



# Redundancy and Restructuring Policy

This policy has been approved and adopted by the Christus Catholic Trust across all their academies and it will apply to all staff within the Trust.

Presented and Approved by Christus Catholic Trust Board	February 2024
Chair of Trust Board	Bertrand Emecheta
Signature	Bertrand Emecheta
Next Review Date	February 2025

The schools of Christus Catholic Trust are unique and united in partnership and service to our communities and global home.

We are:

- Uncompromising in our **ambition** to use the power of **collaboration** to ensure our pupils receive an **excellent** Catholic education.
- Have a strong culture of safeguarding in an environment where good mental health and wellbeing are nurtured.
- Have an **inclusive** approach to a high quality, **innovative**, contextualised education.
- Have high **aspirations** for all our pupils to achieve the best possible outcomes.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This procedure sets out the process that will be followed where:

- there is a need to amend the staffing structure
- there is a need to reduce staffing
- there is a closure
- a redundancy situation arises

Within one or more academies within the Trust or within the Trust itself.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

The Trust is committed to ensuring that:

- staffing structure are kept under regular review and that there is effective planning for future needs;
- measures aimed at avoiding redundancy are employed wherever possible;
- meaningful communication and consultation take place where redundancy / re-structuring situations arise;
- support and re-training opportunities are provided for affected staff wherever possible;
- 'at risk' staff have priority for any appropriate vacancies within the Trust;
- staff are supported in their attempts at obtaining suitable alternative employment.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

### 3.1 Redundancy

Redundancy is one of the potentially fair reasons by which employees may be dismissed.

Redundancy is defined by statute as a situation where:

- (a) the employer has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on the business for the purposes of which the employee was employed by him/her; or has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on that business in the place where the employee was so employed;

OR

- (b) the requirements of that business for employees to carry out work of a particular kind, or to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where he/she was so employed, have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish.

Redundancy situations may arise for a number of reasons including:

- re-structuring;
- fall in pupil numbers or changes to curriculum requirements resulting in reduced staffing requirements;
- withdrawal/reduction of SEN or other special provision/funding;
- a relocation of activities;

- other circumstances where the need for employees to carry out work of a particular kind ceases or diminishes, including the cessation of fixed term contracts.

### 3.2 Restructuring

A re-structuring can be defined as any change to the staffing structure. A restructuring may or may not lead to a redundancy situation.

## 4. SCOPE OF THE PROCEDURE

The procedure is applicable to all categories of staff where a re-structuring or redundancy situation occurs. A modified version of this procedure may be followed in respect of fixed term temporary posts.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The Trust Board will ensure that procedures are in place to:

- consult employees regarding these procedures prior to adoption;
- communicate procedures to staff;
- monitor and review procedures to ensure that they are implemented in a timely, fair and consistent manner.

5.2 Specific roles and responsibilities

Employees in “at risk” group / roles being restructured	Formal declaration of potential Redundancy Situation	Manage process and make initial dismissal decision <sup>1</sup>	Hear appeal <sup>1</sup>
Employees in a single Academy	LGC Trust Panel Trust Board	Headteacher	LGC Panel (min 3) Trust Panel (min 3)
Trust Employee (Central Services)  Groups of employees across all academies	CSEL/AO Trust Panel (min 3) Trust Board	Senior Line Manager  CSEL AO	CSEL AO Trust Panel (min 3)
Headteacher role	CSEL AO Trust Panel Trust Board	CSEL AO	Trust Panel (min 3)

CSEL / AO/ CFO role	Trust Panel**  Trust Board	Deputed Trustees	Trust Panel**
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The Christus Catholic Trust HR Manager will lead the process on behalf of the employer (Trust Board). They will also be present in the informal and / or formal meetings with staff and unions, this includes the 1to1 meetings as part of the consultation and the formal redundancy meetings.

Power to hear initial cases could be delegated below Headteacher level e.g. to, Deputy Head.

A “Panel” can be a single individual or any number of individuals from the relevant group, unless it is specified.

Different individuals/groups will deal with the two stages to ensure appropriate separation of function.

Note 1: The term “Headteacher” is used to identify the person with responsibilities of headship within each Academy, who may be referred to locally as Headteacher, Principal, Executive Headteacher, or Executive Principal

Note 2: Where not involved directly in the relevant stage of the procedure (or subject to it in the case of the CSEL), the CSEL/AO and Chair of the Trust Board will be notified prior to any decision to dismiss a member of staff.

5.3 It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- co-operate with procedures and redundancy avoidance strategies;
- implement strategies to mitigate individual loss e.g. actively seek alternative employment.

## 6. THE PROCEDURES

The Procedures are summarised at Appendix A.

### 6.1 Declaration of a redundancy

Where initial strategies to avoid a redundancy situation have been unsuccessful, a formal declaration of redundancy will be made.

Where a re-structuring is proposed, redundancy situation may be declared at an early stage as a precautionary measure, even though the exact potential for redundancy may not yet be fully known.

