

Leave of Absence Policy

April 2026

Applicable to all community and voluntary controlled schools (where WCC is the employer).

Adopted by the Governing Body April 2026

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The Governing Body of (insert name) School adopted this policy on (insert date)

Leave of Absence Policy

1. Objective and Scope

This Leave of Absence Policy helps Headteachers, and school Governing Bodies handle leave requests in line with legal, contractual, and ethical requirements.

It addresses annual, family, and miscellaneous leave, aiming to ensure fairness and consistency. The policy applies to all school employees but does not form part of their employment contract.

2. Principles

- Annual leave and occupational sick leave will be in accordance with the relevant conditions of service for teachers and support staff.
- Other leave of absence will normally be on an unpaid basis, unless otherwise specified.
- All leave allowances should be applied pro rata to an employee's contracted hours, unless otherwise stated.
- The operational needs of the school will be paramount and, except in emergency circumstances, adequate notice of a request for leave of absence must be given.
- The responsibility for exercising discretion on behalf of the Governing Body is the Headteacher's, in accordance with the professional duties defined in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document.
- Informal resolution is always encouraged as the first step to resolving difficulties, but where genuine grounds can be provided, a dispute or grievance about a request for leave of absence or payment during leave of absence may be dealt with through the Schools Grievance Procedure; there is no right of appeal to a leave request being declined.
- All requests for leave must provide the school with reasonable notice.
- It should not be assumed approval has been given until a response has been provided by the Headteacher or appropriate manager in the school.
- Where the request for leave concerns the Headteacher requests should be made to the Chair of Governors.

3. Annual Leave Entitlement for Support Staff

For support staff (employees covered by Local Government Terms and Conditions) contracted to work for 52 weeks per year, this leave will normally be taken during the school holidays and must be agreed with the Headteacher or nominated person in reasonable time, prior to the leave being taken. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the express consent of the Headteacher, can leave be taken during term time. Support staff working all year around may carry forward up to 5 days to the next annual leave year, provided this is done with the Headteacher's consent and leave is taken prior to 31st May. The leave year runs from 1 April to the following 31 March.

Staff may only take leave during term time with explicit approval from the Headteacher. If annual leave is approved, it will be unpaid.

All employees should make partners aware that as a rule, time off in term time will not be granted for surprise holidays, birthdays or anniversaries.

4. Teachers' Working Time

A Teacher employed full-time must be available for work for 195 days in any school year, 190 of those days must be days of which he/she may be required to teach pupils and perform other duties and 5 days' must be days on which he/she may only be required to perform other duties. The same applies for a teacher employed part-time, except the number of hours he/she must be available for work must be a proportion of full-time hours.

In addition to the hours a teacher is required to be available for work, he/she must work such reasonable additional hours as may be necessary to enable him/her to discharge effectively his/her professional duties as outlined in the School Teacher Pay and Conditions Document.

These provisions do not apply to employees on either the Leadership or Leading Practitioner pay ranges or those acting up in such a role.

5. Leave Of Absence

Applications for leave of absence should be made within the timescales set out below on the pro-forma in **Appendix 1**. However, in some circumstances, such as an emergency, a written request prior to the absence may not be possible though the employee should report their absence verbally through the normal procedures. In such cases a written request should be submitted as soon as possible after the event.

Type of Leave of Absence	Minimum Notice
CPD events	10 working days
Planned appointments and meetings	5 working days
Emergency events	As soon as possible

*A summary guide on the types of leave /pay entitlements is outlined in **Table 1-5 in Appendix 2**.*

6. Part-time Employees

The entitlements detailed in this policy are based on an employee working full- time. Where an employee works part-time all entitlements are on a pro-rata basis. Staff working on a term-time only basis will be considered as being full- or part-time in relation to their contracted hours per week.

