

Saint Robert Lawrence Catholic Academy Trust

Maternity, Paternity, Parental and Adoption Leave Schemes

1. INTRODUCTION

A good employer recognises the value of its employees and aims to retain the skills and experience of employees in the workforce who have caring as well as work responsibilities. In addition there are statutory duties placed on the employer. These guidelines reflect recent legislation, case law and how instances of accrual of annual leave should be accommodated. The statutory rights fall into the following areas:

- Maternity Leave
- Maternity Benefits
- Time off for Antenatal Care
- Protection against detriment or dismissal
- Paternity Leave & pay
- Parental Leave
- Adoption Leave

1.1 Scope

These procedures apply to all employees of the Academy Trust who qualify.

1.2 Risk Assessment

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires risk assessments to be undertaken for all pregnant employees to identify if any hazards exist within the workplace that could affect them or their baby.

Where unacceptable hazards are found, corrective action will be taken wherever possible to protect the pregnant employee. If this is not possible further or other measures may be required. All pregnant employees should receive a copy of the Risk Assessment form within 14 days of notification to the Headteacher of the impending birth. A risk assessment form can be found as an Annex to this policy.

It is important that employees inform the Headteacher as soon as they become aware that they are pregnant so that a risk assessment can be carried out.

2. MATERNITY LEAVE

All employees, regardless of hours of work or length of service are entitled to **52 weeks'** statutory maternity leave comprising 26 weeks ordinary maternity leave (OML) and 26 weeks additional maternity leave (AML).

2.1 Notes on Maternity Leave

- Maternity leave can start on any day.
- The earliest date is 11 weeks (at 29 weeks pregnant) prior to the expected week of childbirth (EWC). This is the week in which the baby is due and is the week that contains the date the doctor has said that the baby will be born.

- The latest date maternity leave commences is the day after the birth, if the baby is born earlier than expected.
- If the employee is sick and absent from work with a pregnancy related illness within 4 weeks before your baby is born, maternity leave will commence automatically on the day after the first day of absence.
- There is 2 weeks' compulsory maternity leave for all employees immediately following the birth.
- In the unfortunate event of a stillbirth, the employee is entitled to the full provisions of the maternity leave scheme, if this has occurred after 24 weeks of pregnancy. If earlier, then compassionate leave may be granted.

2.2 Sickness

Any period of Maternity Leave is not sick leave and will not be taken into account when calculating sick leave entitlements. If an employee is absent due to sickness, other than pregnancy related, the normal sickness provisions will apply. Providing the employee complies with the normal sickness scheme provisions which apply to their post, the employee's absence will then be treated like that of any other employee who is unable to attend work due to sickness.

2.3 Annual Leave and Bank Holidays – Support Staff

Staff who have an annual leave entitlement, e.g. caretakers, accrue bank holidays and annual leave during maternity leave and can either carry it forward or use it for a paid period of deferral to return to work. Staff should discuss how and when they will take their annual leave entitlement with their Headteacher.

2.4 Annual Leave and Bank Holidays - Teachers

Teachers do not have a 'contractual' entitlement to annual leave; they do however have a 'statutory' right under the Working Time Regulations to minimum leave entitlements. The leave year for teachers is from 1 September until 31 August. This entitlement is 28 days (5.6 weeks and is inclusive of Bank Holidays).

This is not an entitlement to annual leave on top of the current school closure arrangements.

- A teacher who takes maternity leave must be able to take the 28 days statutory annual leave **outside of her maternity leave.**
- This annual leave **can be offset** by any period of school closure during the leave year in question i.e. both before and after the maternity leave period.
- Teachers are advised prior to commencing maternity leave of the entitlement to 28 days annual leave to be taken either before or after the maternity leave, during school closure periods. On her return from maternity leave, outstanding leave can be taken in term time during that leave year if there are insufficient school closures to accommodate her leave in that year. As the leave year runs from 1 September to 31 August a teacher returning from leave prior to the end of the leave year will be able to take their leave during the summer school closure, in view of this it is not anticipated any teacher will take leave during term time.

- Where return from maternity leave is so close to the end of the leave year that there is not enough time to take all her annual leave, it can be carried forward to the following leave year and be taken during the remaining periods of school closure, after the 28 days annual leave for that year has been accommodated.

