

# Elham C.E. Primary School

**'From Acorns to Oaks:  
Learning and Growing Together'**

## **Employment of Ex-Offenders Policy** **April 2025**



### Our School Vision

At our school, we embrace creation in our rural setting, striving to learn, contribute and achieve.

As #TEAMELHAM, we respect, support and inspire each other.

We are a community that holds each other to high standards, helping everyone to be the best they can be, held safe in the loving hands of God.

### Our Narrative

#### New Living Translation John 6:5-14 Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

**5** Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" **6** He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

**7** Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money<sup>[a]</sup> to feed them!"

**8** Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. **9** "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

**10** "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterwards he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. **12** After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." **13** So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

**14** When the people saw him<sup>[a]</sup> do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"<sup>[c]</sup>

School Name	Elham CE Primary School
Trade Union Consultation Date	TBC
Adopted by Governing body/Trustees following consultation date	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Version control	April 2025
Review date	April 2028

# 1. Introduction

Elham C.E. Primary School is committed to working in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education, and the DBS Code of Practice, which require that the school makes available a copy of its Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders to all job applicants.

This policy provides a framework within which the school will seek to ensure that all cases are assessed fairly, and on an individual basis. Elham C.E. Primary School will not discriminate because of a conviction or other information revealed

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all Employees and Governors of Elham C.E. Primary School.

## 3. Adoption Arrangements and Date

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body of Elham C.E. Primary School on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and supersedes any previous Employment of Ex-Offenders Policy.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years or earlier if there is a need.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

## 4. Background

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the ROA 1974 (Exceptions Order 1975, (amended 2013 and 2020)) allows most convictions and cautions to be considered spent after a specified period of time. Once a caution or conviction is spent the person is considered rehabilitated and the ROA treats the person as if they had never committed an offence. This means that jobseekers with criminal records have the right to legally withhold such information from a prospective employer when applying for most jobs.

All positions that involve working with children are exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. All applicants must therefore declare all previous convictions and cautions, including those which would normally be considered "spent" except those received for an offence committed in the United Kingdom which have been filtered in accordance with the DBS filtering rules.

Candidates applying for a vacancy will be asked to complete a Self-Disclosure form only if they are successfully shortlisted. On this form they will be asked to disclose any relevant convictions, court orders, reprimands, warnings, or other matters which may affect an applicant's suitability to work with children. Candidates should be signposted to the Ministry of Justice website to seek guidance and clarity on what offences and issues they

are required to disclose. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disclosure-and-barring-service-filtering>

Further information on the Self-Declaration process for job applicants is contained in the main body of the Recruitment Guidance Notes. Additional information can also be found at <https://www.nacro.org.uk/criminal-record-support-service/support-for-employers/asking-about-criminal-records/?nowprocket=1>

## 5. Legal Requirements

### Keeping Children Safe in Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education gives statutory guidance and states:

- Where a role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to children, schools and colleges should include a statement in the application form, or elsewhere in the information provided to applicants, that it is an offence to apply for the role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.
- Schools and colleges should also provide a copy of the school's or college's child protection policy and practices and policy on employment of ex-offenders in the application pack or refer to a link on its website.
- Schools and colleges should assess cases fairly, on an individual basis. A decision not to appoint somebody because of their conviction(s) should be clearly documented, so if challenged the school or college can defend its decision, in line with its policy on recruitment of ex-offenders.

### DBS Code of Conduct

The DBS Code of Conduct, published under section 122 of the Police Act 1997, advises that it is a requirement that all registered bodies must treat DBS applicants who have a criminal record fairly and not discriminate automatically because of a conviction or other information revealed.

Registered Bodies, and those in receipt of the DBS Update Service information, must have a written policy on the suitability of ex-offenders for employment in relevant positions. This should be available upon request to potential applicants and, in the case of those carrying out an umbrella function, should be made available to their clients. Clients of Registered Bodies should make this policy available to their potential or existing employees.

## 6. Policy Statement

- As an organisation assessing applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Elham C.E. Primary School will comply fully with the DBS code of practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.
- Elham C.E. Primary School undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- Elham C.E. Primary School will only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that Elham C.E. Primary School are legally entitled to know about. Where a DBS certificate at either standard or enhanced level can legally be requested (where the position is one that is included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended, and where appropriate Police Act Regulations as amended).
- Elham C.E. Primary School can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected.
- Elham C.E. Primary School is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff, or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability, or offending background.
- Elham C.E. Primary School will make this written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders available to all DBS applicants at the start of the recruitment process.
- Elham C.E. Primary School actively promotes 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.
- Elham C.E. Primary School select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, and experience.
- An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all application forms, job adverts, and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being offered the position.

- Elham C.E. Primary School ensures that all employees involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences using information available at [www.nacro.org.uk](http://www.nacro.org.uk)
- Elham C.E. Primary School also ensures that employees have received appropriate guidance and training in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, Elham C.E. Primary School ensures 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.
- Elham C.E. Primary School makes every subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the code of practice and makes a copy available on request.
- Elham C.E. Primary School undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.

Further advice may be sought from your HR Consultant/Line Manager.