Where a part-time employee attends CPD on their day off or outside their normal working hours they will either be given equivalent time off in lieu or paid on the same basis as a full-time employee. This should be agreed prior to the commencement of the period of absence

7. Pension Implications

Staff taking a period of leave of absence should be aware that unpaid leave may have implications for pension benefits, depending on the type of leave taken, the duration of the unpaid period, and the pension scheme they are a member of.

The pension treatment of unpaid leave is not the same in all circumstances and is subject to scheme-specific rules and statutory requirements, which may change from time to time. Staff who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) are

encouraged to contact Pensions services directly for individual advice on:

- whether a period of unpaid leave is pensionable; and
- whether any options are available to address the impact on pension benefits.

Further details can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pensions

Advice and support can also be obtained by contacting pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk or by telephone on 01926 412682

Staff who are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) should note that pension arrangements during periods of unpaid leave are governed by TPS regulations.

Further advice should be sought directly from Teachers' Pensions via www.teacherspensions.co.uk or by telephone on 0345 606 6166.

Periods of unpaid leave may also affect National Insurance and tax contributions. Employees should seek further advice from their payroll provider if required.

8. Personal Leave of Absence

The School's policy as agreed by the Governing Body is:

8.1 Time off for a sick child or dependant

Employees have a statutory entitlement for unpaid time off in unplanned/emergency situations to care for a sick child or dependant.

In exceptional circumstances personal leave for unplanned/emergency situations may be paid for the first day of absence only with the Headteachers authorisation. This would typically relate to the hospitalisation of the child or dependant.

8.2 Compassionate (including Bereavement) or Exceptional Leave

Noting the provision set out in 8.1, emergency and discretionary leave enables employees to take time off work to deal with an unexpected or sudden emergency involving a dependant. The leave is to deal with the immediate issues and to sort out long-term arrangements if necessary. The circumstances that enable employees to take Compassionate or Exceptional leave are:

- Providing assistance where a dependant falls seriously ill, gives birth, is injured or assaulted
- Making arrangements for the care of the dependant who is seriously ill or injured.
- The death of a dependant.
- The care of the dependant has unexpectedly been disrupted or terminated.
- There is an unexpected incident involving the child of an employee whilst at school.

A dependant is a spouse, child, foster child, child in law, parent (next of kin or parent-in-law), relative or partner living in the same household as the employee (it excludes tenants, lodgers or boarders of the employee). A dependant also includes any person who reasonably relies on the employee to make arrangements for the provision of their care.

See Table 1-5 Appendix 2 for an outline of the various entitlements.

An employee must notify their line manager/ Headteacher as soon as practically possible in the event of an emergency.

The Headteacher may approve up to five days' paid leave per leave year (pro rata for part timers) for Compassionate, Emergency or Exceptional leave for a close relative (is defined as a husband, wife, partner, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister, parent-in-law or next of kin).

For most cases, one or two days are reasonable to deal with a problem. The time off is to enable an employee to cope with a crisis, to deal with immediate care and where necessary to make longer term care arrangements for the dependant. Where paid leave is granted only the first day of absence will usually be paid in any one period of absence, unless discretion is applied by the Headteacher.

See Table 1 for details of entitlements for time off for Bereavement.

8.3 Other personal reasons

Exceptionally, there may be other personal reasons for requesting leave of absence. Usually these will be 'one off' events affecting family. An example might be attendance at a child's or one's own graduation ceremony, child in a school nativity play etc. Such leave, where granted, will normally be unpaid and subject to adequate notice so that replacement staff can be employed if necessary.

Holidays to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays etc. are not considered to be 'one off'.

8.4 Career Break/Extended Leave Of Absence

Requests for longer periods of leave will be considered on an unpaid basis, for example, in the case of a lengthy period of caring for a chronically sick, disabled, or terminally ill, dependant relative. Extended leave can be for up to 3 months in duration but may be longer at the headteacher's discretion. Sufficient notice that allows the appointment of a replacement should be given wherever possible. Further guidance on Career Breaks is set out in **Appendix 3**.

