



The Futures Trust

Policy on the secure handling of information provided by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Policy statement

The Futures Trust uses the DBS checking service to help to assess the suitability of applicants for positions of trust and in doing so complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice. The Code is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice>

The Trust also complies with its obligations under Keeping Children Safe in Education, the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018 and other relevant legislation pertaining to the safe and correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of DBS certificates and certificate information, whether provided electronically or otherwise. The Trust's Data Protection Policy for each school can be obtained on request and is published on each school's website.

This Policy is a requirement of the DBS Code of Practice and will be made available to individuals at the point of asking them to complete a DBS application, or on requesting their consent to use their information to access any service the DBS provides.

The Trust engages the services of Education Personnel Management Ltd, an umbrella body providing access to online DBS checks through a secure DBS Portal.

Handling of DBS certificate information

In accordance with section 124 of the Police Act 1997, certificate information is only passed to those who are authorised to receive it in the course of their duties. The Trust maintains a record of all those to whom certificates or certificate information has been revealed, and is aware that it is a criminal offence to pass this information to anyone who is not entitled to receive it.

Storage and access

DBS certificate information is stored securely, in lockable, non-portable, storage containers with access strictly controlled and limited to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties. Access to secure electronic records is also restricted. Those entitled to see DBS certificate information include the professionals employed by the Trust who process DBS checks on the Trust's behalf, the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher or Governing Body Chair, The Trust's Chief Executive Officer and Ofsted.

Usage

DBS certificate information is only used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Retention of certificates and certificate information

On sight of an original DBS certificate the responsible person at each school is required to complete a pro forma to record that the certificate has been seen. The pro forma is retained on the personnel file for each individual and records the address, names and date of birth stated on the certificate, the certificate unique reference number, date of clearance, confirmation as to whether or not the certificate contained any information, the name of the person who viewed the certificate on behalf of the Trust and the date on which the certificate was seen.

The certificate unique reference number, date of clearance, name of the person who viewed the certificate on behalf of the Trust and the date on which the certificate was seen are also recorded on the relevant school's electronic Single Central Record (SCR). The electronic SCR is stored securely and access is restricted to those who are entitled to see it as part of their duties.

The original DBS certificate will always be promptly returned to the person who is the subject of the DBS check.

Where a Barred List check is carried out, in addition and prior to the Barred List check included in an enhanced DBS check, a record of the Barred List check will also be kept on the individual's file. Information on individual files is retained in accordance with the statutory retention schedule implemented by the Trust.

Photocopies

DBS certificates which do not contain information

A photocopy of the original DBS certificate may be taken by the person responsible for viewing the certificate to assist them with completion of the above pro forma, but the pro-forma will be completed and the copy of the certificate disposed of as soon as practicable.

Positive DBS certificates (those which contain information)

Where a certificate contains information a photocopy of the certificate must be taken by the responsible person to enable a Positive DBS Risk Assessment to be carried out by the Headteacher.

All disclosures during the recruitment process will be managed in accordance with The Trust's Suitability Policy - Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders, which is made available to all job applicants, can be accessed at [The Futures Trust - Policies](#) and is also available on request.

Once a recruitment (or other relevant) decision has been made The Trust will not keep certificate information for any longer than is necessary. The Trust may retain a copy of a certificate until the relevant school's next Ofsted inspection or for a period of up to six months if this is longer, to allow for the consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints.

If, in very exceptional circumstances, it is considered necessary to keep certificate information for longer than this, The Trust will consult the DBS about this and will give full consideration to the Data Protection and Human Rights of the individual before doing so.

Whilst copies of certificates are retained the usual conditions regarding safe storage and strictly controlled access will prevail. The people responsible for the administration of DBS certificates will never scan, photograph, email or fax a copy of an original DBS certificate viewed by them on behalf of the Trust.

Disposal

Once the above retention periods have elapsed, The Trust will not keep any photocopy or other image of the certificate or any copy or representation of the contents of a certificate.

The Trust will ensure that any DBS certificate information, other than that which the Trust is legally required to keep, is immediately destroyed by secure means by shredding. While awaiting destruction, certificate information will not be kept in any insecure receptacle (e.g. waste bin or confidential waste sack).

Reviewed November 2022