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# Support Staff Appraisal Policy (LLT)



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# Support Staff Appraisal Policy (LLT)

## 1. Introduction

In order to achieve its vision and aims, Lydiate Learning Trust recognises the importance that each individual member of staff plays in the provision of excellent quality education for our students. The Trust is committed to making available to all staff high quality performance appraisal which will provide an opportunity for review, reflection, the celebration of success and through professional development and training opportunities assist staff in working to a high standard and achieving their full potential.

### ▪ Roles

The Line Manager who is responsible for the appraisal of their staff is referred to as the “Appraiser” and the member of staff is referred to as the “Appraisee”.

### ▪ Assessment of Performance

This policy sets out the framework for a clear and consistent appraisal of employee performance, designed to contribute to the overall effectiveness of the Trust and the quality of teaching and learning for students. It is intended that the appraisal discussion provides an opportunity for reflection, review, and the celebration of success and an assessment of performance. It is a forum for the identification of training and development needs and it provides a means of linking these into the Trust training and development plan.

### ▪ Cycle for Performance Appraisal

The process for review and objective setting will link to the academic cycle of the Trust. The appraisal meetings will take place in the autumn term and there should be a planned mid-year review.

### ▪ Commitment to Professional Development and Training

Professional development and training requires the commitment of the Trust and the employee. The Trust is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable resources and opportunities to enable the professional development and training of all staff. It is expected that staff will engage seriously with the development and training opportunities provided. This may be delivered through coaching, mentoring, team meetings, network meetings, training events, on the job training, professional studies and e-learning. Wherever possible these activities will be within normal contracted working hours and where staff are requested to attend training during non-contracted time, such hours will be paid. As much notice as possible will be given for any activities which are outside of the normal working day. The Trust will ensure that employee’s personal circumstances are taken into consideration.

## 2. The Purpose and Benefits of Appraisal

The purpose of the appraisal system is to improve the performance of staff within the Trust. This involves:

- Reviewing past performance against principal areas of accountability and previous objectives
- Identifying obstacles that may be affecting performance
- Setting future objectives, both personal and operational
- Identifying, agreeing and planning training and development needs

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- Agreeing a plan of action for the future

## **Appraisal discussion enables the Appraisee to:**

- Gain a clear picture of what is expected of them
- Discuss priorities and be given clear direction
- Discuss their strengths and weaknesses and to receive feedback on their performance
- Be heard and respected
- Be offered constructive guidance on attaining agreed objectives
- Discuss their future professional development and training needs
- Identify any areas of difficulty and learn from past experiences

## **The Appraiser will:**

- Gain greater insight into the way the appraisee works and performs
- Gain greater understanding of the jobholder's potential, needs, strengths and weaknesses
- Have an opportunity to celebrate success and motivate them for the future
- Use the opportunity to develop staff by agreeing future objectives
- Identify training and development needs, particularly for those in new or changing circumstances
- Develop a consistent approach to guidance and encouragement

## **The Trust will:**

- Benefit from improved communication with staff and improved efficiency
- Have an increased ability to assess staffing needs and enhance the development of staff
- Be able to plan and co-ordinate staff training needs
- Have a more accurate assessment of individual potential
- Benefit from an increasingly professional and competent workforce

### **3. Appraisal Cycle and Meetings**

The appraisal cycle will run from September to the end of August for each academic year and the annual appraisal process should be complete by end November.

A mid-year review should be conducted around March/April, to enable an interview review of progress to date.

### **4. Preparing for the Appraisal Review Meeting**

#### **4.1. Identification of the Appraiser**

Employees will be appraised annually by their Line Manager, taking into account the need for the Appraiser to have an understanding of the Appraisee's duties and responsibilities.

#### **4.2 Preparing for the Meeting**

##### **Appraiser Preparation:**

The Appraiser should prepare by ensuring that they have a copy of the following documents:

- Job description

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- Previous appraisal document
- Appraisee's Self Reflection Preparation Document

The Appraiser should prepare for the appraisal meeting, by reviewing the objectives set during the previous appraisal cycle and considering what evidence is available to demonstrate progress.

## **Appraisee Preparation:**

It is important for Appraisee's to undertake their personal preparation for the Appraisal Review meeting. This should include reflection on performance over the past appraisal period, including

- What has gone well and what not so well?
- How has training and development undertaken assisted the individual in their role?

Appraisee's should use the Appraisal Preparation Document to assist them in their personal reflection. On completion, the Appraisee should provide the Appraiser with a copy of the Preparation Document in advance of the meeting and be given reasonable paid time in the working day to complete this exercise. Where the meeting is not within normal working time consideration must be given to the employee's personal circumstances e.g. childcare.

## **4.2. Date, Time and Location for Meeting**

The Appraisal meeting should be planned in advance, enabling their Appraisee to prepare. The meeting should take place in a confidential and quiet location, which is free from interruptions and disturbance. Sufficient time, at least 30 minutes, should be set aside for the meeting. Wherever possible this meeting will be within normal contracted working hours and will in all circumstances be paid.