8.5 Moving House

Up to 2 days' paid leave may be granted for staff moving house in connection with taking up employment within the school. Other staff may be granted 1 day's unpaid leave at the discretion of the headteacher.

8.6 Volunteer Reserve Forces Leave

Reservists are required to inform their line manager that they are a member of the Reserve Forces. Reservist employees will also be required to grant permission for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to write to the Headteacher to make sure the school are aware and provide details of mobilisation obligations and rights as an employee reservist.

Reservist training normally takes place during evenings and weekends. Headteachers may however grant up to 14 days leave (paid or unpaid) at their discretion where training falls within an employee's normal working hours.

Leave may be refused if it would have a detrimental impact on the running of the school. In any case teachers and other classroom based staff will only be granted paid leave if the force's unit cannot arrange exercises during holiday periods

8.7 Mobilisation

Mobilisation is the process of calling Reservists into full-time service to serve alongside the Regular Armed Forces on operations. The Ministry of Defence aims to give as much notice as possible of mobilisation (but at least 28 days). In circumstances where a reservist employee is mobilised, they will not be paid by the school and should be placed on a Career Break for payroll purposes to ensure their continuous service is not broken.

If an employee who is mobilised wishes to remain in the LGPS the school's payroll provider should be informed who will calculate the amount of contributions that the employee and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) must pay. For Teachers the relevant form must be completed, available online at www.teacherspension.co.uk

For further information on mobilisation, please refer to the [Reservist employer toolkit - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/toolkits/reservist-employer-toolkit)

9. Carry-over Of Annual Leave

The School expects employees who work 52 week contracts and are covered by Green Book (support staff) terms and conditions of employment to take their full entitlement of leave in each leave year, which runs from April to March. Where this is not possible, with the knowledge of and by arrangement with the Headteacher, employees may carry forward 5 days to the next annual leave year, provided this is taken prior to 31 May.

Where sickness or statutory family leave prevents annual leave from being taken, **statutory annual leave will be carried forward in line with the Working Time Regulations** (including the rule that leave carried forward because of sickness must be taken within **18 months** of the end of the leave year in which it accrued).

Advice should be sought from your HR provider when sickness has prevented annual leave from being taken.

10. Religious Observance

Where staff request leave for the purpose of recognised religious observance, up to 2 days' unpaid leave may be granted, subject to service needs. Requests will be considered fairly and consistently. Where operationally necessary, the Headteacher may discuss reasonable options for managing workload, which may include voluntary time-shifting or alternative arrangements. If this is not possible any leave granted will be without pay.

11. Sporting Events

Where staff can show they are representing their country (or competing/refereeing nationally at a high level or at a prestigious event) they should write to the Headteacher so that arrangements can be made for paid or unpaid leave.

12. Public Service and Duties Leave

Subject to the needs of the school, employees are entitled to reasonable time off in order to carry out the following public duties and activities (please note this is not an exhaustive list):

- A Justice of the Peace
- Jury Service
- A court witness/McKenzie Friend
- A Member of the Magistrates Courts Committee
- A Member of a Family Practitioner Committee
- A Member of a Local Authority
- Serving on such other local or regional public bodies as the Governors may authorise
- Campaigning as an official candidate for a General Election
- Campaigning as an official candidate for a European Election

Under s.50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 employees who hold certain public positions have a right to reasonable unpaid time off during working hours. This may, for example, involve being a magistrate, school governor or member of a public body. There is no definition in law as to how much time off is reasonable for the purpose of public duties.

For a full-time employee carrying out the above activities, a reasonable amount of time off will be a maximum of 2 normally unpaid days (with the discretion to pay given to the Headteacher) or the equivalent in part days per year. Time off for part-timers will be calculated proportionately by reference to the working hours and working weeks. Leave will normally be granted where this can be reconciled with the operational needs of the school/service.

Jury Service – Employees who are called for Jury Service, will need to give a copy of their jury summons letter to their Headteacher as soon as possible.

