



Riverside Community Special School Performance Management Policy

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To be reviewed annually.

Admin/current Policies/2024

This policy will be reviewed in full (by the Governing Body) on at least an annual basis.

Policy Statement

This policy has been consulted upon with the recognised trade unions and professional associations for Hampshire maintained schools. Where Hampshire maintained schools wish to localise this policy further, consultation will need to take place with staff and representatives of the recognised unions and professional associations. This policy is recommended to academies and other schools which have freedom to develop their own policies and procedures, although such schools which wish to adopt this policy are advised to take this through their own negotiation/ consultation framework.

This policy does not form part of any employee's contractual terms and conditions. Any links within this document to other documents are for ease of use and do not form part of this policy.

This policy has been written keeping to the Model Pay Policy contained in the Manual of Personnel Practice. Schools that have chosen to adopt an alternative pay policy will need to make relevant adjustments.

Schools should make sure that employees clearly understand the ethos of the school and that performance management arrangements are in place to support employees to achieve their individual and school aspirations. It should be recognised that there is a collective responsibility to achieve these goals. The Capability Policy and How to Guide is a supportive process aimed at generating sustained improvement.

Leaders should make sure the Career Expectations Framework is understood by all teaching staff and performance management reviewers. This includes how it may be used to support decisions in relation to their performance and pay. The framework should be shared at the start of the performance management cycle.

Scope

This document sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of employees, including the Headteacher, 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 and other staff. It also sets out the arrangements that will apply when employees fall below the levels of competence that are expected of them.

The Model Performance Management Policy is for all employees working within a school/school managed provision or establishment (which for ease of

reference are referred to throughout this document as 'schools'), with the exception of those employees on contracts of less than one term, those undergoing formal induction (i.e. ECT's), and those who are subject to the Capability Policy.

Principles

Performance management in this school will be a supportive and developmental process designed to make sure that all employees have the skills and support they need to undertake their role effectively. It will help to make sure that all employees are able to continue to improve their professional practice and to develop in their careers.

The process of setting and reviewing performance objectives for staff in schools is an integral part of the school's overall approach to school improvement and development. Performance objectives will be written in such a way that they complement and link to the targets expressed in the school improvement/development plan.

It is important to recognise that the objectives set for any member of staff will not represent the complete job that the individual is expected to perform. Reviewing performance is about measuring the progress made against the objectives set with appropriate support, which will represent key priorities for that individual, and in addition, assessing and recognising the overall performance of that person in the job, including an assessment against any relevant standards/accountabilities.

The career expectations framework and associated Teachers Standards and Headteacher Standards guidance are designed to outline what good performance can look like for teachers at different stages of their career. Neither are a checklist, and it is not intended that teachers will meet all of the detail under the rating in order to achieve that rating. They provide guidance for both reviewers and reviewees as to what good performance broadly should look like, and therefore can be used to help managers understand where performance may be falling short of good performance and requires the application of structured managerial support or formal capability, or where performance is exceptional and may warrant a rating of exceptional performance. Reviewees should be made aware of these frameworks where they are being referenced to support performance management decisions.

There is no correct number of objectives to set for any member of staff. The number will depend on the role they undertake, the relevant priorities for

that person at that time and the nature and complexity of each objective set. Consideration should also be given as to the number of contracted hours (FTE) of the individual.

The process of performance management will be carried out keeping to this policy, which is underpinned by the statutory regulations for teachers and local agreements for support staff.

Performance management will be carried out in such a way to make sure consistency of treatment and fairness.

The Governing Body and Headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the school's performance management arrangements.

The performance management process will be treated with confidentiality. Normally only the reviewer, reviewee and the Headteacher will have access to performance management information and documentation relating to the reviewee. However, to enable moderation of objectives and assessments to take place, paperwork may be shared with members of the Senior Leadership Team keeping to the School's Pay Policy. Governors may request an anonymised sample of performance management statements to enable them to perform their role in monitoring the effectiveness of the school's performance management system.

The Governing Body and Headteacher will make sure that all written performance management records are retained securely in line with the County Council retention schedule and then destroyed.

Where an employee's performance is affected by a health problem and/or sickness absence, the matter will normally be dealt with keeping to the school's Managing Sickness Absence Policy and How to Guide. This is likely to lead to a referral to Occupational Health in order to assess the employee's fitness for work.

