



Appraisal policy - teaching staff

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Appraisal policy – teaching staff P324a

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We, the Governing Body, have adopted this policy and procedure.

1. Introduction and scope

- 1.1 This policy forms part of the Governing Body's overall commitment to support employees in their performance management and development.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that everyone understands and achieves school goals and individual outcomes, including ongoing personal development. This will ensure that everyone understands how their job relates to these objectives through their individual objectives.
- 1.3 This policy applies only to teachers in their induction period, qualified teachers, Headteachers, deputies and assistants.
- 1.4 This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of teachers, including the Headteacher, and for supporting their development within the context of our plan for improving educational provision and performance, and the standards expected of teachers.

- 1.5 This policy includes the means by which pay progression will be determined.
- 1.6 This policy has been designed to be used in conjunction with the appraisal arrangements set out in the Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012. These regulations came into force on 1 September 2012. The revised regulations have applied for pay progression purposes from 1 September 2013. Statutory Instrument 2012 No: 115 sets out the requirements on governing Bodys and school leaders in relation to the appraisal process.

The regulations require that the Governing Body ensure that the appraisal of teachers and the Headteacher is managed and reviewed in accordance with the regulations and the appraisal policy. Before establishing or revising the appraisal policy, the Governing Body will seek to agree the policy with the recognised trade unions, having regard to the results of the consultation with all teachers.

- 1.7 This policy does not duplicate everything that is covered by regulations and guidance; rather it sets out what are considered to be the key. For this reason, this policy should be read in conjunction with the regulations.
- 1.8 As the Governing Body are required to demonstrate to Ofsted the link between appraisal, pay, school improvement and the development plan, it is good practice to consult all teachers on the school improvement and development plan and self-evaluation process.
- 1.9 The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing and ensuring correct implementation of this policy.

2 Equalities and support

- 2.1 The Headteacher will ensure that all reasonable adjustments or supportive measures are considered to allow equality of access and opportunity regardless of age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation.
- 2.2 Through the implementation of this policy, the Governing Body will be mindful of our obligation to seek to maintain and protect the mental health and wellbeing of all employees as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.3 According to ACAS it is estimated one in seven people are neurodivergent, meaning that the brain functions, learns and processes information uniquely. Where an employee discloses neurodiversity, the Governing Body understands the employee may require extra support in relation to the application of this policy. Where reasonable adjustments are necessary and can be accommodated, the Headteacher will support these.

3. Application of the policy

- 3.1 **The policy applies to the Headteacher and to all teachers employed by the school, except those on contracts of less than one term and those who are subject to action under the formal capability procedure. Employees**

undergoing induction will be assessed with reference to the objectives set under the Early Career Teacher process.

3.2 All performance management activities will take place within the employee's directed time, but not within their PPA time.

3.3 Although normal performance standards must apply to an employee who is a lay trade union official, no disciplinary action, beyond an informal oral warning will be taken until the circumstances of the case have been discussed with the relevant professional trade union officer.

4. Links to school improvement, school self-evaluation and school development planning

4.1 *To comply with the Ofsted requirement to show how **the arrangements for appraisal link with those for school improvement, school self-evaluation and school development planning**, annual teacher pay progression, and to minimise workload and bureaucracy the appraisal process will be the main source of information as appropriate for school self-evaluation and the wider school improvement process.*

4.2 *Similarly, the school improvement and development plan and the self-evaluation statement are key documents for the appraisal process.*

4.3 *All appraisers are expected to ensure the alignment of employees' objectives with the school's priorities and plans. The objectives should also reflect employees' professional aspirations.*

5. Consistency of treatment and fairness

5.1 *The Governing Body are committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness in the operation of appraisal.*

5.2 *To ensure this, the following provisions are made in relation to moderation, quality assurance and objective setting.*

6. Quality assurance

6.1 It is important to monitor the outcome of appraisals to ensure that these are fair, equitable and consistently applied.

6.2 *The Headteacher has determined that they will be the Appraiser for all teachers.*

6.3 The Governing Body will:

*nominate up to two governors who will not be involved in the Headteacher's performance management or any appeal regarding the Headteacher's performance management **to ensure that the Headteacher's appraisal report is consistent with the school's improvement priorities and complies with the school's performance management policy and the Regulations.***

6.4 The Governing Body will review the quality assurance processes annually when the appraisal policy is reviewed.

7. Objective setting

7.1 Objectives will be set before or as soon as practicable after the start of the appraisal period. The objectives set will be rigorous, challenging, achievable, time-bound, fair and equitable in relation to teachers with similar roles/responsibilities and experience, and their relevant standards. **They will have regard to what can reasonably be expected of any teacher in that position given the desirability of the employee being able to achieve a balance between the time required to discharge their professional duties and the time required to pursue their personal interests outside work. They shall also take account of the teacher's professional aspirations and any relevant pay progression criteria. They should be such that, if they are achieved, they will contribute to improving the progress of pupils at the school.**