The school must allow time off for jury service. If the employee's absence would have a serious operational impact on the business, the school may ask the employee to apply to the court for a deferral. In these circumstances, the school will provide a supporting letter outlining the operational reasons for the request.

The school should record the period of absence on their HR system and upload a copy of the jury summons letter to the employee's personal file.

(Delete one of the following sections as applicable):

EITHER – For maintained schools (and academies which pay employees full pay during jury service):

Employees will continue to receive their normal pay during the period of jury service and therefore do not need to submit a 'loss of earnings' claim to the court.

If the court pays an allowance in error, the employee must provide the Remittance Advice slip so the overpayment can be recovered. Failure to return the Remittance Advice slip will be investigated and could be considered Gross Misconduct under the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Employees must claim any travel and subsistence expenses directly from the court using the form provided at the start of jury service, along with the relevant receipts.

OR – For academy schools that do not pay employees full pay during jury service:

If an academy school does not pay the employee their usual pay during their jury service, the employee should complete the 'Loss of Earnings' form provided by the court. The employee should provide this form to the school, who will forward it to the schools' payroll provider for completion. Once completed, the form will be returned to the School to give back to the employee who will submit it to the court. The court will confirm how much they will pay for loss of earnings (normally on a Remittance Advice slip) and will pay the employee directly.

Employees must claim any travel and subsistence expenses directly from the court using the form provided at the start of jury service, along with the relevant receipts.

This period must be recorded as unpaid leave to ensure the pay is deducted from the individual, and they do not receive an overpayment.

A Court Witness/McKenzie Friend (an unpaid advocate usually in family courts) - If an employee attends Court as a witness for WCC/their employer, then this is part of their duties and they will be paid as if attending work. In other cases, where an employee is subpoenaed or subject to a witness summons order to attend Court, special leave with pay may be granted. However, as with Jury Service, only employees who do not receive their normal pay, will need to complete the loss of earnings form.

13. Study/Examination Leave

For employees who are sitting examinations relevant to their current post or career, providing the school is paying the fees, half a day study leave per examination plus half a day per examination will be paid.

14. GCSE Duties & Activities

For Teachers who are engaged in activities for examining groups, please refer to appendix II of the Burgundy Book, Memorandum of Agreement for the Release of Teachers.

15. Time Off For Trade Union Duties

The school recognises the legal requirement for employers to allow reasonable time off work for the school's elected representatives of recognised trade unions to carry out their duties in the school in which they are elected. Duties that warrant time off with pay include:

- consultation on terms and conditions of employment or the physical conditions of work;
- consultation on recruitment and selection policies, redundancy and dismissal arrangements;
- meetings with school management or LA officers on matters of joint concern;
- representing a union member at a grievance or disciplinary hearing;
- attendance at relevant training courses organised by the trade union.
- Attendance at AGM/EGM

The County Council has a separate agreement with Trade Unions and Professional Associations to provide paid time off for their county representatives, this is covered in **Code of Practice for trade union representation and the management of employee relations** and can be found in the school office or on the WES website . The nominated county representatives are allowed pre-agreed time off each week to carry out their duties and

the school is reimbursed from a central budget.

There is no legal definition of reasonable time off. It is important for trade union representatives and schools to be balanced and flexible in how these requests for time off are addressed with the representative providing as much notice as possible, giving details of the reason for taking time off and how much time off is required.

Schools may need to take into account factors such as the:

- nature of the work undertaken
- need to do the work
- needs of the line manager and impact on immediate work colleagues
- importance of health and safety at work
- amount of time off already taken for trade union duties and activities

It's recommended that in the event of a refusal to grant paid time off for a workplace representative that this is communicated to the appropriate County Secretary of the relevant trade union.

16. Bad Weather Conditions/Flight Interruptions

There may be circumstances when the employee is unable to attend work due to bad weather or flight interruptions, but the school remains open as usual. All reasonable effort should be made to attend work. Alternative arrangements may be agreed with the Headteacher, e.g. working from home or at a different location. Where this is not possible, non-attendance will normally be treated as unpaid leave.

