

[Academy Name]

Maternity and Maternity Support (Paternity Leave) Policy and Procedures

Policy Type:	Trust Core Policy
Approved By:	Finance, Audit and Resources Committee
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Person Responsible:	Head of Operations

Summary of Changes

The model policy has been revised to reflect these changes to the statutory guidance as outlined below.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change

The St Benet's Multi Academy Trust is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies whether relating to an individual academy or the whole Trust will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Principal / Head Teacher. The Principal / Head Teacher of each academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

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Glossary of acronyms

AML – Additional maternity leave
EWC – Expected week of confinement
OML – Ordinary maternity leave
OMP – Ordinary maternity pay
SMP – Statutory maternity pay

1 Introduction

1.1 Maternity leave and pay entitlement can be complex issues. The tables overleaf give a summary of the different entitlements and the qualifying requirements. Statutory entitlements are those provided for by employment law; contractual entitlements are part of the employee's contract of employment. This policy contains a summary of maternity leave and pay for all categories of staff.

1.2 The contract of employment

The status of the employee's contract of employment during the maternity leave period is treated as if she is temporarily absent from work. This means that all contractual benefits, except pay, must continue as normal. Annual leave entitlement will accrue as normal.

2 Entitlement to Maternity Leave and pay for all categories of staff with less than 26 weeks service as at the 15th week before the Expected Week of Confinement (EWC)

2.1 All employees are entitled to take up to one year (52 weeks) maternity leave from day one of employment. The 52 weeks leave consists of 26 weeks Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML) followed continuously by 26 weeks Additional Maternity Leave (AML). There is a requirement to give the employer at least 28 days notice of the date on which the absence will begin. If the employee wishes to resign her employment the normal contractual notice period applies. In all cases schools are advised to request notification as early as possible although the statutory requirement is for the employee to notify the employer of the intention to take maternity leave by 15 weeks before the EWC. The employer is required to respond to the request within 28 days of the request being made.

2.2 The woman is not required to give notice of her intention to return to work following maternity leave unless she returns before the end of the 52 week period, in which case she must give 4 weeks' notice of her intention to return.

2.3 A summary of the entitlements and obligations to maternity leave and pay for staff in schools is set out in Tables 1 and 2 following. Further information can be found on the gov.uk website.

Entitlement to Maternity Leave and Pay for all Categories of Staff, with Less than 26 weeks service, as at 15 weeks prior to the EWC. (Cont/d)

Table 1

ENTITLEMENTS				OBLIGATIONS		
CATEGORY OF STAFF	PERIOD WITH EMPLOYER	LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PAY	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF INTENTION TO CEASE WORK	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF DATE MATERNITY ABSENCE BEGINS	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF INTENTION TO RETURN TO WORK
SUPPORT	Less than 26 weeks service as at 15 weeks before EWC	Up to 52 weeks	No contractual or statutory maternity pay. Form SMP1 to be provided by payroll provider to apply for statutory maternity allowance	By 15 th week before EWC if not earlier	28 Days	None unless returning before 52 weeks, then 4 weeks.
TEACHERS	Less than 26 weeks service as at 15 weeks before EWC	Up to 52 weeks	No contractual or statutory maternity pay. Form SMP1 to be provided by payroll provider to apply for statutory maternity allowance	By 15 th week before EWC if not earlier	28 Days	None unless returning before 52 weeks, then 4 weeks

EWC: Expected Week of Childbirth
 SMP: Statutory Maternity Pay

3. Entitlement to Maternity Leave and Pay for all Categories of Staff with More than Twenty-six weeks Service as at the 15th week before the EWC but less than 1 years' service as at the 11th week before the EWC

- 3.1 In addition to the maternity entitlement for employees set out above, for those with more than twenty-six weeks service as at 15 weeks before the EWC there is a possible entitlement to be paid Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP), depending on the employee meeting certain conditions.
- 3.2 To qualify for SMP the following conditions must be met:
- The Employee must have been continuously employed by her current employer for at least 26 weeks by the beginning of the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth. This 15th week is called the qualifying week.
 - The employee must have average weekly earnings in the calculation period (which is the 8 weeks or 2 months before the end of the qualifying week) at or above the lower earnings limit for payment of National Insurance contributions. The lower earnings limit is reviewed in the April of each year.
 - The employee must still be pregnant at the 11th week before the expected week of childbirth or have had the baby by that time.

4. Entitlement to Maternity Leave and Pay for all Categories of Staff with More than One Year's Service as at the 11th week before the EWC

- 4.1 For those employees with more than one year's service as at the 11th week before the EWC, in addition to the above maternity leave and pay entitlements there is an entitlement to receive contractual maternity pay in line with the conditions of service for either teaching staff or support staff.
- 4.2 Contractual maternity pay will cease to be paid to employees whose employment ends during the period of maternity leave (i.e. employees on fixed term contracts), however SMP will continue to be paid in line with the conditions set out in section 3.2.
- 4.3 A summary of the entitlements and obligations to maternity leave and pay for all categories of staff with **more than one year's service** as at the 11th week before the EWC is set out in table 2 below.

