



King's Schools

TAUNTON

Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy

Responsibility

Individual: Director of Finance and Operations

Review

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1. Introduction

King's Schools Taunton Ltd (King's College, Taunton and King's Hall 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 Appointments & Recruitment Policy are as follows:

- To ensure 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, gender reassignment, disability or age;
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, recommendations and guidance including the statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), 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.

Employees involved in the recruitment and selection of staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with and complying with the provisions of this policy. Additionally, these staff receive training in safer recruiting procedures.

All queries on the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy should be directed to the HR Manager.

An entry will be made on the School's Single Central Register for all current members of staff at the School, the Board of Governors and all individuals who work in regular contact with children including volunteers, supply staff and those employed as third parties.

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 and selection procedure

All applicants for employment 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 CV will not be accepted in place of the completed application form.

Applicants will receive a job description (and person specification if relevant) for the role applied for. Application forms, job descriptions and person specifications will be forwarded to applicants on request. The School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available to download from the School's website.

The applicant may 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.

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 (including but not limited to an EEA check using the Teacher Regulation Agency);
- where the position amounts to "regulated activity (see section 5.4 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 5.4 below) confirmation that the applicant is not named on the Children's Barred List¹;
- 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 5.7 below);
- confirmation that the applicant is not disqualified from working in connection with early or later years provision (if applicable, see section 5.5 below);
- verification of the applicant's medical fitness for the role (see section 4 below);
- verification of the applicant's right to work in the UK; and
- 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.

4. 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 if relevant) 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.

¹ 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.

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. 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, gender reassignment, disability or age.

5.1. 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 **Error! Reference source not found.** (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 (and proof of this) in accordance with KCSIE. 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).

Please note that original of the above documents are required. Photocopies or certified copies are not sufficient.

5.2. References

References will usually be taken up on short listed candidates 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 9 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, sickness² 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 9 below).

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.

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

Please note that in relation to references for support staff – if either one or both organisations/referees only provide a factual reference and/or refuses to answer the

² Questions about health or sickness records will only be included in reference requests sent out after the offer of employment has been made.

safeguarding question(s), then a third professional/character reference will be taken up as best practice. A friend can be used as a character reference as a final option but they must have known the applicant for more than five years.

5.3. Overseas checks

Where an applicant has worked overseas for three months or more within the last ten years, we will require them to provide a certificate of good conduct or equivalent from the police or other relevant authority in the country/countries they have worked. If the applicant has worked in a UK school since working overseas, this check will not be required. We reserve the right to require the applicant to provide local certification for overseas roles that were held more than ten years ago or for less than three months.

5.4. Criminal records checks

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 Schools 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:

- eleven years have elapsed since the date of the conviction;
- it did not result in a custodial sentence; and
- 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:

1. six years have elapsed since the date it was issued;
2. 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:

- five and a half years have elapsed since the date of the conviction;
- it did not result in a custodial sentence; and
- 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).

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:

- frequently, meaning once a week or more; or
- overnight, meaning between 2.00 am and 6.00 am; or
- satisfies the "period condition", meaning four times or more in a 30 day period; and
- 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.

The DBS disclosure certificate

The DBS now issues a 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 one week of it being received by the applicant. Original certificates should not be sent by post; instead applicants must bring the original certificate to the HR Manager within one week of it being 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 one week of the original disclosure certificate being received. Certified copies must be sent to the HR Manager. Where a certified copy is sent, the original disclosure

certificate must still be provided on the first working day. Employment will remain conditional upon the original certificate being provided and it being considered satisfactory by the School.

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.

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 overseas for a period of three months or more in the previous 10 years.

When requesting such information the School has regard to the 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.

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 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 may allow an applicant to commence work if they are considered suitable based on all of the information that has been obtained 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.

5.5. 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.

5.6. 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;
- the School Council (the School's governing body); 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.

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.

5.7 Disqualification from acting as a charity trustee or senior manager

5.7.1 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.

5.7.2. 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, Director of Finance and Operations and potentially other senior staff who report directly to the governors.

5.7.3 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.

5.7.4 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) the Register of Persons who have been removed as a charity trustee.

5.7.5 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 Schools are under no obligation to await the outcome of a Charity Commission waiver application before taking such action.

