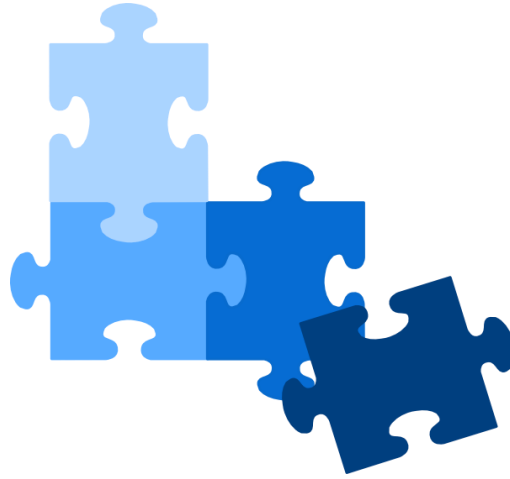




JIGSAW LEARNING TRUST

Organisational Change



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Summary of Changes

The September 2024 policy has been reviewed and minor amendments were made to incorporate the information on the additional protections which came into force on 6th April 2024 for employees who are pregnant, on maternity, adoption or shared parental leave, into the main policy in section 15, offers of alternative employment. Part 3, TUPE section has also been updated.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Organisational change can be essential to maintaining high quality teaching and learning in schools, in order to achieve best outcomes for children. However, if the process is not handled appropriately uncertainty created by organisational change can also damage morale and motivation among staff, with negative consequences for service delivery.
- 1.2 This policy therefore aims to ensure that organisational change is conducted through fair and consistent procedures that put communication with staff, listening and addressing staff concerns through negotiation with staff and trade union representatives at the heart of the process.
- 1.3 Underpinning the procedures set out below, the policy will be implemented with a commitment to transparency, information sharing and good employee relations / partnership working.
- 1.4 This policy also covers where there is a need for staff redundancies. Whilst the Trust Board aims to avoid redundancy wherever possible, situations such as financial constraints, reductions in the number of pupils on roll, changes in curriculum need or numbers, organisational change etc. may mean that redundancies cannot be avoided.
- 1.5 Employees can request a copy of additional policies referred to within this Policy from their line manager or school office.
- 1.6 **Consistency of Treatment and Fairness**
The Trust Board is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness. It will abide by all relevant equality legislation, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled employees. The Trust Board is aware of the guidance on the Equality Act issued by the Department for Education.
- 1.7 **Additional Support**
The school understands that organisational change can cause stress, worry and feelings of insecurity. Any employee concerned about their wellbeing should speak to their line manager and/or trade union representative. Employees who are notified that they are "at risk" of redundancy will receive information on the assistance, both internal and external, that is available to them as part of the process.

1.8 Pay Protection – Support Staff

The Trust Board will give due consideration to the Pay Protection policy to determine whether pay protection arrangements should apply to its NJC local government services employees.

1.9 Teacher Salary Safeguarding

The Trust Board will give due consideration to the STPCD to determine if salary safeguarding should apply to eligible teachers.

- 1.9 There may be some circumstances when it is not appropriate to follow the full redundancy procedure in the first instance, for example, in cases of authority led school re-organisations/closures/amalgamations. In such circumstances, adherence to the statutory process may be a precursor to initiating the redundancy procedure at a later date.

2 Data Protection

- 2.1 The school processes personal data of employees, including data that is within the special categories of data (such as personal data concerning an employee's health), collected during their recruitment and while they are employed in accordance with its data protection policy for the purposes of dealing with proposals and implementation of a restructure or/and any potential or actual redundancies. In particular, data collected and processed for those purposes is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to individuals for the purposes of applying this policy in a fair and transparent way.
- 2.2 Inappropriate access or disclosure of employee data by an employee of the school constitutes a data breach and should be reported immediately in accordance with the school's data protection policy. It may also constitute a disciplinary offence, which will be investigated under the school's disciplinary procedure.
- 2.3 Trade union representatives, in their capacity as representatives of a trade union, must deal with personal data about employees in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, including the General Data Protection Regulation.

3 Employee Health & Wellbeing

- 3.1 The school is committed to creating an environment that promotes good physical and mental health and wellbeing, where staff can thrive and feel supported.
- 3.2 Where employees are being supported and managed within this policy, this will be done sensitively with appropriate regard to their individual circumstances. In addition, the school will consider any necessary reasonable adjustments to support an employee to fully engage in the process set out in this policy. This may include, for example, allowing the employee to have an appropriate 'support' person accompanying them to a formal meeting as well as a Trade Union representative or work colleague.
- 3.3 The Trust board is expected to have an overriding regard for the wellbeing of all employees (including that of the Headteacher/CEO) and the board is expected to monitor the impact of strategies and initiatives that promote a positive and sustainable workplace culture. The Headteacher/CEO is expected to model a positive and sustainable workplace culture to all employees and seek to reduce unnecessary workload.

