



## Tormead Family

# Application and Recruitment Process

## Explanatory Note

Tormead Limited includes two schools with one Governing Body:

- Tormead School (Preparatory and Senior School), Cranley Road, Guildford, GU1 2JD ("**Tormead**") and
- Rydes Hill Preparatory School and Nursery, Aldershot Road, Guildford, GU2 8BP ("**Rydes Hill**")

This Application and Recruitment Process Explanatory Note applies to both schools.

## 1. General

Tormead Limited is committed to ensuring the best possible environment for the children and young people in its care. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is our highest priority.

We aim to recruit staff that share and understand our commitment and to ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly by reason of a protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

All queries regarding our Application Forms and recruitment process must be directed to the **Head of HR, Emma Mitchell**.

## 2. Application Form

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the relevant Application Form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed Application Forms but are permitted to be submitted alongside a completed Application Form.

Candidates should be aware that all posts in Tormead and Rydes Hill involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post. Applicants will receive a Job Description and Person Specification for the role applied for.

As the job for which you are applying involves substantial opportunity for access to children, it is important that you provide us with accurate answers.

The successful applicant will be required to complete a Disclosure Form from the Disclosure and Barring Service ("DBS") for the post and, where appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS will be made. Any offers of appointment will be made conditional on obtaining such satisfactory checks. Additionally, successful applicants should be aware that they are required to notify us immediately if there are any reasons why they should not be working with children.

The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 apply to those providing early years childcare or later years childcare, including before school and after school clubs, to children who have not attained the age of 8 AND to those who are directly concerned in the management of that childcare.

We take our responsibility to safeguard children very seriously and any staff member and/or successful candidate who is aware of anything that may affect their suitability to work with children must notify us immediately. This will include notification of any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands or warnings they may receive.

Staff and/or successful candidates who are disqualified from childcare or registration may apply to Ofsted for a waiver of disqualification. Such individuals may not be employed in the areas from which they are disqualified, or involved in the management of those settings, unless and until such waiver is confirmed. Please speak to the Head of HR for more details.

We have a legal duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is known as the Prevent Duty. Schools are required to understand the factors that lead people to support terrorist ideologies or engage in terrorist related activity, be able to confidently recognise susceptibility to terrorism and be aware of what action to take in response. We also ensure that those at risk of radicalisation are identified and

appropriate support is provided. Accordingly, as part of the recruitment process, when an offer is made the offer will be subject to a Prevent Duty risk assessment.

If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences relating to children or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection concerns or allegations and if so the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. Any information about past disciplinary action or substantiated allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual case.

If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about those issues. Where neither your current nor previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with children. Where you have no previous employment history, we may request character references which may include references from your school or university.

You should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if you have been appointed, and a possible referral to the police and/or DBS.

### 3. Invitation to Interview

Applicants will be shortlisted according to the relevance and applicability of their professional attributes and personal qualities to the role. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to attend a formal interview at which their relevant skills and experience will be discussed in more detail.

As part of the shortlisting process, we will consider carrying out an online search on shortlisted candidates as part of our due diligence. This may help to identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which we may want to explore with an applicant at interview. This forms part of our wider safeguarding due diligence which aims to prevent and/or deter individuals who may be unsuitable to work with children from working in a school environment.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration form in relation to their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. Applicants will be asked to sign a declaration confirming that the information they have provided is true. Where there is an electronic signature, the shortlisted candidate should physically sign a hard copy of the application at the point of interview.

All formal interviews will have a panel of at least two people chaired by the Head or another designated senior member of staff. The Chair of Governors should chair the panel for the Head's appointment. The interviewers involved will be required to state any prior personal relationship or knowledge of any of the candidates and a judgement will be made by the Chair as to whether or not an interviewer should therefore withdraw from the panel. Should the Chair have a conflict of interest, the Vice Chair shall decide whether the Chair should withdraw from the panel.

The interview will be conducted in person and the areas which it will explore will include suitability to work with children (including discussion of any details provided on the candidate's self-declaration form). All candidates invited to interview must bring documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post (e.g. the original or certified copy of certificates,

diplomas etc). Where originals or certified copies are not available for the successful candidate, written confirmation of the relevant qualifications must be obtained by you from the awarding body.

All candidates invited to interview must also bring with them:

1. A current driving licence including a photograph and paper counterpart or a passport and a full birth certificate;
2. A utility bill or financial statement issued within the last three months showing the candidate's current name and address;
3. Where appropriate any documentation evidencing a change of name; and
4. Where applicable, proof of entitlement to work and reside in the UK. Please note that originals of the above are necessary. Photocopies or certified copies are not sufficient.

Candidates with a disability who are invited to interview should inform us of any necessary reasonable adjustments or arrangements to assist them in attending the interview.

