



APPRAISAL POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR TEACHING STAFF

Mount St Mary' Appraisal Policy & Procedure for Teaching Staff

Adopted by Mount St Marys' Governing Body on 1 January 2022

Signed

Chair of Governors

Approved by Chair of Staffing Sub Committee

Review date: January 2025

This Policy has been prepared in accordance with The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012; The Education (School Teachers) (Qualifications and Appraisal) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2012; The Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

DEFINITIONS

In this Appraisal Policy and Procedure, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i. 'Diocesan Schools Commission' means the education service provided by the Diocese, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Diocesan Education Service.
- ii. 'Chair' means the Chair of the Mount St Mary's Catholic High School (MSM) Governing Body appointed from time to time.
- iii. 'Clerk' means the Clerk of the MSM Governing Body appointed from time to time.
- iv. 'Companion' means a willing work colleague not involved in the substance of the employee's performance under review by this Appraisal Policy and Procedure, or an accredited Trade Union representative.
- v. 'External Adviser' means a suitably skilled and/or experienced person who is appointed by the Governing Body to support the Governing Body to appraise the headteacher in accordance with this Appraisal Policy and Procedure. The External Adviser must be familiar with the particular needs of a Catholic voluntary aided school or academy e.g. the development of the MSM ethos.
- vi. 'Governing Body' means the governing body of Mount St Mary's Catholic High School (MSM).
- vii. 'Governors' means the governors appointed to the governing body of MSM, from time to time.
- viii. 'Standards' means:

For maintained schools, the professional standards for teachers published by the DfE in May 2012 and introduced 1st September 2012; any updates of the standards will be incorporated into subsequent policy reviews.

- ix. 'Teacher' means a teacher employed by the governing body to work at MSM and, where the context so admits, includes the headteacher.
- x. 'Vice-Chair' means the vice-chair of the governing body appointed from time to time.

1. APPLICATION

1.1 Subject to Paragraph 1.2 below, this Appraisal Policy and Procedure applies to you if you are an employee or worker at MSM and are a teacher or headteacher (hereinafter referred to as an "employee" or "you").

1.2 This Appraisal Policy and Procedure does not apply to Teachers employed under a contract of employment for less than one term, those undergoing induction (i.e. Early Careers Teachers) and those who are subject to the MSM Capability Policy and Procedure.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 The purpose of this procedure is to establish a framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of Teachers 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.
- 2.2 Where concerns raised about a Teacher's performance cannot be resolved through this Appraisal Policy and Procedure, there will be consideration of whether to invoke the School's Capability Policy and Procedure.
- 2.3 The Governors delegate their authority in the manner set out in this procedure.

3. APPRAISAL IN A CATHOLIC CONTEXT

- 3.1 Teaching , as a 'work of love, requires a radical commitment and service from all teachers, whatever their faith and whatever point they have reached on their spiritual journey': "The Church looks upon you as co-workers with an important measure of shared responsibility ... to you it is given to create the future and give it direction by offering your students a set of values with which to assess their newly discovered knowledge ... [The changing times] demand that educators be open to new cultural influences and interpret them for young pupils on the light of Christian faith. You are called to bring professional skills and competence and a high standard of excellence to your teaching ... but your responsibilities make demands on you that go far beyond the need for professional skills and competence ... through you, as through a clear window on a sunny day, students must come to see and know the richness and joy of a life lived in accordance with Christ's teaching, in response to his challenging demands. To teach means not only to impart what we know, but also to reveal who we are by living what we believe. It is this latter lesson which tends to last the longest"¹ . The School recognises the challenge for all teachers in carrying out their 'work of love' and is committed to nurturing them throughout their professional careers.
- 3.2 Appraisal 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 within the context of the School's ethos. It will help to ensure that teachers are able to continue to improve their professional practice and to develop as teachers.
- 3.3 Arrangements for appraisal will be conducted in such a way that employees will be secure in the knowledge that their progress and commitment to MSM are acknowledged.
- 3.4 Appraisal is a time to celebrate achievement wherever possible, as well as for discerning where there is scope for development. Challenge is at the heart of the Gospels. Christ challenged all whom he encountered, each according to their needs and readiness.
- 3.5 The MSM Governing Body is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness in the operation of performance management as a Catholic school, as well as belief in the dignity of the individual. This Appraisal Policy and Procedure offers opportunities to ensure justice for teachers and students alike and has the potential for

¹ Christ at the Centre – a summary of why the Church provides Catholic Schools – Birmingham Diocesan Schools' Commission.

the expression of Christian qualities such as honesty, self-knowledge, respect for others and their gifts, recognition of the needs and achievements of others, challenge of self and others, personal growth and openness.