7.2 The appraiser and employee will seek to agree the objectives but **where a joint determination cannot be made the appraiser will make the determination.**

In this school:

- *in most circumstances all teachers, including the Headteacher, will have no more than three objectives**

and:

- *Unless the objectives have been modified after a mid-cycle review to reflect changed circumstances, at the end of the cycle, assessment of performance against an objective will be on the basis of the performance criteria set at the beginning of the cycle.*

* or the equivalent, if objectives are of a short-term nature

7.3 Objectives and performance management discussions will not be based on teacher generated data and predictions, or solely on the assessment data of a single group of pupils. Objectives can be set in relation to robust assessment data however, these will not be used in isolation and other factors will also be considered when making decisions about pay progression.

8. Annual assessment including pay decisions

8.1 Appraisal will be an assessment of **overall performance** of teachers and the Headteacher and for pay purposes be based on:

- details of the employee's objectives for the appraisal period in question;
- **an assessment of the employee's performance of their role and responsibilities against their objectives and the relevant standards;**
- **an assessment of the employee's professional development needs and identification of any action that should be taken to address them;**

- **a recommendation on pay where that is relevant** (*NB – pay recommendations need to be made by 31 October*);
- (*schools to say here what else, if anything, their appraisal reports will include*).

- 8.2 The range and level of evidence collected for appraisal and pay determination purposes will always be proportionate and minimise workload.
- 8.3 The assessment of performance and of professional development needs will inform the planning process for the following appraisal period.
- 8.4 Following each appraisal, it would be good practice for the employee to receive an appraisal report and be granted the opportunity to give comments on its content within five working days.

9. Reviewing progress and performance

- 9.1 In the vast majority of appraisals, the experience is likely to be seen by the employee as a supportive, constructive and developmental process in which the parties are able to conduct themselves in likely knowledge that the outcome will be positive.
- 9.2 Where that is not the case, it may be necessary to amend appraisal objectives with the intention that concerns are addressed, under Appendix 1 of this policy. This will take place until there is no longer a concern. However, if the issue persists, or the circumstances are warranted, a decision can be made to address the matter under separate, formal capability, procedures.

10. Appeals

- 10.1 **At specified points in the appraisal process teachers and Headteachers have a right of appeal against any of the entries in their planning and assessment report.** *Where an employee wishes to appeal on the basis of more than one entry this would constitute one appeal hearing.*
- 10.2 A Performance Management Appeals Committee will hear appraisal appeals in accordance with this. The members of this Committee will not have participated in the appraisal process in the current round. The Chair of the Appraisal Appeals Committee will inform the employee and the Governing Body of the outcome of the appeal.
- 10.3 Where an employee has a grievance about the way in which the procedure has been conducted this will be dealt with as part of the appeals procedure. Only in exceptional cases will agreement from the Appeals Committee be given to pause the process and deal with the grievance via the grievance procedure.
- 10.4 Details of the appeals process are set out in Appendix 3.

11. Confidentiality

- 11.1 *The whole appraisal process and the planning and assessment report generated under it, in particular, will be treated with strict confidentiality at all times. Only the appraiser's line manager or, where they have more than one, each of their line*

managers will be provided with access to the appraiser's plan recorded in their statement, upon request, where this is necessary to enable the line manager to discharge their line management responsibilities.

- 11.2 *Confidentiality does not override the need for the Headteacher (and for the Headteacher, governors) to quality assure the process and effectiveness of the appraisal system. The professional development annex of the assessment report may be made available to the CPD co-ordinator.*

Where teachers or Headteachers move schools, during or at the end of the appraisal cycle, they can request that their appraisal report is sent to their next school to enable continuity in the appraisal process and any pay eligibility progression.

12. Training and support

- 12.1 *The school's CPD programme will be informed by the training and development needs identified in the training annex of the employees' appraisal statements.*
- 12.2 *The Governing Body will ensure in the budget planning that, as far as possible, appropriate resources are made available in the budget for any training and support agreed for employees.*
- 12.3 *An account of the training and development needs of teachers in general, including the instances where it did not prove possible to provide any agreed CPD, will form a part of the Headteacher's annual report to us about the operation of the performance management in the school.*
- 12.4 *With regard to the provision of CPD in the case of competing demands on the budget, a decision on relative priority will be taken with regard to the extent to which: (a) the CPD identified is essential for an employee to meet their objectives; and (b) the extent to which the training and support will help the individual and the school to achieve their priorities. Teachers should not be held accountable for failing to make good progress towards meeting their performance criteria where the support recorded in the appraisal report has not been provided.*

13. Appointment of appraisers for the Headteacher/Teachers

13.1 A) The Headteacher

The Governing Body is the appraiser for the Headteacher and to discharge this responsibility on its behalf will appoint 2 or 3 governors to carry out this function. They will carry out this process with the support of an **external adviser**.