Part 1 - Restructuring

3 General Principles

- 3.1 The staffing element of a school is its greatest asset and expenditure. Staffing should therefore be structured to meet the needs of the students and the community the school serves, within budgetary constraints.
- 3.2 The challenging financial climate may require the school to review its staffing structure on a more regular basis in order to achieve best value. It is usually the Headteacher's responsibility to regularly review the staffing structure to ensure it remains fit for purpose and operates within the school's financial parameters.
- 3.3 The review process provides an opportunity to ensure that the management and deployment of all staff, and the allocation of responsibilities and duties, is effective and focused on teaching and learning. Where appropriate, the school will have regard to the DfE non statutory guidance on school workforce planning. [School workforce planning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/school-workforce-planning-guidance.pdf)

- 3.4 The process will be initiated when the school (usually the Headteacher) identifies a need for organisational change which affects the staff establishment. The need to make a change may arise due to a number of reasons, including (but not limited to):
- Budgetary changes/pressure
 - Changes in curriculum requirements
 - Changes in legislation and/or national or local policy
 - Changes in working practice
 - Changes in numbers of pupils on roll
- 3.5 The Trust Board will consider the need for organisational change and where necessary delegate to a 'relevant panel in line with the school's scheme of delegation and terms of reference the responsibility for the detail, consultation and implementation of the restructure in conjunction with the Headteacher in line with the terms of reference for that committee.
- 3.6 It is usual for the responsibility for consulting with employees and the relevant trade unions representatives with regards to the proposals, to be delegated to the Headteacher.

4 Restructure Proposals

- 4.1 The Headteacher will develop draft outline proposals and a rationale for change which should also include structure charts, job descriptions for any new posts on the structure and an implementation plan to be put to the Trust Board for approval as a basis for consultation.
- 4.2 Any proposed changes to the staffing structure will be based on the roles and responsibilities required by the school. Proposals will not be structured around individuals. The purpose of a restructure will be to provide a staffing structure that is fit for purpose over the medium to long term.
- 4.3 Costing the revised structure is a crucial part of the process when considering a new staffing structure. The proposals should therefore be discussed with the school's finance provider at the earliest stage to ensure it is cost effective and within the budgetary constraints. This may be more crucial where the restructure is budget driven to ensure the proposed staffing structure meets the required reductions in cost.

- 4.4 It is important to also consider job responsibilities and grades of post in line with the schools agreed pay structure and adopted job evaluation scheme, where applicable. HR Advice should be sought at an early stage when drafting proposal documentation to ensure equality considerations have been taken into account and to also ensure the proposals and its rationale are clear and transparent.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Where the restructure involves a potential reduction in posts which may place staff at risk of being made redundant, Part 2 of this policy should be followed in terms of the legal requirements for consultation.
- 5.2 Where the proposals do not place staff at risk of redundancy, once the Trust Board have agreed to the need for a restructure in principle and delegated responsibility for the process to the relevant panel in line with the school's scheme of delegation and terms of reference in conjunction with the Headteacher, the Headteacher can then share the proposals with the relevant trade union representatives and affected staff to initiate the formal consultation period.
- 5.3 The proposals, rationale, implementation plan and any other relevant documents i.e., job descriptions and structure charts, should be sent to the relevant trade union representatives and a copy provided to all affected staff (both those directly affected and those indirectly) as part of the consultation. In order to ensure that the process is clear and transparent, the school should hold a meeting with all affected staff (see section 5.7 below) to discuss the proposals and answer any questions staff or trade union representatives may have.
- 5.4 Consultation provides an opportunity for staff and trade unions to understand the draft structure, to seek further clarification and make recommendations / suggested changes in relation to the proposals. These recommendations can then be submitted in writing as 'responses to the proposals.'
- 5.5 It may be appropriate for the proposals to be changed in light of responses received by staff / trade union representatives. The Headteacher should clarify if changes have been made as a result of the consultation process and explain the reason why the decision has been taken to either accept or reject suggestions.

- 5.6 Formal responses to the proposals should be made in writing to the Headteacher or the Chair of the Trust Board or relevant committee. A reasonable timescale should be provided for responses to be received in writing. The school will consider the size and scale of the proposals in determining a reasonable timescale, which in most cases will be no more than 10 working days.

Consultation Meetings

- 5.7 The school will meet with affected staff initially to discuss the proposed structure; relevant trade union representatives will be invited to attend. Trade union representatives should be given the opportunity to remain after the meeting to meet with their members separately, where at all possible.
- 5.8 Staff will also be offered the opportunity to attend a 'one to one meeting' with the Headteacher to allow them the opportunity to discuss how the proposals may affect them personally. Should staff wish to have an individual 'one-to-one' meeting with the Headteacher then they can be accompanied during the meeting via a recognised trade union representative or a work colleague who does not have a conflict of interest. HR would usually be invited to the one-to-one meeting to provide advice and support in relation to the process.

6 Consideration of the Proposals

- 6.1 Following the period of consultation the relevant committee will meet to consider the proposals. In most cases it will be necessary for the Headteacher to attend the meeting to present the proposal documents and respond to any queries the committee may have. It will also be necessary at this point for the committee to fully consider any formal written responses submitted by either the staff and/or the trade unions. HR support and advice may be necessary during this committee meeting.
- 6.2 It may be appropriate at this point for the committee to make changes to the proposals as a result of responses received during the consultation period. These changes may be subject to further consultation as described earlier. Where there is an extension to the consultation period staff and relevant trade union representatives should be informed in writing of the timescales of the extended period of consultation and the issues to be addressed during that period. The relevant committee will

meet again following the extended period of consultation to consider any further written responses.

