



THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUSTS



EMPLOYEE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE



**OUR LADY
OF LOURDES**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



**St Ralph
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust



**—ST THOMAS—
AQUINAS**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



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The principles of wise stewardship, faithful service and caring leadership are peppered throughout the Bible. We therefore turn to scripture for insight when considering all matters related to the growth and development of employees in the Diocese of Nottingham.

Our Catholic schools are places where the dignity and uniqueness of each and every pupil are prioritised: we extend this understanding to all members of staff so that all can flourish, since Jesus Christ has told us.

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10.



Commitment to Equality

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard. We recognise the importance of overtly demonstrating:

- respect for the rights and dignity of employees.
- support for the flourishing of all members of the community.
- opportunities for all to participate and contribute.

This Employee Growth and Development Policy and Procedure has been subject to consultation with the Recognised Trade Unions. It was approved and adopted by the CMAT as detailed below:

CMAT	Date of Approval
Board of Directors - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust	Advent Term 2024
Board of Directors - St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust	Advent Term 2024
Board of Directors - St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust	Advent Term 2024

Definitions

In this Employee Growth and Development Policy and Procedure, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i. 'Board' means the board of Directors of the Academy Trust Company (CMAT).
- ii. 'Career Stage Expectations' means the career stage professional expectations defined by the CMAT.
- iii. 'Central Team' means all staff employed in the Central Office functions of the CMAT.
- iv. 'Chair' means the Chair of the Board as appointed from time to time.
- v. 'CMAT' means the Catholic Multi Academy Trust, that is the company responsible for the management of the Central Team and the Academies and, for all purposes, means the employer of staff within the Central Team and the Academies.
- vi. 'Companion' means a willing work colleague not involved in the subject matter under which the policy is being invoked, a trade union official, an accredited representative of a trade union or other professional association of which the employee is a member.
- vii. 'Diocesan Education Service' means the education service provided by the diocese in which the CMAT is situated, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Diocesan School Commission.
- viii. 'Directors' means directors appointed to the Board.
- ix. 'Headteacher' means the most senior Teacher in the CMAT who is responsible for its management and administration. Such Teacher may also be referred to as the Executive Headteacher, Principal or Head of School.
- x. 'Development Review' means the review and management of Growth and Development, in accordance with this Policy.
- xi. 'Development Period' means the terms set out in section 6.0.
- xii. 'Growth and Development Plan' means the report prepared in accordance with section 7.0.
- xiii. 'Policy' means this Employee Development & Growth Policy and Procedure.
- xiv. 'School' includes all sites upon which the Academy undertaking is, from time to time, being carried out.
- xv. 'Standards' means the Teachers' Standards (published by the DfE in July 2012), the National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers (published by the DfE in January 2015 and as revised in 2020) and any other professional standards in relation to the employee's role e.g. Professional Standards for Teaching Assistants, ISBL Professional Standards.
- xvi. 'Working Day' means any day on which you would ordinarily work if you were a full-time employee.
- xvii. 'Working Week' means any week you would ordinarily work.



1 SCOPE

- 1.1 Subject to Paragraph 1.2 below, this Policy applies to all employees within the CMAT, based within a school or the central team (hereinafter referred to as an “employee” or “you”).
- 1.2 This Policy and Procedure does not apply to those employees who are employed under a contract of employment for less than one term, are on an apprenticeship, are on probationary periods, undergoing induction (e.g. Early Career Teachers – ECT’s) or those who are subject to action under the formal stage of the CMATs Capability Policy and Procedure (Part B).
- 1.3 For CEOs and Executive postholders, this document should also be read in conjunction with the Performance Review Policy and Procedure for CEOs and other Executive Postholders.

“ This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12 ”

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Our Employee Growth and Development policy has been created to ensure that all our staff continue to improve, to always get better; to continually grow as great people resulting in our employees feeling truly valued, happy and content in their work. All CMAT employees are recognised as children of God, made in his image, empowered to make decisions, be creative, to lead and to grow. This process will enable all employees to be the best that they can be leading to improved individual and organisational performance.
- 2.2 This policy sets out our expectations and framework for a clear and consistent approach to professional growth so that our employees may genuinely grow and succeed as trusted and valued professionals.
- 2.3 It assumes, unless evidence suggests otherwise, that employees within CMAT are meeting their appropriate professional standards and/or the requirements detailed in their job specifications. This policy sets out the whole Trust approach to professional Growth and Development and replaces all local existing performance management policies.

“ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves
Philippians 2:3 ”

3 PURPOSE

- 3.1 We want to help and support our employees so that our students benefit from the best possible provision. We also want to ensure that our employees feel able to make the next steps in their career but we also wish to create a culture within CMAT that encourages them to stay and grow with us. This culture, rooted in faith, enables the holy dignity of work to be a visible presence, recognised in the manner in which support is offered to employees.
- 3.2 Professional growth within the CMAT has many benefits. As a consequence of this approach, our employees should experience the following benefits:
- Feeling motivated, valued and inspired, through regular check-ins and discussions regarding their individual development. In line with the principle of *human dignity*, time will be taken to recognise the worth of each and every worker.
 - Involvement in determining their own development needs. In line with the principle of *subsidiarity*, opinions will be heard and valued.
 - Engagement in planning their future career development needs. In line with the principle of *subsidiarity*, plans will be made in partnership with employees.

“ The common good is the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily
Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II ”

- The prospect of accessing a range of learning and development opportunities linked to both their current role and future roles. In line with the principle of the *common good*, the flourishing of each and all will be evident in sign-posting professional development opportunities.
 - Improved wellbeing. In line with the principle of solidarity, the needs of others will feature in wellbeing developments.
 - Increased job satisfaction as a result of training opportunities which upskill and build confidence. In line with the principle of *respecting the dignity of work and the worker*, time will be taken to provide continuing professional development (CPD) and formation which enable the talents of individuals to be recognised and developed, listening to the needs of each person to ensure their voices and opinions are included.
 - Awareness of career opportunities within the diocese that meet their skill set. In line with the principle of *respecting and valuing the dignity of work and the worker*, employees will have access to information about career progression within respective roles, including opportunities to work through training courses to hone skills and increase knowledge within a particular field.
 - A reduced likelihood of seeking a career outside of the Diocese of Nottingham. In line with the principle of *human dignity*, employees will be treated with the utmost respect.
- 3.3 Effective professional development is an essential part of securing effective performance. It requires both an individual desire and willingness to continually develop and a shared commitment from our employees to support and collaborate with one another.
- 3.4 Mutual respect pervades all relationships working together to enhance professional learning and practice and collaboration; collegiality and a sense of team identifies how all employees work together. Employees co-operate with each other and are part of a team that ensures the CMAT schools are among the best schools in the country, and positively reflect the Catholic ethos of the school, CMAT and Diocese.
- 3.5 This policy is designed to change the way we view accountability and continuous professional development. Professional growth within the CMAT where employees determine their own development needs and are engaged in planning their future career development needs. The challenge is to always improve, to always get better, recognising that every person has a responsibility to *care for our common home* and recognise the positive impact that each can make in our world.
- 3.6 Within our trust we have high aspirations for ourselves; a belief and pride that we can be the very best, driven by a sense of moral purpose and desire to continuously improve. This policy and procedure are a key driver not only for employee development and school improvement, but also for recruitment, retention, and improved wellbeing within our Catholic organisation.
- 3.7 This approach means focusing on:
- Employees carrying out self-reflection to help focus on key expectations.
 - Employees having joint ownership of their developmental goals with their line manager which are detailed in their own growth and development plan.
 - Regular progress ‘check ins’ take place throughout the year as part of line management conversations.
 - Empowering line managers and leaders to use coaching skills and support employees to become the very best versions of themselves at work.
 - The opportunity for employees to continuously reflect on their achievements and goals for development.



4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 To ensure that all employees achieve the highest possible standards in our daily work and conduct.
- 4.2 For our Headteachers and Teachers, the Head/Teachers' Standards define the minimum level of practice expected of Teachers from the point of being awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). These standards also set out a number of expectations about professional growth and development which are inherent in this policy.
- 4.3 For our Teachers, standards are set out in the Career Stage Expectations document.
- 4.4 For our Teaching Assistants and other support staff colleagues, the relevant professional standards where they exist.
- 4.5 For all other employees, the key skills and attributes set out in their job descriptions and person specifications.
- 4.6 Effective, and genuinely continuous, professional growth
- builds and enhances knowledge and expertise to bring about changes in practice.
 - recognises that we all learn differently.
 - recognises that one size does not fit all.
 - focuses on what works, challenges existing assumptions and is, therefore, evidence-informed.
 - involves collaboration with colleagues.
 - is sustained over time and includes frequent opportunities for learning; experimentation and practice, reflection and evaluation, frequent feedback and developmental conversations.
- 4.7 Professional growth is underpinned by regular self-reflection, joint ownership of growth commitments and goals, regular coaching conversations through progress 'check ins' and regular ongoing feedback.
- 4.8 As long as CMAT employees continue to meet their relevant professional standards and engage in the process of professional growth, pay progression will be automatic to the top of their pay range and not linked to any mechanism of traditional 'performance management'. We expect our employees to progress up the pay range annually as the norm.
- 4.9 The expectation is that the professional growth process will be both continuous and cyclical. The initial planning meeting should normally take place in the Advent term. There is an expectation that each cycle will be reviewed in line with the individual development plan. It is possible that goals can be realized and new goals could begin within the same academic year.
- 4.10 All meetings will normally take place within directed time for Teachers and within contracted time for support staff, or as agreed. They will not take place during a break or during PPA time.
- 4.11 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Employee Growth and Development guidance.

