

Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure

Version 5



NCLT HQ



New College Bradford



New College Doncaster



New College Pontefract



Brinsworth Academy



Dinnington High School



Wingfield Academy



Anston Greenlands



Redscope



Thorpe Hesley

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1.0 Introduction and Aims

1.1 This policy aims to support the following commitments:

- New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) realises it can only achieve its aims through the expertise, dedication and creativity of its staff and its overall performance will be determined by the quality of their work, therefore the Trust is committed to ensuring the best possible candidate for each post is recruited based on merit alone.
- The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and expects all staff, workers and volunteers to share this commitment. As such, we will comply with safer recruitment best practice.
- NCLT is committed to providing a safe environment for all, free from discrimination on any ground and from harassment at work (including sexual harassment). The recruitment and selection process will be monitored and carefully structured to ensure that they are non-discriminatory and promote good practice. Further details are available in relevant policy documents on our website.

1.2 The Trust's approach to recruitment and selection of staff aims to:

- Provide a professional and cost-effective recruitment and selection service.
- Promote good practice, including equality and diversity and safeguarding issues.
- Ensure fair and consistent treatment of all applicants.
- Attract sufficient applicants of a high quality.
- Provide continuity in the teaching and support for students and recognise the urgency of their needs.
- Present candidates with a positive image of the Trust and its schools and colleges (including unsuccessful applicants who may be future "customers" or employees).
- Ensure that the best candidate for the post is recruited to continue to deliver a high quality learning experience or service.
- Give successful applicants a clear understanding of the Trust and what will be expected of them.
- Reduce the risk of making the wrong selection decision which can be expensive and detrimental to the Trust.
- Reduce the risk of any claims of discrimination during the recruitment and selection process, which can potentially incur costs to the Trust and leave a negative public perception.

1.3 Advice and support for line managers on the implementation of this policy is available from the Human Resources Department at any time. Staff involved in the recruitment and selection process will be provided with appropriate training.

1.4 This policy is made available to all potential applicants via the Trust website, internal SharePoint site and is also available on request from the Human Resources Team.

2.0 Safer Recruitment

- 2.1 Following safer recruitment practices helps deter, reject or identify individuals who might pose a risk of harm to students or are otherwise unsuitable to work with young people. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students is of paramount importance to us and, as such, this policy incorporates safer recruitment practices as outlined in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.
- 2.2 The Trust will keep a record of all pre-employment and vetting checks on a Single Central Record, in line with statutory guidance in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.
- 2.3 Safer recruitment means considering issues relating to the protection and safeguarding of young people and promoting their welfare at every stage of the process. Whilst we actively promote equality of opportunity and are committed to the fair treatment of our staff, potential staff or users of our services, the Trust will operate in line with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022).

3.0 Recruitment of Ex-offenders

- 3.1 The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (and amendments) ensures those people who have been convicted of a criminal offence in the past are not unfairly discriminated against when seeking appropriate employment.
- 3.2 New Collaborative Learning Trust has a duty of care to protect the well-being of our students. As the job for which you are applying involves substantial opportunity of access to young people, candidates should declare all cautions and convictions (including those 'spent'), unless they are classified as 'protected' under the Act.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-guidance-on-the-rehabilitation-of-offenders-act-1974>
<https://check-when-to-disclose-caution-conviction.service.gov.uk/steps/check/kind>
- 3.3 The Trust asks all applicants to voluntarily provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. This information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process. It will be treated in strict confidence, will be securely stored and kept for only as long as is necessary.
- 3.4 This policy is made available to all applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.
- 3.5 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, where appropriate. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
- 3.6 Having a criminal record will not necessarily prevent candidates from working at NCLT. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of offences. Candidates will have the opportunity for an open and measured discussion on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position.

The Trust will consider the following factors before reaching a recruitment decision:

- Whether the conviction or 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.

- 3.7 If the post involves some driving responsibilities, it is the Trust's normal policy to consider it a high risk to employ anyone who has been convicted of drink driving.
- 3.8 Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position, could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment or disciplinary action. The Trust will discuss any matter revealed in a disclosure with the applicant before withdrawing.
- 3.9 The Trust complies with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. We do not discriminate unfairly against any subject of a disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed. We make every subject of a DBS disclosure aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and make a copy available on request.

