

Templefield Lower School

Teacher Appraisal Policy



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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out the arrangements for appraising teachers, including the process and the responsibilities of individuals.
- Ensure consistency and fairness across the school.
- Create a process where teachers' professional development is supported and encouraged, in the context of the school's latest Ofsted report, our school improvement plan and the Teachers' Standards.
- Ensure teachers have the skills and knowledge they need to fulfil and excel in their role and provide an excellent education to our pupils.

The policy applies to all teaching staff employed by the school or local authority, except those on contracts of less than one term, those undergoing induction and those undergoing capability procedures.

Legislation and guidance

The minimum national requirements for teachers' appraisal in maintained schools are set out in [The Education \(School Teachers' Appraisal\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#).

This policy is based on the [model policy](#) produced by the Department for Education (DfE).

Definitions

In this policy, the term 'teacher' refers to classroom teachers, middle and senior leaders, and the headteacher.

Where relevant, we have added further detail regarding arrangements for headteachers.

Early career teachers

Early career teachers (ECTs) starting their induction on or after 1 September 2021 are not subject to annual appraisal and pay review cycles during their induction period, and are not covered by this policy.

Arrangements for ECT appraisal will follow our ECT Induction policy, and the [statutory induction process for ECTs](#).

The appraisal period

The appraisal period will run for 12 months beginning on the first day of the autumn term. Appraisals will be held during the autumn term.

For teachers on fixed-term contracts of less than 12 months, the appraisal period will be determined by the duration of their contract.

Teachers who start at or leave the school during the appraisal period can have a longer or shorter appraisal period in that appraisal round.

It is intended that teachers will have had their annual appraisal meeting and received their appraisal report by 31st October.

It is intended that the headteacher will have had their annual appraisal meeting and received their appraisal report by 31st December.

Setting objectives

Teachers' objectives will be set before, or as soon as possible after, the start of the appraisal period.

The headteacher's objectives will be set by the governing body, in consultation with the external adviser.

Objectives will:

- Contribute to improving the education of pupils at the school and the implementation of any school improvement plans. To ensure this happens, the headteacher will quality assure all objectives against the school improvement plan.
- Be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART).
- Be appropriate to the teacher's role and career experience.
- Be revised if circumstances change throughout the year.

When objectives are set, teachers will also be informed of the standards their performance will be judged against.

The appraiser and teacher will seek to agree the objectives but, if that is not possible, the appraiser will determine the objectives.

Standards

Teachers will be assessed against the [Teachers' Standards](#). The headteacher, and other school leaders where relevant, will also be assessed against the [Headteachers' Standards](#).

Reviewing performance

We will use a range of evidence to judge a teacher's performance:

- Formal and informal lesson observations
- Observations and results from wider school activities, if applicable
- Performance of their pupils
- Reviews of planning and marking
- Parent and pupil voice, if applicable

Observation protocol

We believe that observations are an important way of assessing teachers' performance. They can help identify a teacher's strengths and areas for improvement, and can help us identify areas of good practice that can be shared across the school.

There will be both formal and 'drop in' observations. Teachers with responsibilities outside the classroom will also have these responsibilities observed.

All observations will:

- Be carried out in an objective, fair, professional and supportive manner.
- Be carried out by teachers with Qualified Teacher Status.
- Provide constructive feedback.
- Remain confidential to those who need to know details as part of their jobs.

'Drop in' observations

Drop-in observations will usually be conducted by the headteacher and/or deputy headteacher in order to monitor the quality of teaching and learning.

Notice of 'drop in' observations will be given within 5 working days.

They will usually last around 20 minutes and may involve the observer talking to pupils and looking at their work. The frequency will depend on the individual teacher and the school's needs at the time.

Generally, verbal feedback will be given the following day. We will use all reasonable endeavours to provide written feedback within 5 working days.

Please note that we also carry out 'drop-in' observations where fellow teachers observe a lesson for their own professional development. Notice may not be given and evidence will not be used as part of the appraisal process.

Formal observations

The purpose of formal observations is to assess the teacher's performance and progress against their objectives and the relevant standards.

We will take into account the teacher's workload and individual circumstances when determining the number of formal observations.

For example, less experienced teachers who have recently started at the school will receive a number of formal observations to establish their strengths and areas for development. A very experienced teacher will typically receive fewer observations.

Teachers will not receive more than 3 formal observations over the year.

Generally, verbal feedback will be given the following day. We will use all reasonable endeavours to provide written feedback within 5 working days.