- 6.3 Once the relevant committee have approved the staff structure the Headteacher should notify the staff of the approved changes.

7 Implementation

- 7.1 Once the relevant committee has approved the staff structure, they will need to consider implementing the changes. This part of the process is usually delegated to the Headteacher who may seek advice from HR as to how best to fill posts on the structure.

- 7.2 In most cases posts will be filled utilising slotting in and ring-fencing during a first round of recruitment:

- **Slotting in**, without the need to go through a recruitment process, shall apply where there has been no significant change in the duties and responsibilities of a post following restructuring and where the number of posts available is equal to or in excess of the number of existing post holders. To qualify for this treatment a post must be of the same grade before and after restructuring, with no other member having an accepted comparable claim to be considered for the post.
- **Ring-fencing** of applications for posts will apply where the previous structure contained posts that carried substantially the same duties and responsibilities, but the number of staff exceeds the number of posts available in the new structure. Or where there are similarities between old and new posts but with significant differences that do not make them suitable for slotting in.

- 7.3 The criteria utilised to decide on the application of slotting and ring-fencing procedures will be fair, objective, consistently applied job related criteria, backed by evidence where possible. **The school will ensure that it complies with the extended legal duty to offer suitable alternative employment to employees in a redundancy situation who have informed the school that they are pregnant; or are on maternity, adoption, or shared parental leave; or have returned within 18 months of the child's birth, in preference to other employees.** For further details, refer to Appendix 1.

- 7.4 Any employee who is not successful in obtaining a post after this initial stage will be formally notified that they are "at risk of redundancy." Part 2 of this policy refers to the formal process where redundancies are necessary.
- 7.5 For any remaining posts on the structure, priority will be given to applications from staff classified as "at risk of redundancy."
- 7.6 It may be possible to redeploy employees into alternative positions within the school or Trust by providing them with suitable training. While this may not be possible for roles that are highly technical or require a certain level of experience or qualification, it may be possible for roles where new skills can be learnt over a relatively short period of time.
- 7.7 If a vacant post remains vacant, the post may be advertised internally across the school or Trust before making a decision to advertise the post externally.
- 7.8 Where more than one internal expression of interest has been received for a vacant post on the structure, a recruitment process should be followed i.e., formal interviews, as a method of recruiting to the post. In the event that only one internal expression of interest is received for a post, but the post is of higher responsibility and / or pay or is a different role to that the applicant currently occupies, a recruitment process should be followed i.e., a formal interview, to ensure the candidate is measured against the criteria of the post before making an appointment.

Part 2 - Redundancies

8 General Principles

- 8.1 The relevant definition of redundancy is provided by the Employment Rights Act 1996 which defines redundancy as occurring when:
- the employer has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on the business for the purposes the employee was employed;
 - the employer has ceased, or intends to cease to carry on the business in the place where the employee was so employed;
 - the requirements of the business for employees to carry out the work of a particular kind have ceased, or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish;

- the requirements of the business for employees to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where they were so employed are expected to cease or diminish.

8.2 Redundancies are acknowledged as being an unsettling time for any school. A reasonable and transparent procedure is vital in helping employees to process what is happening to them and colleagues, and in limiting any damage to morale both for the employees who are selected and those who are being retained.

8.3 The school is committed to consulting at the earliest opportunity to enable meaningful consultation, and will comply with any statutory requirements, before issuing any individual notices of redundancy.

8.4 When faced with a potential redundancy situation the school will ensure that:

- at the earliest opportunity, it will seek any required advice;
- at the earliest opportunity potentially affected employees, and where appropriate their representatives, are consulted in a meaningful way on any proposals and their potential implementation;
- the total number of redundancies made is kept to a minimum;
- the process is handled sensitively and fairly;
- selection for redundancy is based on clear criteria that will be objectively and fairly applied;
- support and advice is available to employees selected for redundancy to help them find suitable alternative work; and
- an employee can be accompanied by a trade union representative or a work colleague of their choice, at formal meetings (with the exception of the recruitment and selection process).

8.5 The school understands that employees on maternity, adoption or shared parental leave have specific rights in relation to redundancy.

9 Strategies for Avoiding or Minimising Redundancy

9.1 The school will fully consider all reasonable alternatives to minimising the numbers or avoiding redundancies, which may include:

- Restrictions on recruitment, e.g., not filling vacancies.
- Considering job share or re-allocation of duties.
- Reduction in overtime working.

- Voluntary options (e.g., voluntary early release and voluntary reduced working).
- Filling internal vacancies with existing employees by the use of redeployment where possible.
- Restriction on the use of agency or contract labour engaged on work which might be suitable for the employees concerned.
- Voluntary redundancy from employees from other areas within the School.

