

A Place to Flourish
“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10)



Appraisal Policy

Date of review/adoption	Autumn 2024
Date of next review	Autumn 2025
Notes	

Signed *C. Robertson*..... Chair of Governors
Date 30.09.2024

*Electronically signed and approved at Full Governing Board Meeting held on
30.09.2024

BLUNDESTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL APPRAISAL POLICY

The Governing Board of Blundeston CEVC Primary School adopted this policy following consultation with staff and school representatives of recognised unions.

1. Purpose

This policy, along with the school's Pay Policy, provides a framework for the clear and consistent assessment of overall performance of all staff employed at Blundeston CEVC Primary School. It sets out arrangements for supporting staff development within the school's plan for improving educational provision and performance. Performance management and appraisal are developmental and supportive processes, designed to ensure that all staff have the skills and support they need to carry out their role and that they continue to improve their professional practice throughout their career.

This policy also includes information on the initial support and arrangements that will apply where there are concerns about any aspects of a member of staff's work performance. Further guidance on the standards expected of all staff is included in the school's Pay Policy.

2. Application of the policy

This policy applies to all staff, with the exception of those:

- on contracts of less than one term
- undergoing induction (including Early Career Teachers - ECTs) or probationary procedures
- who are subject to formal capability procedures.

3. The appraisal period

Normally, the appraisal period will run for twelve months from 1st September to 31st August each year for teachers and 1st April to 31st March each year for support staff. A longer or shorter appraisal period may apply for appointments starting part way through the academic year. Timescales for the completion of annual performance reviews and the award of any pay progression are detailed in the school's Pay Policy.

A mid-cycle review of performance will normally be conducted twice during the appraisal cycle.

Members of staff 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 appraisal period will be determined by the duration of their contract.

4. Appointing appraisers

Appraisers are responsible for setting objectives, reviewing performance (including an annual recommendation on any pay progression) and agreeing arrangements that support continued professional development.

The Headteacher will be appraised by the Governing Board. In this school, the task of appraising the Headteacher, including the setting of objectives, will be delegated to a sub-committee consisting of three members of the Governing Board, supported by a suitably skilled and/or experienced external adviser who has been appointed by the governing body for that purpose. The Headteacher will be responsible for the appraisal of the Deputy Headteacher, teaching staff and the Administration and Facilities Manager. The Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for the appraisal of teaching assistants and the Nurture and Pastoral Support team. The Administration and Facilities Manager will be responsible for the appraisal of the Finance Officer, Attendance Assistant, Caretaker and Cleaner.

Should a member of staff feel that any person appointed as their appraiser is unsuitable for professional reasons, they may submit a request to the Headteacher (or the Chair of the Governing Board in the case of the Headteacher) for that appraiser to be replaced, stating the reasons for their request. The school will give reasonable consideration to any such request. Where the school's view is that it is not appropriate (or possible) to change the appointed appraiser, its reasons will be explained in full. Consideration will also be given to other arrangements (for example, additional moderation of reviews or support during review meetings) which aim to ensure fair application of the appraisal process.

5. Setting objectives

Objectives must contribute to the school's plans for improving its educational provision and performance. Appraisers will therefore be expected to align individual objectives with the school's priorities.

Objectives should also:

- be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound)
- be well defined so that the appraisee and appraiser are clear what success looks like
- become more challenging as staff progress up their pay range/grade
- be appropriate to the employee's role and level of experience, also considering their professional aspirations and an appropriate work life balance

Objectives will include the following:

1. One target relating to a whole school priority, linked to the School Improvement Plan
2. One target relating to pupil progress, linked to the School Improvement Plan
3. One target related to personal development, in the context of the school's current school improvement priorities

Additional objectives may be set, for example, relating to leadership targets for staff on the upper pay or leadership scales.

For staff with roles not directly involved in the delivery of/supporting teaching and learning, some flexibility around points 1 and 2 above will be necessary, to ensure objectives reflect the core purpose of their role. For example, objectives may refer to the individual's broader contribution to teaching and learning or work of the school that support this. In all cases, objectives should always contribute to the school's improvement priorities and reflective practice.

Objectives will be set, following consultation with the individual, before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. The appraiser and appraisee will seek to agree the objectives but, if that is not possible, the appraiser may determine the objectives. However, every reasonable effort should be made to resolve any 'dispute' regarding objectives at an early stage.