6. Childcare disqualification requirements

The Childcare Act 2006 (**Act**) and the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (**Regulations**) state that it is an offence for the School to employ anyone in connection with our early years provision (**EYP**) or later years provision (**LYP**) who is disqualified, or for a disqualified person to be directly involved in the management of EYP or LYP.

- EYP includes usual school activities and any other supervised activity for a child up to 1 September after the child's 5th birthday, which takes place on the school premises during or outside of the normal school day;
- LYP includes provision for children not in EYP and under the age of 8 which takes place on school premises outside of the normal school day, including, for example breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday clubs. It does not include extended school hours for co-curricular activities such as sports activities.

DUCA states that only those individuals who are employed directly to provide childcare are covered by the Regulations. "Childcare" means any form of care for a child, which includes

education and any other supervised activity for a child who is aged 5 or under. "Childcare" in LYP does not include education during school hours but does cover before and after school clubs.

Roles which will be covered by the Regulations are teaching and teaching assistant positions in EYP, and those which involve the supervision of under 8s in LYP. Those who are directly involved in the management of EYP and LYP include the Head, and may also include other members of the leadership team as well as those involved in the day to day management of EYP or LYP at the School.

DUCA contains an express statement that cleaners, drivers, transport escorts, catering and office staff are not covered by the Regulations.

Some roles at the School may involve the provision of childcare in EYP or LYP on an occasional basis. They will not automatically be within the scope of the Regulations and the School will therefore consider whether they do on a case by case basis. The Regulations only apply to a limited number of roles within the School but do extend beyond employees to governors and volunteers who carry out relevant work in EYP or LYP.

The grounds on which a person will be disqualified from working in connection with EYP or LYP are set out in the Regulations. They are not only that a person is barred from working with children (by inclusion on the Children's Barred List) but also include:

- having been cautioned (after 6 April 2007) for, or convicted of, certain criminal offences including violent and sexual criminal offences against children and adults whether committed in the United Kingdom or overseas;
- various grounds relating to the care of children, including where an order is made in respect of a child under the person's care;
- having been refused registration for the provision of childcare (including nurseries, day care and child minding or other childcare), having been disqualified from any such registration or having had that registration cancelled;
- having been refused an application for registration of a children's home or having had any such registration cancelled; or
- having been prohibited, restricted or disqualified from private fostering

All applicants to whom an offer of employment is made to carry out a relevant role in EYP or LYP will be required to complete a Self-Declaration Form confirming whether they meet any of the criteria for disqualification under the Regulations. The School will decide whether a role is relevant and within the scope of EYP or LYP by having regard to the guidance in DUCA. Employment with the School in any relevant role will be conditional upon completion of the Self-Declaration Form and upon the applicant not being disqualified. The School cannot permit any person who is currently disqualified to start work in a relevant role. The School also reserves the right at its absolute discretion to withdraw an offer of employment if, in the opinion of the School, any information disclosed in the Self-Declaration Form renders that person unsuitable to work at the School.

Applicants who have any criminal records information to disclose about themselves must also provide the following information:

- details of the order, restriction, conviction or caution and the date that this was made;
- the relevant court or body and the sentence, if any, which was imposed; and
- a copy of the relevant order or conviction.

Applicants are not required to disclose a caution or conviction for an offence committed in the United Kingdom if it has been filtered in accordance with the DBS filtering rules (see section 5.4 above).

For the avoidance of doubt the School does not require applicants to request any criminal records information directly from the DBS. The School only requires applicants to provide relevant information about themselves "to the best of their knowledge".

A person who discloses information which appears to disqualify them from working in a relevant role may apply to Ofsted for a waiver of the disqualification. The School may withdraw an offer of employment at its absolute discretion and is under no obligation to await the outcome of an Ofsted waiver application. If a waiver application is rejected the School will withdraw the conditional offer of employment.

The School will securely destroy any information which is provided by an applicant which is not relevant to the childcare disqualification requirements as soon as it is established that it is not relevant. Where a person appointed to a role at the School is found to be disqualified the School will retain any relevant information only for the period it takes for a waiver application to be heard and the decision communicated to the School, after which it will be securely destroyed.

After making this declaration staff in a relevant role are under an on-going duty to inform the School if their circumstances change in a way which would mean they subsequently meet any of the criteria for disqualification. Any failure to disclose relevant information now, or of a future change in circumstances, will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter and may lead to the withdrawal of a job offer or dismissal for gross misconduct.

