

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS

RE: CONVICTIONS AND “SPENT” CONVICTIONS OF A CRIMINAL NATURE

You will appreciate that the Education Authority must be particularly careful to enquire into the character and background of applicants for appointment to posts involving contact with children under the age of 18. It is therefore essential that, in making your application, you disclose whether you have ever been convicted of a criminal offence or cautioned and, if so, for what offence(s). Because of the nature of the work for which you are applying, this post is exempt from the provisions of Section 4(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders 1974 (exceptions) Order 1975 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendments) Order 1986, the Police Act 1997 as amended by Part V of the Protection of Children Act 1999. The fact that conviction/caution(s) have been recorded against you will not necessarily debar you for consideration for this appointment.

You must, therefore, answer the question on the application form: “have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence or cautioned?” (please answer “yes” or “no”). If the answer is “yes”, you must give details which may, if you wish, be enclosed in a separate, sealed envelope marked ‘confidential’ and attached to the application.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Home Office, all successful candidates for posts where there is to be contact with children will be the subject of a request to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) which provides details of a person’s criminal records including convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer (PNC). The Disclosure will also contain details from lists held by the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). An Enhanced Disclosure may also contain information held by local police forces.

The successful candidate must complete the CRB disclosure application form and forward it to the School with the appropriate documentation, as outlined in the application form. Any information given will be completely confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies. The object of this Notice is not, in any way, to reflect upon applicants’ integrity but it is necessary to protect the public and the Local Education Authority.

Acceptance of an offer of appointment will be deemed to be acceptance that such an investigation may take place. Applicants are informed that providing false information is a disciplinary matter and may result in summary dismissal.

A copy of this notice will be sent to your referees.

NOTICE TO REFEREES

The above notice has been given to the applicant who has given your name as a Referee. The effect of the exemption mentioned in the notice is to make it possible for you to reveal any information you may have concerning convictions which would otherwise be considered as ‘spent’, in relation to this application and which you consider relevant to the applicant’s suitability for employment. Any such information will be kept in strict confidence and used only in consideration of the suitability of this applicant for a position where such an exemption is appropriate.

Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders

In accordance with the Criminal Records Bureau Code of Practice this policy is made available to all Disclosure applicants at the outset of the recruitment process. The full CRB Code of Practice is available at www.disclosure.gov.uk.

- As an organisation which uses the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure service, the Governing Body of Impington Village College complies fully with the CRB Code of Practice and undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
- We meet the requirements in respect of exempted questions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, all job applicants will be subject to a criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau before the appointment is confirmed. This will include details of convictions cautions and reprimands, as well as 'spent' and 'unspent' convictions. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position.
- We are committed to the fair treatment of applicants, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
- We 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 Disclosure will only be requested from the CRB for those positions where a Disclosure is required. All application forms and recruitment information will contain a statement that a Disclosure 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. This information should be sent under separate, confidential cover. The information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
- 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 Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
- We ensure that people at the school who are involved in the recruitment process have access to professional advice to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working at the school. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.