Objectives should be set out in the planning statement, along with details of any training and support which have been agreed. The planning statement should also indicate the measures that will be considered when reviewing performance, including arrangements for lesson or task observation where appropriate.

Objectives may be revised if circumstances change.

6. Relevant professional standards

The school's Pay Policy sets out the professional standards and wider expectations against which, where relevant, the employee will be assessed and which will contribute to an overall assessment of performance at the end of the appraisal period. Appraisers should ensure that all employees are clear about the standards and expectations against which they will be assessed as soon as practicable after the start of each appraisal period.

Reflective practice is an essential part of continuous professional development for all staff, and self-evaluation is encouraged in all roles. Teaching staff should consider their development in relation to the Teachers' Standards and may find it helpful to complete a self-evaluation against the Teachers' Standards (see Appendix 2) in anticipation of their annual review. Support staff may refer to professional standards or competency frameworks relevant to their roles, for example, including the:

School business management competency framework:

<https://isbl.org.uk/career-development/sbm-competency-framework.aspx>

Professional standards for teaching assistants:

<http://maximisingtas.co.uk/assets/content/ta-standards-final-june2016-1.pdf>

Teachers' standards:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-standards>

7. Observation

The school believes that observation of classroom practice and other responsibilities is important, both as a way of assessing staff's performance in order to identify any particular strengths and areas for development they may have, and for gathering useful information which will lead to the improvement in the quality of teaching and attainment of pupils.

Performance will be regularly observed. All observation will be carried out in a supportive fashion. The amount and type of observation will depend on the individual circumstances of the member of staff and the overall needs of the school. However, within the appraisal process, formal observation will not normally exceed three hours.

Classroom observations will be carried out by those with QTS, following the Classroom Observation Protocol in Appendix 1.

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

8. Other sources of information

The appraisal process should enable staff to demonstrate their overall performance and evidence from a range of sources may inform the assessment of performance set out in paragraph 11 of this policy and the school's Pay Policy.

In addition, the Headteacher or others with responsibility for standards may conduct other observations, learning walks or "drop in" observations in order to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning and to check that high standards of professional performance are established and maintained. The length and frequency of such observations, learning walks or "drop in" sessions will vary depending on specific circumstances.

When assessing overall performance, depending on the nature and scope of the role, objectives, development needs and any relevant professional standards, evidence may include:

- Feedback from formal lesson or task observations
- Professional conversations following learning walks or "drop in" sessions. For staff with roles not directly involved in the delivery of/supporting teaching and learning, this might include professional conversations regarding interactions with colleagues, pupils, parents and members of the school community and/or informal feedback on tasks undertaken
- Reviews of assessment results
- Reviews of schemes of work and/or lesson planning records
- Reviews of children's work
- School reviews and reviews of extra-curriculum provision
- Internal tracking of pupil progress or other progress and outcome data

- Moderation within and across schools
- Pupils' voice
- Parents'/carers' voice
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) records

9. Development and support

Appraisal is a supportive process which will be used to inform continuing professional development. The school expects all members of staff to take responsibility for improving their teaching and other work through appropriate professional development. Professional development will be linked to school improvement priorities and the ongoing professional development needs/priorities of individual members of staff. In the case of competing demands on the school's budget for CPD, a decision on relative priority will be made, taking into account the extent to which the CPD identified:

- is essential for the member of staff to meet their objectives, and
- will help the school to achieve its priorities.

Should a member of staff receive significant investment in their professional development (£1000- £5000 per year including supply cover) and then decide to leave the school, the Governing Board may require repayment of the funding on the following scale:

- Employee leaves within 6 months of completing CPD – full repayment
- Employee leaves within 1 year of completing CPD – 50% repayment

If the investment in professional development has been in excess of £5000 (including supply cover) and the member of staff then decides to leave the school, the Governing Board may require repayment of the funding on the following scale:

- Member of staff leaves within 1 year of completing CPD – full repayment
- Member of staff leaves within 2 years of completing CPD – 50% repayment

In all cases, the member of staff may choose to arrange for the repayment from their new school (if applicable).

10. Reviewing performance

At the end of the appraisal period, an assessment of overall performance and a recommendation on pay progression will be made by the appraiser against the criteria detailed in the school's Pay Policy. 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. As indicated above, a mid-cycle review of performance will normally be conducted twice a year. Staff are expected to keep personal records of their progress towards their appraisal targets which will be shared and discussed with their appraiser at the mid-cycle reviews.