Appointment of External Adviser

The Headteacher will be appraised by the Governing Body, who must be supported by a suitably skilled and experienced external adviser who has been appointed by the Governing Body for that purpose.

13.2 B) Teachers

Appointment of appraisers for teachers

In the case where the Headteacher is not the employee's line manager, the Headteacher may delegate the duties imposed upon the appraiser, in their entirety, to the employee's line manager. In this school:

The Headteacher will be the appraiser for all teachers.

14. The Appraisal cycle

14.1 The performance of the Headteacher and teachers must be reviewed on an annual basis. Performance planning and reviews must be completed for all teaching staff by 31 October.

14.2 *The appraisal cycle in this school, therefore, will run from 1 November to 31 October. Any financial uplift that results from the appraisal outcome will become payable from 1 September in the same year.*

14.3 *Teachers, who are employed on a fixed term contract of at least one term but less than one year, will have their appraisal in accordance with the principles underpinning the provisions of this policy. The length of the cycle will be determined by the duration of their contract and an employee's objectives should take account of the length of the contract.*

14.4 *Where an employee starts their employment at the school part-way through a cycle, the Headteacher or, in the case where the employee is the Headteacher, the Governing Body shall determine the length of the first cycle for that employee, with a view to bringing their cycle into line with the cycle, including any pay uplift, for other teachers at the school as soon as possible.*

14.5 *Where an employee is absent owing to illness or maternity part-way through a cycle or is employed on a part-time basis, the objectives shall be adjusted so that they are proportionate.*

14.6 *Where an employee transfers to a new post within the school part-way through a cycle, the Headteacher or, in the case where the employee is the Headteacher, the Governing Body shall determine whether the cycle shall begin again and whether to change the appraiser.*

15. Retention of appraisal reports

15.1 *Appraisal reports should be retained in a safe and secure manner for a period of 6 years and should then be destroyed via secure confidential means.*

16. Monitoring and evaluation

16.1 *The Governing Body will monitor the operation and outcomes of appraisal arrangements. This will include ensuring that the arrangements minimise the impact on workload for all parties involved.*

16.2 The Headteacher will provide us with a written report on the operation of the appraisal policy annually. The report will not contain any information which would intentionally enable any individual to be identified. The report will include:

- the operation of the appraisal policy
- the effectiveness of the appraisal procedures
- teachers' training and development needs
- impact of appraisal on school improvement
- measures to support or address any poor performance

16.3 The Governing Body are committed to ensuring that the appraisal process is fair and non-discriminatory, and in accordance with the Equal Opportunities in Employment Policy. This will include, in a confidential section, appropriate details of:

1. any appeals or representations on an individual or collective basis on the grounds of alleged discrimination under any of the categories above in relation to performance management,
2. cases, including the circumstances, where teachers have not made satisfactory progress towards objectives,
3. any instances where the training and development set out in the training and development annex of a planning and review statement has not been provided.

The report will intend not to enable any individual to be identified.

17. Review of the policy

17.1 The Governing Body (may be delegated to the personnel committee) will review the appraisal policy every school year.

17.2 The Governing Body will take account of the Headteacher's report in its review of the appraisal policy. The policy will be revised as required to introduce any changes in regulation to ensure that it is always up to date.

17.3 The Governing Body will seek to agree any revisions to the policy with the recognised trade unions having regard to the results of the consultation with all teachers.

17.4 To ensure teachers are fully conversant with the appraisal arrangements, *all new teachers who join the school* will be briefed on them as part of their introduction to the school.

18. Access to documentation

18.1 Copies of the school improvement and development plan and any other associated documents can be obtained from the school office (or other specified place).