Table 2

ENTITLEMENTS				OBLIGATIONS		
CATEGORY OF STAFF	QUALIFYING PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE WITH EMPLOYER	LENGTH OF ABSENCE	PAY	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF INTENTION TO CEASE WORK	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF DATE ABSENCE BEGINS	PERIOD OF NOTICE BY EMPLOYEE TO EMPLOYER OF INTENTION TO RETURN TO WORK
SUPPORT	1 Year with any Maintained school as at 11 weeks before EWC	A total of up to 52 weeks leave; of which: up to 11 weeks may be taken before EWC	6 weeks at 90% of average earnings, plus an additional 1/10 th of pay for the same period followed by 12 weeks half pay & lower rate SMP followed by 21 weeks lower rate SMP only. Remainder unpaid	By 15 th week before EWC if not earlier	28 Days	None unless returning before 52 weeks, then a minimum of 4 weeks
TEACHERS	1 Year with any Maintained school as at 11 weeks before EWC	A total of up to 52 weeks leave; of which: of which up to 11 weeks may be taken before EWC	4 weeks at full pay, 2 weeks at 90% of average earnings, followed by 12 weeks half pay & lower rate SMP followed by 21 weeks lower rate SMP only. Remainder unpaid	By 15 th week before EWC if not earlier	28 Days	None unless returning before 52 weeks, then a minimum of 4 weeks

Payment of the additional 1/10th of pay and 12 weeks half pay can be paid as follows:

1. the 1/10th of pay to be paid over the first 6 weeks and the 12 weeks half pay to be paid in equal instalments spread over the following 12 week period;
2. in equal instalments spread over 33 week lower rate SMP period;
3. in one lump sum at the beginning of the maternity pay period;
4. in one lump sum on the return to work

6 weeks additional 1/10th of pay along with the 12 weeks at half pay will only be paid if you return to work for a minimum of 3 months

All Statutory Payments subject to National Insurance Contributions

All half pay payments are conditional on a return to work

EWC: Expected Week of Childbirth

SMP Statutory Maternity pay

5. Maternity Support Leave (Paternity Leave)

5.1 There is provision for a 5 day period of maternity support leave with full pay for the child's father (or the partner or nominated carer of an expectant mother) at or around the time of the birth. A nominated carer is the person nominated by the mother to assist in the care of the child and to provide support to the mother at that time. Employees who wish to take advantage of this provision should provide a copy of the mother's maternity certificate (the MAT B1). Any temporary staff cover costs for this will have to be met by schools, or insurance can be arranged through the St Benet's sickness Insurance Scheme. Additionally headteachers would normally be expected to agree similar leave in cases of adoption (see also Discretionary Leave of Absence policy).

6 Adoption Leave

6.1 The employer may, at its discretion, grant adoption leave depending on the age of the child in question and the circumstances of the member of staff concerned. Please refer to the St Benet's Adoption policy for further information.

7 Miscellaneous Provisions

7.1 Ante-natal care

A pregnant employee has a right to reasonable time off paid at the normal rate of pay to attend ante-natal care appointments. She should produce evidence of appointments if requested to do so.

7.2 Premature Birth

Where a baby is born prematurely the employee should ensure that the Headteacher is informed. Discretion should be used as to whether it is appropriate to extend the maternity leave period or take any other special action as necessary.

7.3 Death of a Baby and Still Birth

If the baby dies or is still-born after 24 weeks' pregnancy the provisions of this policy as in tables 1 and 2 apply. Where this occurs before 24 weeks (miscarriage) consideration as to the circumstances should be made and where necessary special leave or sick leave should be granted. The decision should be made with consideration given to the needs of the employee and medical advice

7.4 Dismissal Protection

It is automatically unfair to dismiss a woman because she is pregnant, has given birth or is taking or has taken maternity leave. This applies regardless of the length of the employee's service or the number of hours she is employed to work each week. The woman is also automatically entitled to be given written reasons for her dismissal.

7.5 Keeping in Touch Days

Employees may, by agreement with their employer, do up to ten days' work – known as “Keeping in Touch days” - under their contract of employment during the maternity leave period. Such days are different to the reasonable contact that employers and employees may make with one another, as during Keeping in Touch days employees can carry out work for the employer, for which they may be paid at their normal rate of pay. The employer will inform the payroll provider when an employee carries out a Keeping in Touch day.

Any work done on any day during the maternity pay or maternity leave period will count as a whole Keeping in Touch day, up to the 10-day maximum. In other words, if an employee comes in for a one-hour training session and does no other work that day, she will have used one of her Keeping in Touch days.

The type of work that the employee undertakes on Keeping in Touch days is a matter for agreement between the two parties. They may be used for any activity which would ordinarily be classed as work under the woman's contract.

7.6 Fertility Treatment Leave

Please see St Benet's Policy for Discretionary Leave of Absence

8 Health and Safety

8.1 Pregnant employees must be given specific health and safety protection under UK Health and Safety Legislation. The main provisions are set out below.

