



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME DISCRETIONS POLICY

July 2025

Passmores Co-operative Learning Community

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**No changes since previous PCLC Policy July 2024**

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This Policy was formally approved by the Trust board on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

### **PCLC Position Statement**

All PCLC schools have an approach that is based on the following key principles:

- Our unconditional positive regard ensures that every young person is highly valued and expected to achieve their potential;
- every young person has the right to be successful and has ability to achieve, no matter what their socio-economic background;
- there is no limit to achievement – intelligence can be developed;
- each student must know what to do in order to improve and how to do it, high expectations on their own are not enough;
- consistency of experience is fundamental; each school is a team and consistency makes us greater than the sum of our parts;
- employment opportunities in PCLC schools should allow all colleagues to inspire a love for learning; not simply process and record what we find.

By ensuring all of actions and decisions adhere to these principles our community members:

- are highly valued and expected to achieve their full potential, no matter what their socio-economic background;
- benefit from an inclusive ethos, excellent teaching and a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by strong leadership, in a local school;
- are supported and encouraged to lead healthy and active lives making sensible choices, whilst respecting the views and attitudes of others.

## **Introduction**

Under the LGPS Regulations 2013 effective from 1 April 2014, all employers participating in the LGPS are required to prepare and publish a written statement on how it will exercise the various discretions provided by LGPS 2014, LGPS 2008, LGPS 1997, Compensation and Injury Allowances Regulations

This document includes discretionary policies for LGPS Regulations 2013 as required by regulation 60, LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 as required by regulation 66 and 1997 LGPS Regulations as required by regulation 106 (for pre-1 April 2008 leavers and/or councillor members as applicable).

### **Exceptional Compassionate Grounds**

Financial hardship alone is not deemed sufficient grounds. For the purposes of this Policy, exceptional compassionate grounds are where an ex-member has had to give up paid employment to be the sole carer for a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent, and where reasonable additional support is not viable.

### **Future Changes**

The Government has confirmed that the Minimum Pension Age will increase from 55 to 57 with effect from 6 April 2028.

## 1. Employer Discretions – LGPS Regulations 2013

	<b>Discretion</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Employer Policy</b>
1a	Whether, how much, and in what circumstances to contribute to shared APC or AVC scheme	R16(2)(e), R16(4)(D), R(17)(1), R17(1)(d)	The Trust will not set up a shared cost APC or AVC scheme. The only circumstances under which the trust will contribute as required, is where an employee chooses, within 30 days following a period of authorised paid leave of absence, to purchase pension.
1b	Whether all or some benefits can be paid if an employee reduces hours of grade (flexible retirement)	R30(6),	The Trust will consent to the payment of benefits on flexible retirement if a member age 55 permanently reduces their hours by at least 25% and/or grade and there is no financial strain to the Trust.
1c	Whether to waive, in whole or part, actuarial reduction on benefits paid on flexible retirement	R30(8)	The Trust will not waive actuarial reduction on a flexible retirement.
1d	Whether to waive, in whole or part, actuarial reduction on benefits which a member voluntarily withdraws before normal pension age.	R30(8)	The Trust will not waive, in whole or part, the actuarial reduction on benefits where a member voluntarily elects to draw their pension before normal pension age.
1e	Whether to “switch on” the 85-year rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60.		The Trust will not “switch on” the 85-year rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60
1f	Whether to waive any actuarial reduction on pre and/or post April 2014 benefits.	B30(5) and B20A(5)	The Trust will not waive any actuarial reduction on pre and/or post April 2014 benefits.
1g	Whether to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency.	R31	The Trust will not award additional pension to any member.