10 Redundancy Proposals

- 10.1 The school will endeavour to give as much warning as possible of impending redundancies so as to enable the employees who may be affected to take early steps to inform themselves of the relevant facts and consider possible alternative solutions. Such early warning may be given before any firm proposals have been written, however this may not always be possible.
- 10.2 The Trust Board will have determined responsibility for making decisions for staff dismissals (including redundancy). This may involve a relevant committee of the Trust Board in line with the school's scheme of delegation and terms of reference i.e., Staffing or Personnel Committee or this may be delegated to the Headteacher.
- 10.3 The Trust Board will determine whether reductions in staff will be necessary, the likely area to be identified (e.g., teaching and/or support staff) and the suggested method of selection.
- 10.4 In order to meet its statutory obligations in consulting with staff and trade union representatives, the Trust Board may consider that it is appropriate to delegate the initial stages of the consultative process to the Headteacher. For example, the Headteacher may be asked to meet with and/or issue communications to employees and trade union representatives in advance of the initial meeting of the relevant committee.

11 Consultation and Communication

- 11.1 The aim of consultation is to share the redundancy proposals with staff, and their trade union representatives, including the reason for them, in order to explore the options for avoiding, reducing or mitigating the consequences of the proposed redundancies. Any alternative options put

forward by staff and/or trade union representatives will be fully considered.

- 11.2 Whilst consultation does not have to end in agreement, it will be carried out with a view to reaching it, including ways of avoiding or reducing the redundancies.
- 11.3 Throughout the process, the Headteacher should communicate regularly with employees to encourage engagement, to provide updates and to ensure that decisions taken at Trust Board/Committee level are fed back to employees at the earliest opportunity. Where appropriate, communication should involve all employees, even those in roles not at risk of redundancy.
- 11.4 Wherever possible, access to confidential meeting areas will be made available for recognised trade union representatives to communicate with employees during a redundancy process.
- 11.5 **Collective Consultation**
The school is committed to complying with statutory requirements for collective consultation, where applicable, before issuing any individual notices of redundancy. These are:
- At least 30 days collective consultation where the school is considering making between 20 and 99 employees redundant within 90 days.
 - At least 45 days collective consultation where the school is considering making 100 or more employees redundant within 90 days.
- 11.6 Where there are 20 or more proposed redundancies, and before consultation starts, the Trust Board will notify the Redundancy Payments Service (RPS), as required.
- 11.7 Under collective consultation rules the school is obliged, under s.188(4) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, to inform the trade union representatives in writing at the outset of the collective consultation period of:
- i) The reasons for the proposal.

- ii) The numbers and descriptions of employees whom it is proposed to dismiss as redundant.
 - iii) The total number of employees of any such description employed at the establishment.
 - iv) The proposed method of selecting the employees who may be dismissed should reflect the decision of the Trust Board.
 - v) The proposed method of carrying out the dismissals with due regard to any procedure, including the period over which the dismissals are to take effect. (notice period and appropriate dates).
 - vi) The proposed method for calculating the redundancy payments.
 - vii) Information with respect to the number of agency workers working temporarily for and under the supervision and direction of the school, the parts of the school in which they are working and the type work they are carrying out.
- 11.8 Whilst there is no legal obligation for the school to consult with trade union representatives, where fewer than 20 redundancies are proposed, the school will elect to do so in any event, in order to support working relationships with recognised trade unions and to facilitate meaningful consultation. Such consultation does not require compliance with the statutory collective consultation rules.
- 11.9 At the commencement of the process the Trust Board will determine if any additional information is to be made available, in order to assist meaningful consultation, this may, for example, include financial information and/or the school development plan. Any requests from staff or trade union representatives for additional information made during the consultation process will be considered by the relevant committee and/or Headteacher.
- 11.10 Following the Trust Board's determination, the Headteacher will usually hold an initial meeting with all staff to announce the likelihood of redundancies and to outline the broad proposals for moving things forward. All employees in the school will normally be informed in writing of the need to reduce staff and of the reasons and invited to make written or oral representations by a given deadline.

11.11 After not less than 10 days following the Full Trust Board's decision, the relevant committee will meet to consider responses to the proposals and any alternative options put forward that could avoid or mitigate the need for redundancies, including requests for voluntary redundancy or flexible working. Trade union colleagues will be invited to attend this meeting.

11.12 Following this meeting, the Committee may determine that:

- Further consultation is required.
- There is no longer a need to make redundancies.
- Compulsory redundancies have been avoided/mitigated via the acceptance of voluntary requests.
- Compulsory redundancies are unavoidable and further consultation will commence in respect of the redundancy pool and selection process.

11.13 Where compulsory redundancies have been deemed necessary, the relevant committee will agree the selection pool and the method of selection (usually selection criteria). The Committee will agree draft selection criteria, which will be issued to affected employees and trade union representatives for the purposes of consultation. The relevant committee will meet to consider any views put forward regarding the selection process and agree the final criteria/method of selection. Trade union colleagues will be invited to attend this meeting.

11.14 Individual Consultation

It is essential to ensure individual employees have been fully consulted, as well as trade unions, prior to issuing notice of termination. Individual consultation will provide employees with the opportunity to express their views, raise any questions and make representations that relate to their individual circumstance.