17. Time Off For Medical Appointments

The school will allow reasonable paid time-off for employees to attend medical appointments, which are unable to be arranged out of working hours. Before arranging non-urgent doctor's medical appointments, employees should seek the approval of their Headteacher if it is necessary to take time off work. Employees should make every attempt to make these appointments at the beginning or end of the day or during lunch breaks to minimise the time they have to be absent from work.

Routine doctors or dentist appointments e.g. check-ups should not be taken during term time or working time for those working in holiday periods.

Elective procedures should be arranged during holiday periods and will usually be unpaid.

18. Other Types of Family Leave

Details for maternity, paternity, adoption and surrogacy, shared parental leave, carer's leave, neonatal care leave, antenatal care, parental leave, pregnancy loss, paternity bereavement leave and parental bereavement leave can be found in the relevant Family Friendly guides available via the school office/WES website.

19. Fertility Treatment

All employees, regardless of hours worked or length of service, are entitled to a reasonable number of days paid leave for the purpose of attending IVF appointments and undergoing fertility treatment. The Headteacher may also grant unpaid leave at their discretion.

20. Interviews

The Governing Body recognises the need for prospective employers to occasionally require interviewees to attend for more than one day, especially for school management posts. This is where there might be a requirement for prospective candidates to undertake a preliminary visit before the formal interviews.

In order to maintain a fair balance between the operational needs of the school and to minimise the burden on other staff, and to be fair to employees who will be seeking to further their career in the education sector, the Governing Body will grant leave of absence for interviews as follows:

- a) The Headteacher is empowered to approve up to a maximum of 5 days paid leave of absence for interviews, to cover both formal and informal stages of the process, during any one academic year.
- b) Further leave of absence for this purpose will normally be agreed and will be on an unpaid basis.

Headteachers may exercise their discretion to grant further paid leave for employees to attend interviews and selection processes. Consideration should be given to:

- whether the employment is within the education sector (this will normally count as a factor in favour of granting paid leave.)
 - the frequency of such requests.
 - the length of service the employee has in their current post.
 - whether the employee is facing redundancy or otherwise has an uncertain future in their current post (in which case paid leave should be granted – if in doubt seek advice from the HR Provider.)
- c) For support staff any days beyond the initial 5 days could be made up during holiday periods, instead of being on an unpaid basis, provided that their work can be carried out during holiday time.

21. Unauthorised Absence

If an employee takes leave of absence without the prior consent of the Headteacher, the reason for the absence will be ascertained. If, in the Headteacher's judgement, the reason for absence merits investigation, this will trigger an investigation which could be considered as an allegation of misconduct or gross misconduct under the Disciplinary Policy.

22. Monitoring

The school/Trust will monitor all applications and decisions relating to requests for leave or absence under this policy to ensure that a fair and consistent approach is taken for all staff.

Appendix 1 - Application for Leave of Absence

This form must be used when an employee requires time off work under the Leave of Absence Policy. This form should **not** be used for cover requests when the employee is at work but undertaking alternative duties.

All requests approved are subject to cover arrangements and, on occasion, it may be necessary to withdraw approval to ensure school activities are appropriately supervised.

Name		Job Title	
Reason for request – if the request relates to time off to support a dependant or attend a funeral, please state the person's relationship to you.			
Date from		Date to	
Time from if part-day leave		Time to	
Cover required (<i>continue overleaf if necessary</i>):			
Date	Period and Class	Details/Notes	
Employee's Signature		Date	
Headteacher's Comments			
Headteacher's Signature		Date	

Decision

Paid leave of absence is approved for these dates:	From	To
Unpaid leave of absence is approved	From	To
Request for leave of absence is declined	From	To
Reason request is declined:		
Signed		
		Date

Completed forms should be returned to the Headteacher/School Office.

