

POLICY FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH PREVIOUS CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Tonbridge School complies fully with the 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.

Tonbridge 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/mental disability or offending background.

This written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is made available to all DBS applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.

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.

An enhanced disclosure is required for all positions at Tonbridge School. 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.

We encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to a designated person within Tonbridge School and we guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

Unless the nature of the position allows Tonbridge School to ask questions about your entire criminal record, we only ask about 'unspent' convictions as defined in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants are asked to disclose any unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings, and to note that the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975 (2013) provide that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected' and are not subject to disclosure to employers, and cannot be taken into account. Guidance and criteria on the filtering of these cautions and convictions can be found at the Disclosure and Barring Service website. www.gov.uk/dbs.

We ensure that all those in Tonbridge School who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.

We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a DBS check with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

Having a previous unspent conviction, caution, reprimand or warning will not necessarily bar an applicant from working at Tonbridge School: each case will be assessed on its own merits with regard to the nature and date of the offence or offences, the punishment received, and the appointment applied for.