

West Exmoor Federation



Performance Management Policy

Adopted: November 2007

Reviewed March 2009

West Exmoor Federation – Performance Management Policy

The Governing Body of the West Exmoor Federation adopted this performance management policy on_____.

APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

The policy applies to the head teacher and to all teachers employed within the Federation except teachers on contracts of less than one term, those undergoing induction (*ie NQTs*) and those who are the subject of capability procedures.

PURPOSE

This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of teachers and the head teacher and for supporting their development needs within the context of the school's improvement plan and their own professional needs. Where teachers are eligible for pay progression, the assessment of performance throughout the cycle against the performance criteria specified in the statement will be the basis on which the recommendation is made by the reviewer.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's pay policy which provides details of the arrangements relating to teacher's pay in accordance with the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

LINKS TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

To comply with the requirement to show how the arrangements for performance management link with those for school improvement, school self-evaluation and school development planning and to minimise workload and bureaucracy the performance management process will be the main source of information as appropriate for school self-evaluation and the wider school improvement process.

Similarly, the school improvement and development plan and the school's self evaluation form are key documents for the performance management process.

All reviewers are expected to explore the alignment of reviewees' objectives with the school's priorities and plans. The objectives should also reflect reviewees' professional aspirations.

CONSISTENCY OF TREATMENT AND FAIRNESS

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness in the operation of performance management.

To ensure this the following provisions are made in relation to moderation, quality assurance and objective setting.

Quality assurance

The head teacher has determined that s/he will be the reviewer for all teachers.

The Governing Body will nominate three governors who will not be involved in the head teacher's performance management or any appeal regarding the head teacher's performance management to ensure that the head teacher's planning statement is consistent with the school's improvement priorities and complies with the school's performance management policy and the Regulations.

The Governing Body will review the quality assurance processes when the performance policy is reviewed.

OBJECTIVE SETTING

The objectives set will be rigorous, challenging, achievable, time-bound, fair and equitable in relation to teachers with similar roles/responsibilities and experience, and will have regard to what can reasonably be expected of any teacher in that position given the desirability of the reviewee being able to achieve a satisfactory balance between the time required to discharge his professional duties and the time required to pursue his personal interests outside work, consistent with the school's strategy for bringing downward pressure on working hours. They shall also take account of the teacher's professional aspirations and any relevant pay progression criteria. They should be such that, if they are achieved, they will contribute to improving the progress of pupils at the school.

The reviewer and reviewee will seek to agree the objectives but where a joint determination cannot be made the reviewer will make the determination.

Within the federation:

all teachers, including the head teacher, will have no more than four objectives;

teachers, including the head teacher, will not necessarily all have the same number of objectives;

all teachers, including the head teacher, will have a whole school objective;

all teachers, including the head teacher, will have a team objective, as appropriate.

Though performance management is an assessment of overall performance of teachers and the head teacher, objectives cannot cover the full range of a teacher's roles/responsibilities. Objectives will, therefore, focus on the priorities for an individual for the cycle. At the review stage it will be assumed that those aspects of a teacher's roles/responsibilities not covered by the objectives or any amendment to the statement which may have been necessary in accordance with the provisions of the regulations have been carried out satisfactorily.

Reviewing Progress

At the end of the cycle assessment of performance against an objective will be on the basis of the performance criteria set at the beginning of the cycle. Good progress towards the achievement of a challenging objective, even if the performance criteria have not been met in full, will be assessed

favourably.

The performance management cycle is annual, but on occasions it may be appropriate to set objectives that will cover a period over more than one cycle. In such cases, the basis on which the progress being made towards meeting the performance criteria for the objective will be assessed at the end of the first cycle and will be recorded in the planning and review statement at the beginning of the cycle.

APPEALS

At specified points in the performance management process teachers and head teachers have a right of appeal against any of the entries in their planning and review statements. Where a reviewee wishes to appeal on the basis of more than one entry this would constitute one appeal hearing.

Details of the appeals process are covered in the school's pay policy.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The whole performance management process and the statements generated under it, in particular, will be treated with strict confidentiality at all times. Only the reviewee's line manager or, where s/he has more than one, each of her/his line managers will be provided with access to the reviewee's plan recorded in her/his statement, upon request, where this is necessary to enable the line manager to discharge her/his line management responsibilities. Reviewees will be told who has requested and has been granted access.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

The federation's CPD programme will be informed by the training and development needs identified in the training annex of the reviewees' planning and review statements.

The governing body will ensure in the budget planning that, as far as possible, appropriate resources are made available in the school budget for any training and support agreed for reviewees.

An account of the training and development needs of teachers in general, including the instances where it did not prove possible to provide any agreed CPD, will form a part of the head teacher's annual report to the governing body about the operation of the performance management in the school.

With regard to the provision of CPD in the case of competing demands on the school budget, a decision on relative priority will be taken with regard to the extent to which: (a) the CPD identified is essential for a reviewee to meet their objectives; and (b) the extent to which the training and support will help the school to achieve its priorities. The school's priorities will have precedence. Teachers should not be held accountable for failing to make good progress towards meeting their performance criteria where the support recorded in the planning statement has not been provided.

APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWERS FOR THE HEAD TEACHER

Appointment of Governors

Within the federation the Governing Body is the reviewer for the head teacher and to discharge this responsibility appoints three governors of which at least one will be foundation governor.

Where a head teacher is of the opinion that any of the governors appointed by the governing body under this regulation is unsuitable for professional reasons, s/he may submit a written request to the governing body for that governor to be replaced, stating those reasons.