## 2. Additional Employer Discretions – LGPS Regulations 2013

	<b>Discretion</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Employer Policy</b>
2a	Determine rate of employee's contributions	R9(1) 7 R9(3)	The Trust will allocate employees to a contribution band on 1 April, following an assessment of their previous years' earnings. New staff will be allocated a contribution band on the basis of their contracted salary.  The allocation of a contribution band will not be reviewed during the year.
2b	In determining Assumed Pensionable Pay, whether a lump sum payment made in the previous 12 months is a "regular lump sum"	R21(5)	The Trust will determine that a bonus paid in a previous year is not a regular payment for the purposes of calculating AAP.
2c	Extend 12-month time limit for acceptance of a transfer value	R100(68)	The Trust will not extend the time limit for acceptance of a transfer value, other than in exceptional circumstances where the processing of the election was delayed, other than by the employee.
2d	Extend 12-month time limit for acceptance of a request not to have deferred benefits aggregated with their new or concurrent LGPS employment	R22(8)(b), R22(7)(b)	The Trust will not extend the time limit for acceptance of a request not to have deferred benefits aggregated with their new or concurrent LGPS employment, other than in exceptional circumstances where processing of the election was delayed, other than by the employee.
2e	Which employees to nominate for membership (admission bodies only)	R3(1)(c) & R4(2) (b)	N/A
2f	Determine whether a deferred beneficiary meets the criteria for ill health pension benefits	R38(3)	The Trust will determine in line with the medical assessment as determined on the ill health certificate.
2g	Decide to suspend Tier 3 benefit where member is likely to be capable of undertaking gainful employment	R38(6)	The Trust will determine in line with the medical assessment as determined on the ill health certificate.
2h	Recover any overpayment of Tier3 ill health pension following commencement of gainful employment	R37(3)	The Trust will seek to recover any overpayment where a Tier3 pension has been paid after gainful employment has commenced.

### 3. Employer Discretions - LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008

	<b>Discretion</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Employer Policy</b>
3a	Whether to grant application for early payment of deferred benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60.	B30(2)	The Trust will not consent to applications for early payment of deferred benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 other than on exceptional compassionate grounds as defined.
3b	Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to deferred benefits paid early under B30.	B30(5)(6)	The Trust will not consider waiving actuarial reductions for deferred benefits.
3c	Whether to grant an application for early payment of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60.	B30A(3)	The Trust will not consent to applications for early payment of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60 other than on exceptional compassionate grounds as defined.
3d	Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early under B30(A)	B30A(5)	The Trust will not consider waiving actuarial reductions.
3e	Whether, for a member leaving on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency on or before 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014, to augment membership (by up to 10 years). The resolution to do so would have to be made within 6 months of the date of leaving. Hence this discretion is spent entirely after 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2014.	B12	The Trust will not consent to augment membership.

### 4. Employer Discretions – Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 (as amended) in relation to pre-1 April 2008 leavers

	<b>Discretion</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Employer Policy</b>
4a	Grant application from a post 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1998 / pre-1st April 2008 leaver for early payment of benefits	31(2)	The Trust will not consent to applications for early payment of deferred benefits to those age 55+ other than on exceptional compassionate grounds as defined. Applications for those age 50-54 will

	on or after age 50/55 and before age 60.		not be considered due to the HMRC ruling that such payments are unauthorised.
4b	Waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early for a post 31 <sup>st</sup> March 1998 / pre-1st April 2008. Leaver.	31(5)	The Trust will not consider waiving actuarial reductions.

## 5. Employer Discretions – Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1995 (as amended) in relation to pre-1 April 1998 leavers

	Discretion	Regulation	Employer Policy
5a	Grant applications for early payment of deferred pension benefits on or before age 50 and before age 65 on compassionate grounds.	D11(2)(c)	The Trust will not consent to applications for early payment of deferred benefits to those age 55+ other than on exceptional compassionate grounds as defined. Applications for those age 50-54 will not be considered due to the HMRC ruling that such payments are unauthorised.