When assessing an employee through the performance management process, factors such as any periods of ill health, or family friendly leave, will be taken into account as this may affect an employee's ability to meet their objectives.

The audio or video recording of any meetings held under this procedure is not normally permitted. Where an employee is unable to take their own notes of a meeting due to a physical, sensory or mental impairment, it is expected that the employee's representative will take notes on their

behalf and/or alternative options will be considered to remove any potential disadvantage that an employee may have.

The Performance Management Cycle

The performance management cycle for the Headteacher and all teachers will run for twelve months, with the end of year review being completed by October for teachers, and by December for the Headteacher, in reference to the previous academic year. The performance management cycle for support staff will run for twelve months with the end of year review being completed by December, in reference to the previous academic year or current financial year (use whichever applies). Employees who are employed on a fixed-term contract of less than one year will have their performance managed keeping to the principles underpinning this policy. The length of the period will be determined by the duration of their contract.

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The performance management cycle will link to the pay arrangements for employees. In the case of teaching staff, the end of year review and the annual pay determination will take place by the end of October each year (December for the Headteacher) and is informed by the performance management cycle concluding at the end of the previous academic year (31 August). In the case of support staff who are performance managed via the Individual Performance Planning (IPP) process, the end of year review will be completed by December in order for decisions about pay to be made, effective from 1 April each year.

Appointing reviewers

The Headteacher's performance will be reviewed by the Governing Body, supported by a suitably skilled external adviser who has been appointed by the Governing Body for that purpose.

In this school the task of reviewing the Headteacher, including the setting of objectives, will be delegated to a sub-group consisting of two members of the Governing Body. The appointed governors will be known as the Headteacher Performance Management Panel (HPMP).

Given the close working relationship between the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, it would not normally be appropriate for the Chair of Governors to be part of the HPMP.

The Headteacher will decide who will review the performance of other teachers and support staff, however this will normally be the employee's line manager. The Headteacher will decide whether the reviewer also makes a recommendation about pay progression, keeping to the school's Pay Policy. Whilst it is expected that most staff will be expected to receive pay progression, where they are eligible, the decision on pay must still be made by the Governing Body. The Headteacher has the discretion to delegate the review process to other employees who will normally be line managers. Reviewers will have the necessary knowledge and training in order to undertake this role.

Where performance concerns arise (see section 10), the Headteacher may re-delegate the reviewer role to a senior manager or undertake the role of reviewer themselves.

Setting Objectives

The Headteacher's objectives will be set by the Governing Body after consultation with the external adviser. At least one of the targets for the Headteacher will relate to outcomes for pupils.

Objectives for each employee will be set before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each performance management cycle. In setting objectives, reviewers will have regard to what can reasonably be expected given the employee's role and level of experience, as communicated in the school's Pay Policy. The level of expectation of an employee's performance must also be communicated at the outset of the performance management cycle.

The objectives set for each teacher will, if achieved, contribute to the school's plans for improving educational provision and performance and improving the education of pupils at the school, and will take into account the outcomes for pupils. Objectives will also take into account the professional aspirations of the employee.

Objective setting will have regard to a reasonable level of expectations of the employee in the context of work/life balance.

Before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each performance management cycle, each teacher will be informed of the standards, objectives and success criteria against which their performance in that performance management cycle will be assessed. Headteachers will be informed if the Headteacher Standards are to be used as part of their performance management. In addition, the reviewer and reviewee will

agree the reviewee's development plan for that year. For teaching staff this will include having regard to the relevant section of the Career Expectations Framework and associated Teachers' Standard guidance. It should be made clear to reviewees that the Career Expectations Framework and Teachers' Standards guidance provides a broad overview of what can constitute good performance at each career stage, rather than a checklist.

Before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each performance management cycle, each member of support staff will be informed of the key accountabilities against which their performance in that performance management cycle will be assessed, for example those contained within the role profile applicable to that employee. In addition, the reviewer and reviewee will agree the reviewee's development plan for that year.

Reviewing Performance

Evidence

A number of sources of evidence will be used to assess an employee's performance. These include those detailed below. Such evidence will be triangulated in order to undertake an overall assessment of the employee's performance. This will include their performance against their objectives and against the relevant standards/key accountabilities for their role.

