

Teachers' Pay Policy

Policy Code:	HR11
Policy Start Date:	October 2025
Policy Review Date:	October 2026

Please read this policy in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- HR1 Capability Policy for Teachers, CEO and Executive
- HR2 Appraisal Policy for Teachers, CEO and Executive
- HR6 Data Protection Policy
- Current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) as issued by the Department for Education

1 Policy Statement

- 1.1 This policy sets out the framework for making decisions on teachers' pay. It has been developed to comply with current legislation and follows closely the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and in accordance with the principles of public life - objectivity, openness and accountability.
- 1.2 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.
- 1.3 References to the Trust or Academy within this policy specifically include all Primary, Secondary and Special Educational Needs academies within the Trust, as well as the Early Years setting at the Priory Witham Academy, Priory Apprenticeships and Lincolnshire SCITT.
- 1.4 This policy reflects the current Standard Teacher's Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD), and will be updated pending approval, and publication of, the most up-to-date version (September 2025)

2 Roles, Responsibilities and Implementation

- 2.1 The Trust's Pay, Performance and HR Committee makes pay decisions at the Trust. This committee is made up of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trust, the Head of Human Resources and the Chief Executive. The Headteachers attend the Pay and Performance Committee, when invited, in an advisory capacity.
- 2.2 Pay decisions are based on appraisal outcomes. Pay recommendations are made in writing as part of a teacher's annual appraisal report (see HR2 Appraisal Policy for Teaching Staff, CEO and Executive Management Team).

3 Aim

- 3.1 The Trust's Teachers' Pay Policy aims to:
 - a) Help achieve the overall aims of the Trust;
 - b) Help achieve excellent outcomes for all students;
 - c) Support the recruitment and retention of a high-quality workforce;
 - d) Develop a high-quality teaching workforce by investing in professional and personal development;

- e) Complement the Trust's HR2 Appraisal Policy for Teaching Staff, CEO and Executive Management Team which is supportive and developmental and ensures teachers have the skills and support to do their job effectively;
- f) Complement the delivery of the statutory appraisal process and make robust decisions on teacher and leadership pay;
- g) Enable the Trust to recognise and reward teachers appropriately for their contribution to the Trust;
- h) Help to ensure that decisions on pay are managed in a fair, just and transparent way whilst eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy for all concerned. The use of evidence in this process will be proportionate and clearly rooted in the appraisal process;
- i) Ensure that there is no pay discrimination in decision-making and that decisions on pay (where applicable) are based on evidence and can be justified.

4 Pay Reviews

- 4.1 The Trust will ensure that each teacher's salary is reviewed annually, by no later than 31 October each year, or no later than 31 December each year for Headteachers and Directors. Any pay increase determined by this review will be backdated to 1 September of the same academic year. Pay reviews in this Trust will be carried out in a manner that minimises the impact on workload for individual teachers, line managers and Headteachers.
- 4.2 Independent from the appraisal process salary will also be reviewed if a teacher takes up a new post with effect from the date the post commenced or in other circumstances as required, with effect from the relevant date.
- 4.3 All teachers will be notified via their Employee Self Service portal, within one month of a decision on pay setting out their salary, any payments or other financial benefits awarded, where a copy of the staffing structure and pay policy may be inspected and any other information required by STPCD.

5 Basic Pay Determination on Appointment

- 5.1 The Trust will determine the pay range for a vacancy prior to advertising it. On appointment, it will determine the starting salary within that range to be offered to the successful candidate.

- 5.2 In making such determinations, the Trust will take into account a range of factors, including:
- a) The nature of the post;
 - b) The level of qualifications, skills and experience required;
 - c) The level of qualifications, skills and experience of the candidates;
 - d) Market conditions;
 - e) The wider school context and strategic priorities;
 - f) The current salary of the candidates. To note that, although there is no assumption that a teacher will be paid at the same rate as they were being paid in a previous school, the school will determine the appropriate rate of pay for a teacher joining the school taking account of salary expectations, current salary and the factors set out above.