Pay in lieu of annual leave not taken can only be made where employment terminates i.e. usually only if a teacher does not return to her job following maternity leave (pay in lieu would be based on Annual Leave Entitlement for the proportion of the year worked minus the 'annual leave' – school closure periods - taken that year prior to the termination date)

2.4 Time Off for Antenatal Care

All pregnant employees are entitled to paid time off for antenatal care, including relaxation, 'parent craft' classes and medical examinations.

An employee can be requested to show a certificate from a registered medical practitioner or midwife confirming the pregnancy and an appointment card.

3. MATERNITY PAY

3.1 Maternity Pay – Up to a maximum of 39 weeks (9 months), dependent upon eligibility for Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and Occupational Maternity Pay (OMP) made up as follows:

- **6 weeks of SMP at 90% of earnings.** In the case of teachers, they will be paid full pay for the first 4 weeks of maternity leave and 2 weeks at 90% pay.
- **12 weeks OMP** (if they meet the service requirements for OMP) weeks 7 to 18 at half pay OMP plus SMP (providing this does not exceed normal full pay).
- The eligibility for 12 weeks OMP at half pay is dependent on having 52 weeks qualifying employment by the 11th week before the expected week of childbirth (EWC), ie at week 29 of the pregnancy they have been employed for 1 year or more.
- The 12 weeks half pay is paid if the employee is returning to work for at least 3 months (13 weeks). This period applies even if a full-time employee successfully applies for a reduction to part-time working on their return.
- **21 weeks at SMP** (weeks 19 to 39). Eligibility for SMP is dependent on being employed continuously for at least 26 weeks (6 months) by the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth (week 25) and the employee must earn, on average, at least equal to the lower earnings limit for National Insurance purposes 8 weeks prior to this date (between weeks 17 to 25).
- Where an employee has more than one contract, Occupational Maternity Pay will be paid on the aggregated earnings of the contracts. In the case of Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) this will be aggregated only if pay is aggregated on the contracts. If pay is made separately on each contract, then entitlement to SMP will be determined on each contract.

3.2 Notes on Maternity Pay

Childcare Vouchers

Maternity pay will be reduced if childcare vouchers are used during this period. Details relating to childcare vouchers are available from each Academy. Childcare vouchers offer national insurance and tax deductions from your childcare costs.

Pay Award

Both statutory and occupational payments are recalculated to reflect pay awards where necessary.

Low Income

Employees on a low income may also qualify for a SureStart Maternity grant. Form SF100 SureStart is available from the Jobcentre Plus and this grant may be claimed from week 29 of the pregnancy or no later than 3 months after the child's birth. Babies born or adopted after 11 April 2011 will only be entitled to a SureStart Maternity grant if there are no other children in the family under 16 years old.

3.3 Maternity Allowance/Non-Qualification for SMP

Employees not eligible to receive SMP may be entitled to claim Maternity Allowance (MA) from the Benefits Agency, through Job Centre Plus:

- The 12 weeks half pay OMP (weeks 7 to 18) will be paid in addition to any Maternity Allowance, provided it does not exceed full pay. The first 6 weeks' pay is less Maternity Allowance.
- The payroll provider will provide a form, SMPI, to submit to Job Centre Plus, confirming the reason why SMP is not payable.

3.4 Pensions

The Employer will pay pension contributions throughout Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML) whether or not an employee received any pay. Members of the local government pension scheme will pay contributions on any pay or allowances received (up to 39 weeks of SMP). An employee will pay contributions based on her actual pay. If she does not qualify for SMP and receives no pay, then no contributions will be payable. This period of service counts as reckonable for pension purposes. If the employee has any unpaid Additional Maternity Leave, it will not be reckonable for pension purposes. Employees can opt to pay arrears of contributions in order for this period of unpaid leave to count but they would need to arrange this within 30 days of their return to work.

3.5 Application for Maternity Leave

- The employee must inform the Headteacher as soon as possible that they are pregnant.
- The employee must notify the headteacher in writing when the baby is due and when they wish to commence maternity leave. This should be as early as possible but by the end of the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth (qualifying week) at the latest (week 25). The employee will also need to submit a MAT B1 (issued at Ante-natal clinic at approximately week 26) to the Headteacher.
- Prior to commencement, the employee should discuss and agree with the Headteacher the type and frequency of contact they prefer while on maternity leave.