## 6. Employer Discretions - Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006

	Discretion	Regulation	
6a	To base redundancy payments on an actual week's pay where this exceeds the statutory week's pay limit.	5	The Trust will base redundancy payments on actual week's pay.
6b	To award lump sum compensation of up to 104 weeks' pay in cases of redundancy, termination of employment on efficiency grounds, or cessation of a joint appointment.	6	The Trust will not award lump sum compensation in cases of redundancy*, termination of employment on efficiency grounds, or cessation of a joint appointment.  *except where so obliged by virtue of TUPE.

## 7. Employer Discretions under the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowance) Regulations 2011

	Discretion	Regulation	
7a	Whether to grant an injury allowance following a reduction in remuneration as a result of sustaining an injury or contracting a disease in the course of carrying out duties.	3 (1)	The Trust Policy is not to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7b	Amount of injury allowance following reduction in remuneration as a result of sustaining an injury or contracting a disease in the course of carrying out duties of the job.	3(4) and 8	The Trust Policy is not to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7c	Determine whether person continues to be entitled to an injury allowance awarded under regulation 3(1).	3(2)	The Trust Policy is not to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7d	Whether to grant an injury allowance following cessation of employment as a result of permanent incapacity caused by sustaining an injury or contracting a disease in the course of carrying out duties if the job.	4(1)	The Trust Policy is not to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7e	Amount of injury allowance following cessation as a result of permanent incapacity caused by sustaining an injury or contracting a disease in the course of carrying out duties of the job.	4(3) and 8	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7f	Determine whether person continues to be entitled to an injury allowance awarded under regulation 4(1).	4(2)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7g	Whether to suspend or discontinue injury allowance awarded under regulation 4(1) if person secures paid employment for not less than 30 hours per week for a period of not less than 12 months.	4(5)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7h	Whether to grant an injury allowance following cessation of employment with entitlement to immediate LGPS pension where a reg 3 payment was being made at date of cessation of employment but reg 4 does not apply.	6(1)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.

7i	Determine whether and when to cease payment of an injury allowance payable under regulation 6(1)	6(2)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7j	Whether to grant an injury allowance to the spouse, civil partner, nominated co-habiting partner or dependent of an employee who dies as a result of sustaining an injury or contracting a disease in the course of carrying out duties of the job	7(1)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7k	Determine amount of any injury allowance to be paid under regulation 7(1)	7(2) and 8	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.
7l	Determine whether and when to cease payment of an injury allowance payable under regulation (7)1	7(3)	The Trust Policy is <b>not</b> to set up an Injury Allowance Scheme at this time.

Note: The Pension Scheme expects that where an employee retires and accesses their pension that they are genuinely ceasing work by reason of retirement (i.e. not returning to similar employment). In any case, the Academy will require a minimum 31-day break if the employee is to return to work following retirement. A break is not required in the case of Flexible Retirement.

## Appendix A Application for Flexible Retirement

### Local Government Pension Regulations (as amended)

#### APPLICATION FOR FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL INSURANCE NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYROLL NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part one: Employee's declaration

##### Either:

I will reduce my grade\*/ working hours\*/percentage\* from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. The date for this change will be as agreed with my line manager. If this change to my contract is agreed, I elect to receive immediate payment of my pension.

I understand that this election will not be valid unless my employer consents to the release of my pension.

I also understand that I may withdraw this election (and where appropriate the request to alter my contract) once I have considered my pension benefit estimate.

##### Or:

I have reduced my grade\*/ working hours\*/percentage\* from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with effect from \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_. I elect to receive immediate payment of my pension.

I also understand that I may withdraw this election once I have considered my pension benefit estimate.

\* delete as appropriate

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This form should be submitted to your headteacher.**

**PTO**

**Part two: Headteacher consent**

I confirm that the school supports the changes to the contract detailed overleaf from the date given\*/date to be agreed\* and supports this application for flexible retirement.

\* delete as appropriate

I confirm that there will be no financial strain to the employer as a result of this retirement.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Headteacher**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Part three: Governors Consent**

I confirm that there will be no financial strain to the employer as a result of this retirement and therefore confirm acceptance of this application.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of Governors/Personnel/Finance Committee**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