6 Assessment of Pay Progression

- 6.1 All teachers will receive regular feedback on their performance and are subject to an annual appraisal process. The arrangements for the teacher appraisal process is set out in the Trust's HR2 Appraisal Policy for Teaching Staff, CEO and Trust Executive Management Team.
- 6.2 Decisions regarding pay progression will be made with reference to the appraisal process. A fair and transparent assessment process will be in place where decisions are based on evidence whilst being proportionate to be able to support robust decisions. Evidence should be readily available from day-to-day practice in school and be considered in the context of minimising bureaucracy.
- 6.3 In this Trust, judgements of performance will be made in relation to how the teacher has met appraisal outcomes, their objectives, CPD and the Teachers' Standards (unless other standards apply for a particular post) and their contribution to the Trust.
- 6.4 The evidence we will use may include, but not be limited to examples of evidence set out in the Trust's HR2 Appraisal Policy for Teaching Staff, CEO and Trust Executive Management Team. Objectives and appraisal discussions will not be based on teacher generated data and predictions, or solely on the assessment data for a single group of pupils.
- 6.5 Teachers' appraisal reports will contain pay recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Headteacher and will be moderated across the Trust. Final decisions about whether or not to accept a pay

recommendation will be made by the Trust's Pay, Performance and HR Committee, once it is satisfied that the process has been managed effectively.

- 6.6 Additional progression may be considered in accordance with the criteria set out in this policy.
- 6.7 Where teaching, progress or compliance with the Teachers' Standards (where applicable) is not meeting expectations, the Headteacher will determine support and, if necessary, the capability procedure will be used. If objectives have not been met through the formal capability procedure, there would be no pay progression during that year.
- 6.8 The Trust will consider its approach in the light of its budget and ensure that appropriate funding is allocated for pay progression at all levels.

7 Main Pay Range

- 7.1 The pay scale range used will be in accordance with STPCD, which is currently £32,916 - £45,352. Within this range there are six points in line with the advisory points set out at Annex 3 of STPCD as follows:

Points	Salary
M1	£32,916
M2	£34,823
M3	£37,101
M4	£39,556
M5	£42,057
M6	£45,352

(Figures current at policy start date).

8 Pay progression for main pay range teachers

- 8.1 Eligible main pay range teachers will be automatically considered for progression and no application will be necessary. However, annual pay progression within the range is not automatic and decisions regarding pay progression will be clearly attributable to the teacher's performance with reference to the appraisal process and the criteria set out in this policy.
- 8.2 Teachers will progress [by one point] until they reach the top of their range if in the professional judgement of the Headteacher they can demonstrate and the Pay, Performance and HR Committee is satisfied that there is evidence of:
- a) All objectives being met;

- b) Quality of teaching throughout the year being good, and
- c) The Teachers' Standards being met in full.

8.3 In exceptional cases, where performance is judged by the Headteacher to be significantly above the high expectations set by the Trust, consideration will be given to progression in excess of one point if that performance has been sustained. In determining these cases the Headteacher will consider:

- a) Quality of teaching;
- b) Impact on pupils and other adults in the organisation;
- c) The Teachers' Standards;
- d) A wider contribution to the Trust.

9 Applying to the Upper Pay Range

9.1 The expectation in the Trust is that teachers who successfully achieve progression to the upper pay range will be able to demonstrate that they meet not only the Teachers' Standards, but are also highly competent in all elements of the standards and that their achievements and contributions to the Academy are substantial and sustained.

9.2 Qualified teachers are able to apply for progression to the next band after two years of successful appraisals that have not been interrupted by movement to capability.

9.3 The upper pay range used will be in accordance with the STPCD, which is currently £47,472 - £51,048 per annum and has three pay points in line with the advisory points set out at Annex 3 of STPCD as follows:

Points	Salary
UP1	£47,472
UP2	£49,232
UP3	£51,048

(Figures current at policy start date).

9.4 Any qualified teacher may apply to be paid on the upper pay range and any such application must be assessed in line with this policy. It is the responsibility of the teacher to decide whether or not they wish to apply to be paid on the upper pay range.

