



Teachers' Capability Procedure for Schools

Version 6.0

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Contents

	Page Number
Purpose and Scope	3
Roles and Responsibilities	4
Equality and Diversity	5
Process	6
Authority to take Action	6
Informal Support Plan Review and Pre-Capability Meeting	6
Extenuating Circumstances	7
• Ill Health and Absence	7
• Misconduct	7
Definition and Separation of Roles	7
• Employees	7
• The Headteacher/Principal	7
• Members, Trustees, Governors and the CEO	7
Steps to take before embarking on the Capability Procedure	8
The Capability Procedure	8
• Formal Capability Meeting	8
• Monitoring and Review Period following a formal Capability Meeting	9
• Formal Review Meeting	9
• Arranging a Formal Review Meeting	9
• Conducting a Formal Review Meeting	10
• Outcome of a Formal Review Meeting	10
The Hearing	11
Appeals	12
Unsustained Improvement	13
Expiry of Warnings and References	13
Referrals to Statutory Bodies	13
Authority to take Action	13
Appendices:	
1 Areas which may give rise to concern	15
2 Formal Capability Flow Chart	16
3 Transition back to Appraisal	17
4 Template Performance Improvement Plan	18
5 Teachers' Standards	19

The success of the **Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust (The Trust)** relies on the performance of all its employees and members of its communities. The Trust is committed to providing staff with roles which support strong professional development opportunities:

- appropriate learning and development opportunities;
- targeted support when required;
- clarity of role and objectives
- constructive and meaningful feedback.

Where staff experience problems in attaining the appropriate standards of work, the Trust will endeavour to support them to reach the required standards **through a bespoke coaching plan**.

Employees should be clear of the standards and expectations at the Trust and the potential consequences of failing to meet them. Staff have a contractual responsibility to perform to a satisfactory level and they should be given guidance, support and encouragement to do so, alongside honest and constructive feedback. Managers have a responsibility for setting realistic and measurable standards of performance and for explaining those standards carefully to employees as well as monitoring those standards.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy applies only to Teachers and Headteachers/Principal/CEO about whose performance there are serious concerns that the Performance Management/ Appraisal process has been unable to address.

The policy and procedure must be followed when an employee's ability to perform the duties of their post is giving cause for concern. Lack of capability is highlighted when an employee consistently fails to perform their duties to an acceptable standard.

The Employment Rights Act 1996 defines capability as 'capability assessed by reference to skill, aptitude, health or any other physical or mental quality'.

Examples of areas which may give rise to concern, [See Appendix 1](#).

All staff must have ready access to this procedure and are entitled to complete confidentiality in relation to personal, professional and medical information.

This procedure applies to:

- all teachers employed by the Trust, including the Headteacher/Principal/CEO, except NQTs and staff still in their probationary period (see below);

The procedure does not apply to:

- Newly Qualified Teachers (alternative procedures are in place for newly qualified teachers during their period of induction);
- Support Staff
- Schools meals staff employed by Catering organisations or other external catering contractors;
- Employees of external contractors and providers of services (*e.g.* contract cleaners).

At every stage in the procedure, with the exception of the management period, the employee will:

- Be advised in writing of the nature of the performance concerns against him or her;
- Have the right to be accompanied by their trade union representative, professional association representative or work colleague and by *no-one* else;
- Have a right of appeal against any penalty imposed.

When staff fail to meet required standards of performance, they will be supported initially via the relevant performance management/appraisal processes and this may involve support from a member of the senior leadership team. When the performance management/appraisal framework fails to result in a significant, sustainable improvement it will cease to apply and the Capability Policy and Procedure will be triggered.

The purpose of the Capability Policy and Procedure is to provide a fair and consistent framework to enable managers and staff to:

- Identify constructive agreed support with the aim of improving performance
- Enable staff to achieve and maintain an acceptable standard of work through constructive support
- Follow a fair and consistent process in managing and improving poor performance This policy may also be used to enable and encourage staff to raise concerns regarding their ability to adapt to changes affecting their roles. **This policy must not be used where inadequate performance is the result of wilful misconduct or negligence. In such circumstances, the Trust's Disciplinary Procedure must be used.** In accordance with the ACAS Code of Practice for Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures, before any action is taken against an employee who is a trade union representative, except for initial concerns, the matter should be discussed with a full-time official of their trade union, with the employee's agreement.

