

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
To live, love and learn in a caring Christian community

Staff Appraisal Policy 2020-2021

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of all staff, including the Headteacher, and for supporting their development within the context of the school's plan for improving educational provision and performance, and the standards expected. It also sets out the arrangements that will apply when employees fall below the levels of competence that are expected of them.

This policy applies to the Headteacher, all teachers and all non-teaching staff employed by the school, except those on contracts of less than one term, those undergoing induction (i.e. NQTs) and those who are subject to a formal capability process.

Appraisal in this school will be a supportive and developmental process designed to ensure that all teachers have the skills and support they need to carry out their role effectively. It will help to ensure that teachers are able to continue to improve their professional practice and to develop.

2. The appraisal period

The appraisal period for teachers will run for twelve months from 1 September to 31 August, for non-teaching staff the period will run for twelve months from 1 April to 31 March.

Employees who are employed on a fixed term contract of less than one year will have their performance managed in accordance with the principles underpinning this policy. The length of the period will be determined by the duration of their contract.

3. Appointing appraisers

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

In this school the task of appraising the Headteacher, including the setting of objectives, will be delegated to a sub-group consisting of two/three members of the Governing Board.

The Headteacher will decide who will appraise other employees.

Teaching staff will not be appraised or formally observed by anyone other than an individual holding Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Support staff may be appraised by a member of the teaching staff.

4. Setting objectives

The Headteacher's objectives will be set by the Governing Board after consultation with the external adviser.

Objectives for each employee will be set before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. In some circumstances it may be possible to set objectives for the upcoming year in the same meeting that objectives are reviewed from the previous year.

The appraiser and employee will seek to agree the objectives but, if that is not possible, the appraiser will determine the objectives. Objectives may be revised if circumstances change.

The objectives set for each employee will, if achieved, contribute to the school's plans for improving the school's educational provision and performance and improving the education of pupils at that school. This will be ensured by quality assuring all objectives against the school improvement plan.

Some roles, such as teachers, have national standards which form a core expectation of the standards that employees fulfilling those roles will consistently meet. These standards will be considered as part of the review process and must be deemed to have been met for a cycle to be successful.

In the case of teachers they will be assessed against the Teachers' Standards, against any other sets of standards issued by the Secretary of State, against any other professional standards relevant to their performance.

Under normal circumstances employees will have a reasonable number of objectives that is relative to the role that they undertake in the school. This will usually be between 3 and 6 objectives. However, employees who are found not to be meeting standards at the appropriate level may be given as many additional objectives as are required to ensure that the most appropriate support can be provided. Those with leadership and management responsibilities are likely to be given more objectives relative to colleagues that do not.

5. Reviewing performance

5.1. Observation

This school believes that observation of classroom, leadership and work 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. For support staff work scrutiny will be carried out by those with knowledge of the employee's work as far as reasonably practicable.

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 be carried out by those with QTS. Where non-teaching staff are delivering lessons, for cover or supervision purposes for example, lesson observations may be necessary to assess objectives where relevant.

In addition to formal observation, Headteacher's 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

Teachers (including the Headteacher) who have responsibilities outside the classroom should also expect to have their performance of those responsibilities observed and assessed.

The amount of observation that takes place will not normally exceed 3 hours of formal observation in a particular appraisal cycle. Formal observation will usually be with prior notification, most likely agreed as part of objective setting.

Additional formal observation may be deemed necessary in circumstances where concerns arise where it is felt appropriate to facilitate and monitor the effectiveness of management support. This would usually be explained at the time concerns are raised with an employee.

5.2. Development and support

Appraisal is a supportive process which will be used to inform continuing professional development. The school wishes to encourage a culture in which all employees take responsibility for improving their teaching/skills through appropriate professional development. Professional development will be linked to school improvement priorities and to the ongoing professional development needs and priorities of individual teachers.