9.5 Applications may be made once a year between 1 September and 31 October.

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- 9.6 Applications must be in writing using the Trust's application process and should contain evidence from the previous two years. Application forms must be submitted to the Headteacher.
- 9.7 The Trust criteria for progression to the upper pay range must include evidence from the past two years of a sustained and substantial contribution from a highly competent teacher. Evidence includes:
- Successful completion of objectives from the appraisal cycles;
 - Teaching being evaluated as consistently good/outstanding;
 - Coaching and/or mentoring, directed by members of SLT, to support colleagues who go on to achieve improved outcomes;
 - Acting as a role model for Teaching and Learning;
 - A commitment to the Professional Learning programmes and personal and professional development focused on improving outcomes for students;
 - High levels of competency in all areas of the Teachers' Standards;
 - A unique and pivotal contribution to the life of the Trust.
- 9.8 The application will be assessed by the Headteacher. The Trust's Pay, Performance and HR Committee will make the final decision after ensuring that the process has been managed effectively.
- 9.9 If successful, applicants will move to the upper pay range and be backdated to 1 September of that year.
- 9.10 Ordinarily a successful teacher will be placed on the bottom of the upper pay range. In exceptional circumstances the Headteacher may recommend a higher salary.
- 9.11 If unsuccessful, feedback will be provided in writing, along with confirmation of the process for appeals.
- 9.12 Any appeal against a decision not to move the teacher to, or within, the upper pay range will be heard under the Trust's appeals arrangements for pay progression – see Section 18.
- 9.13 Teachers who are simultaneously employed to teach at two or more academies may submit separate applications to both (or all) Headteachers if they wish to

apply to be paid on the Upper Pay Range in both (or all) schools. Each Headteacher and governance board will make its own assessment. Decisions by one academy will not be binding on the other.

10 Pay progression for upper pay range teachers

- 10.1 Once a teacher has moved on to the upper pay range, if eligible, they will be considered for further progression annually. Pay progression within the range is not automatic and decisions regarding pay progression will be attributable to the teacher's performance with reference to the appraisal process.
- 10.2 Upper pay range teachers will progress by one point, until they reach the top of the range, if they can demonstrate, and the Trust is satisfied, that there is substantial and sustained evidence of high levels of competency in all areas of the Teachers' Standards.

11 Senior Leaders and Headteacher

- 11.1 Pay decisions in relation to senior leaders (i.e. teachers paid on the Leadership Scale) will be based on criteria set out in the STPCD and the Teachers' Standards. Pay ranges for Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers will take account all permanent responsibilities of the role, any challenges that are specific to the role and all other relevant considerations including the skills and competencies required. Pay ranges will allow appropriate scope for performance- related progression over time.
- 11.2 The Academy will be assigned to a Headteacher group calculated using its total unit score, in accordance with STPCD. A pay range will be determined for the Headteacher which will not normally exceed the maximum of the Headteacher group, unless the specific exceptional circumstances or candidate warrant it, up to an additional 25%.
- 11.3 A pay range will be determined for any Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher, considering how the role fits within the wider leadership structure of the Academy. The pay range will not normally exceed the maximum of the Headteacher group for the Academy and will not normally overlap with the pay range of the Headteacher, except in exceptional circumstances. Any new appointments to these leadership positions will be determined in line with the Trusts salary ranges and the STPCD.

12 Pay progression for members of the leadership group

- 12.1 Eligible members of the leadership group will be automatically considered for further progression (within their specified pay range, as determined by the Trust) and no application will be necessary. However annual pay progression within

the range is not automatic and decisions regarding pay progression will be clearly attributable to the leadership group member's performance with reference to the appraisal process.

- 12.2 Leadership group members will progress by [one point] until they reach the top of their range if they can demonstrate and the Pay, Performance and HR Committee is satisfied that there is evidence of sustained high quality of performance in the academy, leadership and management and pupil progress, clearly linked to school improvement priorities and outcomes.
- 12.3 Additional progression may be considered for members of the leadership group where performance is judged to be exceptional taking into account the criteria at 9.7 and where all objectives have been exceeded.
- 12.4 The Trust will commission an external Education Advisor to carry out the CEO's annual Performance Management assessment, with a review at six months. The performance review will include challenge against annually set performance targets at Trust level. The Education Advisor will report back to the Trust's Pay, Performance and HR Committee, which has overall responsibility for the setting of the pay level for the CEO. 'CEO salary' will then be placed as an item on the Trust Board agenda for independent scrutiny and ratification.