4. RETURNING TO WORK

4.1 After the Birth

- The baby's birth needs to be registered within 42 days of the birth at a register office. Employees can then claim Child Benefit and the claim should be made within 3 months of the birth.
- The employee has the right to return to their existing post after taking ordinary maternity leave (up to 26 weeks).
- Prior to going on maternity leave, there is no longer a requirement for an employee to advise if and when she is returning to work. However, you may wish to discuss her intentions during routine contact.
- The employee can opt to return to work earlier than planned from maternity leave but she will need to provide a minimum of 21 days' notice and ideally provide as much notice as possible. The employee cannot return to work within 2 weeks of giving birth.
- Only when an employee wants to come back to work **before** the end of the **26 weeks** ordinary maternity leave (OML), should she advise her Headteacher, **3 weeks** prior to early return.
- In the case of Additional Maternity Leave, (AML), which starts at the end of OML for up to **26 weeks** a Headteacher can write **21 days** before the end of OML asking for confirmation of the child's date of birth and asking whether she intends to return to work after AML. Employees have the right to return to their original job after taking AML, unless this is not reasonably practicable. In which case, the employee will be offered suitable alternative employment on no less favourable terms than the original post.

4.2 Right to Return

If a redundancy situation exists and the employee is unable to return to work, a suitable alternative vacancy, where one exists, will be offered. If a re-organisation has taken place, this might necessitate a change in job to the one occupied prior to maternity leave. During maternity leave employees will be made aware of any potential changes which may affect their working arrangements.

The employee has the right to request flexible working. Every consideration will be given to flexible working arrangements and support facilities, subject to service delivery needs. In certain circumstances, there may be a need to offer a suitable alternative post or duties in the same school. Governors should be aware that a refusal to allow flexible working following a return from maternity leave may result in a claim of indirect sexual discrimination. There is a right to appeal if the initial request is refused. In any of the above situations, the position, location, terms and conditions of the alternative post should be no less favourable than prior to maternity leave. Once an initial request for flexible working has been made, a further request may only be made after a 12 month period.

If the employee is still breastfeeding when she returns to work she will need to notify the Headteacher, who will carry out a risk assessment and discuss appropriate arrangements with her.

4.3 Failure to Return

As the contract of employment continues throughout the maternity leave the contract can only be terminated by dismissal or resignation. It is important that an employee is aware of the date on which she must return and the consequence of failing to do so. Any failure to return is an unauthorised absence and should be dealt with as such.

An employee may postpone her return to work after the end of maternity leave through sickness for up to 7 days by self-certification. A medical certificate will be needed thereafter.

4.4 Protection against Detriment or Dismissal

- Any dismissal or selection for redundancy relating to a pregnancy is automatically unfair.
- It is unlawful for an employee to suffer detrimental treatment at work throughout pregnancy, i.e. from notification to the end of the leave period.
- Any employee dismissed during pregnancy, or on maternity leave, will be entitled to receive written reasons for dismissal.

4.5 Interruption of Work — (i.e. Industrial Action)

An employee may delay her return to work in a situation where because of industrial action or some other reason work is interrupted - she may instead return when work resumes or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

In circumstances where a return to work date has **not** been notified by an employee she may return, by giving at least **7** days written notice. Such notice must be received no more than 14 days after the cessation of the industrial action.

4.6 Keeping in Touch Days (KIT Days)

Where employees and employers agree, a woman on maternity leave can go into work for up to 10 days without losing her right to maternity leave or a week's statutory pay. The employee remains on maternity leave during this period. Payment should be made based on the existing rate of pay, for the number of hours worked. Any hours worked in a day during an employee's maternity leave period will count as a whole KIT day, up to 10 days maximum. If a woman works more than 10 KIT days they are deemed to have returned to work and therefore lose their right to SMP for any week in which they have worked under their contract.

4.7 Childcare Vouchers

The Academy Trust, through the payroll provider, has appointed a company called Computershare to administer childcare vouchers to employees using a salary sacrifice scheme. Through this scheme, working parents can opt to exchange part of their salary for childcare vouchers.