19. Classroom observation

19.1 All classroom observation will be undertaken in accordance with the appraisal regulations.

- 19.2 The Governing Body believes that observation of classroom practice and other responsibilities is important both as a way of assessing teachers' performance in order to identify any particular strengths and areas for development they may have, and of gaining useful information which can inform school improvement more generally. All observation will be carried out in a supportive fashion and in accordance with Appendix 2.
- 19.3 In this school, teachers' performance will be regularly observed but the amount and type of classroom observation will depend on the individual circumstances of the teacher and the overall needs of the school. Classroom observation will only be carried out by those with QTS. In addition to formal observation, Headteachers or other leaders with responsibility for teaching standards may "drop in" in order to evaluate the standards of teaching and to check that high standards of professional performance are established and maintained. The length and frequency of "drop in" observations will vary depending on specific circumstances.
- 19.4 Teachers (including the Headteacher) who have responsibilities outside the classroom should also expect to have their performance of those responsibilities observed and assessed.

20. Data Protection

Personal data collected and processed for the purpose of this will be handled in accordance with the data protection policy and applicable statutory obligations. Any personal data collected is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to, individuals only for the purposes of employee management or to comply with statutory reporting obligations. Inappropriate access to, or disclosure of, employee data constitutes a data breach and should be reported without delay, in accordance with the data protection policy. It may also constitute a disciplinary offence in which case it would be dealt with under the disciplinary policy and procedure.

Appendix 1 – Teachers experiencing difficulties in performance.

When dealing with a teacher experiencing difficulties, the objective is to provide support and guidance in such a way that their performance improves and the problem is, therefore, resolved.

Where it is apparent that a teacher's personal circumstances are leading to difficulties at school, support will be offered as soon as possible, without waiting for the formal annual assessment.

If an appraiser identifies through the appraisal process, or via other sources of information, for example upheld parental complaints, that the difficulties experienced by a teacher are such that, if not rectified, could lead to capability procedures, the appraiser, Headteacher or a member of the leadership team, will meet the teacher to:

- give clear oral and written feedback to the teacher about the nature and seriousness of the concerns, providing the teacher the opportunity to comment on and discuss these;
- following the feedback session, the teacher will be invited to a meeting where the concerns are outlined in more detail. At that meeting, which will be held following at least five days' notice, the teacher's targets for improvement will be discussed alongside a programme of support. Prior to the meeting, the teacher will be advised that they have the right to be assisted by a representative of an independent trade union or work place colleague, and at any future meetings where capability will be discussed;
- in consultation with the teacher at the above meeting, an action plan with support will be established (for example coaching, training, in-class support, mentoring, structured observations, visits to other classes or schools or discussions with advisory teachers), that will help address those specific concerns; and
- make clear how progress will be monitored and when it will be reviewed;
- explain the implications and process if no – or insufficient – improvement is made including the strong likelihood that there will be no pay progression.

The teacher's progress will continue to be monitored as part of the appraisal process and a reasonable time given for their performance to improve. This will depend upon the circumstances, with appropriate support as determined by the Action Plan, in order that the aim of recovering and improving performance can be achieved. During this monitoring period the teacher will be given regular feedback on progress and arrangements will be made to modify the support programme if appropriate.

If sufficient progress is made such that the teacher is performing at a level that indicates there is no longer a possibility of capability procedures being invoked, they should be informed of this at a formal meeting with the appraiser or Headteacher. Following this meeting the appraisal process will continue as normal.

If no, or insufficient, improvement has been made over this period, the teacher will be invited to a First Formal Capability Meeting under the Formal Capability Procedure to determine whether formal capability proceedings need to be commenced or the appraisal process remains in place. The teacher may be assisted by a trade union representative or work colleague and will have at least five working days' notice of the meeting. (See *Capability model procedure – teaching staff P329b* on InfoSpace.)

Appendix 2 – Classroom observation protocol

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that classroom observation is developmental and supportive and that those involved in the process will:

- *carry out the role throughout the year with professionalism, integrity and courtesy;*
- *evaluate objectively;*
- *report accurately and fairly; and*
- *respect the confidentiality of the information gained.*

The amount of observation for each teacher should reflect and be proportionate to the needs of the individual. For example, there will be a minimum of one observation per year, specifically chosen for the purposes of observing the quality of teaching and learning for the appraisal process, will be led by the appraiser. Governing Bodies can set a maximum number of observations and maximum number of hours' worth of observations.

Information gathered during the observation will be used, as appropriate, for a variety of purposes including to inform school self-evaluation and school improvement strategies in accordance with the school's commitment to streamlining data collection, minimising bureaucracy and reducing workload burdens on staff.

In keeping with the commitment to be supportive and developmental classroom observation those being observed will be notified five days in advance.

Classroom observations will only be undertaken by persons with QTS. *In addition, in this school classroom observation will only undertaken by those who have had adequate preparation and the appropriate professional skills to undertake observation and to provide constructive oral and written feedback and support, in the context of professional dialogue between colleagues.*

Oral feedback will be offered as soon as possible after the observation and normally no later than the end of the following working day. It will be given during directed time in a suitable, private environment. Feedback will highlight strengths and areas that need further development. Where there are concerns about any aspect of the teacher's performance, the appraiser will give clear feedback and give the teacher the opportunity to comment and discuss the findings and to agree any support.