7. Contractors and agency staff

Contractors engaged by the School must complete the same checks for their employees that the School is required to complete for its staff. The School requires confirmation that these checks have been completed before employees of the Contractor 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 staff supplied by contractors or an agency in accordance with section 5.1 above and will require the provision of the original DBS disclosure certificate before contractor or agency staff can commence work at the School.

8. 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 5.4 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.

9. 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 visitors' protocol. This will include signing in and out at Reception, the wearing of a visitor's badge at all times and being escorted by a fully vetted member of staff between appointments.

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, gender reassignment, disability or age.

The School reserves the right to obtain such information on any other person appointed to work for or at the School.

10. Policy on recruitment of ex-offenders

10.1. 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 10.2 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 5.4 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.

10.2. 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.

10.3. 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 and or one of the Directors of Finance and Operations 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.

10.4. 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. In particular, the School will:

- store disclosure information and other confidential documents issued by the DBS in locked, non-portable storage containers, access to which will be restricted to members of the School's senior management team;
- not retain disclosure information or any associated correspondence for longer than is necessary, and for a maximum of six months. The School will keep a record of the date of a disclosure, the name of the subject, the type of disclosure, the position in question, the unique number issued by the DBS and the recruitment decision taken;
- ensure that any disclosure information is destroyed by suitably secure means such as shredding; and
- prohibit the photocopying or scanning of any disclosure information without the express permission of the individual to whom the disclosure relates.

11. Retention of records

The School is legally required to undertake the above pre-employment checks. Therefore, if an applicant is successful in their application, the School will retain on their personnel file any relevant information provided as part of the application process. This will include copies of documents used to verify identity, right to work in the UK, medical fitness and qualifications. Medical information may be used to help the School to discharge its obligations as an employer e.g. so that the School may consider reasonable adjustments if an employee suffers from a disability or to assist with any other workplace issue.

This documentation will be retained by the School for the duration of the successful applicant's employment with the School. It will be retained in accordance with the School's retention of records policy after employment terminates.

If the application is unsuccessful, all documentation relating to the application will normally be confidentially destroyed after six months.

The same policy applies to any suitability information obtained about volunteers involved with School activities.

12. 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 Child Protection and 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 any exit interview which may be held with leavers.

13. 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.

14. 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.

Appendix 1 - List of Valid Identity Documents

Group 1 – Primary Trusted Identity Credentials

Document	Notes
Passport	Any current and valid passport
Biometric residence permit	UK
Current photo driving licence	UK/Isle of Man/Channel Islands (full or provisional)
Birth certificate - issued at time of birth	UK and Channel Islands – including those issued by UK authorities overseas, eg embassies, High Commissions and HM Forces
Adoption certificate	UK and Channel Islands