Exempt from tax and National Insurance contributions, childcare vouchers are used to pay for any form of registered or approved childcare, including nurseries, nannies and pre and after school clubs.

Under the scheme, parents employed by the Academy Trust are able to save an amount per year on their childcare, (subject to individual circumstances), by requesting a specified amount per month in vouchers.

Further information, including latest figures, can be obtained by contacting Computershare Voucher Services who can be contacted on 0845 002 1111 or via the website:

<http://www.computersharevoucherservices.com/>.

EMPLOYEE'S MATERNITY LEAVE PLAN

1	Name:	
	Employer Number:	
	Academy:	
	Date:	
2	I am pregnant	<p>Employees should notify the Academy when they intend to start maternity leave.</p> <p>This should be at least 15 weeks before the expected week of childbirth when they intend to start maternity leave, and no later than 15 weeks before the expected week of childbirth.</p>
	Expected Week of childbirth:	
	As you requested I have attached a certificate confirming this (MAT B1)	Please obtain a certificate from your doctor or a midwife giving the expected week of childbirth.
3	<i>I intend to take Ordinary Maternity Leave</i> Yes/No (delete as appropriate)	<i>Ordinary Maternity Leave lasts for 26 weeks.</i>
	<i>I also intend to take my full SMP entitlement (39 weeks maternity leave)</i> Yes/No (delete as appropriate)	Ordinary maternity leave lasts for 26 weeks and additional maternity leave lasts for 26 weeks.
	<i>I also intend to take Additional Maternity Leave: (52 weeks maternity leave in all)</i> Yes/No (delete as appropriate)	<i>Additional Maternity Leave runs from the end of Ordinary Maternity Leave for a further 26 weeks.</i>
4	Return to work	Yes/No/Defer Decision (delete as appropriate)

In order to qualify for 12 weeks' additional half pay employees must have one year's service at the Qualifying Week (11th week before expected week of birth) and must return to work for 3 months*.

Please choose 1 from the following options:

a) at present I intend to return to work – please pay me my 12 weeks' half pay which I will repay if I subsequently do not return to work

YES/NO

b) at present I do not intend to return after the birth of my child – please withhold my 12 weeks' half pay

YES/NO

c) at present I do not know/I do not wish to tell you whether I am returning to work – please retain my 12 weeks' half pay which will become payable should I return to work for 3 months or more

YES/NO

This model letter may be used to advise your Headteacher that you are pregnant. Notification must be at least 15 weeks before your expected week of childbirth.

Date _____

Headteacher

Academy Name

Academy Address

Dear _____

I am writing to tell you that I am expecting a baby, and it is due on _____

At present I intend to take maternity leave from _____ and I expect/ do not expect* to return to work after the baby is born. Please send me all relevant information.

If my circumstances change I will let you know.

Please arrange for a risk assessment to take place as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

* Please delete as applicable

5. ADOPTION

5.1 Leave Entitlement

- Time off to attend appointments (if these cannot be accommodated outside the employee's normal working pattern).
- 52 weeks adoption leave. This is defined as 26 weeks ordinary adoption leave and 26 weeks additional adoption leave. Accrued annual leave and bank holidays may be taken before adoption leave commences

In order to qualify for adoption leave the employee must:

- have 26 weeks' service by the notification week (6 months)
- be the only partner/civil partner taking adoption leave
- be newly-matched with a child for adoption and by an approved adoption agency

5.2 Pay - Statutory Adoption Pay (SAP) for 39 weeks (9 months), dependent upon eligibility for SAP and Occupational Adoption Pay (OAP)

- This is 6 weeks at 90% of earnings. Teachers are paid 4 weeks at full pay and 2 weeks at 90% of earnings.
- + 12 weeks (weeks 7 to 18) at half pay OAP plus SAP (providing this does not exceed normal full pay)
- The 12 weeks OAP half pay is paid if the employee is returning to work for at least 3 months and can be spread over a longer period if requested.
- The eligibility for 12 weeks occupational adoption pay at half pay is dependent on being employed in local government service for 52 weeks. When the employee commences adoption leave they will have been employed for 1 year or more.
- + 21 weeks at SAP (weeks 19 to 39)
- Eligibility for SAP is dependent on being employed continuously in local government service for at least 26 weeks (6 months) and the employee must earn, on average, at least equal to the lower earnings limit for National Insurance purposes.