## **5. The Appraisal Discussion**

The first part of the Appraisal Review discussion will include a reflection on the previous year. What has gone well and could be even better? There will be a review of progress with respect to the objectives set and a discussion about the evidence provided to demonstrate success. Where the Appraisee has engaged in development and training activities in the past appraisal period, there should be a discussion about what development has taken place and how this has assisted the individual with their role.

The second part of the Appraisal discussion should focus on the future. This will include, setting appropriate objectives (see Section 6), identifying any areas for development or improvement and discussing what support, training and development may be required to support the appraisee in their role.

## **6. Setting Objectives**

Objectives should be relevant to the Appraisee's job and link to the Departmental Plans and the Trust Improvement Plan. The scope of the objectives set should be relevant to the level and type of role undertaken.

The number should be proportionate to the role. For example, a lunch time supervisor working 2 hours a day, might have one objective.

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For some roles, it will be possible to link objectives to relevant professional or occupational standards.

Appraisers should discuss future objectives with the Appraisee, ensuring that they are relevant to the role and context. Objectives should be: SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound). Employees are not expected to be set objectives that are not within their normal job descriptions.

It is important to discuss and determine what will be used as evidence of success. This will assist in providing clarity at the next review stage as to whether or not the objective has been achieved and how it has been achieved. The system of setting SMART objectives will assist with this.

Objectives should be mutually agreed where possible. Where it is not possible to achieve agreement on the objectives, the decision of the Appraiser (Line Manager) is final.

## **7. Recording the Outcome of the Appraisal Discussion**

### **7.1. Outcome of the Appraisal**

The outcome of the appraisal review and planning discussion should be recorded using the Appraisal Report. This will be a confidential record of what was discussed and proposed. This will include a record of the objectives agreed and the success criteria aimed for. The record should also refer to the training and development needs identified and how these might be addressed. The Appraisee must be given an opportunity to comment on the review and the review document should be signed by both parties.

### **7.2. Method of Recording the Outcomes**

It is important that the Appraiser and Appraisee have a copy of the objectives and the Appraiser have a copy of the signed document.

## **8. Ongoing Monitoring and Review (and Mid-Year Review Meeting)**

An effective Appraiser should monitor and review staff performance on an ongoing basis, providing regular feedback and encouragement including allowing time for informal discussions.

It is also good practice to include a planned Mid-Year Review meeting. This will provide an opportunity for a confidential discussion regarding progress with the objectives, discuss the role and appraise performance and provide an opportunity to address any issues or areas of concern which may have arisen. In some cases, it may be necessary to adjust an objective, discuss and seek to resolve issues and challenges and identify additional support or training. These should be open and honest discussions with aim of ensuring that there are no surprises at the time of the appraisal review meeting.

## **9. Development and Training**

The appraisal discussion should include the identification of development and training needs and how the identified needs might be most effectively met.

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All staff have a shared responsibility for their own professional development and training and as part of this should engage fully with training and development opportunities provided through the Trust. Development and training can be delivered through a variety of means. For example; coaching, mentoring, team meetings, networking, on the job training, working on projects, individual reading and research, attending in-house or external training events and studying for professional qualifications.

## 10. Appraisal Training and Briefing Staff

It is important that all staff with Appraiser responsibilities undertake relevant training in order to understand the appraisal policy and to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to effectively undertake the appraisal planning and review meetings with their appraisee.

Headteachers' should also ensure that staff are made aware of the appraisal process and timeline, the purpose of appraisal and the expectations placed on staff to engage with and participate in relevant development and training opportunities. Staff should be made aware about how they will be supported if their performance is a cause for concern.

## 11. Confidentiality

The appraisal process will be treated with confidentiality and the review statements are confidential to the Appraiser, the Appraisee, Headteacher, Director (in the case of central functions) and the HR department.

## 12. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Head and the Trust will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Trust's appraisal arrangements. This will include the sampling of objectives to ensure that they link to Trust priorities, are SMART and are appropriate for the role and level of the member of staff.

## 13. Retention of Records

Paper and electronic appraisal records will be retained securely for up to 6 years in accordance with the principles set out within Data Protection Act.

## 14. Equal Opportunities

The Trust is committed to ensuring consistency of treatment and fairness and will abide by all relevant equality legislation. This policy will operate in accordance with the Trust's commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity.

## 15. Appeals

Where an appraisee is dissatisfied with the appraisal process or the appraisal report the appraisee may seek to resolve their concerns with the appraising manager directly within 10 days of receiving their appraisal report.

Should it prove impossible to resolve matters through this route, the appraisee may appeal in writing to the Headteacher or appropriate Director, in the case of central functions.

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Appeals will be heard by a more senior manager. This will usually be a member of the senior leadership team as delegated by the Headteacher/Director. If the member of staff reports directly to the Headteacher/Director the appeal will be heard by the Executive Headteacher or a member of the Executive Team if delegated.

If the employee reports to the Executive Headteacher the appeal should be heard by a panel drawn from the Governing Body.

The Appraisee has the right to be accompanied at an appeal hearing by a professional representative or work colleague.

The appeal hearing will be arranged as quickly as possible and within 15 working days of receipt of the employee's written appeal and will take into account the flexibility required for all parties to attend.

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