This policy is designed to be used for staff who are not achieving the required standards of performance either because they lack the skills and/or aptitude or because their performance has deteriorated.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Board of Trustees** is responsible for ensuring this policy is applied fairly and consistently across the Trust alongside holding specific responsibilities relating to the potential dismissal of employees under this policy.

The **CEO** is responsible for ensuring employees are treated fairly and consistently across the Trust. The **CEO** also has specific responsibilities detailed within this policy regarding decision-making and the issuing of sanctions.

The **Local Governing Bodies and Headteachers/Principal** are responsible for monitoring the application of this policy within their respective schools, ensuring capability issues are managed effectively and other related policies are shared, understood and adhered to by all employees. They are also responsible for ensuring managers, leaders and supervisors have access to appropriate training and development to enable them to apply this policy fairly, consistently and professionally.

The Trust's central **HR Manager** is responsible for overseeing the introduction, implementation, monitoring and review of this policy and will report to the CEO, the Board and Local Governing Bodies as directed by the CEO. The Trust's **external HR support** will provide advice, guidance and support in the implementation of this policy and procedure, acting as a point of contact for managers. The Trust's **HR Manager** will ensure that this policy is implemented fairly and consistently, whilst also ensuring that relevant employment legislation and statutory guidance is adhered to.

Line-Managers must operate within this policy in a fair, consistent and reasonable way; ensuring confidentiality is protected where possible. It is a Line-Manager's responsibility to manage performance issues. Line- Managers must ensure that employees are supported throughout performance management and capability processes appropriately and they must not take any formal action without speaking to their Headteacher/Principal. **Headteachers/Principal are expected to inform the CEO** of any staff who have reached the thresholds for capability.

Line-Managers are encouraged to deal with performance issues promptly, professionally and discreetly, ensuring staff dignity is maintained wherever possible. **Line-Managers are encouraged to seek advice from their Headteacher/Principal even when dealing with matters of inadequate performance informally.**

The Trust expects that staff perform to a high standard, striving to continuously learn, develop and improve their performance. Where staff experience difficulties in their ability to perform to the required standards and expectations it is vital that they access the appropriate support, advice, guidance, learning and development opportunities and that they actively seek the support of both their line manager at an early stage. **Staff** are expected to ensure they comply with their statutory, mandatory and other identified learning and development requirements and that standards and expectations highlighted within their appraisals/performance management are met within appropriate timescales.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Trust is committed to:

- Promoting equality and diversity in its policies, procedures and guidelines
- Ensuring staff are protected from unlawful direct or indirect discrimination resulting from a protected characteristic (e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation)
- Delivering high quality teaching and services that meet the diverse needs of its student population and its workforce, ensuring that no individual or group is disadvantaged

PROCESS

Staff experiencing difficulties in achieving the appropriate standards of performance will be given help and support by their Line-Manager.

Line-Managers have a duty to continuously monitor the performance of staff they are responsible for, advising, guiding and encouraging staff to attain high levels of performance. Performance should be reviewed formally through the relevant process. Line-Managers are encouraged to deal with inadequate performance on an informal basis initially, wherever possible, at the earliest opportunity. In addressing issues of poor performance, they should be clear, honest, supportive and encouraging, highlighting any learning and development options and seeking advice from Senior Leaders and Line-Managers. Staff should have clear, time-related targets that are monitored. The process will often mean that Line-Managers and Leaders carry out more lesson observations and lesson drop-ins. Line-Managers should ensure employees are aware of the range of support options available to them.

Dismissal (with notice) on the grounds of capability will only happen where improvement plans and assistance have been implemented and the outcome is that of inadequate improvement within a reasonable timescale. Staff will have the right of appeal against any decision to dismiss for poor performance. Confidentiality will be maintained and information relating to poor performance will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

The CEO and Central HR must be consulted before any action is taken under this policy.