Observation

This school believes that observation of classroom practice and other responsibilities is important both as a way of assessing the performance of classroom-based employees 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. Therefore, feedback from lesson observations will be developmental and not simply a judgement. All observations will be carried out in a supportive manner.

In this school classroom-based employees' performance will be regularly observed but the amount and type of classroom observation will depend on the individual circumstances of the employee and the overall needs of the school at that time. Classroom observation of teachers will normally be carried out by those with QTS. In addition to formal observation, the Headteacher or other leaders with responsibility for standards in the classroom may "drop in" in order to evaluate the quality 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.

Observations are a snapshot in time and reviewers will use the information gathered from these alongside other types of evidence to make judgements about performance.

As soon as practicable after an observation and within 5 working days, verbal feedback will be given to the employee. This will be followed up with written feedback within 10 working days of the observation taking place. Where it is not reasonably practicable to provide feedback within these timescales, feedback will be provided at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

Teachers (including the Headteacher) who have responsibilities outside the classroom, and support staff who are not classroom-based, will also have their performance of those responsibilities observed and assessed.

Observations undertaken by Ofsted inspectors or as a result of local authority monitoring will not, in themselves, be used for performance management purposes. However, these observations may highlight the need for the school to undertake separate observations for performance management purposes, for example if a lesson is rated as inadequate by Ofsted. Observations undertaken by a local authority officer may be used in performance management where this has been planned and communicated to all parties in advance.

Pupil progress and attainment

Rates of pupil progress and levels of attainment as pertinent to the teacher's role will be used in assessing a teacher's performance against the Teachers' Standards and, where relevant, against objectives.

The HPMP, with advice from the External Adviser, will review levels of pupil attainment, rates of pupil progress and whole school performance in their assessment of a Headteacher's performance in addition to other objectives that may have been set.

Where support staff are providing support to groups or individual pupils, the progress and attainment of those pupils may be taken into account in assessing the performance of the employee. This will only be used alongside other evidence which supports the level of contribution of the employee to the progress and attainment of pupils.

Work Sampling

Work sampling may be used in assessing teacher performance against the standards for the role, and where relevant, against objectives.

Other Evidence

Other evidence may be considered, where it is pertinent to the objectives set and the standards/accountabilities for the role.

Examples of such evidence may include (but are not limited to):

Teachers:

- Medium and long-term planning.
- Effective deployment and management of classroom-based support staff.

The Headteacher:

- Evidence from reports from external sources such as Ofsted, the local authority, or other reviews.
- Other performance data (for example from DfE).

Support staff

- A sample of written correspondence produced (administrative staff).
- A sample of budget correspondence (finance staff).
- A sample of health and safety monitoring (site staff).
- Examples of displays and resources prepared (classroom-based support staff).

It may also be appropriate to consider evidence such as feedback from colleagues, including peers, and for line managers, their staff.

Feedback

Employees 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 and celebrate success, as well as any areas that need development and support. Where there are concerns about any aspects of an employee's performance, this will be managed keeping to Section 10 of this policy.

Annual Assessment

Every employee's performance will be formally assessed in each performance management cycle. In assessing the performance of the Headteacher, the Governing Body will consult the external adviser.

This assessment is the end point of the annual performance management 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 (insert frequency, e.g. once per term).

An employee will receive a written performance management statement as soon as practicable following the end of each performance management cycle. The employee will have the opportunity to comment on this. Teachers will receive their written performance management statement by 31 October (31 December for the Headteacher). Support staff will receive their performance management statement by 31st January. The performance management statement will include:

- an assessment of the employee's performance of their role and responsibilities against their objectives in the last performance management cycle;
- an assessment of the employee's performance of their role and responsibilities against the standards/accountabilities for their role in the last performance management cycle;
- summary of the sources of evidence considered to support the decision(s) made;
- a performance management rating

The employee will also receive a new performance management statement for the new performance management cycle. This will include:

- details of the employee's objectives for the new performance management cycle;
- details of the standards/accountabilities to apply in the new performance management cycle;
- an assessment of the employee's current training and development needs and identification of any action that should be taken to address them in the new performance management cycle;
- an indication of when monitoring will take place.