5.3 Applying for Adoption Leave

- The employee must inform the Headteacher as soon as possible that they are adopting a child.
- The employee must notify the Headteacher in writing when the child will be placed and the date they have chosen for the adoption leave to commence (they are required to provide a copy of the matching certificate). The original documentation will need to be sent to payroll with a completed form SC8 (HMRC)
- Following the receipt of the notification letter the employee will receive a written acknowledgement within 28 days informing them when they are due back at work. The employee is entitled to 52 weeks adoption leave. The employee must return the slip from the letter to confirm adoption pay arrangements during their adoption leave.

Notes on Adoption Leave

Prior to commencing adoption leave the Headteacher should discuss and agree with the employee the type and frequency of contact she prefers whilst on adoption leave. The Headteacher may wish to contact the employee to inform them of any training opportunities, significant work developments, any relevant promotional opportunities or job vacancies that may occur during the absence.

No notice is required if the employee intends to return to work at the end of the full adoption leave period.

5.4 Keeping in Touch (KIT) days

- By mutual agreement the employee can work for 10 days during adoption leave though they are not obliged to do so.
- They will receive payment for the number of hours worked without it affecting the SAP or adoption leave entitlement.
- The employee will remain on adoption leave during this period.
- The payment rate will be the existing rate of pay. The employee will only be paid for the time worked. If they attend work for 1 hour this will count as 1 KIT day.

5.5 Return to work

- The employee will be able to return to their existing post after taking ordinary adoption leave.
- If they also take additional adoption leave they have the right to return to their original job unless this is not reasonably practicable. Then the employee will be offered suitable alternative employment on terms no less favourable than the original post.
- The employee has the right to request flexible working. The request will be fully considered by the Governing Body and the employee will be notified regarding the decision. Once an initial request has been made a further request for flexible working can only be made after a 12 month period. If the application is refused the employee can appeal against the decision.

5.6 Adoptions from Overseas

If an employee has adopted a child from overseas, he/she may still be entitled to additional paternity leave provided again that the primary adopter has returned to work. Further guidance should be sought from the Academy Trust HR provider.

LETTER FOR EMPLOYEE TAKING ADOPTION LEAVE

You may use this as a model letter to advise the Headteacher that you are adopting. You should keep a copy of this letter and give one to your Headteacher.

Date: _____

Headteacher
Academy Name
Academy Address

Dear _____

I wish to inform you that I have been matched with a child for the purpose of adoption and I enclose for your information the Matching Certificate issued by the adoption agency.

The date the child is due to be placed with me is _____ and I therefore wish to take adoption leave with effect from _____

I intend to take _____ weeks adoption leave, however should I decide to return to work earlier I will write to you again giving you 28 days' notice of this and the date I wish to return.

Yours sincerely,

6. PATERNITY LEAVE

6.1 Ordinary Paternity Leave (OPL)

To qualify for paternity leave:

- The employee should be having or expecting to have the main responsibility (apart from any responsibility of the mother/co-adopter) for the child's upbringing **and**
- Be the biological father of the child OR the mother's husband OR partner/civil partner

They are entitled to:

- 10 days' ordinary paternity leave, (pro rata for part time employees) regardless of the number of children born as a result of the same pregnancy.
- 5 half days with pay for ante natal appointments (eg relaxation classes, exercise and parent craft classes)

Ordinary paternity leave is also available to adoptive parents where a child is matched or newly placed with them for adoption. Either the adoptive father or the adoptive mother may take ordinary paternity leave where the other adoptive parent has elected to take adoption leave. In respect of an adoptive child, the employee must have 26 weeks' continuous service by the week in which the child's adopter is notified of having been matched with the child for adoption.

Ordinary paternity leave is granted in addition to an employee's normal annual holiday entitlement. Ordinary paternity leave must be taken within 8 weeks of the birth (or, if the baby is born early, within the period from the actual date of birth up to 8 weeks after the first day of the expected week of birth) or within the placement date for adoptive parents. Ordinary paternity leave can start either from the date the child is born or placed for adoption or from a chosen number of days, or weeks, after that date.