11.15 Whilst there is no set timeframe for individual consultation meetings to take place it is anticipated that a meeting should be arranged once the 'at risk' pools have been identified in order to consult on the selection process, with another meeting occurring following the outcome of the selection process i.e., the provisional selection for redundancy.

11.16 The school may elect to hold further additional meetings before redundancy is confirmed. Additional meetings will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

11.17 All employees provisionally selected for redundancy will be invited to an individual consultation meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the Chair of the Committee to explain how the selection criteria was applied, give the employee an opportunity to make representations, and make suggestions as to how the redundancy could be avoided, and provide further information they believe may be relevant. The school should consider providing employees with a copy of their own score, or alternative information where a different selection method was used and give them the opportunity to comment on it and challenge the basis on which the decision has been arrived at.

11.18 Some suggested points of discussion include:

- explaining the grounds for the employee's selection, including the criteria adopted and his or her scores against those criteria;
- considering any suggestions that the employee makes in relation to avoiding redundancies;
- investigating the possibility of alternative employment;
- investigate the opportunities for retraining;
- confirming what reasonable amount of paid time off is permitted to support finding new employment;
- confirming if assistance with CV preparation and/or interview training is available;
- confirming details of the redundancy payment that the employee will receive if the redundancy is confirmed;
- clarifying the notice period that will apply if the redundancy is confirmed, and arrangements such as whether or not the employee will be required to work the notice period;
- considering any support that will be available, for example outplacement or time off to look for new work; and
- considering any outstanding related issues or questions that the employee raises.

11.19 At the meeting, the school will give the employee the opportunity to express his or her views and will give this genuine consideration.

11.20 If, after individual consultation, the Chair of the Trust decides that the decision should be reviewed, the matter will be referred back to the relevant committee and a further meeting will be held. The relevant committee will meet to assess the new information against the selection criteria. Should this result in a change, the relevant committee may need

to reassess all the proformas in the light of this new information to determine which post is to be recommended for redundancy.

- 11.21 After the individual consultation meeting the employee should be provided with a written record of the discussion and confirmation of the outcome from that meeting, including answers to any queries or questions which may have been raised.
- 11.22 Those staff who have volunteered for redundancy may not require an individual consultation meeting to discuss the proposals or selection process. However, they should still be offered a consultation meeting to discuss alternative roles and support available to them in seeking redeployment, as outlined above. This meeting will also allow them to feedback on the proposals should they wish to do so.
- 11.23 Whilst employees do not have a statutory right to be accompanied by a work colleague or a trade union representative at individual meetings the school has elected to allow this in order that individuals have access to the appropriate support and advice.

Consulting with absent employees

- 11.24 Employees who are absent from work, for example on sick leave or maternity leave, will be included in the consultation process if their roles are potentially redundant and will be sent the same written information as all other employees. As with other staff, the school should enable the employee to play an active role in the consultation process. Where necessary, the school will take a flexible approach to when and how an absent employee is consulted and the school will consider any adjustments that may be necessary to enable absent employees to fully participate in the consultation process, which may include meetings at the employee's home, contact via Teams/telephone or in writing.

12 Redundancy Selection

12.1 Voluntary Requests

Wherever possible, volunteers for redundancy should be considered before reaching a decision that compulsory redundancies are necessary. However, it may not always be possible or appropriate to accept volunteers for redundancy as a means of avoiding compulsory redundancies. Selecting an actual post, or posts for redundancy, will take account of the overall school priorities, plans and curriculum needs and/or

total of associated costs. Volunteers will not always be approved; they must be justified in the financial and managerial interests of the school.

12.2 Bumping

The school will consider a 'bumped redundancy' to avoid making a compulsory redundancy. For example, where another employee who is not in an 'at risk' role wishes to leave and so volunteers for redundancy, and whose job can be then given to the 'at risk' employee. It may not always be appropriate to approve a bumped redundancy, for example where a significant additional financial burden is incurred, the Trust Board reserves the right to proceed with a compulsory redundancy.

Compulsory Redundancies

- 12.3 Where compulsory redundancies cannot be avoided, the school will identify the post or posts that are at risk ("the selection pool(s)"). If the number of individuals in the selection pool(s) exceeds the number that need to be dismissed, by reason of redundancy, the school will need to apply selection criteria to identify those employees that they wish to retain i.e., those who are most able to meet the needs of the school.
- 12.4 The school will establish a suitable objective and fair method to provisionally select those whose employment the school wishes to retain. The school should ensure that the selection criteria do not discriminate against employees because of any of the protected characteristics. The proposed selection criteria and method will be shared and consulted with those 'at risk' individuals and recognised trade union representatives during consultation.
- 12.5 and **may** include one or more of the following:

Teaching Staff

- i) Current main areas of responsibility (leadership/TLR/and or subject specific coordination as determined by the formal job description.
- ii) Main curriculum priorities for the school (outcome focused) for example in relation to the School Development Plan, SEF, OFSTED Action Plan.
- iii) Age ranges taught for at least one full academic year within no more than the last five years.

- iv) Previous and relevant experience (e.g., subject/curriculum management/co-ordination) within no more than the last five years.
- v) Experience to teach other subject specialist areas within no more than the last five years.