4.0 Job Analysis and Authorising Vacancies

- 4.1 The Trust Human Resources Team uses a Recruitment Checklist to track each stage of the recruitment process to ensure all vital steps are carried out.
- 4.2 When a vacant post is identified, or a new post is created, the Principal/Headteacher/ relevant senior leader will decide whether or not there is a vacancy to be filled (should there be a change in duties, opportunity to restructure work in the department, number of hours required etc.) and will complete an electronic Request to Recruit Form to be authorised by their Executive Director, prior to liaising with their HR Representative regarding the recruitment campaign.
- 4.3 If the request is approved, the HR Representative, liaising with the appropriate line manager(s), will draw up or update a Job Description and Person Specification, using the Trust standard layout. The Job Description should include reference to the responsibility the role has for safeguarding students.
- 4.4 The HR Representative will liaise with the managers concerned (this may be the line manager/senior manager) to set dates for shortlisting and interviewing for the vacancy (for example - dates, format of interviews, etc.).

5.0 Advertising and Application Packs

- 5.1 All posts will usually be advertised internally. Vacancies may also be advertised externally using the appropriate media and giving consideration to the costs involved. The

Headteacher/Principal/appropriate senior leader will authorise any paid advertising media for their site. The HR Representative will draft an appropriate advertisement using the relevant setting standard layout, liaising with line manager(s) as appropriate and approved by the Headteacher/Principal/appropriate senior leader. All adverts will include a safeguarding statement, including DBS information, and a statement confirming the Trust's commitment to equality of opportunity.

- 5.2 The HR Representative will liaise with the Marketing Team to arrange for application packs and supporting documentation to be available on the website (and in printed format if requested) and to ensure appropriate links are on social media.
- 5.3 CVs will not be accepted as a suitable method of application for a position within the Trust. Only our standard application form will be accepted, in line with safer recruitment guidance.

6.0 Shortlisting Applications and Inviting Candidates for Interview

- 6.1 Please note: the shortlisting panel should be the same individuals as those on the interview panel. At least one member of the selection panel should be trained in safer recruitment.
- 6.2 Details of the shortlisting date and panel and the interview date and panel should be included on the initial recruitment request form which will enable the HR Representative to send out diary invites to the relevant individuals involved in both shortlisting and interviewing.
- 6.3 The Human Resources Representative will send a shortlisting pack via OneDrive to each of the shortlisting panel which includes the following:
 - Job Description and Person Specification.
 - Advert.
 - Application Forms.
 - Shortlisting Grid (to be fully completed along with specific interview details section overleaf) – (See Appendix 1 and 2).
 - Example questions for tailoring.
- 6.4 The shortlisting panel should work individually to prepare their own provisional shortlist, making relevant notes and scoring each candidate using the shortlisting grid provided. Applicants will be shortlisted by considering how closely they fit the criteria set out within the Person Specification, along with any additional information given to enhance the quality of the application in terms of what the applicant can offer to the Trust.
- 6.5 The selection panel will ideally meet as a group to produce a final shortlist of applications. The line manager will be responsible for submitting the final shortlist to Human Resources. At this stage, applications should be scrutinised and any discrepancies or anomalies should be noted and raised with the applicant in advance or at interview, as appropriate. Any discrepancies should be relayed to the Principal/Headteacher/relevant senior leader.

- 6.6 We are committed to ensuring that all candidates who declare a disability or long-term health concern are invited for interview if they meet all of the essential criteria in the Person Specification. It is the candidates' responsibility to declare this on their application form in order for this to happen. Details of this will not be shared with the shortlisting panel prior to shortlisting, the Human Resources Representative will flag this up with the panel if the candidate is not shortlisted.
- 6.7 The Human Resources Representative will contact the shortlisted candidates inviting them to take part in the selection process. Candidates will be provided with details of what the selection process will involve and will be asked if they need any special arrangements to be put in place to enable them to attend the selection process. Candidates will be sent the Confidential Disclosure form to complete and return prior to interview.
- ~~6.8~~ The Human Resources Representative will carry out online checks for all shortlisted candidates in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance, bringing any concerns to the attention of their Headteacher/Principal/relevant senior leader initially.
- 6.9 The Human Resources Representative will write to referees requesting references on the shortlisted candidates using the Trust standard form (where candidates have indicated consent for references to be sought at this stage). References received will be verified by the Human Resources Representative.
- 6.10 The line manager should ensure the completed shortlisting grids, interview details and tailored interview questions are returned to the Human Resources Representative promptly.