Appendix 2 – Table Summary of Leave Types and Entitlements

Table 1 – Personal Leave * only staff with a floating leave entitlement i.e. 52 week all year round support staff					
Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Dependant	This leave may be requested to allow an employee to deal with an immediate crisis or set up alternative care arrangements when normal arrangements break down. The leave is intended to enable an employee to deal with an emergency situation and not to provide the care themselves. Leave can also be requested to attend medical appointments with dependants.	Up to 5 days per academic year	Yes	Unpaid for Dependants leave	Yes
Compassionate Leave	Sympathetic consideration will be given in the case of serious or life-threatening illnesses of a dependant. A dependant is defined as the employee's parent, wife, husband or partner child, or someone who lives as part of the family, but not the employee's tenant, lodger or boarder. It also includes someone for whom the employee is the main carer.	Discretionary	No	Discretionary for Compassionate leave (normally paid)	No
Bereavement <i>Close relative</i>	A close relative is defined as a husband, wife, partner, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister.	Up to 5 days	No	With Pay	No
Bereavement <i>Other relatives</i>	Leave will usually be granted for the employee to attend the funeral. However, at the Headteacher's discretion consideration will be given to requests for additional leave where the employee is the primary person making funeral arrangements.	Max 1 day	No	With Pay	No
Bereavement <i>Close friends</i>	Leave may be granted for attendance at the funeral of a close friend. Additional leave may be granted if travelling to the funeral. necessitates a longer period of absence at the Headteachers discretion.	½ day	No	With Pay	No
Domestic crisis Emergency leave	The School recognises that circumstances may make it necessary and unavoidable for an employee to be absent due to a domestic crisis (including damage or disruption to property e.g. flood, burst pipes, house fire).	Discretionary	Yes	Unpaid	Yes
Fertility treatment	Each request will be considered individually in the context of the particular circumstances. Note: undergoing IVF treatment is regarded as pregnant for the period following implantation of the fertilised ova until the end of the protected period.	Discretionary	No	With Pay	No

Table 2 – Health Related Leave * only staff with a floating leave entitlement i.e. 52 week all year round support staff					
Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Blood donors	Subject to operational requirements, employees may be given reasonable time off.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary (Normally with pay)	Yes
Bone marrow and Organ donors	Subject to operational requirements, employees may be given time off to donate bone marrow. This may include examinations prior to the donation and hospitalisation and recuperation.	5	Yes	With Pay	Yes
Cancer screening	Routine cancer screening (for example cervical cancer screening and breast examinations) should take place outside normal working hours. Where this is not possible, or where the screening is non-routine, leave of absence should be granted for the purpose of attending such appointments	As required	No	With pay	No
Dental treatment	Emergency appointments only where it has not been possible to arrange them outside normal working hours.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Medical appointments and treatment	Emergency appointments or where it is not possible to arrange outside normal working hours e.g. hospital appointments	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes

Table 3 – Training Related Leave * only staff with a floating leave entitlement i.e. 52 week all year round support staff					
Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Time off to Train	Employees have a statutory right to request leave to undertake training which they believe will improve their effectiveness in their role and overall performance of the school.	Discretionary - depends on the course requirements	No	Discretionary	No
Study leave and time off for examinations	Leave may be requested for periods of study to prepare for examinations relevant to their employment.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
	Leave may be requested for time off to sit examination. Paid leave will only be granted if the exam is relevant to the individual's employment.	½ day per examination	Yes	With Pay where relevant to employment	Yes
Graduation	Leave may be requested for the employee to attend their own graduation	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Requests for CPD	Leave may be requested to attend CPD events. Usually CPD requirements are determined through the appraisal process.	As required	No	With pay	No

