

Model Staff Redundancy & Restructuring Procedure

Date	Review Date	Implementation	Co-ordinator
September 2016	September 2017	Local Governing Body	The Good Shepherd Trust

Note on delegation of power to dismiss:

This procedure assumes that the power to dismiss staff remains with the Local Governing Body and has not been delegated to the Headteacher. Schools with different models of delegated power will need to amend references to roles and responsibilities accordingly. For further advice or assistance with this, please contact your Personnel Consultant.

1. Policy Statement

The Local Governing Body is responsible for determining the size and most effective deployment of the staffing complement at the school. Inevitably, the needs of a school change over time and all local governing bodies have a responsibility for periodically reviewing and, where necessary, undertaking changes to the staffing body in response to such factors as financial constraint, school reorganisation, demographic change or developments in policy, curriculum or technology.

In such circumstances, local governing bodies may need to consider such options as:

- Reducing the overall size of the school workforce;
- Making adjustments to working hours or contracted hours;
- Making adjustments to staffing levels and/or roles and responsibilities in particular areas.

Legislation and good practice require that the Local Governing Body should seek to avoid, wherever possible, the compulsory redundancy of any member of staff and to support the wellbeing of school employees through difficult periods of change.

The Local Governing Body aims to identify future staffing needs at an early stage through careful monitoring and planning in order to manage any required staffing reductions or changes through the use of natural measures where possible. Where action is required in the short term in response to more immediate circumstances, the Local Governing Body's aim is to make use of measures at its disposal to maintain employment stability, most particularly through the redeployment of affected individuals into suitable roles either within the school or beyond.

Where there is a risk of redundancy, the Local Governing Body will follow the procedures set out in this policy. Where the Local Governing Body is considering a change to terms and conditions of employment which will not result in redundancy, this procedure will also apply.

The Local Governing Body is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and this procedure will be applied fairly and consistently to all staff employed to work at the school.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees engaged directly by the school to work at the school. It therefore does not apply to agency staff (such as supply teachers), casual employees where there is no mutuality of obligation, contractors or their staff, or workers who are engaged on a self-employed basis.

3. Planning to Avoid Redundancies

The Local Governing Body will undertake annual reviews of the school staffing requirements, usually during the autumn term and at any other time when it is deemed necessary to do so. Where such reviews indicate that changes to the staffing complement will be required in the longer term, the Local

Governing Body will adopt relevant strategies aimed at achieving such changes in the desired timeframe whilst minimising the impact on staff. Strategies which might be considered include:

- Not replacing (or only partially replacing) posts following natural wastage;
- Restricting the recruitment of new permanent staff;
- Using fixed-term or temporary staff to address short-term staffing needs;
- Reduction or variation in hours on a temporary or permanent basis;
- Voluntary redeployment of staff into vacancies within the school or local authority;
- Early release of staff working contractual notice, by mutual agreement;
- Training or re-training of existing staff;
- Reducing reliance on overtime;
- Any other voluntary means by mutual agreement.

Where the timescale to achieve change is, or has become, sufficiently pressing that redundancies are being contemplated, the following procedure will be applicable.

4. Identifying a Redundancy Situation

A redundancy is defined under the Employment Rights Act 1996, section 139, as a dismissal which is wholly or mainly attributable to:

- The fact that the employer has ceased or intends to cease:
 - to carry on that business for the purposes for which the employee was employed, or
 - to carry on that business in the place where the employee was so employed, or
- The fact that the requirements of the business:
 - for employees to carry out work of a particular kind, or
 - for employees to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where the employee was employed by the employer,
 have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish.

Where the Local Governing Body is in any doubt regarding the application of redundancy provisions to a particular workforce change, it will take HR advice at an early stage in order that the nature of any subsequent consultation is clear from the outset.

5. Commencing Consultation

5.1 Formulating a Proposal and Seeking Advice

When it becomes apparent following an initial staffing review that there is a risk of redundancy, the Local Governing Body and/or Headteacher will take HR advice on the proposal(s) under consideration.

In order to ensure appropriate representation and appeal rights are afforded to employees and to secure a fair procedure, the Local Governing Body will delegate powers to formulate the proposed means of achieving staffing reductions, the handling of the consultation process and any resulting redundancy dismissals, to a panel of local governors working with the advice of the Headteacher in his/her executive role (referred to as the selection panel). The Local Governing Body will also establish a second panel of local governors to hear appeals against redundancy selection decisions made by the first panel (the appeals panel). The members of this second panel must not have contributed in any way to the actions or decisions of the first panel. Reference to the role of the Local Governing Body hereafter incorporates reference to the appropriate panel of local governors.

5.2 Initial Notification to Staff and Representatives

The Local Governing Body will provide school staff and the appropriate trade unions and teacher associations with background information about the staffing review, and the reasons for undertaking it, at the earliest reasonable opportunity. At the same time, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Local Governing Body will provide to all parties the following information in writing:

- The reasons for the proposal;
- The numbers and descriptions of employees who are potentially affected;
- The total number of employees of any such description employed at the school;
- The proposed method of selecting the employees who are at risk of redundancy;
- The proposed method of carrying out any resulting dismissals, including the period over which the dismissals are to take effect;
- The proposed method of calculating the amount of any redundancy payments to be made.

The Local Governing Body will also provide information about the proposed timetable for consultation and any measures it is considering to mitigate the effects of the proposal and to preserve continuity of employment.

Such measures might include:

- Natural wastage (if this is a reasonable prospect in the timescale proposed);
- Mutually agreed variations to contracts of employment on a temporary or permanent basis;
- Redeployment within the school;
- Any other voluntary means by mutual agreement.