At every stage of the capability process, the employee will have a right to be accompanied by a trade union representative or work colleague. **The CEO in consultation with the Headteacher/Principal will determine who is to attend the meeting on behalf of the Trust.**

AUTHORITY TO TAKE ACTION

Line-Managers must seek advice from their Headteacher/Principal when considering the capability of teachers. Headteachers/Principals must consult with the CEO.

INFORMAL SUPPORT PLAN REVIEW AND PRE-CAPABILITY MEETING.

When an employee's performance at work is giving rise to concern and the support, learning and development offered through the appraisal/performance management processes has not resulted in the required improvements, a pre-capability meeting will be arranged to determine whether it is appropriate to invoke the formal capability procedure.

Before the pre-capability meeting takes place, any concerns relating to an employee's lack of skill, aptitude or ability must be brought to the attention of the Headteacher/Principal. The Headteacher/Principal will then review the evidence and will determine whether it is appropriate to meet with the employee to undertake a pre-capability meeting. Where they have not already done so, employees are encouraged to discuss this with their Trade Union Representative (as appropriate).

Where it is deemed appropriate, the Headteacher/Principal will meet with the employee to undertake a pre-capability meeting, the purpose of which is to allow a two-way, professional and respectful discussion to take place and will cover a number of issues such as:

- Current and previous performance
- Suitability and impact of support provided to date
- Any mitigation and/or external causes brought to the employer's attention

Employees are encouraged to disclose information that may be affecting their performance, and any sensitive, personal information will be managed discreetly, respectfully and confidentially, on a need to know basis.

As a result of this meeting, a number of outcomes may be possible such as:

- The formal Capability Policy and Procedure being invoked
- The informal support plan being extended
- The informal support plan being re-designed
- Counselling, support and/or modifications

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

ILL Health and Absence

Where it is established that the employee's unsatisfactory performance is caused by ill health, the School's Managing Attendance procedure should be followed.

Where poor performance is due to an employee having a disability, this procedure should be adapted to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. For example, in addition to the support offered, reasonable adjustments to assist the employee reach the required standard must be considered.

Where an employee becomes sick, having entered Capability Procedures, it may be necessary to refer the employee to the Occupational Health Physician, **but this will not be automatic**. Advice should be sought from the Central Trust.

Short absences should not delay any part of the Capability Procedure.

Misconduct

In some circumstances, performance may be unsatisfactory due to an employee's own negligence or wilful misconduct. In such cases the Disciplinary Procedure should be used rather than the Capability Procedure.

DEFINITION AND SEPARATION OF ROLES

Employees

Every employee has a contractual responsibility to perform at an appropriate level. Employees are, therefore, expected to be committed to achieving appropriate levels of performance.

The Headteacher/Principal

In all cases, except where the Headteacher/Principal is the subject of concerns, formal Capability meetings for teachers will be arranged and conducted by the Headteacher/Principal. The Headteacher/Principal will consider the evidence, reach a conclusion and issue a warning as necessary. The Headteacher/Principal will specify the improvement required and support to be provided as part of the warning process.

Where the performance of the Headteacher/Principal is the subject of concerns, formal Capability meetings will be arranged by the CEO in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

Where the performance of the CEO is subject to concerns the Chair of Trustees will arrange formal capability meetings with the Trust's external HR Advisers.

It is possible that as part of the normal working relationship between the Headteacher/Principal, Chair of Governors, they will have discussed details of concerns about the employee. If that is the case, the Chair of Governors can take no part in appeal hearings or in dismissal hearings. If the CEO has been involved with any of the Capability process he/she will not be involved in any appeal hearings or dismissal hearing. This may be true if he/she is the presenting officer.

Members, Trustees, Governors and the CEO

The CEO, Trustees and Governors have quite specific tasks to perform under this procedure (see SOD page 31) in relation to appeal and dismissal hearings, when they will be expected to be involved in a dismissal or be part

of a review panel. Governors who are employees of the school should not form part of the panel. It is inappropriate for Members, Trustees or Governors to be involved in detailed discussion or consideration of performance concerns at any other time. It is also inappropriate for details of any capability cases to be discussed at any full Board meeting.

The CEO will seek advice from the Trust's HR Adviser before starting any process.

STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE EMBARKING ON THE CAPABILITY PROCEDURE

Before embarking on the Capability Procedure, the Headteacher/Principal should ensure that through the normal Teacher Performance/Appraisal procedures that:

- The employee has been alerted to concerns;
- The employee has an agreed job description, which is fully understood and that there is a clear agreed expectation of standards of performance;
- A programme of support has been arranged for the employee in line with appendix E of the school's appraising teacher performance policy (e.g. regular meetings, monitoring, objectives set, training and mentoring), and has been well documented and can be provided in written form; and
- A reasonable timescale for improvement has been set and the employee has been informed of the programme of support in writing.

THE CAPABILITY PROCEDURE

See Appendix 2 for a procedural flowchart.

Appraisal/Performance Management will be suspended when an employee enters the Capability Procedure. Confirmation of this must always be given in writing.

Formal Capability Meeting

Where performance concerns have been unsuccessfully addressed and managed using the normal appraisal/performance management channels, the employee should be invited in writing to attend a Formal Capability meeting with their union representative or work colleague and no-one else. At least five but no more than ten working days' notice will be given. The invite will contain sufficient information about the performance concerns and possible consequences to enable the employee to prepare their case for the formal capability meeting. Any copies of written evidence will be enclosed with the letter together with a copy of the Capability Procedure.

The meeting is intended to establish the facts. At this meeting the Headteacher/Principal will:

- Identify the performance concerns, the support already given during appraisal management, the standards required and where the shortfall in their performance has occurred;
- Provide written evidence of the concerns identified (e.g. from job descriptions, supervision notes, classroom observations, examples of pieces of work that do not meet the required standards);
- Consider and discuss any causes and reasons for the shortfall. The employee should be given the opportunity to discuss any contributory factors they feel may have affected their performance;

- Reach agreement to the future standard of performance with agreed objectives set out showing clearly how these will be achieved and measured;
- Identify the support to be provided to assist the employee in reaching the required standard (e.g. additional supervision, coaching, observing exemplar lessons), together with clear timescales and a review date;
- Set out the timetable for improvement and explain how performance will be monitored and reviewed. The timetable will depend on the circumstances of the individual case but in all cases should be **between 4 and 6 weeks**. It is for the school to determine the set period. It should be reasonable and proportionate, but not excessively long, and should provide sufficient opportunity for significant improvement to take place;
- At this stage, after reviewing the evidence before them and taking into account any contributing factors the employee has put forward, the reviewer will decide;
 - whether to allow a further period of monitoring
 - to issue a warning
 - to issue a final written warning (serious cases only)
- If a formal warning is given, this must be confirmed in writing within 3 working days of the meeting, the opportunity to appeal the decision and clear information about possible outcomes and the next stage;
- Notes must be taken of the meeting and a copy given to the employee.

Monitoring and review period following a formal capability meeting

A performance monitoring and review period will follow the formal capability meeting. Formal monitoring, evaluation, guidance and support will continue during this period. The member of staff will be invited to a formal review meeting, (date agreed in the letter confirming the outcome of the formal capability meeting) unless they were issued with a final written warning, in which case they will be invited to a decision meeting.

Formal review meeting

Arranging a Formal review meeting

The formal review meeting allows the employee to prepare a response to concerns about performance and make his/her case in the company of their union representative or work colleague.

The employee must receive written notice of the meeting, **at least 5 but no more than 10 working days in advance by recorded delivery or delivery by hand** of:

- The purpose, time and place of the meeting;
- Specific concerns, confirming that this is a formal meeting under the Capability Procedure;
- A copy of this procedure (if not provided previously);
- The right to be accompanied by a work colleague or his/her trade union representative (and no one else);

- Details of who will be attending the meeting (e.g. Head, employee, expert witness/es);
- Relevant documentation (e.g. copies of objectives, the support provided, review meeting minutes).

If an employee is unable to attend a formal interview, he/she may choose to provide written permission to the effect that his/her representative may act on full authority and he/she will accept any decision that their representative has been party to. The employee may also choose to provide a written response.

Alternatively, if he/she cannot attend for a genuine reason, and, are not willing for his/her representative to act on their behalf, it may be reasonable to arrange another interview. However, if the employee fails to attend for a second time, management will make a decision based on the facts and evidence gathered during the review period in the employee's absence.

