicant has been subject to any disciplinary procedures. Referees will also be asked to comment on the suitability of the candidate for the post taking into account the job title, the job description and the person specification.

In those cases where a small number of applications are received (generally fewer than 10), references may be requested for all applicants obviating the need for long listing. For posts where it is known that recruitment is likely to be difficult, references may be requested as the applications are received in order to reduce the time from the closing date to making the appointment.

5.2 Short listing and calling for interview

- 5.2.1 Once references have been received, a short list of candidates will be compiled and these candidates will be invited for interview. The shortlist will usually be compiled by a similar group to those involved in long listing.
- 5.2.2 Candidates will only be invited to interview once at least one satisfactory reference has been obtained which confirms that the referee knows of no reason why the candidate should not work with children. In most cases, two such references should be obtained
- 5.2.3 When the candidates are invited for interview, they will be given information concerning the interview, including the need to prepare for any demonstration lesson, presentations or other activities that may be required.

5.3 Interviews

- 5.3.1 In most cases, all candidates will be invited to attend for interview at the same time.
- 5.3.2 On arrival, candidates will be welcomed by the Headteacher who will outline the programme for the day, explain any particular circumstances concerning the post and provide a general overview of the school. The Headteacher will also inform the candidates the order in which they will take part in the various elements of the selection process.
- 5.3.3 During the morning, the candidates will have a tour of the school. This will be conducted by students. It will be made clear to the candidates that students conducting the tour will not be asked for their opinions about the candidates. The candidates will be shown around the school in small groups.
- 5.3.4 The candidates may be asked to give a demonstration lesson. If this is used as part of the selection process, the teaching group will be one which is not likely to present behavioural difficulties. In many cases, more than one teaching group will be involved and care will be taken to ensure that the teaching groups used provide similar opportunities for the candidates to demonstrate their teaching style and skills. The timetable and classes chosen will be constructed to avoid a candidate teaching the same lesson to a class as a previous candidate. Each lesson will be observed by an appropriate member of staff
- 5.3.5 For those posts which include a major management responsibility (Head of Year, Head of Subject, Leadership Group), the candidates may be asked to give a presentation about a management related topic. The presentation will be of 10 to 15 minutes duration
- 5.3.6 For some posts, the interview schedule will include one to one interviews with a member of the Leadership Team who is not a member of the final interview panel.
- 5.3.7 The formal interview panel will generally include:
 - For main and upper scale teaching posts the Headteacher, a Deputy/Assistant Headteacher and the relevant line manager. For posts with a significant area of responsibility, it may be appropriate to include a Governor on the panel;
 - For Assistant or Deputy Headteacher posts, usually two governors in addition to staff already listed;

- For Headteacher posts, three or more of the full governing body.

Wherever possible, there will be male and female members of the interview panel. The panel will convene before the start time for the interviews in order to agree the questions that the candidates will be asked.

- 5.3.8 For all posts, at least one person on the interview panel must have current Safer Recruitment accreditation.
- 5.3.9 When candidates attend for interview, they will be expected to provide:
- originals of the relevant certificates as proof of their qualifications where these are required for the post;
 - suitable proof of identity (driving licence photocard or passport);
 - proof of address – recent utility bill, bank or credit card statement.
- These will be checked by the Human Resources Manager.
- 5.3.10 Interviews should normally be of 20 to 30 minutes duration. This does not apply to the posts of Headteacher and other SLT members.
- 5.3.11 The core interview questions should be the same for each candidate. The only variation between candidates will be for those questions which refer directly to the application form, letter of application, references or issues that have arisen earlier in the selection process.
- 5.3.12 At the end of the interviews, the candidates should be asked if they have any questions for the panel.
- 5.3.13 The chair of the panel (normally the Headteacher) will then confirm the salary for the candidate and ask whether he or she is still a firm candidate for the post.

5.4 **Making the final selection**

- 5.4.1 The panel will make the final selection. The reasons for the unsuccessful candidates not being appointed will also be agreed so that the chair of the selection panel can provide feedback to those candidates.
- 5.4.2 The successful candidate will be formally offered the post and the salary level will again be confirmed. The offer will be made subject to:
- a satisfactory enhanced DBS and barred list check;
 - check that the candidate is not subject to a prohibition order using the Employer Access Online service;
 - the receipt of a completed health check questionnaire;
 - receipt of signed hard copies of references where these have not already been received.
 - A valid work permit for overseas candidates
 - Agreement to undertake safeguarding training as soon as practicable and within one month of the start of the contract.
- 5.4.3 The unsuccessful candidates will be informed of the decision and, wherever possible, they will each be offered feedback on their interviews. The successful candidate is not offered feedback.

6 **Confirming the appointment**

- 6.1 A letter confirming the offer of the post will be sent to the successful candidate on the next working day following the interview. The letter will ask the candidate to confirm their acceptance of the post and to state that it will be assumed that they will wish to contribute to the teachers' pension scheme unless they write specifically to the contrary. The letter will also reaffirm any conditions to which the appointment is subject ref 5.4.2 above.

- 6.2 Paperwork including a formal contract, bank details request, DBS check forms and other details will be sent to the successful applicant, either with the above letter or on receipt of the letter confirming acceptance.

7 Taking up the post

- 7.1 Candidates may not take up their post until the following have been completed:
- An enhanced DBS with barred list information check carried out and a member of staff with current Safer Recruitment training has seen the DBS certificate;
 - A check has been made that the candidate is not subject to a prohibition order using the Employer Access Online service;
 - Proof of identity has been recorded (ref 5.4.2);
 - Qualifications check has been recorded (ref 5.4.2);
 - Signed hard copies of references have been obtained and placed in the candidate's file;
 - A valid work permit has been received for overseas candidates;
 - The candidate's details have been added to the school's Single Central Record.
 - The candidate has confirmed that they have read the essential safeguarding documents available from the school's website.
- 7.2 The school reserves the right not to proceed with or to terminate employment with immediate effect if the DBS checks reveals convictions which have not been declared on the application form or if any of the documents referred to in section 7.1 have been falsified in any way.

Associated policies:

Safeguarding
Single Equality Scheme

Discussed and agreed by Finance and Staffing Committee: May 2021
Next Review: May 2023