13 Unqualified Teachers Scale

Salary bands for unqualified teachers are in accordance with Annex 4 of the STPCD:

Points	Salary
1 (unqualified teacher pay range minimum)	£22,601
2	£25,193
3	£27,785
4	£30,071
5	£32,667
6	£35,259

(Figures current at policy start date).

14 Pay progression for unqualified teachers

- 14.1 Eligible unqualified teachers will be automatically considered for further progression and no application will be necessary. However annual pay progression within the range is not automatic and decisions regarding pay

progression will be clearly attributable to the teacher's performance with reference to the appraisal process.

14.2 Judgements of performance will be made in relation to appraisal outcomes and meeting objectives.

14.3 Additional progression will be considered for unqualified teachers.

15 Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR) Payments

15.1 The Trust pays TLR1 or TLR2 to a classroom teacher for undertaking a sustained additional responsibility, in the context of the Trust's staffing structure, for the purpose of ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality teaching and learning and for which the teacher is made accountable. The award is made whilst the teacher remains in the same post or occupies another post in the absence of a post-holder.

15.2 Current TLR values are as follows in accordance with the staffing structure:

- TLR1 £10,174 - £17,216 per annum.
- TLR 2 £3,527 - £8,611 per annum.

15.3 The Trust may award a fixed-term TLR3 to a classroom teacher for time limited, clearly defined school improvement projects, or one-off externally driven responsibilities. The annual value of a TLR3 will be no less than £702 and no greater than £3,478. Consecutive TLR3s for staff undertaking the same responsibility will not be awarded, except where the responsibility relates to tutoring as set out above. All teachers in receipt of a TLR will be expected to meet all relevant standards. (Figures current at policy start date).

16 Special Educational Needs (SEN) allowances

16.1 A SEN allowance will be paid to classroom teachers who meet the criteria set out in STPCD. Where a SEN allowance is to be paid, the spot value of between £2,787 and £5,497 will be determined based on the structure of the SEN provision.

17 Early Career Teachers (ECTs)

17.1 In the case of ECTs, determinations of performance and any pay recommendations will be made by means of the statutory induction process.

17.2 Eligible ECTs will be automatically considered for progression and no application will be necessary. However annual pay progression within the range is not automatic and decisions regarding pay progression will be clearly

attributable to the ECT's performance with reference to the statutory induction process including the outcome of the formal assessments.

18 Part-Time Teachers

- 18.1 Teachers who work less than a standard working week are deemed to be part-time. Their hours and working time obligations will be set out in their contract of employment and in line with the provisions of the STPCD. Part-time teachers will receive a written statement which sets out expectations regarding the deployment of working time, including timetabled teaching time, leadership and management time (where applicable) and directed time beyond the school day. The pay of part-time teachers will be determined in the same way and at the appropriate percentage of a full-time teacher and any increase in pay will be paid pro-rata to full-time equivalent salary rates.

19 Short-Notice/Supply Teachers

- 19.1 Teachers employed on a day-to-day or other short-notice basis will be paid on a daily basis calculated on the assumption that a full working year consists of 195 days (194 days for the school year beginning in 2022), periods of employment for less than a day being calculated pro rata. Teachers working in these capacities will be paid the agreed rate for the job and are not subject to the appraisal process.

20 Pay Protection

- 20.1 Pay protection arising from changes to pay and structure will be in line with the provisions of the STPCD.

21 Absence and Pay Progression

- 21.1 Employees who are absent long term (including but not limited to maternity leave and long-term sick leave due to a disability) are still eligible to be considered for pay progression.
- 21.2 In such cases, the Trust will take into account the criteria set out in this policy, but use the period prior to the employee commencing their period of absence. In most cases, this will be the preceding year or two years for progression on to the upper pay range. If there is sufficient time for assessment in the current cycle, that period may also be considered.

