



Zest Academy Trust

Recruitment and selection policy

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Person Responsible: COO

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Zest Academy Trust, Waterloo Road, Blackpool, FY4 3AG
T 01253 315370 E admin@zestacademytrust.co.uk W www.zestacademytrust.co.uk

CEO Mark Hamblett

Registered in England No. 8087508 Company Limited by Guarantee

Information

The purpose of the recruitment and selection policy is to establish the principle of fair and open competition within Zest Academy Trust and to ensure consistency and transparency in all aspects of the recruitment and selection process. All staff are required to follow the rules set out within this policy document.

Exceptionally there are times when owing to short-term operational needs, exceptions are made to the policy. This is due to the sometimes unpredictable nature of recruitment need. All such cases should be approved by the CEO.

Aims

Recruitment of the right people is critical to the Trusts success. This policy aims to ensure that, when vacancies arise, we recruit the best people available to fill those posts.

Mindful of this overall aim the Trust also aims to ensure that

- Our recruitment processes are streamlined to ensure that good candidates are not deterred or find alternative opportunities because of administrative delays;
- Recruitment costs are kept to a minimum consistent with our need to recruit the best people;
- The total cost of staffing does not exceed the proportion of overall budget determined annually by Trustees;

All vacancies must have appropriate job descriptions and person specifications. Applicants for posts will be short-listed and selected according to their ability to meet the essential/desirable requirements of the person specifications and core duties of the job descriptions.

The Trust is committed in all matters, and particularly in its role as an employer, to all the conditions laid down by the Equality Act 2010.

Scope

This policy applies to the recruitment and selection of all Zest Academy Trust staff.

All employees involved at any stage of the recruitment and selection of staff should be aware of and adhere to the contents of this policy and procedure.

Any external consultants, recruitment agencies or external experts who assist in the recruitment process must act in accordance with this policy and procedure. The appointing manager is responsible for providing such external parties with this policy.

The measures described within this policy are applied to any adult who works with children under 18 years of age.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust has nominated staff, trustees and governors who have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training. The Trust ensures that each interviewing panel has at least one appropriately trained panel member.

The Recruitment Process

Job Description and Person Specification

Each advertisement lays down the role, responsibilities and accountabilities for each position that is being advertised. The job description will be in the following format;

- Place of work
- Title of the position
- Role Profile Grade and Pay range
- General Professional Responsibilities
- Applicable contract terms
- Particular Responsibilities

The person specification will reflect the skills, aptitudes and knowledge required to undertake the tasks and responsibilities of the job description as well as experiences and competencies. Each person specification will be defined as either;

- Essential
- Desirable

All personal qualities or circumstances are directly relevant and essential to the job advertised and promote equality and avoid discrimination.

Advertising

Adverts will be placed with the intention of maximising the relevant audience for the advertisement in the most cost effective medium. Online advertising will be used in preference to print advertising where it is deemed to not impact adversely on the likely audience for the advertisement.

As part of the Trusts commitment to equal opportunities in recruitment advertisements will not be confined unjustifiably to those areas or publications which would exclude or disproportionately reduce the numbers of applications from particular minority groups.

The advertisement will clearly include;

- Job Title
- Name and contact of the Trust and academy
- Salary and / or profile grade
- Hours per week (including INSET days if appropriate)
- Shortlisting date
- Preferred start date
- Details of the job
- Closing date
- Where application packs are available from
- Safeguarding and equality statement

Applications Forms

Applicants are required to complete an application form at the initial stage of the recruitment process. Each application form asks for identifying information, such as, name, address, qualifications, previous employment and referees (see employment of ex-offender's policy).

Each applicant will be required to sign the form to state that to the best of their knowledge and belief the contents are true and accurate and that they accept that if they are appointed and it is subsequently found that they have been untruthful in their application, they will be subject to disciplinary procedures including dismissal.

Applicants are also reminded that, in order to satisfy the safer recruitment process and discrimination legislation, all sections of the application form must be completed in full.

Each applicant will need to give the names, addresses and status of two professional referees, one of which should be from a current/most recent employer. Applicants with no previous paid work experience, references should be from their latest or current educational establishment, or from any appropriate voluntary work that they have been involved in. All references will be taken up after shortlisting but before interview. In exceptional circumstances a risk assessment may be undertaken if only one professional referee is provided.