4. THE APPRAISAL PERIOD

- 4.1 The Appraisal Period will run for twelve months from 1st November to 31st October each year.
- 4.2 Teachers who are employed on a fixed-term or temporary contract of less than one year but more than one term, will have their performance managed in accordance with the principles underpinning this Appraisal Policy and Procedure. The length of the Appraisal Period will be determined by the duration of their contract of employment.
- 4.3 Where a Teacher starts their employment at the School part-way through MSM's usual Appraisal Period, the Headteacher or, in the case where the employee is the Headteacher, the MSM Governing Body shall determine the length of the Appraisal Period for that Teacher, with a view to bringing his/her appraisal period into line with the MSM's usual Appraisal Period (as per Paragraph 4.1 above) as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Where a Teacher transfers to a new post within MSM part-way through an Appraisal Period, the Headteacher or, in the case where the employee is the Headteacher, the MSM Governing Body shall determine whether the Appraisal Period should be re-set and whether the Appraiser should be changed.

5. APPOINTING APPRAISERS

- 5.1 The table below sets out the persons to be appointed to appraise employee performance during the Appraisal Period depending on the employee who is being appraised:

<i>Employee Level</i>	<i>Appraiser</i>
Headteacher	A panel appointed by the Governing Body in accordance with Paragraph 5.3 and supported by an External Adviser
Teacher	A person appointed by the Headteacher

- 5.2 In carrying out its duties in accordance with Paragraph 5.1, the MSM Governing Body must appoint a suitably skilled and/or experienced External Adviser to support the MSM Governing Body to appraise the headteacher.
- 5.3 The task of appraising the headteacher, including the setting of objectives in accordance with Paragraph 6 below, will be delegated by the MSM Governing Body to a sub-group consisting of two Governors, which must include at least two Foundation Governors, and such sub-group will be supported by the External Adviser appointed in accordance with Paragraph 5.2 above.
- 5.4 The MSM Governing Body may also seek advice from other external advisers including, but not limited to, the Diocesan Schools' Commission or the Local Authority.
- 5.5 Where it becomes apparent that an Appraiser appointed by the headteacher will be absent for the majority of the Appraisal Period, the headteacher may perform the

duties of the Appraiser or delegate those duties to another Teacher for the duration of the absence.

5.6 Where an employee has a reasonable objection to the choice of Appraiser, their concerns may be carefully considered and, where it can be reasonably accommodated, an alternative appraiser may be offered.

6. SETTING OBJECTIVES

General

6.1 Appraisal objectives should reflect MSM's Catholic identity, mission and the values it proclaims and Appraisers are expected to explore the alignment of such objectives with the School's priorities and plans, working at all times to ensure that the Catholic ethos is developed and maintained.

6.2 In setting and reviewing objectives for Teachers at MSM, the following principles should be considered:

- (a) Justice for all;
- (b) The needs of the whole person;
- (c) Respect for the individual and the community; and
- (d) The preferential option for the poor.

6.3 The Appraiser and appraisee will seek to agree the objectives. Objectives may be revised if circumstances change. MSM operates a system of moderation to ensure that all Appraisers are working to the same standards. Targets will be moderated across the school to ensure that they are consistent between employees with similar experience and levels of responsibility. Should the objectives not be agreed, the final decision on allocation of objectives rests with the Appraiser.

6.4 The objectives set for each Teacher will, if achieved, contribute to the School's plans for improving educational provision and performance and improving education of the students at MSM.

6.5 Objectives, where met, should contribute to improving the progress, development and well-being of students at MSM as understood in relation to the Catholic nature of MSM and so include the spiritual, moral and social development of each student.

6.6 The objectives set for Teachers will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound and will be commensurate with teachers' role and career stage expectations.

6.7 The Appraiser may take into account the effects of an individual's circumstances, including any disability, when agreeing objectives.

6.8 Following discussion between the Appraiser and the employee, set objectives may be revised by the Appraiser in accordance with the needs of MSM and the Teacher, and any such revision(s) to set objectives will be recorded in writing.

Headteacher

6.9 In accordance with Paragraph 5, the headteacher's objectives will be set by the MSM Governing Body in consultation with the External Adviser before, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the start of each Appraisal Period and the headteacher will be informed of the Standards against which their performance will be appraised in that Appraisal Period.

Teachers

6.10 Objectives for each Teacher will be set before, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the start of each Appraisal Period and Teachers will be informed of the Standards against which their performance will be appraised in that Appraisal Period.

7. REVIEWING PERFORMANCE

Observation

7.1 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 and of gaining useful information which can inform school improvement more generally.

7.2 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. All observation will be carried out in a supportive fashion.

7.3 Unless it is not reasonably practicable, at least 5 working days' notice of the date and time of the observation will be negotiated with the Teacher and verbal feedback will be provided by at least the end of the next school day and written feedback within 5 working days.