5.3 Formulating a Timetable for Consultation

The Local Governing Body will adhere to the statutory minimum consultation periods which are in force where 20 or more members of staff are at risk of redundancy. Where less than 20 members of staff are at risk, the Local Governing Body recognises that there is no set minimum period of consultation, but will provide what is reasonable, taking into account the particular circumstances, including (but not limited to) consideration of the number of staff affected and the deadline for achieving the reduction or workforce reorganisation. The Local Governing Body considers it good practice to allow a minimum of 2 weeks for formal consultation with staff and trade unions / teacher associations.

5.4 Selection Pools and Criteria

The Local Governing Body will determine the proposed selection pool and method of selection, and, where relevant, the selection criteria to be used in the event of a compulsory staffing reduction. These will form part of the consultation exercise. The Local Governing Body acknowledges that there is no set criteria which can be universally applied in such situations but will apply the general principle of seeking to achieve a balance between the needs of the school and the requirement to act fairly and consistently when dealing with staff. Careful consideration will be given to the 'pool' of staff from which those to be made redundant will be selected.

In all cases, the Local Governing Body will be mindful of the requirement not to select staff in a way which might discriminate, directly or indirectly, against individuals on one or more unlawful grounds. In devising selection criteria and establishing selection pools, the Local Governing Body will seek HR advice.

5.5 Consulting with Staff and Representatives

In undertaking meaningful consultation with staff and appropriate trade union and teacher association representatives, the Local Governing Body will:

- Provide adequate information for the purpose;
- Consult with all those who are affected by the proposal, even where employment security is not directly at risk;
- Provide opportunities, both in writing and face-to-face, for members of staff and representatives to express their views on the proposal, to understand the impact on individuals, and to make suggestions and contributions which may mitigate the impact of any proposed redundancies;

- Give open-minded and conscientious consideration to the views expressed during the consultation period and, where appropriate, to respond directly to these;
- Ensure that absent employees (for example, those on maternity/adoption leave, long term sickness absence or sabbatical) receive the same information as other staff and have the opportunity to engage with the formal consultation period through methods adapted as appropriate to the circumstances.

5.6 Redundancy & Right of Appeal

At the end of the consultation period, should the application or consideration of other measures not have eliminated the need for compulsory redundancy, the Local Governing Body, through the panel established for the purpose (the selection panel), will apply the finalised selection criteria to the established 'pool' of staff deemed to be at risk. Those employees identified to be at risk of redundancy by this means will be notified of their right to make representations against their selection to the selection panel. No decision to dismiss a member of staff on grounds of redundancy will be taken before the employee has either taken up this right to make representations against selection, or the time allowed to exercise this right has elapsed in accordance with the notified deadline.

Where the decision to dismiss by reason of redundancy is upheld following the consideration of individual representations, the Local Governing Body will be responsible for ensuring that notice of termination of employment is given in accordance with the contract of employment, or the statutory rights of the employee concerned, whichever is longer.

Any such employee under notice of dismissal will have the opportunity to appeal against the decision to the local governors' appeals panel in writing within 5 working days of receiving the written outcome of the representations hearing. If the appeal is upheld, notice of dismissal will be withdrawn (or, in unusual circumstances where the appeal has not been heard before the expiry of notice, the employee reinstated).

The member of staff concerned has the right to be accompanied at any such representations or appeal hearings by a trade union representative or workplace colleague.

The Headteacher has the right to attend such hearings for the purposes of giving advice.

6. Redeployment Principles

Redeployment opportunities within the school will be sought:

- a) prior to the issuing of notice of dismissal where an individual has expressed an interest in securing an alternative post and this would assist with achieving the required staffing changes;
- b) where an individual is vulnerable to redundancy, at any point in the consultation process where the individual wishes to be considered for redeployment, and in any event no later than the start of the individual's notice period.

The school will ensure that individuals who have been given notice of redundancy are given reasonable paid time off work to seek employment or to arrange training.

7. Protection of Earnings

7.1 Teaching Staff

[In settings where the School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document has not been adopted or incorporated into contracts, alternative protection of earnings arrangements should be inserted below]

The appropriate safeguarding provisions of the School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document may apply to members of teaching staff who are redeployed within the school and whose salary and/or allowances in the new post are of a lower value (or where allowances are not applicable to the new post).

At the date of this policy, safeguarding provides for a maximum of three years protection of salary and/or allowances, based on the difference between the old and new salary/allowance (or based on the value of the allowance if there is no equivalent allowance in the new post). The School Teachers' Pay & Conditions document is subject to change and therefore the provisions of the latest Document will take precedence over the arrangements outlined in this procedure in the event of any discrepancy.

7.2 Support Staff

[Outline any protection of earnings arrangements or policy in place for support staff within the school]

7.3 Excess Travel Expenses

[Outlined any arrangements for the reimbursement of excess travel expenses, where such a policy exists]

8. Redundancy Payments

8.1 General Provisions

[Either include redundancy payment provisions here or refer to the appropriate document where they may be found]

8.2 Exclusions from Redundancy Payments

Employees will not be entitled to a redundancy payment if they:

- **[Academies only]** Accept an offer of employment with an associated employer contained within the Redundancy Payments (Modification) Order 1999 (as amended) and commence what may be considered as continuous employment within four weeks of leaving the employment of the school;
- Unreasonably refuse suitable alternative employment offered by the school prior to their last day of service;
- Refuse to complete, without good reason, a trial period for a job offered by the school;
- Resign from a job during a trial period;
- Refuse an offer of a job without good reason, after completion of a trial period.