Conducting a Formal Review Meeting

Follow the guidelines set out in policy below.

Outcome of Formal Review Meeting

There are four possible outcomes to the formal review meeting:

Outcome 1

Sufficient improvement, in which case the capability procedure will cease and appraisal process will resume. [See Appendix 3](#) transition back to Appraisal

Outcome 2

There has been some improvement, and there is confidence that more is likely, but further support or monitoring is required and the monitoring and review period will be extended. The extension of the monitoring period in all cases should be between 4 and 6 weeks.

Outcome 3

If no, or insufficient improvement has been made, the employee will receive either a first written warning if one wasn't issued at the commencement of the capability meeting or a final written warning. Where a final written warning is issued the member of staff will be informed in writing that failure to achieve an acceptable standard of performance (within the set timescale), may result in dismissal.

If the employee received a final written warning at the first formal capability meeting then a decision meeting will be arranged. The outcome of the decision meeting will be either that there has been sufficient improvement, or that dismissal proceedings will be started.

Decision Meeting

The employee must receive written notice of the decision meeting, **at least 5 but no more than 10 working days in advance by recorded delivery or delivery by hand.**

There are two possible outcomes of the Decision Meeting:

- **Satisfactory Performance**
Performance has been satisfactory and there is sufficient confidence that it can be maintained. In these circumstances the Capability Procedure will end and the

appraisal/performance process will resume with a letter from the Headteacher/Principal; stating that the improved performance must be sustained.

- **Unsatisfactory Performance**
If performance is unsatisfactory, a recommendation to dismiss may be made by the Headteacher/Principal to the CEO. The CEO may take the decision to suspend the employee pending the Hearing.

At the decision meeting, the following should be agreed:

- Identify the professional shortcomings;
- Identify the performance concerns, the support already given during appraisal management, monitoring and review period. The standards required and where the shortfall in their performance has occurred;
- Provide written evidence of the concerns identified (e.g. from job descriptions, supervision notes, classroom observations, examples of pieces of work that do not meet the required standards);
- Consider and discuss any reasons or causes for shortfall. The employee should be given the opportunity to discuss any contributory factors they feel may have affected their performance;
- Write to the employee within 3 working days of the decision meeting recording the outcome and the above points. Hand-deliver the letter or send by recorded post.

THE HEARING

A panel of 3 (CEO/Members/Trustees/Governors – see SOD page 31) are appointed to hear the case which is presented by the Headteacher/Principal or CEO if not already involved in the process. The Headteacher/Principal/CFO or CEO could be the presenting Officer depending on their involvement in the process.

The employee will be given at least 10 working days' notice in writing of the hearing.

The letter will contain:

- The purpose, time and place of the hearing;
- The right to be accompanied by a work colleague or his/her trade union representative (and no one else);
- Details of who will be attending the meeting (e.g. Head, employee, expert witness/es);
- The requirement for the employee to provide to the school, at least 3 working days before the Hearing, hard copies of all documents that he/she intends to present at

the hearing and enough copies for all those, except witnesses who will be present at the Hearing;

- All relevant documentation that will be used as evidence at the hearing (e.g. copies of objectives, the support provided, review meeting minutes).

Copies of all relevant documents will be sent by the school to the panel members 2 days before the Hearing.

APPEALS

An employee may appeal against any warning given or on a decision to dismiss. Appeals at any stage should be made within 5 working days of the receipt of the warning or dismissal letter. Appeals must be made to the Central HR Manager, who will arrange a panel of 3 Members/Trustees/Governors (see SOD page 28) who have not previously been involved in the case to hear the appeal within 10 working days or as soon as possible thereafter.

The employee will provide, in at least 3 working days before the hearing, all documents that he/she intends to present at the hearing. The documents must be presented in hard copy and with sufficient copies for those, except witnesses, who will attend the hearing. Copies of all the papers to be presented will be sent to panel members 2 working days before the hearing.