“
Let your speech always be
gracious, seasoned with
salt, so that you may know
how you ought to answer
everyone
Colossians 4:6
”



5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The responsibility for carrying out development conversations is the line manager.
- 5.2 All employees are expected to participate fully in the process and identifying areas for development
- 5.3 The professional growth process for Headteachers will be carried out by the CEO or as delegated to the Directors of Performance and Standards, in conjunction with the Chair of the Local Governing Body.
- 5.4

As part of this approach it may be identified and agreed that an employee may benefit from coaching on an identified development need. In such cases, a coach must have completed the appropriate training and have agreed a coaching arrangement with the coachee (employee). A coach might not be the individual's Line Manager, but rather someone with specific expertise in an area requiring development.

“Awareness that our work is a sharing in God's work ought to permeate even the most ordinary daily activities
St Pope John Paul II”

6 REVIEWING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH

- 6.1 In order to review the growth and development goals set, the evidence used to reflect on the performance will **not** be based on pupil attainment and observations. The success criteria for each goal will be determined during the annual conversation in line with the relevant standards, career stage expectations and job descriptions.
- 6.2 The School / CMAT is committed to developing a professional culture which drives quality assurance from within, which enables the individual's development growth pathway.
- 6.3 For the Professional Review cycle to be successfully undertaken in full, the following stages need to be undertaken:

“Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use a metaphor, “anoints” us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts
Pope Francis”

6.4 **Step 1 - Establishing a starting point and beginning the planning process.**

This is the initial meeting between line manager and employee. For all employees in scope of this process, this will commence in the Advent Term but must be completed by 31st December in any cycle. For transition purposes, we recognise that support staff cycles may have commenced during the Lent Term and therefore for the academic year 2024/25 the period in which to establish initial plans for support staff colleagues will be February 28 2025.

The success of this process will rely on effective self-reflection and supporting colleagues to identify areas where they can develop rather than imposing “top down” objectives. Guidance is available for employees prior to embarking on this meeting to enable them to reflect on their current context and standards to identify the most beneficial focus for growth and development. The job description and any relevant standards (including career stage expectations for Teachers) will provide the basis for reflection, as well as review. This self-reflection will enable individuals to summarise what they are best at, what their strengths are and what future growth areas are and their development needs.

A focus for growth will be discussed at this meeting. This will be recorded in a Growth and Development Plan. There is no specific number of development goals as they will be specific to the role, the individual concerned and taking into account the time and resources available. However, in order to be effective it is likely that there will be no more than 3 development goals identified at any one time. This individual and unique plan will identify what we hope we will learn or do differently, and the approaches to achieve this; content and process. The plan also requires our employees to identify how they will know they have been successful.

6.5 Step 2 - Action

Development activity will be carried out in accordance with the actions identified in the Growth and Development Plan. Employees are encouraged to be reflective and keep a log of development activities to monitor and evaluate personal growth.

Employees who set and monitor their own goal(s) are those who will continue to grow as professionals and are driven to become even better rather than being told what to do. The focus for this plan will, however, be chosen within the context of their role and School/CMAT priorities.

It is intended that learning and development will not be limited to specific meetings or CPD activity, but become embedded into everyday work practices. Support will be available for all CMAT employees so that they can continue to grow as great people and professionals. This support can take many forms, such as conversations, networks, lesson drop-ins, mentoring, coaching and feedback.

During the course of the year all employees are encouraged to receive frequent feedback on their professional growth focus to build and enhance expertise and secure continuous growth and improvement. Feedback could come from anyone, internally or externally, who has the relevant qualification and expertise and who is working with the employee on achieving their development goals.