Written feedback will be provided within five working days of the observation taking place. *If issues emerged from an observation that were not part of the focus of the observation as recorded in the planning and review statement these should also be covered in the written feedback and the appropriate action taken in accordance with the regulations and guidance. This will include details on how the appraiser will continue to review progress and the implications of the process if progress was insufficient and continued to be so.*

*The written record of feedback also includes the date on which the observation took place, the lesson observed and the length of the observation. **The teacher has the right to append written comments on the feedback document.** No written notes in addition to the written feedback will be kept.*

The Headteacher has a duty to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning and to ensure that proper standards of professional performance are established and maintained.

The Headteacher has a right to drop into classrooms to inform their monitoring of the quality of learning. The Headteacher may consider the classroom observations they have agreed for appraisal are sufficient and that drop ins will not be needed.

In this school, drop ins will be undertaken by an appropriate member of staff, as designated by the Headteacher.

Appendix 3 – Pay and Performance Management Appeal Procedure

An employee may make an appeal against any determination or proposed determination in relation to their pay or performance management.

- i) The possible grounds for appeal are that the person or committee by whom the decision was made:
 - incorrectly applied any provision of the Teacher Appraisal Regulations;
 - failed to have proper regard for the relevant statutory guidance;
 - failed to take proper account of any relevant evidence;
 - took account of irrelevant or inaccurate evidence;
 - failed to apply the **performance management policy**;
 - was biased; or
 - otherwise unlawfully discriminated against the teacher.
- (ii) Any appeal against non-spinal column point progression will not be dealt with by this procedure. Such appeals will be dealt with by the Pay Policy Appeal Procedure.

Appendix 3 (a) – Performance Management Appeal Procedure

Procedure at a Hearing of the Performance Management Appeal Committee of the Governing Body (Headteacher)

1. The committee should elect a Chair who should then introduce those present and explain the purpose of the hearing.
2. The Headteacher, or nominated person, should present evidence on the case, referring to any relevant documentation.
3. The designated member of the appropriate Performance Management Committee should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
4. The members of the committee and their adviser(s) should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
5. The designated member of the appropriate Performance Management Committee should present their case referring to any relevant documentation.
6. The Headteacher, or their representative, should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
7. The members of the Committee and their adviser(s) should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
8. The Headteacher, or their representative, should make a closing statement.
9. The designated member of the appropriate Performance Management Committee should make a closing statement.
10. The Chair of the Performance Management Appeal Committee should call an adjournment. All parties will be required to withdraw except members of the Committee and their adviser(s) who consider the evidence, discuss the case and the Committee will reach a decision.

Note

The Chair of the Committee may vary the order of procedure in exceptional circumstances and at any stage in the proceedings a request by either side for the Chair may be granted at the discretion of the Committee.

11. The Performance Management Appeals Committee will deliberate in private and will communicate their decision to all parties within 48 hours.
12. The decisions of the Performance Management Appeals Committee are final and there is no recourse to the grievance procedure.

Appendix 3 (b) – Performance Management Appeal Procedure

Procedure at a Hearing of the Performance Management Appeal Committee of the Governing Body (for staff other than the Headteacher)

1. The committee should elect a Chair who should then introduce those present and explain the purpose of the hearing.
2. The employee, or their representative, should present evidence on the case, referring to any relevant documentation.
3. The Headteacher or designated member of the appropriate Performance Management Committee and their representative should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
4. The members of the committee and their adviser(s) should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
5. The Headteacher or designated member of the appropriate Performance Management Committee and their representative should present their case referring to any relevant documentation.
6. The employee, or their representative, should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
7. The members of the Committee and their adviser(s) should be given the opportunity to ask questions.
8. The employee, or their representative, should make a closing statement.
9. The Headteacher, or their representative, should make a closing statement.
10. The Chair of the Performance Management Appeal Committee should call an adjournment. All parties will be required to withdraw except members of the Committee and their adviser(s) who consider the evidence, discuss the case and the Committee will reach a decision.

Note

The Chair of the Committee may vary the order of procedure in exceptional circumstances and at any stage in the proceedings a request by either side for the Chair may be granted at the discretion of the Committee.

11. The Performance Management Appeals Committee will deliberate in private and will communicate their decision to all parties within 48 hours.
12. The decisions of the Performance Management Appeals Committee are final and there is no recourse to the grievance procedures.