Additional observations

Additional formal observations will take place if:

- The teacher requests them.
- There are concerns that the teacher's performance is not up to standard (this may be triggered by poorly performing or poorly behaved pupils).
- The teacher is subject to formal capability proceedings.
- The above protocols will still apply to these additional observations.

Annual assessment

Teachers will receive regular feedback on their performance throughout the year.

The appraisal meeting is the end point of the annual appraisal process and will take place in the autumn term. In this meeting, the appraiser will:

- Review the relevant evidence.
- Assess performance in the appraisal period against the relevant standards.
- Assess performance in the appraisal period against objectives.
- Discuss the teacher's professional development needs and identify action that should be taken.
- Discuss the teacher's wellbeing, career aspirations and any difficulties they may be facing.
- If necessary, discuss underperformance and put a plan in place to address it. If a teacher continues to demonstrate serious underperformance and does not respond to support provided, they 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 they will be invited to a formal capability meeting. For more information, please see the capability procedure.

Conducting annual appraisal meetings

The headteacher's appraisal meeting will be conducted by the governing body. To support the headteacher's appraisal, the governors will appoint an external adviser with relevant skills and experience. The adviser may be from the local authority or an external consultant.

The governing body will typically delegate the headteacher's appraisal to a sub-group of 3 governing body members with a wide range of experience and knowledge of the school. This will not include any staff governors.

The headteacher will decide who will appraise teachers. Unless there is a good reason not to, this will normally be the headteacher or deputy headteacher.

All appraisers will be provided with appropriate training.

Appraisal meetings will take place within the teacher's normal working hours and will typically last for an hour.

Appraisal report

Teachers will be provided with a written report of their appraisal. The report will be completed by the person who conducted the appraisal. We will use all reasonable endeavours to complete this within 5 working days.

This will include:

- An assessment of the teacher's performance against their objectives and the relevant standards.

- An assessment of the teacher's training and development needs, and the action that should be taken to address them.
- Where relevant, a recommendation on pay progression.

There will be space in the report for the teacher's own comments.

Teachers will sign the appraisal report to say they have seen it and agree with its content. Teachers can appeal to the headteacher, and the headteacher can appeal to the governing body, if they disagree with the contents of the report and the pay recommendation it makes.

Concerns about a teacher's performance

If it becomes clear a teacher is having difficulties at any point during the appraisal period, they will be provided with additional support.

This will begin with a meeting with their line manager, where the problem will be discussed and potential solutions identified. A performance improvement plan may be created.

The nature of the support will be based on the individual's circumstances. For example, teachers whose difficulties are linked to a long-term health condition may be referred to the Occupational Health service. Teachers new to the school may be given a mentor or coach.

The concerns may be of a nature that would usually involve beginning the capability procedure. In these cases, refer to our capability procedures.

Confidentiality

The appraisal process and relevant documents are strictly confidential. Only members of staff who need the information in order to do their jobs will have access to the information.

Appraisal information will be anonymised when information is reported to the governing body.

Appraisal records will be kept securely in the headteacher's office.

Monitoring arrangements

The governing body will monitor and review the effectiveness of the appraisal arrangements. The headteacher will monitor objectives and assessments to ensure consistency.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years. At every review, this policy will be approved by the full governing body.

Links with other policies

This policy links with the following school policies and procedures:

- Capability procedure – this will be used where the appraisal policy has not been able to address concerns about a teacher's performance. It applies to all staff, not just teaching staff.
- Early career teacher (ECT) induction policy – this sets out the appraisal and pay arrangements for ECTs.
- Teacher's pay policy – this sets out how pay increases will be awarded, based on the results of a teacher's appraisal.

Approved by governors: October 2024

Last reviewed: September 2024

Next review: September 2026

Appendix 1

Appraisal Timeline

Date	Action
First day of autumn term	Appraisal cycle begins
September / October	Appraisal meetings held to review the previous appraisal period
31 October	Appraisal process is completed for teachers, deadline for appraisal reports to be sent
October / November	Discuss and set objectives, inform teachers of the standards their performance will be assessed against
31 December	Appraisal process is completed for the headteacher, deadline for appraisal report to be sent
Throughout the year	Formal and 'drop-in' observations and monitoring take place, constructive feedback is provided

Appendix 2

Appraisal Report Template

Teacher	Reviewer	Date of review meeting

Part 1 - Review of performance against previous objectives

Objective:					
Performance criteria:					
Fully achieved		Partly achieved		Not achieved	
Reviewer's comments:					

Objective:					
Performance criteria:					
Fully achieved		Partly achieved		Not achieved	
Reviewer's comments:					

Objective:					
Performance criteria:					
Fully achieved		Partly achieved		Not achieved	
Reviewer's comments					