7.0 Organising and Conducting Interviews (including any testing or activities to be undertaken)

- 7.1 It is the responsibility of the line manager to organise the activities for the recruitment and selection day. (This can be recorded in the interview details on the reverse side of the shortlisting grid, with support from the Human Resources Representative). This may include:
- Deciding what each candidate will teach and to which specific class.
 - Organising senior leadership involvement as appropriate.
 - Organising students/staff for a college tour.
 - Organising staff to support the logistics of the day, e.g. moving candidates from place to place.
 - Organising staff to conduct lesson observations.
 - Organising staff to join candidates for lunch.
 - Arranging for any technical equipment/support needed for lesson observations.
 - Organising any activity that candidates will be asked to do on the day.
- 7.2 The Human Resources Representative will prepare an interview schedule for distribution to interviewers. The Human Resources Representative will book appropriate rooms to conduct the interview/tests.

- 7.3 The selection process will normally involve candidates participating in tests relevant to the role on offer (for example – delivering a presentation/lesson to a group/class or completing a work-related assessment such as an in-tray exercise). The Human Resources Representative will ensure that relevant adjustments are put in place for any candidate who has requested special arrangements.
- 7.4 Candidates will usually take part in a traditional face-to-face panel interview. The interview panel will be provided with copies of candidates' application forms. The Chair of the interview panel will be provided with copies of references received on candidates as part of the recruitment day pack. Wherever possible the panel(s) will comprise of a mix of gender.
- 7.5 It is the responsibility of the line manager/lead manager to review standardised questions for the interview in consultation with other members of the interview panel and return these to their HR Representative in good time for amending. The questions should ideally be competency-based questions in order to elicit the best possible response from candidates.
- 7.6 All candidates will be asked the same questions, as agreed by the interview panel, using supplementary questions as appropriate. A safeguarding question and an equality and diversity question will be asked for every post. The panel will make relevant notes on each candidate on the paperwork provided. During the interview all candidates will be given the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.
- 7.7 The Chair of the interview panel will close the interview informing them of the next steps in the procedure and checking whether or not the candidate is still interested in the post.
- 7.8 All staff involved in the recruitment and selection process must complete the issued documentation relating to the assessment of individuals interviewed and reasons for not appointing where applicable. Following interviews, all documentation must be returned promptly to the Human Resources Representative and documentation will be securely stored for twelve months, after which it will be securely destroyed. Information relating to the successful candidate will be placed on their personnel file.

8.0 Deciding which Candidate to Appoint and Making an Offer of Employment

- 8.1 After the final interview has taken place the interview panel will review the results of the selection process, results from tests and references received. The interview panel will discuss each candidate to enable them to reach a consensus on the candidate to be offered employment. During this stage, the Human Resources Representative will provide guidance and support, as required.
- 8.2 The Chair of the interview panel will contact the successful candidate within 24 hours and make a provisional offer of employment (having agreed the salary to be offered with the Principal/Headteacher/appropriate senior leader), ensuring the candidate knows the offer is subject to receipt of satisfactory pre-employment checks.
- 8.3 The Human Resources Representative will prepare a letter to the successful candidate (authorised by the Principal/Headteacher/appropriate senior leader) confirming the verbal

offer and basic terms and conditions of employment, highlighting the offer is subject to pre-employment checks as follows (if they have not already been carried out):

- The receipt of two satisfactory references, which should be submitted on the Trust standard pro-forma wherever possible and one must be from the current/most recent employer (or the last time the candidate worked with children if not currently doing so).
- Verification of identity, including birth certificate wherever available.
- Satisfactory assessment of fitness to work.
- Prohibition check.
- Section 128 check (where appropriate) for those managing the institution.
- Evidence of a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check (including Barred List Check).
- Evidence of the right to work in the UK.
- Further checks if the candidate has lived or worked outside the UK, where deemed appropriate by the Trust.
- Evidence of qualification certificates required for the position (and professional status where applicable).
- Evidence of verified teaching results (for teaching staff only).

An offer letter may be revoked if these pre-employment checks are not satisfied. The Human Resources Representative is able to offer assistance in completing the new starter forms if needed and upon request.

In any case, where a reference has not been obtained on the preferred candidate prior to interview, the Human Resources Representative will ensure that it is received and scrutinised and any concerns brought to the attention of the Principal/Headteacher/relevant senior leader.

- 8.4 All pre-employment checks will be evidenced by completion of the Single Central Record.
- 8.5 The new employee will be asked to confirm their acceptance of the post by signing and returning the slip attached to the letter offering employment.
- 8.6 The offer of employment will only be confirmed via a Contract being issued once satisfactory checks and information, as outlined above, have been received.