The employee has the right to return to their existing post.

6.2 Notification of Ordinary Paternity Leave

Where an employee wishes to request ordinary paternity leave, they must give the Headteacher the proposed dates of absence in writing prior to the 15th week (week 25) before the expected date on which the baby is due, or as soon as is reasonable practicable. The employee should complete the Paternity Leave Application form.

The employee should complete Form SC3 (from HMRC website, www.hmrc.gov.uk) and provide a copy of the MAT B1 form and appointment card/letter or, in the case of adoptive parents, a copy of the matching certificate and give this to the Headteacher.

If employees subsequently wish to change the timing of the ordinary paternity leave, they must give 28 days' written notice of the new dates. Employees must also, if requested, complete and sign a self-certificate declaring that they are entitled to ordinary paternity leave and ordinary statutory paternity pay.

6.3 Ordinary Statutory Paternity Pay

The Academy will send the application form and form SC3 (HMRC) to the payroll provider and a check will be made on the employee's service and level of earnings to calculate the correct level of payment.

Statutory paternity pay is treated as earnings and is therefore subject to PAYE and national insurance deductions.

Statutory paternity pay can start from any day of the week in accordance with the date the employee starts his/her paternity leave.

6.4 Additional Paternity Leave (APL)

Additional Paternity Leave is available to the father of a baby or a spouse, partner or civil partner of the baby's father. To qualify for additional paternity leave the employee must meet the requirements as stated above for 2 weeks' OPL **and**

- Have at least 26 weeks' continuous employment (6 months) by 15th week (week 25) before the expected week of childbirth OR the week they are matched for adoption.
- Must continue to work for the Academy up until the end of the week before the APL period begins
- The mother or co-adopter has returned to work before SMP/SAP expires, prior to the end of 39 weeks (9 months).

Eligible employees may take up to 26 weeks' additional paternity leave within the first year of their child's life.

Additional paternity leave is also available to adoptive parents, within the first year after the child's placement for adoption, provided that the child's adopter who elected to take adoption leave (the "primary adopter") has returned to work.

The earliest that additional paternity leave can commence is 20 weeks after the date on which the child is born, or 20 weeks after the date of placement of the child for adoption, and it must end no later than 12 months after that date. It will end no later than 12 months after the birth or placement date for adoption.

Additional paternity leave will generally commence on the employee's chosen start date specified in his/her leave notice, or in any subsequent variation notice (see 'Notification of additional paternity leave' below). APL must be taken as one continuous period and in multiples of complete weeks.

During the period of additional paternity leave, the employee's contract of employment continues in force and he/she is entitled to receive all his/her contractual benefits, except for salary, and contractual annual leave entitlement will continue to accrue.

If the employee is eligible to receive it, salary may be replaced by statutory paternity pay for some, or all, of the additional paternity leave period, depending on the length and timing of the additional paternity leave.

Pension contributions will continue to be made during any period when the employee is receiving statutory paternity pay but not during any period of unpaid additional paternity leave. Employee contributions will be based on actual pay, while employer contributions will be based on the salary that the employee would have received had he/she not gone on additional paternity leave.

6.5 Notification of Additional Paternity Leave

The employee must give written notice at least 8 weeks before the start of APL that he/she wishes to take leave, providing the details as requested on the application form. Employers should confirm an employee's entitlement to APL within 4 weeks of receiving an application.

6.5 Additional Statutory Paternity Pay (ASPP)

Additional statutory paternity pay (ASPP) may be payable during some or all of additional paternity leave, depending on the length and timing of the leave. An employee is entitled to additional statutory paternity pay if:-