22 Appeals

- 22.1 The pay appeals process performs the function of the grievance procedure on pay matters and so employees will not be able to raise the complaint under the Trust grievance procedure following conclusion of a pay appeal.
- 22.2 Employees have the right to be represented by a recognised trade union or a work colleague at any formal stage of this procedure. The employee is responsible for making these arrangements and for providing their representative with any paperwork they require for the hearing. The teacher should inform the clerk to the Trustees who their chosen companion is, in good time before the hearing.

Informal discussion

- 22.3 As part of the normal salary review process, the Headteacher will inform the teacher of the pay recommendation, prior to it being considered by the Pay Performance and HR Committee. Following this notification of the pay recommendation, if the teacher is dissatisfied, they should first discuss the decision with the Headteacher within five working days of receipt of the notification.
- 22.4 This discussion gives an opportunity for a teacher to discuss the pay recommendation, to gain an understanding of why it was made and to resolve issues quickly and informally. If this does not resolve an issue, a teacher may follow the formal procedure set out below.

Stage One

- 22.5 If a teacher remains dissatisfied and believes that an incorrect pay recommendation has been made, they can make a formal representation in writing to the Trust Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- 22.6 To make a representation against a pay recommendation, a formal statement should be submitted in writing within five working days of the discussion with the Headteacher at 22.3 above. This formal statement should be addressed to the CEO and sent to the PA for the CEO stating the grounds of their disagreement with the pay recommendation. The possible grounds for making representations are:
- a) incorrectly applied any provision of the STPCD;
 - b) failed to have proper regard for statutory guidance;
 - c) failed to take proper account of relevant evidence;
 - d) took account of irrelevant or inaccurate evidence;
 - e) was biased; or

- f) unlawfully discriminated against the teacher.
- 22.7 Upon receipt, the CEO (or a delegated representative from the Trust Executive Management team) will convene a meeting to consider the representations as soon as practicably possible.
- 22.8 A written invitation and a minimum of five working days' notice will be given. The teacher or their representative will have the opportunity to make representations to the CEO (or their delegate representative), including presenting evidence, calling witnesses and asking questions. A school representative will also attend to present the management case. A note taker will also be present.
- 22.9 Following this meeting, the panel will make a determination and will inform the teacher in writing within 10 working days.

Stage Two

- 22.10 If a teacher wishes to appeal the decision made at Stage One, they may do so within five working days of the written decision on the grounds that the panel who made the decision:
 - a) Incorrectly applied any provision of the STPCD;
 - b) Failed to have proper regard for statutory guidance;
 - c) Failed to take proper account of relevant evidence;
 - d) Took account of irrelevant or inaccurate evidence;
 - e) Was biased; or
 - f) Unlawfully discriminated against the teacher.
- 22.11 Appeals against the decision at Stage One should be made in writing addressed to the Pay Performance and HR Committee and sent to the Clerk to the Trust stating the grounds of the appeal in accordance with 22.10 above.
- 22.12 Upon receipt of an appeal, the Pay Performance and HR Committee will convene a meeting to consider the appeal. A written invitation and a minimum of five days' notice will be given. Members of the appeal panel will not have been involved in the individual process previously.
- 22.13 The teacher or their representative will have the opportunity to make representations to the appeal panel, including calling witnesses and asking questions. A school representative will attend, who will have the same opportunity. A representative from the CEO panel will also attend to explain why the decision at Stage One was made. A note taker will also be present.
- 22.14 The decision of the panel will be confirmed in writing within 10 working days. Following the outcome of the appeal, there is no further right of appeal.

23 Monitoring the Impact of the Policy

- 23.1 This policy complies with equalities legislation. The Trust will monitor the outcomes and impact of this policy on an annual basis, including trends in progression across specific groups of teachers to assess its effects and the Trust's continued compliance with equalities legislation.

24 Review of Policy

- 24.1 This policy is reviewed annually by the Trust in accordance with section three guidance in STPCD. We will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively.

25 Policy Change

- 25.1 This policy may only be amended or withdrawn by The Priory Federation of Academies Trust.

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

Teachers' Pay Policy

This Policy has been approved by the Pay, Performance and HR Committee:

Signed..... Name..... Date:

Trustee

Signed..... Name..... Date:

Chief Executive Officer

Signed..... Name..... Date:

Designated Member of Staff

Please note that a signed copy of this agreement is available via Human Resources.