7.4 Classroom observation will only be carried out by those with Qualified Teacher Status.

7.5 In addition to formal observation, the Headteacher or any other senior leader 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 the specific circumstances but will be reasonable.

7.6 Teachers who have responsibilities outside the classroom should also expect to have their performance of those responsibilities observed and assessed.

7.7 For the purpose of professional development, feedback about lesson observations should be developmental, not simply a judgment using Ofsted grades.

Development and Support

7.8 Appraisal is a supportive process which will be used to inform Teachers' continuing professional development. MSM wishes to encourage a culture in which all Teachers take responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development. Professional development will be linked to MSM's improvement priorities and to the ongoing professional development needs and priorities of individual Teachers.

7.9 Account will be taken in a review meeting of where it has not been possible for employees to fully meet their performance criteria because the agreed support has not been provided.

7.10 Bluewave Swift, an online staff appraisal management system, has been purchased to make the process and documentation produced more transparent, more accessible, more consistent and encourage all teaching staff to view the annual appraisal process as a continual work in progress that can be reviewed by both appraiser and appraisee as often as desired by either.

Informal Action

- 7.11 A Teacher's line manager may issue informal warnings at any time about any performance falling short of the standards expected.
- 7.12 A Teacher's line manager may also provide informal advice, mentoring, coaching, counselling, arrangements for observation of lessons taught by other teachers at MSM or elsewhere or discussing practice with advisory teachers.
- 7.13 Informal action could include establishing the expectations that MSM and/or the MSM Governing Body has of the Teacher and what support may be provided to help the Teacher to meet those expectations.
- 7.14 Informal action may be recorded in writing and may be referred to at a later stage as evidence that an informal approach was attempted and the success or failure of such an approach.

Alternative Action

- 7.15 There may be a situation where the Teacher's line manager and/or the Appraiser considers that a recent promotion or job change has been a contributory factor in any unsatisfactory performance and that informal action has been, or is unlikely to be, effective.
- 7.16 Consideration may be given to a request from a teacher to relinquish any specific responsibilities that may be impacting upon their performance as an alternative to proceeding with formal action under this procedure i.e. Paragraph 9.

8. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In assessing the performance of the Headteacher the MSM Governing Body must consult the External Adviser in accordance with Paragraph 5.
- 8.2 Teachers' performance will be formally assessed in respect of each Appraisal Period.
- 8.3 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 at interim meetings which will take place at least once mid cycle.
- 8.4 The Teacher will receive, as soon as practicable following the end of each Appraisal Period, but usually by no later than 31st October for teaching staff and 31st December for the Headteacher, a written Appraisal Report. The Teacher will have the opportunity to comment on the Appraisal Report in writing.
- 8.5 The Appraisal Report will include:
 - (a) Details of the Teacher's objectives for the relevant Appraisal Period;
 - (b) An assessment of the Teacher's performance of their role and responsibilities against their objectives and the relevant Standards;
 - (c) An assessment of the Teacher's training and development needs and identification of any action that should be taken to address them;
 - (d) A recommendation on pay where that is relevant (*NB – pay recommendations need to be made by 31st December for headteachers and by 31st October for other teachers*);
- 8.6 A review meeting will take place to discuss the content of the Appraisal Report and any further action required and to inform objective setting for the next Appraisal Period.

9. TEACHERS (INCLUDING HEADTEACHERS) EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES

9.1 It is MSM's aim, when dealing with a Teacher experiencing difficulties, to provide support and guidance through the appraisal process in such a way that the Teacher's performance improves and the problem is, therefore, resolved.

9.2 Where it is apparent that a Teacher's personal circumstances are leading to difficulties at MSM, support will be offered as soon as reasonably practicable, without waiting for the Annual Assessment of performance.

9.3 If an Appraiser identifies through the appraisal process, or via other sources of information e.g. parental complaints, that the difficulties experienced by a Teacher are such that, if not rectified, could lead to the MSM Capability Policy and Procedure being invoked, the Appraiser, the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team (as delegated by the Headteacher) will meet with the Teacher to:

- (a) Give clear written feedback to the Teacher about the nature and seriousness of the concerns;
- (b) Give the Teacher the opportunity to comment on and discuss the concerns;
- (c) Give the Teacher at least 5 working days notice that a meeting will be held to discuss targets for improvement alongside a programme of support, and inform the Teacher that they have the right to be accompanied to any such meetings by a friend, colleague or union representative (companion);
- (d) In consultation with the Teacher at the above meeting, an action plan with support will be established (e.g. 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;
- (e) Make clear how progress will be monitored and when it will be reviewed; and
- (f) Explain the implications and process if no, or insufficient, improvement is made.