Group 2a: Trusted government documents

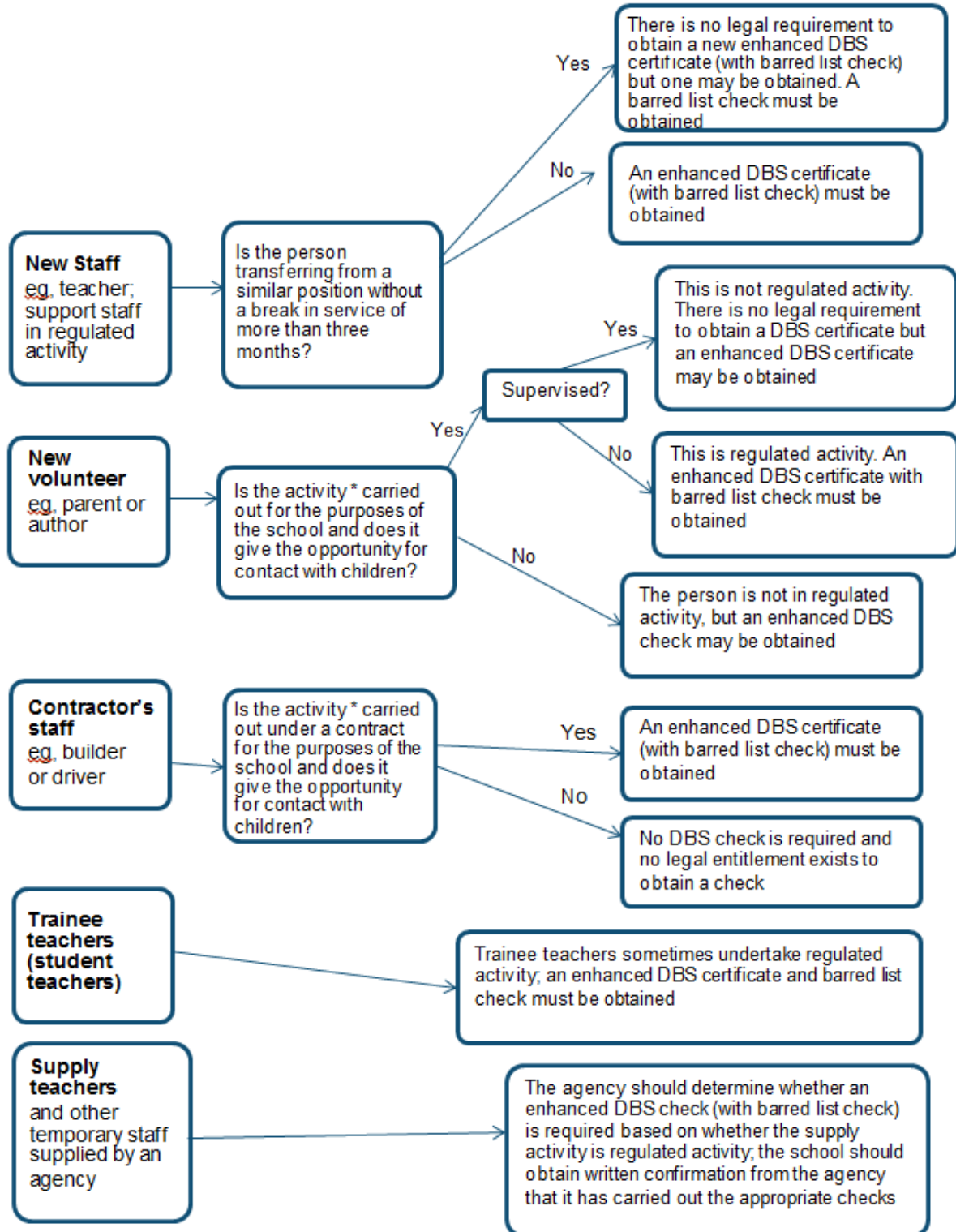
Document	Notes
Current driving licence – old-style paper version	UK
Current photo driving licence	Non-UK licences must be valid for up to 12 months from the date the applicant entered the UK
Birth certificate	(UK and Channel Islands; issued at any time after the date of birth by the General Registrar Office / relevant authority i.e. Registrars)
Marriage/civil partnership certificate	UK and Channel Islands
Adoption certificate	UK and Channel Islands
HM Forces ID card	UK
Firearms licence	UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man

Group 2b: Financial and social history documents

Document	Notes	Issue date and validity
Mortgage statement	UK or EEA	Issued in last 12 months
Bank or building society statement	UK and Channel Islands or EEA	Issued in last 3 months
Bank or building society account opening confirmation letter	UK	Issued in last 3 months
Credit card statement	UK or EEA	Issued in last 3 months
Financial statement, eg pension or endowment	UK	Issued in last 12 months
P45 or P60 statement	UK and Channel Islands	Issued in last 12 months
Council Tax statement	UK and Channel Islands	Issued in last 12 months
Work permit or visa	UK	Valid up to expiry date
Letter of sponsorship from future employment provider	Non-UK or non-EEA only - valid only for applicants residing outside of the UK at time of application	Must still be valid
Utility bill	UK – not mobile telephone bill	Issued in last 3 months
Benefit statement, eg Child Benefit, Pension	UK	Issued in last 3 months
Central or local government, government agency, or local council document giving entitlement, eg from the Department for Work and Pensions, the Employment Service, HMRC	UK and Channel Islands	Issued in last 3 months

Document	Notes	Issue date and validity
EU National ID card	-	Must still be valid
Cards carrying the PASS accreditation logo	UK and Channel Islands	Must still be valid
Letter from head teacher or college principal	UK - for 16 to 19 year olds in full time education - only used in exceptional circumstances if other documents cannot be provided	Must still be valid

Appendix 2 - KCSIE Sept 2019



* Activities listed under the guidance's definition of regulated activity and which are carried out 'frequently'