- He/she is the father of the child or married to, the civil partner of, or the partner of, the child's mother, or married to, the civil partner of, or the partner of, the primary adopter, and, in the case of a birth child, expect to have the main responsibility). In the case of adoption, he/she must have been matched with the child for adoption. In both cases, he/she must be taking the leave to care for the child.
- He/she must have a minimum of 26 weeks' service, as at the end of the 15th week before the week in which the child is due to be born, in respect of an adopted child, as at the end of the 15th week before the week in which he/she was notified of having been matched with the child.
- He/she must remain in continuous employment until the week before the first week of additional paternity leave.
- The mother of the child must be entitled to one or more of maternity leave, statutory maternity pay or maternity allowance. In the case of adoption, the primary adopter must be entitled to one or both of adoption leave or statutory adoption leave or statutory adoption pay. The mother or primary adopter must have returned to work.
- The mother or primary adopter has at least two weeks of his/her maternity or adoption pay period that remains unexpired and has signed form SC7 (HMRC) to declare they intend to return to work and stop receiving any further MA or SMP before ASPP is due to start,
- He/she gives prior notification in accordance with the rules set out above. The employee must provide a signed declaration form SC7 (HMRC) at least 8 weeks before they intend to start their leave.

If the employee does not satisfy the qualifying conditions, they must be given form ASPP1 showing the reason for not paying ASPP and their original form SC7. A copy of both forms should be retained on the employee's personal file.

An entitled employee will receive 26 weeks of Additional Paternity Leave (APL) during the 12 months following the birth or adoption of a child. If the employee is eligible, he will receive a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 19 weeks ASPP. The employee will be paid for any period of APL that falls within the unexpired part of the mother's 39 weeks SMP or maternity allowance period. ASPP is a weekly payment and is paid at the lower of the

- Current weekly rate of ASPP **or**
- 90% of the employee's average weekly earnings

The earliest start date for ASPP is 20 weeks after the birth.

- Where the mother returns to work on annual leave or sick leave this does not count as a return to work.
- A combined total of 39 weeks SMP/ASPP is applicable. If there is a gap between the end of the mother's maternity leave and the start of APL the employee will lose some of the entitlement to ASPP.

An employer checklist, Form ASPP3 has been produced by HMRC to assist employers in determining whether an employee is eligible for Additional Statutory Paternity Pay.

6.6 Returning to Work after Additional Paternity Leave

The employee will have been formally advised in writing by the Academy of the end date of his/her additional paternity leave. The employee is expected to return on the next working day after this date, unless he/she notifies the school otherwise. If he/she is unable to attend work at the end of additional paternity leave due to sickness or injury, schools' normal arrangements for sickness absence will apply. In any other case, late return without prior authorisation will be treated as unauthorised absence.

An employee can request a change of leave dates or cancel the leave before the leave period has begun. At least 6 weeks' notice must be given, or as much notice as is reasonably practicable. In these circumstances the school must confirm the new start and end dates in writing to the employee within 28 days. If an employee gives less than 6 weeks' notice the employer can insist that the period of leave is taken as originally planned if it is not reasonably practicable to accommodate the change.

There is no provision for an employee to extend the leave period once it has started but an early return can be requested. He/she must give the Academy at least 6 weeks' notice of his/her date of early return, in writing. If he/she fails to do so, the school may postpone his/her return to such a date as will give the school 6 weeks' notice, provided that this is not later than the expected return date.

If the employee decides not to return to work after additional paternity leave, he/she must give notice of resignation as soon as possible and in accordance with the terms of his/her contract of employment. If the notice period would expire after additional paternity leave has ended, the Academy may require the employee to return to work for the remainder of the notice period.

6.7 Keep in Touch Days

The same provisions apply for Keeping in Touch Days, as far maternity leave.

6.8 Rights On and After Return to Work

On resuming work after both ordinary and additional paternity leave (in the latter case where it was an isolated period of leave or taken with certain other types of statutory leave), the employee is entitled to return to the same job as he/she occupied before commencing paternity leave on the same terms and conditions of employment as if he/she had not been absent.

PATERNITY LEAVE APPLICATION FORM (OPL AND APL)

Name	
Employee Number	
Academy	
Dates requested (Minimum 2 weeks/maximum 26 weeks)	
The date the baby is due to be born/ placed on/OR if the child has been born/placed, the actual date of birth/placement	
The start date of the mother's/ co-adopter's Statutory Maternity Pay, Maternity Allowance or Statutory Adoption Pay	
The purpose in requesting leave is to care for the child	YES/NO* (please delete)
Signature	
Date	
Headteacher Approved/Not Approved*	
Signature	
Date	

- Please enclose form SC3 from HMRC (&SC7 if applying for ASPP), a copy of the MATB1 certificate and medical appointment card/letter or in the case of adoptive parents a copy of the matching certificate.
- If the dates change please inform your Headteacher as soon as possible.