Table 4 – Public Service and Duties Leave * only staff with a floating leave entitlement i.e. 52 week all year round support staff					
Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Court Appearances	Where the employee is called to court to act as a witness or as the accused.	Discretionary	Yes	See 11.	Yes
Jury Service	Employees are entitled under national conditions of service to receive paid leave of absence for jury service. Employees may be required to request a postponement when the service falls on key academic dates	Duration of service	No	Paid, less the loss of earning entitlement under the juror's allowance regulations	No
Elections candidates	<p>Employees standing as a candidate at local or central government elections.</p> <p>If employees are planning to stand for election they are required to discuss with the Headteacher the ongoing impact on their employment should they be elected and how this can be accommodated.</p>	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Volunteer Reserve Forces	<p>Teachers – leave of absence is at the discretion of the Headteacher and due to conditions of service will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Support Staff – leave of absence for training or voluntary service is at the discretion of the Headteacher.</p>	<p>Discretionary</p> <p>See 7.6</p>	No	Discretionary	No
Other Public Duties	Employees who hold certain public offices have a right to 'reasonable' time off to perform their duties. This could include acting as a Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, a local councillor or member of a tribunal, serving on an NHS Trust, school governing body, policy authority, environmental agency, etc.	Discretionary, up to 2 days per year	No	Discretionary (normally unpaid)	No

Table 5 – Other Leave * only staff with a floating leave entitlement i.e. 52 week all year round support staff					
Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Moving house	Employees should make all efforts to move outside of their normal working hours. Where this is not possible or where an employee is moving to take up his/her post at the school, sympathetic consideration will be given to granting leave of absence.	2 days where job related	No	Paid	No
		1 day (subject to impact on running of school)	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Religious observance	The School recognises the importance of religious observance and will attempt to accommodate the needs of the employee.	Discretionary up to 2 days	No	Discretionary	No
Job-seeking and retraining in a redundancy situation	An employee who is 'at risk' of redundancy can take reasonable time off with pay to look for another job or arrange training	As required	No	Paid	No
Secondments	A temporary transfer of an employee to another associated organisation for operational, developmental or project purposes. The secondment will be governed by an agreement between all parties involved.	Normally up to 12 months	No	Paid by employer to which seconded	No
Adverse Weather conditions	Where severe weather conditions prevail, employees are expected to make every effort to attend work, using alternative modes of transport where possible. Employees who are genuinely unable to attend work should where possible and with agreement of the Headteacher work from home.	Discretionary	No	Discretionary	No
Attendance at Interview	Leave of absence can be requested to attend interviews.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Visits to new employers before commencement	Leave of absence can be requested to visit a new employer's workplace prior to the employee's commencement with them.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	No

Type of Leave	Description	Maximum no. of Days	Counts against leave entitlement*	Paid or Unpaid	Counts against pay entitlement
Unpaid leave e.g. sabbaticals, voluntary service overseas, etc.	An extended period of absence from work, after which the employee intends to return to work. To be eligible the employee must have: At least 2 years' service with the School Satisfactory performance in all aspects of work A satisfactory attendance and conduct record	Discretionary	No	Unpaid	n/a
Trade Union activities (including Health and Safety representatives)	Subject to operational requirements reasonable paid time off will be granted to recognised TU representatives for the purposes of representing members in the school, TU training, attending official TU meetings, attending meetings arranged by the school to which representatives are invited and undertaking union learning activities.	As agreed	No	Paid	No
Wedding <i>Own</i>	It is expected that employees will arrange their own wedding during school closure periods and therefore leave of absence will not be required. In exceptional circumstances beyond the employee's control, e.g. term- dates are changed after the wedding has been booked, leave of absence will be granted.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes
Wedding <i>Friends and relatives</i>	Only unpaid discretionary leave will be considered.	Maximum 1 day	Yes	Unpaid	n/a
Other matters not covered by provisions	The Headteacher has the discretion to consider requests for leave of absence for any reason other than those detailed above. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its individual merits e.g Examiner/Moderation/ Standardisation meetings which is at the discretion of the Headteachers. Exam boards normally pay for release and if this is not given will also be at the Headteachers discretion.	Discretionary	Yes	Discretionary	Yes

Appendix 3 - Career Breaks

It is recognised that during an employee's working life there will be times when personal commitments may take priority over work e.g. bringing up children, longer term care for sick or dependant relatives, or pursuing a course of further education. The school may be able to accommodate such personal commitments, where operationally practicable, through career breaks. Employees should also give consideration to flexible working requests depending on their individual needs.