Appendix 3

Paragraph 18 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

- (1) The standard in this paragraph relates to the suitability of persons appointed as members of staff at the school, other than the proprietor and supply staff.
- (2) The standard in this paragraph is met if—
 - (a) no such person is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act where that person is or will be engaging in activity which is regulated activity within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to that Act;
 - (b) no such person carries out work, or intends to carry out work, at the school in contravention of a prohibition order, an interim prohibition order, or any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act, or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in either such direction;
 - (c) the proprietor carries out appropriate checks to confirm in respect of each such person—
 - (i) the person's identity;
 - (ii) the person's medical fitness;
 - (iii) the person's right to work in the United Kingdom; and
 - (iv) where appropriate, the person's qualifications;
 - (d) the proprietor ensures that, where relevant to any such person, an enhanced criminal record check is made in respect of that person and an enhanced criminal record certificate is obtained before or as soon as practicable after that person's appointment;
 - (e) in the case of any person for whom, by reason of that person living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining such a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person's suitability to work in a school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State; and
 - (f) in the case of staff who care for, train, supervise or are in charge of boarders, in addition to the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (e), the proprietor checks that Standard 14 of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools or, where applicable, Standard 14 of the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools, is complied with, and in the light of the information from the checks referred to in paragraphs (c) to (f) the proprietor considers that the person is suitable for the position to which the person is appointed.
- (3) The checks referred to in sub-paragraphs (2)(c) and (except where sub-paragraph (4) applies) (2)(e) must be completed before a person's appointment.
- (4) The checks specified in sub-paragraphs (2)(d), (e) and (f) do not need to be carried out where the new member of staff ("M") has worked in—
 - (a) a school or a maintained school in England in a position which brought M regularly into contact with children or young persons;
 - (b) a maintained school in England in a position to which M was appointed on or after 12th May 2006 and which did not bring M regularly into contact with children or young persons; or
 - (c) an institution within the further education sector in England or in a 16 to 19 Academy in a position which involved the provision of education or which brought M regularly into contact with children or young persons,during a period which ended not more than three months before M's appointment.

Appendix 4

Paragraph 21 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

- (1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor keeps a register which shows such of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (3) to (7) as is applicable to the school in question.
- (2) The register referred to in sub-paragraph (1) may be kept in electronic form, provided that the information so recorded is capable of being reproduced in legible form.
- (3) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is—
 - (a) in relation to each member of staff (“S”) appointed on or after 1st May 2007, whether—
 - (i) S’s identity was checked;
 - (ii) a check was made to establish whether S is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act;
 - (iii) a check was made to establish whether S is subject to any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction;
 - (iv) checks were made to ensure, where appropriate, that S had the relevant qualifications;
 - (v) an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained in respect of S;
 - (vi) checks were made pursuant to paragraph 18(2)(d);
 - (vii) a check of S’s right to work in the United Kingdom was made; and
 - (viii) checks were made pursuant to paragraph 18(2)(e), including the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained; and
 - (b) in relation to each member of staff (“S”), whether a check was made to establish whether S is subject to a prohibition order or an interim prohibition order, including the date on which such check was completed.
- (4) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation to each member of staff in post on 1st August 2007 who was appointed at any time before 1st May 2007, whether each check referred to in sub-paragraph (3) was made and whether an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained, together with the date on which any check was completed or certificate obtained.

Appendix 5

Risk assessment to be used where full checks cannot be completed before staff member is due to start

KING'S SCHOOLS TAUNTON LTD

Name of Member of Staff: _____

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF STAFF WHERE FULL CHECKS ARE NOT ABLE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE START DATE

RISK	CONTROL PROCEDURES	RISK LEVEL			FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
		H	M	L	
Poor recruitment process	Guidelines for recruitment are robust with the personal details and DBS clearance confirmed before appointment. Staff permitted to recruit have a checklist to follow.				Ensure staff who recruit follow the guidelines by reminders and training. HR Manager will remind staff on a regular basis.
Personal Identification inadequate	ALL personal identification MUST be confirmed at interview. Documents of unsuccessful candidates may be destroyed six months after interview in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. All documents of successful candidate must be entered on the recruitment check-list form and the whole forwarded to HR Manager for file.				Offer letters must not be sent to successful candidates until all ID checks are in place and all offers of employment must be conditional upon DBS clearance and acceptable references.
Medical fitness for employment is not confirmed	The medical fitness of a successful candidate MUST be confirmed before that candidate starts employment				Nil
The successful candidate has no right to work in the UK	The Right To Work MUST be confirmed at interview by submission of appropriate documentation				Nil
Qualifications not appropriate	Qualifications (where appropriate) are checked at interview.				Nil
For teachers only, they are subject to a prohibition order	Check that teachers are not subject to a prohibition order				Nil
References not received before start date or not appropriate	Submission of references are hastened if delayed. Employment MUST not commence until appropriate references have been received.				Nil
For managers in regulated activity, they are subject to a Section 128 Direction	Check that managers in regulated activity are not subject to a Section 128 Direction				Nil