Support Staff

- i) Current main areas of responsibility as defined by the formal job description.
- ii) Main priorities for example in relation to School Development Plan, SEF, OFSTED Action Plan.
- iii) Previous relevant experience.
- iv) Qualifications/skills.

The above list is not prescriptive or exhaustive and other factual criteria may be applied; the precise selection criteria and weighting applied may vary dependent on the selection pool and what is reasonable given the circumstances, as well as consultation.

- 12.6 When identifying selection criteria, the school will have careful regard to equalities issues and reasonable expectations for the job role.
- 12.7 Where the use of selection criteria is the chosen method, all employees in the selection pool will be asked to complete an individual matrix which is then assessed by the relevant committee against the school's selection criteria.
- 12.8 The relevant committee will meet to apply the selection criteria (using information about the potentially affected employees entered into the selection criteria matrix) and provisionally select a post/s for redundancy. One trade union observer will be invited to attend.
- 12.9 Where selection criteria is to be used then the relevant committee may determine to use additional selection criteria to be applied in the event of a 'tie-break' situation. The additional criteria will be consulted upon at the same time as the initial selection criteria is consulted on to avoid delays should a 'tie break' situation occur.

- 12.10 Following the selection meeting, the individual members of staff provisionally selected for redundancy should be informed in writing as soon as possible. This letter will invite the individual to a consultation meeting with the Headteacher and the Chair of the Committee to discuss their provisional selection for redundancy. (See Consultation and Communication).
- 12.11 In some circumstances, selection by agreed criteria may not be deemed the most appropriate method of selection and an interview process or an alternative selection method may be adopted.
- 12.12 Where interviews are chosen, the relevant committee should determine the members of the interview panel (usually selected from the committee). The Headteacher may support in an advisory capacity. Interview questions should be agreed by the committee, linked to the job description and person specification. A clear scoring system should be established prior to interviews commencing and answers/scores should be clearly recorded.
- 12.13 Where interviews were not conducted by the committee as a whole, a selection meeting should be convened as soon as reasonably possible after the interviews have taken place. The committee will review the interview scores and recommendations of the interview panel to provisionally select a post/s for redundancy. Following this meeting, the individual members of staff provisionally selected for redundancy should be informed in writing as soon as possible (see para.11.17 above).

Absent Employees/Employees with a Protected Characteristic

- 12.14 Employees on leave of absence or secondment, who fall within the selection pool must be treated as though currently active in their post and be subjected to the selection process in the same way as other employees. The school should consider if an absent employee or an employee with a protected characteristic is placed at a disadvantage and explore ways that the disadvantage could reasonably and fairly be removed.

13 Dismissal

- 13.1 Once individual consultation has been carried out (with further meetings where necessary), and provided that the possibility of any suitable alternative employment has been fully explored, the school should

confirm its decision in writing to those who have been selected for redundancy.

- 13.2 The letter should set out the date of termination together with details of redundancy payments, any other entitlements and the right of appeal against the decision.
- 13.3 This letter should also be sent to those individuals who volunteered for redundancy.
- 13.4 All employees selected for redundancy regardless of whether this is voluntary or compulsory will be issued with a letter confirming the termination of their employment on grounds of redundancy in line with notice provisions.

14 Appeal

- 14.1 All staff whose employment is being terminated on grounds of redundancy will have a right to appeal against the decision. An appeal can be made based on the following grounds:
 - that the reason for dismissal was not redundancy
 - that the selection for redundancy was unfair (i.e. the criteria were unfair or were applied unfairly)
 - that the process followed was unfair
- 14.2 To appeal, the employee will notify the Chair of the Trust in writing that they wish to appeal the decision within 10 working days of receipt of the letter confirming the decision. The employee is required to set out the grounds of their appeal.
- 14.3 The appeal will be heard by a relevant committee of the Trust Board.

15 Offers of Alternative Employment

- 15.1 The school should consider whether it has any vacancies that would be suitable for employees who have been identified as at risk of redundancy and /or have been issued formal notice. This would include any vacancy within the whole school and wider Trust.

Enhanced Redundancy Protection for Pregnant Employees and those on or returning from Family Leave

- 15.2 An employee who is made redundant while on maternity, adoption, or shared parental leave is entitled to be offered suitable alternative employment in preference to other employees. The Maternity Leave, Adoption Leave and Shared Parental Leave (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (SI 2024/264) extend these protections to pregnant employees and those returning from family leave.
- 15.3 The school will comply with the extended protections in relation to the legal duty to offer any suitable alternative vacancy (in preference to other employees), where one exists, to an employee in a redundancy situation where an employee:
- is on maternity leave, adoption leave neonatal care leave or shared parental leave when the redundancy occurs
 - has informed the school that they are pregnant, (protection applies from the point they inform the employer that they are pregnant)
 - returns from maternity leave, adoption leave or shared parental leave, until 18 months after the expected week of childbirth, date of the child's birth, or date of the adoption placement.

The only exception to this right without a competitive recruitment process is when more than one eligible employee is at risk of redundancy. In that case, some form of a competitive application process may be necessary.