9.0 Informing Unsuccessful Candidates of the Outcome of the Selection Process

- 9.1 All candidates who were shortlisted and interviewed will be contacted as soon as possible by the line manager and informed that they will not be offered employment on this occasion. All candidates who were interviewed are invited to receive verbal feedback on their performance during the selection process if they wish.

10.0 Induction

10.1 The Human Resources Representative will arrange for new starter and induction information to be made available to the new member of staff.

10.2 All successful candidates will take part in an induction process. It is the responsibility of the relevant line manager to ensure that this induction takes place. An induction may include:

- Induction Checklist.
- Policies and procedures.
- Online/face to face mandatory training.
- Details of any other induction programme arrangements, as appropriate
- Induction Review Meetings.

11.0 Use of Agency Staff/Casual Workers

11.1 The Human Resources Representative will advise on the use of agency staff/casual workers, as appropriate. Agency staff/casual workers will usually be used by the Trust on a short-term basis only. If necessary, a member of the Human Resources Team will make arrangements to contact the appropriate agencies/casual workers to assess availability.

11.2 The Human Resources Representative will support schools/colleges to secure the most suitable agency staff/casual workers by sourcing CVs/references and liaising with the relevant line manager as appropriate. Alternatively, an application process may be followed where the length of assignment for a casual worker or volunteer is longer.

11.3 Appropriate vetting and pre-employment checks will be carried out by the Human Resources Representative where relevant and the Trust will expect supply agencies to comply with safer recruitment procedures, seeking written confirmation from the agency to this effect.

12.0 Use of Volunteers

12.1 Discuss with your line manager and your Human Resources Representative if you are considering the placement of a volunteer (this should be done before any agreement is made with the volunteer). The volunteer should complete the specific application form and the Human Resources Representative will advise on the appropriateness of vetting checks.

See also: DBS and Vetting Policy, available on SharePoint or from Human Resources.

Appendix 1

Shortlisting Grid – Teaching Posts Teacher of - DATE

Name of Staff Member Shortlisting:

Using the Ofsted gradings:

1 – Outstanding

2 – Good

3 – Requires Improvement

4 – Inadequate

Please rate how each candidate has met the criteria in the Person Specification (included in pack sent via OneDrive).

<u>Attributes</u>	Relevant Experience	Education and Training	Personal Skills and Qualities	Teaching and Learning	Additional Factors	Total	<u>Additional notes on particular candidates</u> <u>(please indicate the candidate)</u>	<u>Please indicate if you want to invite candidate to interview.</u> <u>(Please delete as necessary)</u>
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No

The lower the score, the more the candidates match what we are looking for. The chosen number of candidates with the lower score should be invited for interview.

In order to remove any confusion over which candidates are to be invited to interview could the Lead member of the shortlisting panel please confirm the FINAL candidates to be invited to interview below:

Please now complete the following 'Interview Details' section and send this and your completed Shortlisting Grid via One Drive to the Human Resources Representative.

Interview Details:

Would you like the candidates to have a tour of the college? If yes, please let me know the following information: Lead: (Normally a team member in your department) Duration: (Normally 15 Minutes)	Yes/No
Would you like a lesson observation? If yes, please let me know the following Information: Topic: Year Group: Number of Students: Do Students have prior knowledge of this Topic: A Level or BTEC: Exam Board: Duration: Room Number: What time will the lesson be (what period?): What class will it be (e.g. Business or English?):	Yes/No
Will there be a written task/ in tray exercise? If yes please let me know the following information: Details of the task: Duration:	Yes/No

Appendix 2

Shortlisting Grid – Support Posts Title – Date

Name of Staff Member Shortlisting:

Using the Ofsted gradings:

1 – Outstanding

2 – Good

3 – Requires Improvement

4 – Inadequate

Please rate how each candidate has met the criteria in the Person Specification (included in pack sent via OneDrive).

<u>Attributes</u>	Relevant Experience	Education and Training	Special Skills and Knowledge	Personal Skills and Qualities	Additional Factors	Total	<u>Additional notes on particular candidates (please indicate the candidate)</u>	<u>Please indicate if you want to invite candidate to interview. (Please delete as necessary).</u>
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No
								Yes/No

The lower the score, the more the candidates match what we are looking for. The chosen number of candidates with the lower score should be invited for interview. **In order to remove any confusion over which candidates are to be invited to interview could the Lead member of the shortlisting panel please confirm the FINAL candidates to be invited to interview below:**