RISK	CONTROL PROCEDURES	RISK LEVEL			CONTROL PROCEDURES
		H	M	L	
For teachers only, they are subject to an EEA Sanction	Check that teachers are not subject to an EEA Sanction				Nil
DBS Clearance must be requested before start date.	Immediately a candidate is selected for employment the DBS clearance process must commence. HR Manager is the administrative officer for this task. Employment may commence before the DBS clearance is confirmed but that employment MUST be conditional upon receipt of clearance. The prospective employee must submit a copy of the clearance within a week of receipt (unless extenuating circumstances exist - holiday).				If prospective employee is on holiday immediately prior to employment start date then the copy of DBS clearance must be submitted as soon after return as possible.
These control measures are not followed before an employee starts work.	The Recruitment Checklist is followed by all staff permitted to recruit. If the procedure is not followed then HR Manager will report to D/FinOps, HMKCT, HMKHS				The Recruitment Checklist to be implemented as soon as possible with initial training by HR Manager.

ASSESSED BY:

MEMBER OF STAFF:

.....
NAME

.....
NAME

.....
SIGNATURE

.....
SIGNATURE

.....
JOB TITLE

.....
JOB TITLE

.....
DATE

.....
DATE

Appendix 6 – Checklist for Appointing Staff

Name:	
Position Applied for:	

Date:

Full employment history provided by applicant /

Personal interview with a written record of issues, assessment and explanation received of any gaps in CV
/ /

References

At least two written references received

1st Reference *Reference requested* / /
(most recent employer) *Reference received* / /

2nd Reference *Reference requested* / /
 Reference received / /

If appropriate, telephone references to be obtained from all previous employers over the last five years. /

Right to Work in UK/ID document check / /
(see Appendix 1)

Original qualifications/certificates seen /

Provisional Job offer made / /

Provisional Job offer accepted /

DBS
Identity checked against DBS documentation /

Check requested / /

DBS Enhanced Disclosure received / /

Barred List 99 Check completed / /
/

OVERSEAS POLICE CHECKS (IF APPLICABLE) / /
/

**LETTER OF PROFESSIONAL STANDING FROM RELEVANT OVERSEAS REGULATING
TEACHER AUTHORITY (IF APPLICABLE)**

PROHIBITION ORDER

For teachers only, check that they are not subject to a Prohibition order / /

SECTION 128 DIRECTION

Those in a management position in regulated activity only / /

MEDICAL STATEMENT

Letter of consent forwarded to applicant re Contacting GP to obtain statement confirming good health / /

Completed letter of consent forwarded to GP / /
/

Statement received from GP confirming good health / /
/

CHILDCARE DISQUALIFICATION

Self-Declaration that they or household member not disqualified from working with Early Years/under 8 yrs) / /

Start date / /

Confirmation that employee is approved to start work at King's Schools Taunton:

I confirm that I have seen all relevant documentation, am satisfied that all relevant checks have been made and that the employee named above is approved to start work.

Signed:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Authorised signatories are Headmasters and Director of Finance and Operations

Record of changes

June 2016 – by MCMM

- References to KCSiE July 2015 updated to refer to KCSiE May 2016
- Flowchart updated

August 2017 – MCMM

- Minor formatting/clarification tweaks
- Para added on DBS Update Service

September 2018 – LMT

- References to KSCiE September 2018
- Data Protection
- Disqualification from acting as a charity trustee or senior manager
- Childcare Disqualification amendment

September 2019 – LMT

- Reference to KSCiE September 2019
- Minor amendment on Verification of identity, address and qualifications

September 2020 – LMT

- Reference to KSCiE September 2020

December 2020 – LMT

- Changes to the DBS filtering rules
- Change to EEA sanction check

February 2021 – LMT

- Change to EEA sanction check