

St Thomas More Primary School
Appraisal Policy



Reviewed	Agreed by GB	Next review
September 2022	Oct 22	September 2023
October 2023	Oct 23	September 2024

This is based on the Royal Borough of Greenwich's "Model Appraisal Procedure for Teachers" 2012

1. Introduction

Revised appraisal arrangements come into force with effect from 1 September 2012. They are set out in the Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Appraisal Regulations) which replace the Education (School Teacher Performance Management) (England) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Regulations). The 2006 Regulations continue to apply to any performance management cycle which is in progress on 1 September 2012, unless the governing body or local authority decides to end that cycle early and to begin a new appraisal period starting on or after that date.

The Appraisal Regulations set out the principles that apply to teachers in all maintained schools and unattached teachers employed by a local authority, in each case where they are employed for one term or more. They retain the key elements of the 2006 Regulations but allow schools more freedom to design arrangements to suit their own individual circumstances. They provide the minimum national framework within which schools should operate and say nothing, or very little, on many subjects on which the 2006 Regulations made detailed provision. If they wish, schools may include in their own policies details that are no longer covered by the Appraisal Regulations.

Schools and local authorities must stay within the legal framework set out in the Appraisal Regulations and in other relevant legislation that affects all employers (for example legislation on equality, employment protection and data protection).

Schools and local authorities must have an appraisal policy for teachers and a policy, covering all staff, which deals with lack of capability. This model policy applies only to teachers, including the Head of School.

2. Purpose and application

This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of teachers, including the Head of School, and for supporting their development within the context of the school's plan for improving educational provision and performance, and the standards expected of teachers. It also sets out the arrangements that will apply when teachers fall below the levels of competence that are expected of them. This policy applies to the Head of School and to all teachers employed by the school or local authority, except those on contracts of less than one term, those undergoing induction (i.e. NQT's) and those who are subject to the Formal Capability Procedure.

3. Appraisal

Appraisal in the 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 as teachers.

3.1 The appraisal period

The appraisal period will run for twelve months from October to October.

Teachers 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.

There is flexibility to have a longer or shorter appraisal period when teachers begin or end employment with a school or local authority or when unattached teachers change post within the same authority.

3.2 Appointing appraisers

The Headteacher will be appraised by two members of the Governing Body and an external advisor with a background in education. These are to be agreed by the Headteacher

The Headteacher, including the setting of objectives, will be delegated to a sub-group consisting of two/three (delete as appropriate) members of the Governing Body.

The Headteacher will decide who will appraise other teachers.

4. Setting objectives

The Headteacher's objectives will be set by the Chair of Governors, Governing Body after consultation with the external adviser.

Objectives for each teacher will be set before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. The objectives set for each teacher, will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound and will be appropriate to the teacher's role and level of experience. The appraiser and

teacher 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 teacher 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.

Before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period, each teacher will be informed of the standards against which that teacher's performance in that appraisal period will be assessed. All teachers should be assessed against the set of standards contained in the document called "Teachers' Standards" published in July 2011. The Headteacher or governing body (as appropriate) will need to consider whether certain teachers should also be assessed against other sets of standards published by the Secretary of State that are relevant to them.

5. Reviewing performance/observation

The school 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. Observations may be a combination of walk throughs, book looks and formal observations by one member of the SLT and the Headteacher.

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. In addition to formal observation, Head of Schools 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 who have responsibilities outside the classroom should also expect to have their performance of those responsibilities observed and assessed.

6. 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 teachers take responsibility for improving their teaching 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.

7. Feedback

Teachers 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 (it may be appropriate to revise objectives, and it will be necessary to allow sufficient time for improvement)
- 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.

8. 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 School's Capability procedure.

9. Annual assessment

Each teacher's performance will be formally assessed in respect of each appraisal period. In assessing the performance of the Head of School, the Governing Body should consider using an 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 in interim meetings which will take place at a mid-point in the year.

The teacher 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 October (31 December for the Headteacher). The appraisal report will include:

- Details of the teacher's objectives for the appraisal period in question
- An assessment of the teacher's performance of their role and responsibilities against their objectives and the relevant standards
- An assessment of the teacher's training and 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 December for Head of Schools and by 31 October for other teachers)

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