7. PARENTAL LEAVE

7.1 Eligibility

- The employee must have 26 weeks continuous service **and**
- be a named parent on the child's birth certificate OR named on the child's adoption certificate OR have legal parental responsibility for a child under 5 years old (aged 18 if disabled – receiving disability living allowance) **and**
- the purpose of requesting the leave is to care for a child.

Parental Leave Entitlement

- 13 weeks unpaid parental leave (pro rata if part time) before the child's 5th birthday for each child. If the child is adopted, until the 5th anniversary of their placement with you or until their 18th birthday, whichever comes first.
- 18 weeks unpaid parental leave (pro rata if part time) for a disabled child.

7.2 Notes on Parental Leave

- Any time taken as parental leave will be treated as continuous service - annual leave and all other contractual terms and benefits will accrue during this period.
- Leave can be taken as a single block OR as a number of shorter periods (a minimum of half a day) OR in patterns which provide a part time or reduced hours working arrangement.
- The Academy may postpone parental leave up to 3 months for operational purposes and will provide the reasons for the postponement in writing together with the agreed revised commencement and end dates. Postponement will not be possible if it follows maternity leave, paternity leave or adoption leave.
- The employee has the right to return to their existing post.
- If the employee fall ill during a period of parental leave and gives the Academy relevant notification and documentation they will be entitled to pay under the sickness scheme (where applicable) and this period will not count towards the parental leave entitlement.

7.3 Applying for Parental Leave

Requests should be discussed with the Headteacher providing at least 21 days' notice of any proposed days of absence, with a copy of the relevant documentation (either the birth certificate, adoption certificate or proof of disability allowance). The employee needs to complete the Parental Leave Application Form submitting the completed form to the Headteacher of the relevant Academy.

PARENTAL LEAVE APPLICATION FORM

Name	
Employee Number	
Academy	
Child's Name (if known)	
Dates requested	
Dates of any previous parental leave taken (current or previous employer)	
The date the baby is due to be born/ placed on, OR if the child has been born/placed, the actual date of birth/placement	
I am named on the child's birth certificate, OR I have, or expect to have, parental responsibility under the Children Act 1989 OR I am an adoptive parent, foster parent or a spouse or partner/civil partner of any of the above who is living with the child	YES/NO* (please delete)
Is the child disabled?	YES/NO* (please delete)
The purpose in requesting leave is to care for the child or make arrangements for the child's welfare	YES/NO* (please delete)
Signature	
Date	
Headteacher	
Approved/Not Approved*	
Signature	
Date	

Please enclose relevant documentation, either a copy of the birth certificate/adoption certificate or proof of disability living allowance for your child

Further Advice for Governing Bodies and Headteachers

Communicable Diseases

The pregnant employee should not have contact with children or adults known to be carrying an infectious disease, such as rubella, chicken pox, shingles, scabies, etc, until at least seven days after the infection has cleared. Employee should consult with the GP if she has already had these diseases. (Consult the Communicable Diseases Handbook.)

Violence and Aggression

As far as reasonably practicable the pregnant employee should not be allowed to come into contact with pupils or others with violent tendencies.

Contact with Animals

The pregnant employee should not have contact with animals and should not visit farms or zoos.

Slips, Trips and Falls

The pregnant employee should not work at height i.e. on ladders or stepladders. She should remain on the floor level at all times. Thought also needs to be given to slipping on wet or icy floors/paths and tripping hazards such as loose or worn carpets etc.

Recommendations

The Risk Assessment needs to be carried out on a case by case basis and should include:

- Provision should be made to allow the pregnant employee to take rest periods when possible.
- Follow any advice given to the pregnant employee by her GP, midwife or any other appropriate medical adviser.
- The pregnant employee should keep Academy management informed of any changes to her condition or that of her unborn child.
- Review the risk assessment periodically throughout the pregnancy and for six months after the birth, in particular if there is a significant change in the health and condition of the pregnant worker or her unborn child.
- The risk assessment should remain in place for six months following the birth.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if legislation changes.

Agreed by Academy Trust: April 2014
Reviewed: March 2017
Date for next review: April 2020