6.6 Step 3 - Monitor

Ideally progress against development goals will be monitored through light touch check-ins as part of the line management process. As a minimum entitlement there should be at least one review meeting to ensure progress against the Growth and Development Plan. Following each check-in the Growth and Development Plan will be updated by both the employee and their line manager/coach.

Feedback is an essential part of the improvement process. Providing people with feedback on how they are doing against their goals increases the chances of those goals being reached.

6.7 Step 4 - Review

This is the final meeting of the cycle. Both the line manager and the employee will reflect on development activities undertaken and their impact on work success and personal growth. This will also form the basis for updating the Growth and Development Plan for the forthcoming cycle.



7 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 7.1 Every employee has the responsibility of participating fully in the development of a 'Growth and Development Plan' following reflection and the development conversation with their line manager.
- 7.2 This requires reflection on current work and then subsequent build of expertise through a sustained, developmental approach with frequent purposeful practice, reflection and review.
- 7.3 This individual and unique plan will identify what we hope we will learn or do differently, and the approaches to achieve this; content and process. The 'Growth and Development Plan' also requires our employees to identify how they will know they have been successful.
- 7.4 In the Growth and Development Plan clear goal(s) are set by each employee based on the previous self-reflection process with a focus on what to change or develop further with intended impact. Employees have a joint responsibility with their line manager to determine the focus of each of their individual professional growth goals.
- 7.5 The 'Growth and Development Plan' is a 'live' document. The expectation is that it is reflected on and referred to frequently, adjusted where appropriate, always forming the basis of an employee's continuous professional growth.
- 7.6 To ensure that growth is continuous, and progress ensured, CMAT employees are expected to engage also with any agreed appropriate professional support.
- 7.7 The final version of the plan details the growth focus:
- What the commitment to grow is
 - What success will look like and defining time frames.
 - How the individual will learn to do this
 - The dates for progress check ins and completion
- 7.8 This focus is then sustained over a significant amount of time and all employees are required to engage in opportunities for learning and experimentation, reflection and evaluation, feedback and coaching.
- 7.9 It is intended that professional growth and learning, rather than just being confined to meetings in specific times and places, will become embedded into everyday work practices.
- 7.10 Employees will regularly reflect on the progress of their 'Growth and Development Plan' and any changes in practice through regular subject or phase or team 'check ins'.
- 7.11 All employees are also required to engage fully with any whole school or function/trust professional growth priorities.

“Our goal must be infinite, not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. Heaven has been waiting for us forever
Blessed Carlo Acutis”



8 FEEDBACK

- 8.1 Whilst an employees performance will **not** be based on pupil attainment and formal observations, the CMAT believes that feedback on work practice is important part of continuous improvement and quality assurance. This is in order to identify any particular strengths and areas for development, as well as gaining useful information which can inform CMAT improvement more generally. Formal observations will not be used to determine pay progression.
- 8.2 All observation of work in practice will be carried out in a supportive fashion and will not lead to unnecessary increases in workload and all feedback will be developmental.
- 8.3 Employees will receive constructive feedback on their performance throughout the year and as soon as practicable after any observation has taken place or other evidence has come to light. Feedback will include discussion with the employee, highlighting their areas of strength and areas that need attention and will determine any appropriate action or support that may be required.

“
Mary’s greatness consists
in the fact that she wants
to magnify God, not herself
Pope Benedict XVI
”

9 LINK TO CAPABILITY PROCEDURE

- 9.1 Our Employee Growth and Development Policy is a proactive way to ensure our employees are the best that they can be through engaging and encouraging professional growth. In the event of where an employee fails to meet the relevant standards, and where matters are not resolved at check ins and through development, they may be subject to Part A (informal support) of the capability policy alongside the Employee Growth and Development Policy and Procedure.
- 9.2 The Capability Procedure should only be referred to where there is clear, triangulated evidence of sustained underperformance that the growth and development process has failed to address. Assessment against the Teachers Standards will start from the premise that all Teachers are meeting the Teachers’ Standards and will be assessed as meeting the standards unless clear and compelling written evidence to the contrary is provided.

“
Cast your burden on the
Lord, and he will sustain
you
Psalms 55:22
”

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with the recognized trade unions. Outcomes will be reviewed against equalities legislation. A workload impact assessment will be completed annually.





EMPLOYEE Growth & Development

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.

1 Peter 4