9.4 The Teacher's progress will continue to be monitored as part of the appraisal process and a reasonable time given for the Teacher's performance to improve. This will depend on the circumstances but will usually be for a period of between 8 and 12 working weeks, with appropriate support as agreed in the action plan as per Paragraph 9.3(d) above, 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.

9.5 If sufficient progress is made such that the Teacher is performing at a level that indicates that there is no longer a possibility of the MSM Capability Policy and Procedure being invoked, the Teacher should be informed of this at a formal meeting with the Appraiser or headteacher. Following this meeting, the appraisal process will continue as normal.

9.6 If no, or insufficient, improvement has been made over this period, the Teacher will be invited to a transition meeting with the Appraiser to determine whether the MSM Capability Policy and Procedure needs to be invoked or whether the appraisal process will remain in place. The Teacher will be given at least 5 working days notice of such meeting and shall be entitled to be accompanied at the meeting by an appropriate Companion that does not have a conflict of interest. The outcome of such meeting will be confirmed in writing to the Teacher within 5 working days of the meeting.

10. APPEALS

- 10.1 Teachers have a right of appeal against any of the entries in the written Appraisal Report and a separate right of appeal against a decision to invoke the MSM Capability Policy and Procedure made at a meeting under Paragraph 9.6 above.
- 10.2 An appeal lodged in accordance with Paragraph 10.1 must be made in writing to the Clerk and lodged within 10 working days of receipt of the Appraisal Report or the letter confirming the outcome of the meeting under Paragraph 9.6.
- 10.3 Appeal letters must set out the grounds of the appeal in detail.
- 10.4 The Appeal Meeting will normally be held within 20 working days of the appeal letter being received by the Clerk.
- 10.5 In the case of an appeal by the Headteacher, the Appeal Manager will be appointed by the Vice-Chair. In the case of an appeal by any other Teacher, the Appeal Manager will be the Headteacher, including where the Headteacher is the Appraiser.
- 10.6 The Appeal Manager will confirm the outcome of the Appeal Meeting in writing to you within 5 working days of the date of the Appeal Meeting. The decision of the Appeal Manager is final and there will be no further right of appeal. The outcomes of the Appeal Meeting are that:
 - (a) the Appeal Manager may uphold the entries made in the Appraisal Report and/or the outcome of the meeting under Paragraph 9.6;
 - or
 - (b) the Appeal Manager may uphold the employee's appeal and overturn the decision of the Appraiser. Where such appeal relates in whole or in part to entries in the Appraisal Report, the disputed entries shall be referred back to the Appraiser for reconsideration.
- 10.7 Where an appeal is against entries in the Appraisal Report and the outcome of a meeting under Paragraph 9.6, the appeals will be heard together.

11. COMPANION

- 11.1 Where a meeting is held under Paragraphs 9 or 10 above, you may be accompanied by an appropriate Companion that does not have a conflict of interest.
- 11.2 You must let the person appointed to hold such meeting under Paragraphs 9 or 10 above know who your Companion will be at least one working day before the meeting.
- 11.3 If you have any particular reasonable need, for example, because you have a disability, you can also be accompanied by a suitable helper.
- 11.4 Your Companion can address the meeting in order to:
 - (a) put your case;
 - (b) sum up your case; and
 - (c) respond on your behalf to any view expressed at the meeting.
- 11.5 Your Companion can also confer with you during the meeting.

- 11.6 Your Companion has no right to:
- (a) answer questions on your behalf;
 - (b) address the meeting if you do not wish it; or
 - (c) prevent you from explaining your case.
- 11.7 Where you have identified your Companion and they have confirmed in writing to the relevant person appointed under Paragraphs 9 or 10 that they cannot attend the date or time set for the meeting, the relevant person will postpone the meeting for no more than five working days from the date set by the School to a date or time agreed with your Companion provided that it is reasonable in all the circumstances.

12 TIMING OF MEETINGS

Meetings under this procedure may:

- a) need to be held when you were timetabled to teach.
- b) exceptionally be held during planning, preparation and administration time if this does not impact on lesson preparation.
- c) be held after the end of the School day.
- d) not be held on days on which you would not ordinarily work.

13 VENUE FOR MEETINGS

Any meetings required as part of this policy and procedure will usually be held at school.

14 ASSISTANCE

Where matters fall to be decided under Paragraphs 9 or 10, the Diocesan Schools Commission may send a representative to advise the School.

15 REVIEW OF THIS PROCEDURE

This procedure is reviewed on an annual basis in line with the Catholic Education Service (CES) annual review of their appraisal policy upon which this MSM Appraisal Policy has been based. The CES Appraisal Policy was produced for use in Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies in England following consultation with the national trade unions.