Career breaks enable employees to take an unpaid break from work for personal reasons whilst maintaining continuity of service with the school. The employee should try to give as much notice as possible to commence a career break (ideally 3 months) but a shorter notice can be accepted at the Headteacher's discretion for example where a dependant needs care at short notice.

With the exception of continuity of service all other terms of the employment contract with the school will be suspended (i.e unpaid, no reckonable service – unless LGPS members buyback lost membership). On return, at an agreed date following the career break, the employee will be able to return to the same or similar post within the school without competitive selection.

A career break may be considered appropriate for example:

- To extend a period of maternity/adoption leave
- To care for dependants
- To enter full time education
- Extended foreign travel

These reasons are not all inclusive and others may be considered, with the exception of taking up other full time paid employment. Employees who are on a career break may in exceptional circumstances take up a part time role for example to support a university course or extended travel. Permission must be sought from the school before taking this up. Staff should agree with the school the best way of keeping in touch throughout the career break in terms of where to send key updates and information and availability for possible meetings.

Eligibility

All permanent employees with at least two years' continuous service with the school regardless of the number of hours worked are eligible to apply for a career break.

Length of career break

The minimum length of break is 3 months, for teaching and classroom-based staff the expectation would be for this to equate to a term, and the maximum is 1 year. There is no limit to the number of career breaks an employee can take, providing they return to work at the school for a minimum of 2 years between each break.

Restructuring and/or Reductions in staffing

Consideration of planned organisational change should be taken before a career break is authorised particularly where there is potential for a reduction in posts.

If an employee is on a career break when a restructure is being considered, every effort should be made to contact them in order for them to have input into any consultations or feedback processes. Employees may be given the opportunity to return to work early if they wish to if the temporary cover can be ended at no additional cost.

Employees on a career break must be included in selection processes even if the Headteacher is unable to make contact with them.

Extending the career break

If the employee wishes to extend their career break, if the break taken was to be less than one year, they must do so in writing normally giving as much notice as possible. The Headteacher will give consideration to the extension along the same lines as the original request and may grant up to 1 year in total.

Cutting short the career break

There will be no automatic right to cut short a career break but the Headteacher will consider such requests from an employee if they can be accommodated.

If the employee does not return from the career break

If an employee does not wish to return from a career break, they should confirm this in writing **at least 4 weeks'** prior to their expected return date, for those employed under School Teachers Pay and Conditions of Service the appropriate notice must be given in accordance with those terms. If, on the school writing to the employee to confirm the return date, the employee does not respond, their contract will be terminated on that expected return date.

Conduct during a Career break

Employees should be aware that they remain employees of the school during a career break. Whilst an employee's off duty hours are their personal concern they should not put themselves in a position where their duties and private interests conflict. The standards of the School's Code of Conduct should be maintained during a career break and any breach could result in action being taken under the schools Disciplinary Procedure.

Appendix 4 - Letter to LGPS staff taking unpaid leave

Dear [Name],

I am writing to let you know that a period of unpaid leave may have an impact on your benefits under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The pension treatment of unpaid leave depends on a number of factors, including the type of unpaid absence, when it started, and your individual LGPS membership details. Under LGPS regulations, the position can vary from case to case.

For this reason, if you would like to understand:

- whether your period of unpaid leave is pensionable, and/or
- whether there are any options available to address any impact on your pension,

you should contact Pension Services, who can provide personalised advice based on your circumstances.

Contact details

01926 412682

pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pensions

They will be able to explain your position and advise you on any next steps, where applicable.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]