### 6.2 Timescales

In order to allow for meaningful consultation and notice periods, and where possible, the procedures will often commence many months before the date that any redundancy or new structure are to take effect.

### 6.3 Consultation

The purpose of consultation is to inform and to seek views about how redundancies may be avoided and the potential impact of any new staffing structure.

#### 6.3.1 *With staff*

Any potential redundancy situations will be discussed with relevant staff at the earliest opportunity and where appropriate, before formal declaration of a redundancy.

In the case of re-structuring, the scope and period of consultation will depend on the extent of the proposed changes. Where a significant change is proposed, a consultation document will normally be produced as part of the consultation process, to explain exactly how the process will be managed and its effect on staff.

Staff are encouraged to engage in meaningful discussion and to comment on any new structure and how it might be implemented and measures which might be taken to avoid any redundancies. Formal consultation meetings will be recorded.

Staff should of course seek advice from their professional associations/trade union as and when they consider it appropriate.

#### *6.3.2 With Trade Unions/Professional Associations*

When re-structuring and/or formal redundancy situation has been declared, appropriate consultation will be undertaken with the local professional associations/trade union representatives and, where appropriate, as set out in any formal union consultation and facilities agreement.

Where an Academy Trust proposes to make 20 or more employees redundant within a 90 day period, in accordance with statute, the Trust will issue a Section 188 notice and an HR1 notification to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (insolvency service), disclosing in writing information relevant to the potential redundancy. Formal responses should be received within 2 working weeks.

#### *6.3.3 Meaningful consultation*

Meaningful consultation will continue throughout the formal procedure. Any representations made by staff and/or the professional associations/trade unions will be considered and responded to in writing.

### **6.4 Redundancy Avoidance**

6.4.1 *Compulsory redundancy avoidance* measures will be instigated including:

- (a) not filling vacant posts externally (where appropriate);
- (b) slotting into appropriate posts within the Trust; \*
- (c) ring fenced selection for posts within the Trust; \*
- (d) priority interviews within the Trust;
- (e) searching for suitable alternative posts; \*/\*\*
- (e) exploring other options with employees and their representatives e.g. changes to hours, change to part-time work;
- (f) seeking volunteers for redundancy; \*\*\*
- (g) seeking volunteers for flexible retirement; \*\*\*\*

In the case of re-structuring where there is a risk of redundancy, these measures will form part of the overall consultation document where appropriate. These measures will continue throughout the entire procedure.

\*With salary protection where applicable in accordance with the Trust's Policies and where applicable the Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document;

\*\*The Trust will make every effort to identify suitable alternative employment for at risk staff, including at other Academies within the Trust where appropriate. An employee who unreasonably refuses an offer of suitable alternative employment will

not be entitled to a redundancy payment.

\*\*\* Voluntary redundancy will not be considered until or unless all other means of avoidance have proved unsuccessful. Applications for voluntary redundancy will only be accepted where this would not be detrimental to the needs of the Trust. Where there are more volunteers than needed, the selection criteria may be applied (see 6.5 of this Procedure and Appendix B).

\*\*\*\*Employees are free to pursue flexible retirement options. Some options require the employers' approval. Approval will not normally be withheld where there is no cost to the employer.

#### *6.4.2 Trial periods*

Staff who are successfully redeployed after having been given notice of dismissal, will be entitled to a four-week trial period, where the terms and conditions of the new post are significantly different from those of their existing post.

#### *6.4.3 Salary protection*

Where an employee who is at risk of redundancy is appointed to a post in the Academy Trust at a lower salary, or is appointed to a post at a lower salary as a result of a re-structuring, his/her salary will be protected:

Either:

- In accordance with the terms of the Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document where these terms apply to their contract; (3 years)

OR

- In accordance with this procedure, for Support staff, at their former salary for a maximum of 18 months, (maximum one band differential) after which time the employee will revert to the substantive grade for the post.

### **6.5 Selection Procedures**

#### *6.5.1 Selection for redundancy*

In other redundancy situations, if the strategies adopted in 6.4 above (or any other strategies that may have arisen as a result of consultation) do not resolve the situation, selection criteria will be determined and applied as set out in Appendix B.

Staff and unions will be consulted on the selection criteria and the method by which they will be applied.

#### *6.5.2 Selection in a re-structuring*

In the case of a re-structuring, staff will normally be slotted and/or interviewed for available posts. The method of appointment to available posts will be outlined in the consultation document where appropriate.

In these cases, any redundancies will usually be identified through non appointment to available posts.

#### *6.5.3 Notification*

Once an individual has been identified as redundant, s/he will be notified verbally and then in writing, setting out the details of how the decision was reached and inviting the employee to a meeting to discuss this.

#### *6.5.4 The Meeting*

- The employee will be given at least 5 clear working days' notice of this meeting and provided with papers relevant to the case.

- The employee must make every effort to attend this meeting.
- The employee has the right to be accompanied by a trade union representative, an official employed by a trade union or work colleague.