Application Packs

In order to maximise response recruitment packs will be made available on the Trust website or available by post for applicants upon request. The pack will include:

- A letter
- Job description/Person specification;
- Role profile (if applicable)
- Application form (including explanatory notes)
- Equal opportunities monitoring form
- Trust prospectus

Short listing and selection

The criteria for short listing and for selection will match those of the job and person specifications to ensure that the short listing and selection is carried out fairly and systematically.

The short-listing panel will identify how well applicants meet each of the essential criteria. Desirable criteria may then be used to reduce large numbers of applicants who appear to meet all the essential criteria. In addition, the panel will also ensure that there are no unexplained gaps in employment history.

The shortlisting panel will then where possible create a short list of candidates to be called for interview.

Online searches - SHORLISTED CANDIDATES ONLY

The Trust is committed to ensuring that safeguarding is a top priority; therefore, in line with KCSIE, the school will carry out online searches on shortlisted candidates as part of their due diligence. Online searches solely aim to help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which the school may want to explore with the applicant at interview.

Online searches will be conducted on shortlisted candidates only, and only where the school considers this appropriate. The Trust will consider any potential risks of online searches, e.g. unlawful discrimination or invasion of privacy, and will be clear on the reasons that online searches are being conducted. Online searches will only examine data that is publicly available.

Online searches will be carried out by an individual who is independent of the recruitment process to minimise the risk of bias or discrimination and to ensure that only relevant information is considered. The person responsible for carrying out online searches will have due regard to Part three of KCSIE.

The online search process may include searching for the candidate by name via search engines and social media, such as:

- Google
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Tik Tok
- You Tube

When carrying out searches of shortlisted candidates' online presence, the school will look out for indicators of concern, such as:

- Inappropriate behaviour, jokes or language.
- Discriminatory comments.
- Inappropriate images.
- Drug or alcohol misuse.
- Anything that suggests the candidate may not be suitable to work with children.

Any concerns will be addressed during the interview process The Trust will ensure that candidates are given an opportunity to discuss any concerns raised by the online search.

Interviews

The appropriate assessment methods may include one or more of the following:

- Time, date and venue of interview details
- Structured interview(s); formal and informal;

- Activities they will need to take part in, for example unseen presentation or in-tray exercise
- Presentations or “teaching” simulations;
- Practical assessments (e.g. to assess technical capability).

Upon arrival at interview all documentation will be checked.

There should be a set format (including interview questions) for each candidate to ensure that all candidates have an opportunity to present themselves and so that responses at interview can be fairly compared. The interview will close with the chair of the panel as each candidate if they are still a firm candidate for the position. After all candidates have been seen the panel will discuss the suitability of each candidate and make their decisions.

All candidates, successful or otherwise will be notified and feedback offered. Successful candidates will receive formal notification and advised of what checks and clearances will be required prior to an appointment being confirmed.

The Trust retains all interview notes for 6 months from the date of the interviews.

Safeguarding of appointments

The Trust undertakes to comply fully with the Safer Recruitment practices as determined by the Department for Education and other government bodies. These are in place so that robust efforts are made to prevent unsuitable or unqualified persons from working with children. These will include:

- confirmation of Identity processes, including dates of birth and National Insurance registration
- Proof of original certificates of Qualifications
- Two relevant references
- Proof of right to work in the UK
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check – including enhanced checks where appropriate (see notes below).
- Teachers will be checked against the Prohibited Teachers List.
- Section 128 check.
- Disqualification under childcare act 2006

As an organisation using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure service to assess applicants’ suitability for positions of trust, the Federation Trust complies fully with

the DBS Code of Practice. We undertake not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a disclosure on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

The Trust 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.

All posts require Disclosure and Barring clearance and an application for this 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 the Trust and we guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process, (see employment of ex-offender's policy).

The data protection

In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, all personal data obtained in the course of the recruitment process (applications, references, interview notes, test scores, etc.) with the exception of data which is transferred to the appointee's personal file, will be kept in a secure place for a period of six months, at that time it will be securely destroyed.

Induction

All members of staff should have an induction. The purpose being: -

- Confirm conduct
- Support Individuals
- Provide training and information
- Opportunity to recognise concerns and issues

All employees should sign a code of conduct to say they have read, understood and will comply with it. There are also a number of other written documents which will be available with this review that refer to the various codes of conducts which should give staff the information on the required appropriate behaviour.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis.

This policy is intended to meet the aims set out above, in summary that we recruit the best people, for the best value for money and ensure we meet all of our equalities duties. The policy will be evaluated on the basis of metrics designed to measure the extent to which these three broad aims are met.