Panel members must not discuss any aspect of the case or the contents of the case papers with anyone, including other panel members, before the hearing. The panel will consider all the information submitted to the final capability meeting and will review the decision to dismiss and the rationale. It will not re-hear the case. The panel will consider:

Unfairness in the conduct of the hearing
Inconsistent or inappropriate decision based on evidence presented
Bias of any member of the Appeal Panel
Failure to follow the Capability Process
Extenuating Circumstances

It is the decision of the Appeals Panel, whether or not, new information can be introduced at this stage and the panel will consider the reasons why the information was not included at an earlier stage.

The decision of an appeal panel at each stage will be final and will be reported to the Trust Board and the Local Governing Body.

The following general points are important:

- An appeal at the formal meeting and review stages will not interrupt the procedure (unless the appeal decision leads to reconsideration);
- The request for an appeal should specify the grounds for the appeal and, in particular, whether these refer to the reasonableness of the decision or to procedural matters;
- If either side intends to produce new evidence and the panel is happy to accept this, all relevant documentation should be circulated in advance within the agreed timescales.

To ensure that the correct HR Panels and levels of authority are adhered to throughout this policy procedure, please refer to p31 of the Trusts Scheme of Delegation to ensure that the correct delegation models are applied where appropriate.

UNSUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT

If an employee's performance improves but is not sustained for a period of 12 months the employee will be invited to a review meeting at the same stage of the process they had reached when the formal capability processes ceased. The meeting will be a formal meeting.

EXPIRY OF WARNINGS AND REFERENCES

Any warnings given will remain on file for 12 months or until an appeal has overturned the warning. If an employee is subject to the capability procedure, or, has a warning in place at the time of the reference request, this must be referred to in any employment reference.

REFERRALS TO STATUTORY BODIES

There are statutory duties on employers to refer individual cases to national bodies in the event of a dismissal or resignation when dismissal may have been a likely outcome.

Cases of serious misconduct will be considered by the new Teaching Agency, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.

AUTHORITY TO TAKE ACTION

Action	Authority	Appeal
Stage 1 Formal	Manager with delegated authority	As per the Scheme of Delegation
Stage 1 Review	Manager with delegated authority	As per the Scheme of Delegation
Stage 2 Formal	Manager with delegated authority	As per the Scheme of Delegation
Stage 2 Review	SLT/Executive Board Member	As per the Scheme of Delegation
Final Capability Meeting/Dismissal	As per the Scheme of Delegation	As per the Scheme of Delegation

AREAS WHICH MAY GIVE RISE TO CONCERN**APPENDIX 1**

The following list gives examples of areas in which deficiency in performance may give rise to concern and, in due course, lead to formal action. **This list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive:**

Discharge of specific responsibilities associated with a particular appointment which may include leading, managing or supervising responsibilities;

Compliance with further specific requirements as detailed by the Headteacher or other senior manager and the governing body, which are consistent with the relevant job description or conditions of service of employees in operation at the time;

Failure to reach career stage expectations;

Consistent failure to perform work to a reasonable and acceptable standard;

Organisation of the teaching or work area and management of suitable materials and equipment, including adequate course preparation;

Ability to teach effectively and/or supervise pupils;

Maintenance of an adequate level of class discipline and control;

Setting and appropriate marking of pupils' work;

Keeping suitable records of pupils' work, progress and attainment;