“From the 2024/25 academic year, the requirement for objectives and the appraisal process to lead to performance-related pay outcomes for teachers and leaders will be removed. The statutory requirement to make a pay decision following the completion of the appraisal process remains.”

11. The appraisal report

Each member of staff will receive a written appraisal report as soon as practicable following the end of each appraisal period and will have the opportunity to comment on it, in writing. The appraisal report will include:

- Details of the individual's objectives and whether or not they were met
- An assessment of the individual's overall performance
- An assessment of the individual's training and development needs and identification of any action that should be taken to address them. (This should inform the planning process for the following appraisal period)
- A recommendation on any pay progression.

Arrangements for the consideration of pay recommendations and any appeal are described in the school's Pay Policy.

12. Feedback and dealing with any concerns about performance

All staff will receive constructive feedback on their performance throughout the year and as soon as practical after any observation has taken place or any other evidence has come to light. Feedback will highlight areas of strength as well as next steps.

Where there are concerns about any aspects of the member of staff's work performance the appraiser or Headteacher will meet with the individual to:

- Give clear feedback to the member of staff about the nature and seriousness of the concerns
- Give the individual the opportunity to comment on 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 when the appraiser will review progress. (It may be appropriate to revise objectives and it will be necessary to allow reasonable period for improvement)
- Make clear the school will expect significant improvement at the end of the review period and explain the implications and process if no, or insufficient, improvement is made
- Make clear that any improvement must be sustained.

When progress is reviewed, if the appraiser/Headteacher is satisfied that the member of staff 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.

13. Transition to capability

If the appraiser/Headteacher is not satisfied with progress within the time specified, the individual will be notified in writing that the appraisal system will no longer apply and that their performance will be managed under the school's capability procedure. They will be invited to a formal capability meeting and procedures will be conducted as described in the school's Capability Policy (template letter PM2).

General principles underlying the Appraisal Policy

Confidentiality

The appraisal process 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 procedures/pay decisions and share necessary information with those involved in their administration.

Consistency of treatment and fairness

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness. The school's commitments in its Pay Policy to acting in accordance with the principles of public life (objectivity, openness and accountability) apply equally to its arrangements for appraisal. The school will abide by all relevant equality legislation, including, as amended:

- Employment Relations Act 1999
- Equality Act 2010
- Employment Rights Act 1996
- The Part-time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000
- The Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002
- The Agency Workers Regulations 2010.

The Governing Board will promote equality in all aspects of school life, particularly as regards all decisions on advertising of posts, appointing, promoting and paying staff, training and staff development.

Definitions

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governing Board and Headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the school's appraisal arrangements. The Headteacher will provide the Governing Body with a written report on the operation of the school's Appraisal Policy, annually, including information on training and development needs and whether there have been any appeals or representations regarding appraisal procedures. The report will not contain any information which would enable any individual to be identified.

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.

APPENDIX 1 – CLASSROOM OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

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

- Carry out the role with professionalism, integrity and courtesy
- Evaluate objectively, acknowledging any particular circumstances which may affect performance on the day
- Report accurately and fairly
- Respect the confidentiality of the information gained

The amount and type of classroom observation will depend on the individual circumstances of the member of staff and the overall needs of the school. In keeping with the commitment to supportive and developmental classroom observation, those being observed will be notified not less than five working days in advance.

Wherever practicable, the arrangements for classroom observation will be included in the appraisal plan and/or report. As appropriate, this will include the amount/duration of observation, its primary purpose, when during the appraisal cycle the observation will take place and who will conduct the observation. Although classroom observation will be undertaken in line with this plan, other information gathered during the observation will be used, as appropriate, for a variety of purposes including informing the school's self-evaluation and school improvement strategies. This is consistent with the school's commitment to streamlining data collection and minimising bureaucracy and workload burdens on staff.

Where concerns about performance arise during the appraisal period, it may be necessary to agree classroom observations in addition to or that vary those recorded at the beginning of the appraisal period. In these circumstances, the appraisal plan will be updated.

Classroom observations will only be undertaken by those with QTS. In addition, classroom observation will only be undertaken by those who have been trained in classroom observation and in the provision of constructive and supportive feedback in the context of professional dialogue between colleagues. The Headteacher will seek to discharge their responsibility for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning primarily through the planned classroom observations. Observers will therefore be required to make a judgement about the quality of teaching and learning.