The assessment of performance against the objectives and standards will confirm the planning process and training and development needs for the next performance management cycle.

All staff and reviewers are encouraged to also use performance management meetings to discuss other matters pertinent to their employment.

With the exception of the Headteacher pay recommendation, all pay recommendations arising out of the performance management process must be approved by the Headteacher before being shared with the individual member of staff to whom the recommendation relates and before being referred to the governors' pay panel. The HPMP must also refer their recommendation to the governors' pay panel. Pay recommendations will only be made where the member of staff has scope to progress on their pay

range. Whilst performance management will take place on an annual basis, teachers on the Upper Pay Range will have a pay recommendation every other year.

Pay progression for all staff will be as set out in the school's Pay Policy.

Moderation of Performance Management Statements

The Headteacher will take responsibility, where the reviewer role has been delegated, for ensuring there is an appropriate system in place to moderate performance management statements and pay recommendations, to make sure consistency and equality of treatment.

Performance ratings and pay outcomes for teaching staff

A determination about performance will directly impact pay progression, where eligible, as outlined below:

- Exceptional performance: 2 points salary progression
- Achieved expectations: 1 point salary progression
- Not met expectations: No salary progression*

*This can only apply where the employee is on formal capability. Decisions about the use of this rating will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please refer to the school's pay policy for definitions against these ratings.

Performance ratings and pay outcomes for support staff

A determination about performance will directly impact pay progression where eligible, as outlined below:

- Exceptional performance: 1 step progression plus 3% one-off payment (in exceptional circumstances, 2 step progression may be awarded instead of 1 step plus 3% one-off payment)
- Achieved expectations: 1 step progression
- Improvement required: 0 steps progression

Please refer to the school's pay policy for definitions against these ratings.

Dealing with Performance Concerns

The majority of employees are competent in their role for the majority of the time. On occasions, however, an individual's performance can be deemed to be below accepted standards and support is needed to help them re-attain and sustain the required level of performance.

There may be reasons to explain why an employee is unable to perform to the required standards. This may happen due to a physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, or developmental disability, impairment, condition or

illness which may be temporary or permanent. Consideration must be given to whether reasonable adjustments are appropriate.

Concerns about performance will be addressed at the time they are identified and not left to the employee's next performance management meeting. This will assist the employee to recognise issues at an early stage.

Performance concerns may be identified by the reviewer or by a Senior Manager/Headteacher. Where a concern is identified that is likely to require structured managerial support (10.16), the Headteacher may re-delegate the reviewer role to a senior manager or undertake the role themselves. A reviewer must notify the Headteacher where they identify performance concerns and agree with the Headteacher how to proceed.

Concerns about the performance of the Headteacher may be identified by an individual or combination of sources. Where a concern is identified via the HPMP, the Chair of the HPMP must notify the Chair of Governors. Where the initial concern is identified by the Chair of Governors, they must notify the Chair of the HPMP. In both circumstances, the Chair of the HPMP will review the evidence available with the School Improvement provider to decide how to proceed.

Where it is necessary to take forward a performance concern for the Headteacher, this will be undertaken by the HPMP, with professional advice from the School Improvement provider, and the Chair of Governors will be kept apprised of the situation.

When raising performance concerns with an individual, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will take into account any factors which may be having an impact on the employee's ability to perform their duties. However, such factors in themselves do not negate the need to address performance concerns.

While there are no formal rights of representation at this stage, employees are encouraged to contact their professional association or trade union representative for advice and support.

Identifying when performance is below accepted standards

The Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP may consider a member of staff to be underperforming where:

- the standard of performance falls below that which is required to meet or make progress towards a specific performance management target; and/or
- the standard of performance falls below that which is required to meet the expectations of a particular role in their school; and/or

- the performance falls below the relevant standards/accountabilities for the role; and/or
- the overall school performance falls below that which is required (in the case of the Headteacher).

If the Headteacher/Senior Manager has evidence to show that an employee is no longer meeting the expectations of their role, these concerns will be addressed with the individual promptly.

Where the school has clearly communicated a level of expectation, the Headteacher and senior managers may consider a member of staff to be underperforming if they are not reaching this level of expectation.