- 15.4 For employees taking neonatal care leave protections starts on the day a period of neonatal leave begins and ends on their last day of leave if they have taken less than 6 weeks leave however if the employee takes 6 or more continuous weeks of neonatal leave, they have additional protection for 18 months from date of the child's birth.
- 15.5 Employees who suffer a miscarriage within the first 24 weeks are entitled to protection for two weeks after the pregnancy ends, if they have notified the employer of the pregnancy before the miscarriage, or in the two weeks after it occurs. If the child is stillborn after 24 weeks of pregnancy the redundancy protection ends 18 months after the date of birth.
- 15.6 'At risk' staff will be kept aware of posts which could be considered as suitable alternative employment, from them being identified as "at risk" until their notice period expires. Consideration should be given as to whether a period of re-training (within a suitable timeframe and cost parameters) would enable an employee to meet the requirements of a vacancy. For example, where a teaching post in one subject area is being

made redundant and a teaching vacancy exists in another subject specialism, consideration should be given as to whether it is appropriate to retrain the "at risk" employee into a different subject area which could mitigate a redundancy.

- 15.7 An individual employee who is offered alternative work is entitled to a trial period of 4 weeks which enables both the individual and employer to determine whether the new employment is suitable. If more than one role is offered as alternative work the employee is entitled to a trial period in each role.
- 15.8 The Headteacher and/or Trust Board will ensure when making the offer of employment that the individual is aware that it is subject to a statutory trial period.
- 15.9 The trial period may be extended in circumstances deemed appropriate i.e. if the employee requires training. Any agreement for a longer trial period must be made in writing before the employee starts work in the new role.
- 15.10 When considering what constitutes a suitable alternative offer the following will normally be taken into account:
- The appropriateness of the role in terms of level of pay, location, status, service conditions and skills required, and
 - The reasonableness of the offer taking into account the employee's own personal circumstances.
- 15.11 During the trial period, regular reviews will be held between the Headteacher and the employee, to monitor progress and discuss issues and concerns, and identify training and support as necessary.
- 15.12 If an employee considers that the alternative job is not suitable, they must inform their Headteacher in writing before or during the trial period that they do not accept that this is an offer of suitable alternative employment, and the reason for this, otherwise the right to any redundancy payment will be lost.
- 15.13 If notice of redundancy has been issued and the employee turns down an offer of alternative employment which is assessed as suitable, during the notice period or trial period, or unreasonably fails to engage in the

process of finding suitable alternative employment, then the employee may forfeit their right to receive a redundancy payment.

15.14 If the school considers the trial period to be unsuccessful, this will be discussed with the employee and confirmed in writing. An employee's contract of employment will be terminated on the grounds of redundancy at the end of the contractual notice period, which was previously issued, as they have been unable to secure suitable alternative employment.

15.15 In accordance with statutory duty, employees on maternity, adoption or shared parental leave will be offered suitable alternative employment without competition.

16 Time Off to Seek Alternative Employment

16.1 Employees who are under notice of redundancy will be given reasonable paid time off to look for alternative employment.

17 Redundancy Payments

17.1 An employee dismissed by reason of redundancy and who has been continuously employed for two years or more years will be entitled to a statutory redundancy payment. The statutory amount is based on weekly gross pay, age and length of service. The statutory payment is subject to a prescribed limit of the amount of a week's pay and is capped at a maximum 20 years' service continuous service. The school has elected however to exercise its discretionary powers to disregard this weekly pay limit and calculate the redundancy payment on the basis of actual weeks' pay. The school has retained the capped maximum 20 years' service continuous service limit.

17.2 Redundancy payments will be calculated using the statutory ready Reckoner.

17.3 When calculating service, the school will also give consideration to the effect of the Redundancy Modification Order.

17.4 If an employee who is under notice of redundancy receives an offer of a job from another Modification Order body and accepts it before the termination of his or her employment and then takes it up within 4 weeks of the end of the old employment, there will be no dismissal for

redundancy payment purposes, no redundancy payment and the employee's service will carry over to the new employer.

- 17.5 Employees under notice of redundancy will therefore be asked if they have been offered another job with a Modification Order body and, if so, whether they intend to take it up within 4 weeks of finishing their current job.
- 17.6 Further information in relation to the Redundancy Modification Order is available from TfC People Advice.

18 Pension implications

- 18.1 Consideration will be given to pension implications at an early stage in the process and advice provided to employees where relevant.
- 18.2 An employee aged 55 years or over, who has more than two years' service in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and who is dismissed on the grounds of redundancy is entitled to their retirement benefits (i.e. pension and lump sum) immediately, based on their membership up to the date they leave employment, with no actuarial reduction for early payment. The LGPS regulations require that the employee must take their benefits where they are entitled to do so. It is likely that in such circumstances there will be a cost to the school, known as the 'strain' cost. Strain costs are calculated as the difference between the value of the benefits the member would have received under the normal course of providing benefits from the pension fund, and the value of the benefits provided as a result of un-reduced early retirement due to redundancy.
- 18.3 An employee aged 55 years or over, who has more than two years' service in the LGPS, and whose fixed term contract ends, may also be entitled to early retirement on the grounds of redundancy if the work they were employed to do has ended as well. If they are employed on a fixed term contract which ends but the work continues, such as covering for an absence, they will not be entitled to early retirement.
- 18.4 Employees aged 55 to 59 who are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and who are dismissed on the grounds of redundancy, may access actuarially adjusted pension benefits by completing the online Actuarially Adjusted Benefits application form in the forms and leaflets section of the website (www.teacherspensions.co.uk).