5.3. Feedback

Employees will receive constructive feedback on their performance throughout the year and as soon as practicable after observation has taken place or other evidence has come to light. Feedback will highlight particular areas of strength as well as any areas that need attention. Where there are concerns about any aspects of the teacher's performance the appraiser will meet the teacher formally to:

- give clear feedback to the teacher about the nature and seriousness of the concerns
- give the teacher the opportunity to comment and discuss the concerns
- agree any support (e.g. coaching, mentoring, structured observations), that will be provided to help address those specific concerns
- make clear how, and by when, the appraiser will review progress
- explain the implications and process if no, or insufficient, improvement is made.

When progress is reviewed, if the appraiser is satisfied that the teacher has made, or is making, sufficient improvement, the appraisal process will continue as normal, with any remaining issues continuing to be addressed through that process.

6. Transition to capability

If the appraiser is not satisfied with progress, the teacher will be notified in writing that the appraisal system will no longer apply and that their performance will be managed under the capability procedure, and will be invited to a formal capability meeting. The capability procedures will be conducted in accordance with the schools' capability policy.

7. Annual assessment

Each employee's performance will be formally assessed in respect of each appraisal period. In assessing the performance of the Headteacher, the Governing Board recognises that it must consult the external adviser.

This assessment is the end point to the annual appraisal process, but performance and development priorities will be reviewed and addressed on a regular basis throughout the year by means of:

- professional dialogue
- lesson or task observations
- planning and work scrutiny
- termly meeting with appraiser
- mid-cycle review meeting with appraiser
- observation / scrutiny of leadership and management activities where appropriate
- other feedback obtained during the cycle relevant to the employee's overall performance.

The employee will receive as soon as practicable following the end of each appraisal period – and have the opportunity to comment in writing on - a written appraisal report. In this school, teachers will receive their written appraisal reports by 31 December (possibly later for the Headteacher).

The appraisal report will include:

- details of the employees objectives for the appraisal period in question
- an assessment of the employees performance of their role and responsibilities against their objectives and the relevant standards
- an assessment of the employees professional development needs and identification of any action that should be taken to address them
- a recommendation on pay where that is relevant and in keeping with the schools' Pay Policy, and relevant terms and conditions of employment.

The assessment of performance and of professional development needs will inform the planning process for the following appraisal period.

Recommendations on pay will be referred to the Headteacher before being submitted to the Governing Board for consideration.

Where appraises and appraisers cannot reach agreement as to PRI ratings/ appraisal review outcomes or PRP outcomes, the matter will be referred to the

Headteacher (or to the member of senior staff with delegated responsibility for the process) who will meet with the appraisee, consider all available evidence, and inform the appraisee of their decision

Disputes concerning pay arising from the appraisal process will be dealt with through the appeal process set out in the schools' Pay Policy.

8. Confidentiality

The appraisal processes will be treated with confidentiality. However, the desire for confidentiality does not override the need for the Headteacher and governing Board to quality-assure the operation and effectiveness of the appraisal system.

9. Consistency of treatment and fairness

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness. It will abide by all relevant equality legislation, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled teachers. The governing Board is aware of the guidance on the Equality Act issued by the Department for Education.

The Headteacher or appropriate colleague might review all objectives and written appraisal records personally, in order to check consistency of approach and expectation between different appraisers. The Headteacher or appropriate colleague will also review pay recommendations that have been made.

The Headteacher will be responsible for reporting regularly to the Governing Board on any relevant issues, including those of underperformance, arising from the annual review cycle and on any action required to address those issues. The report will enable governors to receive an overall general report of the process but will not include specific details relating to individual members of staff.

10. Definitions

Unless indicated otherwise, all references to "teacher" include the Headteacher.

11. Delegation

Normal rules apply in respect of the delegation of functions by governing bodies, Headteacher's and local authorities.

12. Monitoring and evaluation

The Governing Board and Headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the school's appraisal arrangements.

13. Retention

The Governing Board and Headteacher will ensure that all written appraisal records are retained in a secure place for six years and then destroyed.