Determining possible initial courses of action

Depending on the severity of the underperformance, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP need to take a view as to the proportionate response. This may include:

- an early conversation to confirm the expected standards of the role;
- coaching/mentoring support;
- structured managerial support;
- consideration of application of the Capability Policy (exceptional circumstances or concerns).

An early conversation and coaching/mentoring support will only be used on their own to support low level or early stage concerns where these may be an effective measure. Where the performance concern is more significant or continues, structured managerial support will normally be put in place.

Structured managerial support

Where a performance concern has been identified that requires extra support, a discussion will be held between the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP and the employee. The outcome of the meeting will be to identify what steps will be taken to assist the employee to improve their performance and move to the required standard. (In cases involving the Headteacher, the HPMP will normally invite the School Improvement provider to give support at this meeting.) The discussion will include:

- what area(s) of performance is/are of concern;
- what improvement is required/the standard the employee needs to meet;
- the timescales in which this is to be achieved (these will vary depending on the issues identified);

- the support that will be provided to assist the employee;
- how frequently the performance/progress will be monitored and reviewed;
- the seriousness of the issue and potential consequences of improvement not being achieved, including potential impact on pay progression (if the performance becomes managed under formal capability).
- The employee will be invited to provide their point of view on the shortfall in performance and whether they believe there is an underlying reason. The employee will also be asked to identify what support they feel they need in order to achieve the required improvement, and the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will indicate what support they intend to put in place.

The key outcomes of the discussion will be recorded in writing and shared with the individual. The written record of the discussion will be placed on the individual's personal file and a copy given to the employee.

Review meetings will be held at the agreed timescales to review progress towards targets set and the appropriateness of the support being given. At these meetings, any improvements will be communicated to the individual as well as the remaining gap between their current level of performance and the expectations set. The outcome of these meetings will also be recorded in writing. This will be placed on the individual's personal file and a copy given to the employee.

The purpose of any structured managerial support programme is to assist the employee to achieve the necessary improvement within the agreed timescales. Where this is successful the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will confirm this at the relevant review meeting. The employee will be informed that the improvement in their performance must be sustained. A written record of the discussion will be placed on the individual's personal file and a copy given to the employee.

If the employee is not making the necessary progress towards the required improvement, the employee will be informed that failure to achieve this may lead to the Capability Policy being applied and that there may be an impact on their pay progression. The Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will make a judgement about when to communicate this given that it may not be appropriate to do so during the first discussion. However, if a move to the Capability Policy is a likely outcome, the potential for this must be communicated to the member of staff in good time. It must be recorded in writing that the employee has been informed of the potential consequences should their performance not meet the required standard. If the necessary improvement is then not achieved within the agreed timescales, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will need to consider use of the Capability Policy.

Where the employee has initially made the required improvement but this performance has not been sustained independently over a six month period, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will need to consider use of the Capability Policy.

By-passing structured managerial support

In most circumstances a structured managerial support programme will be put in place before the Capability Policy being used. However, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP may decide after taking advice from Education Personnel Services that it is appropriate to move straight to the Capability Policy, in exceptional circumstances, for example:

- the employee's performance is putting the health and safety of pupils and/or staff at risk;
- the employee's performance is putting the education of pupils in serious jeopardy;
- the employee's performance has not been sustained independently for 6 months at an accepted level following an earlier managerial support programme.

Transition to the Capability Policy

At any time during provision of structured managerial support, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP may consider transition to the Capability Policy. The Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will have specific regard to:

- the nature and severity of the underperformance;
- the impact on pupils and colleagues both in the short and longer term;
- the likely and required timescale for improvements to be made;
- the engagement of the employee in the programme.

In a typical case, if a structured managerial support programme has been in place and the issues have not resolved after a period between four school weeks and half a term then it would be appropriate to consider moving onto the Capability Policy. However, when determining how long to allow before moving onto the Capability Policy, the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will give consideration to the circumstances of the case, in particular the factors listed under paragraph 10.27.

To move to the Capability Policy the Headteacher/Senior Manager/HPMP will follow the process outlined in the Capability Policy and How to Guide, inviting the employee to attend a meeting under stage one of the Capability Policy where all the relevant information will be considered and a decision made about next steps.

Should the Capability Policy commence, performance management will be suspended.

Governance

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