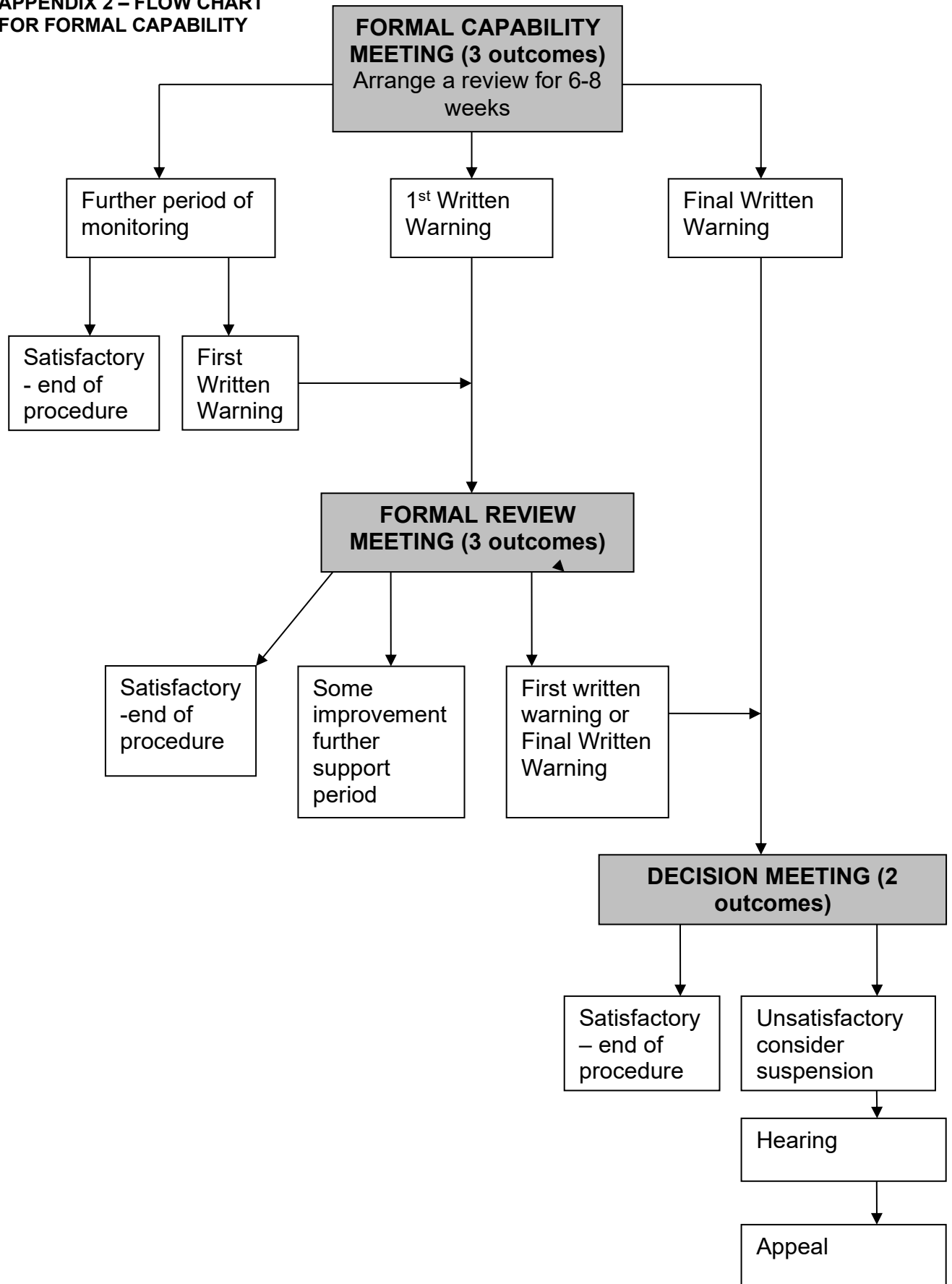
Failure to maintain appropriate standards of accounts or other school records;

Failure to maintain a secure and safe environment;

Failure to follow the Teachers' Standards.

Some of these areas may be considered as falling into concerns regarding employee conduct and advice should be sought from your HR Service before embarking on this process.

**APPENDIX 2 – FLOW CHART
FOR FORMAL CAPABILITY**



At each stage if a formal sanction is given the employee has the right to appeal.

TRANSITION BACK TO APPRAISAL**APPENDIX 3**

At the point in the procedure where an improvement in performance is recognised and the employee is notified that the Capability procedure will end and the employee will return to the appraisal policy, it is important to ensure that satisfactory performance is sustained for a sufficient period of time.

- a) The employee will be notified in writing that a sufficient improvement in performance has been demonstrated which will bring the formal capability procedure to an end.
- b) The employee will move back under the appraising teachers performance policy into the in accordance with the appraising teacher performance policy: **Provision of Additional Support Where National Standards Are Not Met**
- c) The teacher's performance will be managed in accordance with the Performance/Appraisal Policy for a short period of time to be ensure that acceptable performance is being sustained.
- d) The period of time in which the teacher remains in additional support will be agreed by the Head teacher/CEO.
- e) If during the period of additional support acceptable performance is not sustained the provisions set out in E4 and E5 in Appendix E of the Appraising Teacher Performance will be followed.