Trade union representatives who are not employed officials must have been certified by their union as being competent to accompany an employee. The Trust HR Manager will be present at these meetings.

- One postponement may be allowed where the employee's chosen representative is unavailable on the proposed date. In this case an alternative date, within 5 working days of the original date, will be set.
- The employee must submit any papers they wish to be considered and the name of their representative at least 2 clear working days before the meeting.
- At the meeting the reasons for selecting the employee will be explained and the employee will have the opportunity to make representations.
- After the meeting the outcome will be confirmed in writing. This letter will also set out the right of appeal.
- Following this meeting, where the decision is to dismiss on the grounds of redundancy, the Trust will issue notice, to the individual, in accordance with the appropriate conditions of service and statutory requirements.

#### *6.5.5 The Appeal*

If the employee wishes to appeal, s/he must submit this in writing, to the Trust HR, including the grounds of the appeal, within 5 working days of receipt of the written outcome of the meeting.

- If the employee does so, the employee will be invited to an appeal hearing. The employee will be given at least 5 clear working days' notice of this meeting.
- Trust HR will supply the employee with papers relevant to the appeal at least 5 clear working days before the appeal meeting.
- The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend this appeal meeting and has the right to be accompanied by a representative, friend or colleague.
- The employee must supply Trust HR with copies of any papers they wish to be considered, and the name and status of their representative, at least 2 clear working days before the meeting.
- The Dismissal Appeals Committee will hear evidence from the Headteacher and the employee (and their representative).
- The Dismissal Appeal Committee may be advised by either an internal or external HR Advisor.
- Trust HR will inform the employee in writing of the final decision within 3 working days of the appeal meeting.

6.5.6 *Redundancy avoidance options* will continue to be explored throughout the period of notice.

## **7 REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS**

Employees with more than 2 years' continuous service may be eligible for a redundancy payment in the event of termination of their contact by reason of redundancy, For each complete year of service up to a maximum of 20, eligible employees are entitled to:

- for each complete year of service under age 22 – half a week's pay
- for each complete year of service age 22-40 – one week's pay
- for each complete year of service age 41 and over – one and a half weeks' pay

Redundancy payments are calculated using actual weekly pay rather than the statutory maximum. There will no longer be discretionary/enhanced payment for new staff or TUPE staff, that have changed their terms and conditions, ie: new post/role.

A ready-reckoner for calculating statutory redundancy payments is at Appendix C.

Where employees with more than one contract are made redundant from only one post, service for redundancy purposes will relate to the redundant post only.

Employees will not be entitled to a redundancy payment if they secure suitable alternative employment, with an employer covered by the Local Government Modifications Order, to commence within 4 weeks of the date of redundancy. Where an offer of alternative employment is made, the start date of this employment should not be artificially delayed to facilitate the 4 week break.

Where this does occur, employees will not be entitled to a redundancy payment.

## **8 SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES**

The Academy will provide reasonable support for employees at risk of redundancy, e.g.:

- time off to attend interviews and training and development;
- support with writing job applications;
- exploration of work related re-training opportunities;
- notification of internal vacancies

## **9 DATA PROTECTION**

A written record of all meetings conducted under this procedure will be made, either by the person holding the meeting or by an alternative person arranged by the school to take notes.

The Trust and school processes any personal data collected during the redundancy / restructuring procedure in accordance with its data protection policy. Any data collected is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to, individuals only for the purposes of completing the redundancy/restructuring procedure.

On the conclusion of the procedure, data collected will be held in accordance with the school's retention schedule. Inappropriate access or disclosure of employee data constitutes a data breach and should be reported in accordance with the school /Trust data protection policy immediately. It may also constitute a disciplinary offence, which will be dealt with under the school's disciplinary procedure.



## **APPENDIX A – Redundancy Selection Criteria**

In order to fairly select an individual employee for redundancy, the employer must apply objective selection criteria. The Trust HR will lead in all restructuring and redundancy processes. As each redundancy situation will be different, the detail of the selection criteria will need to be determined on a case by case basis. In all cases, staff and their local representatives will be consulted on this process.

However, all selection decisions will follow the stages set out below.

- a) Determine the ‘at risk’ group i.e. whole academy, department, section, or group within the establishment which has surplus staff.

Where there is only one employee in this group s/he will be selected for redundancy without the need to apply the remaining selection criteria.

- (b) Determine the requirements of the Trust, academy, department or section.

- (c) Determine the suitability (with reference for example to skills and qualifications where relevant) of those in the ‘at risk’ group in relation to the requirements of the Trust, academy, department or section.

Suitability will be assessed objectively. Employees will contribute to this usually by completion of a skills audit linked to the requirements determined in (b) above.

Employees’ line managers, in addition to the Headteacher, may also be required to contribute to this process.

- (d) A judgement will be made as to which staff best meet the requirements of the Trust, academy, department or section and thereby which employee(s) may be selected for redundancy.

**APPENDIX B – Redundancy / Restructuring Procedure at a glance**

(Brackets refer to relevant paragraph of the Procedure)