Verbal feedback will be given as soon as possible after the observation and normally within one working day of the observation taking place. It will be given during directed time, in a suitable, private environment. Written feedback will be provided within five working days of the observation taking place. If issues emerge from an observation that were not part of the focus of the observation as recorded in the appraisal plan these should also be covered in the written feedback and the appropriate action taken. No written notes in addition to the written feedback will be kept. The teacher may append written comments on the feedback document.

APPENDIX 2 - TEACHERS' STANDARDS SELF-EVALUATION

Please review these standards before your target setting meeting. They should inform both the targets that are set and any professional development that you may need (both of which should be discussed at the meeting).

PART 1 – TEACHING	Self-evaluation			
1. SET HIGH EXPECTATIONS WHICH INSPIRE, MOTIVATE AND CHALLENGE STUDENTS	Weak	Developing	Embedded	Strength
1(a) establish a safe and stimulating environment for students, rooted in mutual respect				
1(b) set goals that stretch and challenge students of all backgrounds, abilities and dispositions				
1(c) demonstrate consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of students				
2. PROMOTE GOOD PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES BY STUDENTS				
2(a) be accountable for students' attainment, progress and outcomes				
2(b) be aware of students' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these				
2(c) guide students to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs				
2(d) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how students learn and how this impacts on teaching				
2(e) encourage students to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study				
3. DEMONSTRATE GOOD SUBJECT AND CURRICULUM KNOWLEDGE				
3(a) have a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas, foster and maintain students' interest in the subject, and address misunderstandings				
3(b) demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas, and promote the value of scholarship				
3(c) demonstrate an understanding of and take responsibility for promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject				
3(d) if teaching early reading, demonstrate a clear understanding of systematic synthetic phonics				
3(e) if teaching early mathematics, demonstrate a clear understanding of appropriate teaching strategies				

4. PLAN AND TEACH WELL STRUCTURED LESSONS				
4(a) impart knowledge and develop understanding through effective use of lesson time				
4(b) promote a love of learning and children's intellectual curiosity				
4(c) set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge & understanding students have acquired				
4(d) reflect systematically on the effectiveness of lessons and approaches to teaching				
4(e) contribute to the design and provision of an engaging curriculum within the relevant subject area(s)				
5. ADAPT TEACHING TO RESPOND TO THE STRENGTHS AND NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS				
5(a) know when and how to differentiate appropriately, using approaches which enable students to be taught effectively				
5(b) have a secure understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit students' ability to learn, and how best to overcome these				
5(c) demonstrate an awareness of the physical, social and intellectual development of children, and know how to adapt teaching to support students' education at different stages of development				
5(d) have a clear understanding of the needs of all students, including those with SEN; those of high ability; those with EAL; those with disabilities; and be able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them.				
6. MAKE ACCURATE AND PRODUCTIVE USE OF ASSESSMENT				
6(a) know and understand how to assess the relevant subject and curriculum areas, including statutory assessment requirements				
6(b) make use of formative and summative assessment to secure students' progress				
6(c) use relevant data to monitor progress, set targets, and plan subsequent lessons				
6(d) give students regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encourage students to respond to the feedback				

7. MANAGE BEHAVIOUR EFFECTIVELY TO ENSURE A GOOD SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT				
7(a) have clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms, and take responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour both in classrooms and around the school, in accordance with the school's behaviour policy				
7(b) have high expectations of behaviour, and establish a framework for discipline with a range of strategies, using praise, sanctions and rewards consistently and fairly				
7(c) manage classes effectively, using approaches which are appropriate to pupils' needs in order to involve and motivate them				
7(d) maintain good relationships with pupils, exercise appropriate authority, and act decisively when necessary.				
8. FULFIL WIDER PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES				
8(a) make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school				
8(b) develop effective professional relationships with colleagues, knowing how and when to draw on advice and specialist support				
8(c) deploy support staff effectively				
8(d) take responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development, responding to advice and feedback from colleagues				
8(e) communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils' achievements and well-being.				

Summary of changes to the policy

Document control			
Date	Section(s)	Update(s)	Notes
28/08/20	ALL	Layout, numbering and presentation	
28/08/20	Section 11	Removed informal and formal stage of appeal as now only formal stage.	
28/08/20	Section 13	Transition to capability referenced PM2 letter	
28/08/20		Added summary of changes	
26/08/21	Section 2	NQTs changed to ECTs – Early Career Teachers	
22/09/24	Section 10	Acknowledged the removal of performance-related pay outcomes for teachers and leaders.	