



Holbrook Academy

APPRAISAL POLICY

May 2020

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Signed	
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This policy takes account of the Academy's public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required. It applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with students even where this is away from the Academy, for example at an activity centre or on an educational visit.

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1. Application of the Policy

The policy applies to all staff employed by Holbrook Academy except those

- on contracts of less than one term,
- undergoing induction (ie NQTs) or probationary procedures
- who are the subject of formal capability procedures.

2. Purpose

This policy, along with the Academy's Pay Policy, sets out the framework for a clear and consistent assessment of the overall performance of all staff employed at Holbrook Academy. It sets out arrangements for supporting staff development within the context of the Academy's improvement plan and their own professional needs. 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.

3. The Appraisal Period

Normally, the appraisal period will run for twelve months from 1 September to 31 August each year. 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 Academy's Pay Policy.

Reviews of performance will normally be conducted around March and June each year. 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 / Line Managers

Appraisers / Line Managers are responsible for setting objectives, reviewing performance, completing performance management documentation and agreeing arrangements that support continued professional development.

The Headteacher will be appraised by the Governing Body. At Holbrook Academy, the task of appraising the Headteacher, including the setting of objectives, will be delegated to three members of the Governing Body, supported by an external adviser

All staff at the Academy will have their appraisal completed by their immediate Line Manager, who will submit the completed documentation to the Headteacher in the relevant timescale for recommendation of any increments.

Should a member of staff feel that any person appointed as their appraiser/Line Manager is unsuitable for professional reasons, they may submit a request to the Headteacher (or the Chair of the Governing Body in the case of the Headteacher) for that appraiser/Line Manager to be replaced, stating the reasons for their request. The Academy will give reasonable consideration to any such request. Where the Academy's view is that it is not appropriate (or possible) to change the appointed appraiser/Line Manager, 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.

5.0 Setting Objectives

The objectives set will be rigorous, challenging, achievable, time-bound, fair and equitable in relation to teachers with similar roles/responsibilities and experience. They will have regard to what can reasonably be expected given the desirability of an appropriate work/life balance. They should be such that, if they are achieved, they will contribute to improving the progress of students at the Academy.

Objectives must contribute to the Academy's plans for improving its educational provision and performance. Appraisers/Line Managers will therefore be expected to align individual objectives with the Academy's improvement 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.

Typically, three objectives will be set in any appraisal period for full time staff.

Objectives will be set, following consultation with the individual, before, or as soon as practicable after, the start of each appraisal period. The appraiser/Line Manager and appraisee will seek to agree the objectives but, if that is not possible, the appraiser/Line Manager 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 performance management documentation, along with details of any training and support which have been agreed and the measures that will be considered when reviewing performance, including arrangements for lesson or task observation where appropriate.

Objectives maybe revised if circumstances change.

6. Relevant Professional Standards

The Academy'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/Line Managers 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:

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

Holbrook Academy 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 of gaining 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 observations 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 Academy'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*
- *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) records*

9. Development and Support

Appraisal is a supportive process which will be used to inform continuing professional development. The Academy 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 Academy improvement priorities and the ongoing professional development needs/priorities of individual members of staff. In the case of competing demands on the Academy’s budget for CPD, a decision on relative priority will be made taking into account the extent to which the CPD identified:

1. Is essential for the member of staff to meet their objectives, and
2. Will help the Academy to achieve its priorities.

Should a member of staff receive significant investment in their professional development, the member of staff and the Academy will enter into a legal agreement regarding repayment of any costs incurred by the Academy if the member of staff was to leave. This agreement will set out repayment criteria.

10. Reviewing Performance

At the end of the appraisal period, an assessment of overall performance against an objective will be made by the appraiser/Line Manager against the criteria detailed in the Academy’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 review of performance will normally be conducted around March and June each year.

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.

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, in particular, [detail according to Pay Policy, eg, against the requirements of their job description/role, their objectives, progress in relation to agreed CPD, all relevant professional standards/expectations and, where relevant, teaching practice]
- 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 (including informal and formal stages) are described in the school's Pay Policy.

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

At the final review stage in the performance management process, teachers have a right of appeal against the review statement. Where a teacher 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 Academy'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 Academy's capability procedure. They will be invited to a formal capability meeting and procedures will be conducted as described in Academy's Capability Policy.

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 Body 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 Body is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness. The Academy'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 Academy 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 Body 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 Body and Headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Academy's appraisal arrangements. The Headteacher will provide the Governing Body with a written report on the operation of the Academy'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 Body 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 Body 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; and
- 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 [X] 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 based upon advice in the school's [Teaching and Learning Policy] [School may append any lesson observation framework it uses.]

Verbal 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, where possible, 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.

The written record of feedback also includes the date on which the observation took place, the lesson observed and the length of the observation. No written notes in addition to the written feedback will be kept. The teacher has the right to append written comments on the feedback document.

Headteachers have a duty to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning and to ensure that proper standards of professional performance are established and maintained. In addition to formal observations, Headteachers 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.

APPENDIX 2 – Teachers’ Standards Self Evaluation

Please review these standards before your target setting meeting. They should inform both the targets that are and any professional development that you may need and 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.				