- 18.5 Employees aged 60 or over who are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) may access their pension benefits by completing the online form in the forms and leaflets section of the website (www.teacherspensions.co.uk).

Part 3 – TUPE

19 What is TUPE?

- 19.1 TUPE stands for Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations.
- 19.2 These regulations protect employees' rights when the business or service they work for changes ownership or provider. This could be a whole school transfer (for example conversion to academy or joining another academy trust) or a change of service provider (this often includes contracts for catering or cleaning).
- 19.3 Following the decision to transfer a business or service, the school will determine if TUPE applies in the circumstances and which employees should be in scope to transfer.
- 19.4 Those employees in scope will automatically transfer on their terms and conditions to the new employer under the TUPE regulations. The new employer takes over responsibility for the transferring employees and inherits most liabilities in relation to employment related matters. The transferring employees retain their continuity of service for the purpose of both statutory and contractual employment rights.
- 19.5 TUPE does not apply to transfers within the public sector where the employer does not change. In those circumstances, a TUPE-like process will be followed to ensure a smooth transition.
- 19.6 The school recognises that TUPE can be legally complex and will seek appropriate legal and HR advice at the earliest possible stage.

20 Where the school is the outgoing employer

- 20.1 The school will inform affected employees (those in scope to transfer and those staying, where their work will be affected by the transfer) and the recognised trade unions as early as possible to allow reasonable time for

appropriate communication and consultation to take place before the transfer date. Where appropriate, this may be before any formal decision has been made regarding the transfer.

20.2 The formal written notice will include:

- Confirmation that the transfer is happening, when it is expected to happen and why
- Any measures the new employer is expecting to make which may affect the staff transferring in
- Any legal, economic and social implications
- The number of agency workers employer, if they are used

20.3 The school will request confirmation from the new employer of any changes ('measures') that are proposed. The school will ensure staff are informed of these measures and will facilitate consultation with the incoming employer. Measures can include:

- Change in work location
- Change in pay date
- New hours of working
- Different pension arrangements
- Restructure or redundancies

20.4 The Headteacher (or Chair) will usually hold a meeting with all affected employees and trade union representatives. This meeting will be used to inform about the transfer, provide information about the meaning and protections of TUPE and to consult on any proposed measures. It may be appropriate that a representative from the new employer is in attendance to answer any questions and give information directly.

20.5 If new measures are declared after this meeting, a further meeting will be held to consult on those changes.

20.6 Employer Liability Information

The school will provide Employer Liability Information (ELI) at least 28 days before the transfer date. The school will take appropriate steps to ensure that the information is accurate, up to date and provided in a secure way.

If any of the information subsequently changes before the transfer, the school will update the information as soon as possible and will advise the new employer.

21 Where the school is the incoming employer

- 21.1 The school will inform existing employees of the transfer plans, considering their views and consulting where appropriate. For example, if their work will change because of the staff transferring in.
- 21.2 Appropriate due diligence will be undertaken before the school agrees to any transfer. The school will seek relevant HR and legal advice, especially in relation to any potential warranties, indemnities and liabilities.
- 21.3 The school will work closely with the outgoing employer to ensure that a smooth transfer takes place. The school will set out any measures as soon as they are known and undertake appropriate consultation with affected employees.
- 21.4 The school will make sure employees have all necessary employment checks and qualifications. For example, the right to work in the UK or DBS checks.

22 Pensions

- 22.1 Additional protections to pension arrangements apply in the public sector through government policies such as the Fair Deal Policy, Best Value Pensions Direction and the DfE Academy Guarantee.

[DfE local government pension scheme guarantee for academy trusts: pensions policy for outsourcing arrangements - GOV.UK](#)
[Fair Deal for staff pensions: staff transfer from central government](#)
[The best value authorities staff transfers \(pensions\) direction 2007](#)

- 22.2 As a public sector body, **the school must ensure that pension protections are built into procurement and contract arrangements.** Contractors must be willing and able to participate in public service pension schemes (LGPS and TPS). The school should make this clear as part of any tendering process.
- 22.3 Where the decision to change service provider results in the TUPE transfer of staff to a non-public sector employer and those staff are the direct employees of Sunderland City Council (working under a contract

with the school), the agreement of the Council will be required if they are deemed to be the 'letting employer'. Where the Council is the 'letting employer', admission to the LGPS pension scheme must be via the traditional arrangement not a pass-through arrangement.

- 22.4 **Pension arrangements must be in place on the day that the transfer takes place therefore the pension arrangements may have an impact on the date of the transfer.** It can take several months for a participation agreement to be put in place that provides access to the relevant pension fund.
- 22.5 The steps required for a new employer to gain access to a pension scheme differs between the TPS and LGPS, and the school will seek appropriate legal and actuarial advice early in the process.