TEMPLATE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Name:

Expectation	Area of Concern (examples)	Action taken and Plans for Support	Expected Improvement (Success Criteria)	Timescales /Deadlines	Monitoring /Who	Teacher Standards
<p>For example:</p> <p>Well-prepared and well-organised lessons</p> <p>Students clear about expectations</p> <p>Behaviour policy being used explicitly through expectations and teacher interventions</p>	<p>Give specific concerns relating to narrative in first column</p>	<p>Specify Actions taken through performance management/appraisal process and coaching plans.</p> <p>Detail specific support, training, mentoring, guidance to be put in place during the monitoring period</p>	<p>Detail specifically what action and improvement is expected</p> <p>Be specific about what 'good' looks like</p>	<p>When should actions be completed and by whom?</p>	<p>Be specific about monitoring activities and ensure these are matched to targets</p>	

Teachers' Standards

APPENDIX 5

PREAMBLE

Teachers make the education of their pupils their first concern, and are accountable for achieving the highest possible standards in work and conduct. Teachers act with honesty and integrity; have strong subject knowledge, keep their knowledge and skills as teachers up-to-date and are self-critical; forge positive professional relationships; and work with parents in the best interests of their pupils.

PART ONE: TEACHING

A teacher must:

Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils

- establish a safe and stimulating environment for pupils, rooted in mutual respect
- set goals that stretch and challenge pupils of all backgrounds, abilities and dispositions
- demonstrate consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of pupils.

Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils

- be accountable for pupils' attainment, progress and outcomes – be aware of pupils' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these
- guide pupils to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how pupils learn and how this impacts on teaching
- encourage pupils to take a responsible and conscientious attitude to their own work and study.

Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge

- have a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas, foster and maintain pupils' interest in the subject, and address misunderstandings
- demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas, and promote the value of scholarship
- demonstrate an understanding of and take responsibility for promoting high standards of literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English, whatever the teacher's specialist subject
- if teaching early reading, demonstrate a clear understanding of systematic synthetic phonics
- if teaching early mathematics, demonstrate a clear understanding of appropriate teaching strategies.

Plan and teach well structured lessons

- impart knowledge and develop understanding through effective use of lesson time
- promote a love of learning and children's intellectual curiosity
- set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired
- reflect systematically on the effectiveness of lessons and approaches to teaching
- contribute to the design and provision of an engaging curriculum within the relevant subject area(s).

Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils

- know when and how to differentiate appropriately, using approaches which enable pupils to be taught effectively
- have a secure understanding of how a range of factors can inhibit pupils' ability to learn, and how best to overcome these
- demonstrate an awareness of the physical, social and intellectual development of children, and know how to adapt teaching to support pupils' education at different stages of development
- have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs; those of high ability; those with English as an additional language;

those with disabilities; and be able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them.

Make accurate and productive use of assessment

- know and understand how to assess the relevant subject and curriculum areas, including statutory assessment requirements
- make use of formative and summative assessment to secure pupils' progress
- use relevant data to monitor progress, set targets, and plan subsequent lessons
- give pupils regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encourage pupils to respond to the feedback.

Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

- have clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms, and take responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour both in classrooms and around the school, in accordance with the school's behaviour policy
- have high expectations of behaviour, and establish a framework for discipline with a range of strategies, using praise, sanctions and rewards consistently and fairly
- manage classes effectively, using approaches which are appropriate to pupils' needs in order to involve and motivate them
- maintain good relationships with pupils, exercise appropriate authority, and act decisively when necessary.

Fulfil wider professional responsibilities

- make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school
- develop effective professional relationships with colleagues, knowing how and when to draw on advice and specialist support
- deploy support staff effectively
- take responsibility for improving teaching through appropriate professional development, responding to advice and feedback from colleagues
- communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils' achievements and well-being.

PART TWO: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

A teacher is expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct. The following statements define the behaviour and attitudes which set the required standard for conduct throughout a teacher's career.

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by:
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions
 - showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others – not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
 - ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach, and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.