#### 4. Conditional Offer of Appointment: Pre-Appointment Checks

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

1. Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received), including for internal appointments. All references should be provided by a senior person with appropriate authority, subject to the satisfaction of Tormead Limited;
2. Verification of identity and qualifications including, where appropriate, evidence of the right to work in the UK;
3. A satisfactory enhanced DBS check and if appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS;
4. For a candidate to be employed as a teacher, a check that the candidate is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State or any sanction or restriction imposed (that remains current) by the historic General Teaching Council for England before its abolition in March 2012;
5. Verification of professional qualifications, including, where applicable, any award of Qualified Teacher Status;
6. Verification of successful completion of a statutory induction period (for teaching posts – applies to those who obtained QTS after 7 May 1999), where relevant;
7. Where the successful candidate has lived or worked or been resident outside the UK, such further checks and confirmations as we may consider appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. This shall include the candidate providing us with a letter from the professional regulating authority in the country (or countries) in which they have worked confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions, and/or that they are aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach;<sup>1</sup>
8. Evidence of satisfactory medical fitness;

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<sup>1</sup> The requirement to check an overseas' teacher's teaching status for proof of past conduct as a teacher is included in KCSIE at paragraphs 286-291. Schools and colleges **must** make any further checks they think appropriate ....which **could** include obtaining a letter (via the applicant) from the professional regulating authority in the country (or countries) in which the applicant has worked confirming that they have not imposed any sanctions or restrictions, and/or that they are aware of any reason why they may be unsuitable to teach. We recommend that, where available, these additional checks are carried out for all overseas teacher appointments. Where this information is not available, KCSIE notes that schools should seek alternative methods of checking suitability and/or undertake a risk assessment that supports informed decision making on whether to proceed with the appointment.

9. Receipt of a signed Self-Declaration form showing that the candidate is not disqualified from providing childcare as set out in the statutory guidance “Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006”;
10. For a candidate to be employed into a senior management position as set out within the our Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy and Procedure, receipt of a signed “senior charity manager positions: automatic disqualification declaration” confirming that the candidate is not disqualified from acting in a senior management position for a charity in accordance with the automatic disqualification rules for charities; and
11. If you are undertaking a management role, a check that you have not been prohibited from participating in the management of independent schools.

It is our practice that a successful candidate must complete a pre-employment health questionnaire. The information contained in the questionnaire will then be held by us in strictest confidence and used as set out in our Recruitment Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy. This information will be reviewed against the Job Description and the Person Specification for the particular role, together with details of any other physical or mental requirements of the role i.e. proposed workload, extra-curricular activities, layout of Tormead or Rydes Hill, etc.

We are aware of our duties under the Equality Act 2010. No job offer will be withdrawn without first consulting with the applicant, considering medical evidence and considering reasonable adjustments.

## 5. References

We will seek the references referred to in section 4 above for all shortlisted candidates, including internal candidates, and may approach previous employers for information to verify particular experience or qualifications, before interview. If you do not wish us to take up references in advance of the interview, please notify us at the time of submitting your application.

For internal candidates, formal written references may be sought from a senior person with appropriate authority.

All referees will be asked if the candidate is suitable to work with children and to provide facts of any substantiated safeguarding concerns or allegations that meet the harm threshold set out in Part 4 of the statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’. Substantiated allegations that meet the harm threshold will be included in references. Any repeated concerns or allegations which do not meet the harm threshold which have all been found to be false, unfounded, unsubstantiated, or malicious should not be included in any reference.

We will compare any information provided by the referee with that provided by the candidate on the application form. Any inconsistencies will be discussed with the candidate.

If a candidate is not currently working with children, Tormead Limited will secure a reference from a relevant employer in relation to employment in which the candidate worked with children. If the candidate has never worked with children, Tormead Limited will obtain a reference from the candidate’s current employer, training provider or education setting.

## 6. Criminal Records Policy

We will refer to the Department for Education (“DfE”) document, ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ and any amended version in carrying out the necessary required DBS checks.

We comply with the provisions of the DBS Code of Practice, a copy of which may be obtained on request or accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice>.

## 7. Retention and Security of Records and Data Protection

We will comply with our obligations regarding the retention and security of records in accordance with the DBS Code of Practice and our obligations under our Data Protection Policy. Copies of DBS certificates will not be retained for longer than 6 months. Details of how we use candidates' data is explained in the Recruitment Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy.

## 8. Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

We will not unfairly discriminate against any candidate for employment on the basis of conviction or other details revealed. We make appointment decisions on the basis of merit and ability. If an individual has a criminal record this will not automatically bar them from employment within Tormead or Rydes Hill. Instead, each case will be decided on its merits in accordance with the objective assessment criteria set out below.

All candidates should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if they have been appointed, and a possible referral to the police and/or DBS.

Under the relevant legislation, it is unlawful for us to employ anyone who is included on the lists maintained by the DBS of individuals who are considered unsuitable to work with children. In addition, it will also be unlawful for us to employ anyone who is the subject of a disqualifying order made on being convicted or charged with the following offences against children: murder, manslaughter, rape, other serious sexual offences, grievous bodily harm or other serious acts of violence. It is also unlawful for us to knowingly employ someone who works in the relevant settings and is disqualified from providing childcare under the statutory guidance "Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006".

It is a criminal offence for any person who is disqualified from working with children to attempt to apply for a position within Tormead or Rydes Hill. We will report the matter to the Police and/or the DBS if:

- we receive an application from a disqualified person;
- we are provided with false information in, or in support of, an applicant's application; or
- we have serious concerns about an applicant's suitability to work with children.

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, we will consider the following factors before reaching a recruitment decision:

- whether the conviction or other matter revealed is relevant to the position in question;
- whether the conviction or caution is 'protected' as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2020 (if yes, it will not be taken into account);
- 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;
- in the case of disqualification from providing childcare, whether the applicant has or is able to obtain an Ofsted waiver from disqualification; and

- the circumstances surrounding the offence and the explanation(s) offered by the convicted person.

If the post involves regular contact with children, it is our 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, serious class A drug related offences, robbery, burglary, theft, deception, or fraud.

If the post involves access to money or budget responsibility, it is our 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 our normal policy to consider it a high risk to employ anyone who has been convicted of drink-driving.

#### **Data Protection Obligations**

We will comply with our data protection obligations in respect of processing criminal records information. More information on this is included in the Recruitment Privacy Notice and the Data Protection Policy.