Appointment of School Improvement Partner or External Adviser

A school improvement partner has not yet been allocated to this school and the Governing Body will appoint an external adviser to provide advice and support in relation to the management and review of the performance of the head teacher.

APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWERS FOR TEACHERS

In the case where the head teacher is not the teacher's line manager, the head teacher may delegate the duties imposed upon the reviewer, in their entirety, to the teacher's line manager. In this school the head teacher has decided that the head teacher will be the reviewer for all teachers in this school.

A performance management cycle will not begin again in the event of the reviewer being changed.

THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The performance of teachers must be reviewed on an annual basis. Performance planning and reviews must be completed for all teachers by 31 October and for head teachers by 31 December.

The performance management cycle in this school, therefore, will run from 1st September to 31st August for teachers, and from 1st January to 31st December for the head teacher.

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 the provisions of this policy. The length of the cycle will be determined by the duration of their contract.

Where a teacher starts their employment at the school part-way through a cycle, the head teacher or, in the case where the teacher is the head teacher, the governing body shall determine the length of the first cycle for that teacher, with a view to bringing his cycle into line with the cycle for other teachers at the school as soon as possible.

Where a teacher transfers to a new post within the school part-way through a cycle, the head teacher or, in the case where the teacher is the head teacher, the governing body shall determine whether the cycle shall begin again and whether to change the reviewer.

RETENTION OF STATEMENTS

Performance management planning and review statements will be retained for a minimum period of 6 years.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The governing body will monitor the operation and outcomes of performance management arrangements.

The head teacher will provide the governing body with a written report on the operation of the school's performance management policy annually. The report will not contain any information which would enable any individual to be identified. The report will include:

- the operation of the performance management policy;
- the effectiveness of the school's performance management procedures;
- teachers' training and development needs.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the performance management process is fair and non-discriminatory and the following monitoring data should be included in the head teacher's report because they represent the possible grounds for unlawful discrimination:

- Race
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Religion and belief
- Age
- Part-time contracts
- Trade union membership.

The head teacher will also report on whether there have been any appeals or representations on an individual or collective basis on the grounds of alleged discrimination under any of the categories above.

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

The Governing Body will review the performance management policy every school year at its Autumn Term meeting.

The Governing Body will take account of the head teacher's report in its review of the performance management policy. The policy will be revised as required to introduce any changes in regulation and statutory guidance to ensure that it is always up to date.

The Governing Body will seek to agree any revisions to the policy with the recognised trade unions

having regard to the results of the consultation with all teachers.

To ensure teachers are fully conversant with the performance management arrangements, all new teachers who join the school will be briefed on them as part of their introduction to the school.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION

Copies of the school improvement and development plan and SEF are published on the school's intranet and/or can be obtained from the school office.

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

All classroom observation will be undertaken in accordance with the performance management regulations, the associated guidance published by the Rewards and Incentives Group and the classroom observation protocol that is appended to this policy in Annex 1.

ANNEX 1 - CLASSROOM OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

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

- carry out the role with professionalism, integrity and courtesy;
- evaluate objectively;
- report accurately and fairly; and
- respect the confidentiality of the information gained.

The total period for classroom observation arranged for any teacher will not exceed three hours per cycle having regard to the individual circumstances of the teacher. There is no requirement to use all of the three hours. The amount of observation for each teacher should reflect and be proportionate to the needs of the individual.

Within the federation 'proportionate to need' will be determined by the Senior Management Team.

The arrangements for classroom observation will be included in the plan in the planning and review statement and will include the amount of observation, specify its primary purpose, any particular aspects of the teacher's performance which will be assessed, the duration of the observation, when during the performance management cycle the observation will take place and who will conduct the observation.

Where evidence emerges about the reviewee's teaching performance which gives rise to concern during the cycle classroom observations may be arranged in addition to those recorded at the beginning of the cycle subject to a revision meeting being held in accordance with the Regulations.

Information gathered during the observation will be used, as appropriate, for a variety of purposes including to inform school self-evaluation and school improvement strategies in accordance with the school's commitment to streamlining data collection and minimising bureaucracy and workload burdens on staff.

In keeping with the commitment to supportive and developmental classroom observation those being observed will be notified in advance.

Classroom observations will only be undertaken by persons with QTS. In addition, classroom observation will only be undertaken by those who have had adequate preparation and the appropriate professional skills to undertake observation and to provide constructive oral and written feedback and support, in the context of professional dialogue between colleagues.

Oral feedback will be given as soon as possible after the observation and no later than the end of the following working day. 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 emerged from an observation that were not part of the focus of the observation as recorded in the planning and review statement these should also be covered in the written feedback and the appropriate action taken in accordance with the regulations and guidance.

The written record of feedback also includes the date on which the observation took place, the lesson observed and the length of the observation. The teacher has the right to append written

comments on the feedback document. No written notes in addition to the written feedback will be kept.

A head teacher has a duty to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning and to ensure that proper standards of professional performance are established and maintained. Heads have a right to drop in to inform their monitoring of the quality of learning. Clearly the performance management arrangements are integral to fulfilling this duty and head teachers may consider the classroom observations they have agreed for performance management are sufficient and that drop in will not be needed. Within the federation drop ins will only be undertaken by the head teacher.

Drop ins will only inform the performance management process where evidence arises which merits the revision of the performance management planning statement, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

Reviewed

26.03.09