8.2 Risk Assessment

Employers must assess all workplaces for risks to the health and safety of their employees and others affected by their work activities. (See HS14 Risk Assessment for Pregnant Women)

In particular, they must consider if there are specific or enhanced risks for new and expectant mothers who are defined as “an employee who is pregnant, who has given birth or miscarried within the previous six months, or who is breast feeding”. Such risks would include exposure to certain harmful substances or microbial agents/infectious diseases; extremes of heat and cold; noise; movement and posture; lifting/handling loads; and potential exposure to violence (including verbal abuse).

Where an unacceptable risk is identified the employer must take any protective or preventative measures required by other health and safety legislation to remove it. See paragraph 9 for the risk assessment form. Where this would not prevent the employee from being at risk, a hierarchy of measures should be followed, seeking mutual agreement where possible:

- if it is reasonable to do so, working conditions or hours of work should be altered to avoid (or minimise) the risk;
- if this is not possible, or the risk cannot be avoided by this, the employee should be offered suitable alternative employment on existing, or not substantially less favourable, terms and conditions;

- if no suitable alternative work is available, the employee should be given leave of absence with full pay. If the employee refuses an offer of suitable alternative work, the leave may reasonably be unpaid.

8.3 Period of Protection

These provisions apply from the time the school receives written notification that the employee is pregnant until 6 months after the date of childbirth, or until the employee stops breast feeding if she continues to do so beyond this six month period. The paid leave of absence provisions will not apply during the maternity leave period. The employee will receive whatever maternity pay she is entitled to as normal.

9 The Administration of Maternity Leave

9.1 When the employee notifies the Headteacher (or other designated person) that she is pregnant she should be given the appropriate maternity leave application form and Notes of Guidance which can be found in Section M of www.epm.co.uk

9.2 The school is advised to make it clear that it is the responsibility of the employee to notify the school by, at the latest, the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth, of the intended date maternity leave is to commence. Should the employee decide she intends to commence maternity leave at an earlier date, she is required to give a minimum of 28 days' notice of the revised date.

9.3 When the Headteacher has received formal confirmation of an employee's intention to take maternity leave, the completed maternity application form should be forwarded to the Personnel Adviser immediately to enable a response to be sent to the employee within, the statutory required, 28 days. EPM provides a schedule of maternity leave pay for the employee.

10 Returning to work after maternity leave

10.1 An employee who wants to come back to work **before** the end of ordinary or additional maternity leave must give her employer 28 days' notice.

10.2 No further notification is required for employees intending to return to work at the end of the ordinary maternity leave. Where an employee qualifies for additional maternity leave, she should let her employer know when the baby is born so that she and her employer can plan for her return.

10.3 In the case of **additional maternity leave**, the employer may write out to an employee no earlier than 21 days before the end of the ordinary maternity leave period to confirm her child's date of birth, and ask her whether she is intending to return to work after her additional maternity leave. The letter must explain to the employee how she works out when her additional maternity leave period will end and that she may be penalised for failing to respond to the letter. The employee must reply within 21 days of receiving the letter. If she does not, her employer may decide to take disciplinary action against her.

10.4 If the employee chooses to return before the end of the 52 weeks maternity leave period, she is required to give a minimum of 28 days' notice of the revised return date, in writing, to the Headteacher.

10.5 When the employer has been informed of the above, then the Personnel Adviser for the school should be notified via the EPM portal in order that any maternity cover arrangements may be terminated and the employee's full pay re-commenced as appropriate.

10.6 Support Staff are required to return to work for a minimum of 3 months to secure an entitlement to OMP. If they do not, then the half pay entitlement must be repaid (SMP is not refundable). They may choose to have the half pay paid as it falls due, as a lump sum on return to work or as a lump sum after they have returned to work for three months.

Teachers are required to return to work for a minimum period of 13 weeks (or pro rata equivalent) to secure an entitlement of OMP. If they do not, then the half pay entitlement must be repaid (SMP is not refundable). The employee may choose to have the OMP paid as it falls, as a lump sum on return to work or as a lump sum after they have returned to work for three months.

Please note that employee must return to contracted work in order to secure the entitlement to OMP. Supply and casual contracts do not count as contracted work. For further worked examples see Appendices 1&2

11. Pensions

11.1 For those employees who are members of either the Local Government Pension Scheme or the Teachers' Pension Scheme, contributions will continue to be deducted from any maternity pay received during maternity leave.

These deductions will be based on the usual percentage employee contribution rate but multiplied by the amount of maternity pay the employee is actually receiving (rather than normal pay), so when normal pay reduces, the contributions the employee makes will be less.

Regardless of the employee contributions paid, benefits under the pension scheme will accrue at the normal rate for any paid maternity leave and any period of unpaid Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML). – In other words, the employees' pension will be worth the same as if they were on their usual salary during their period of maternity leave.

Pension is not accrued during any period unpaid Additional Maternity Leave (AML). However, arrangements are in place for making up pension, if wished.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier in line with changes in relevant legislation and subject to trade union consultation

13. Links to other policies

- Adoption
- Staff discretionary leave of absence
- Health and Safety

APPENDIX 1: SUPPORT STAFF MATERNITY ENTITLEMENTS

What service do I have?	What options are available to me?	How much maternity leave am I entitled to?	What maternity pay am I entitled to ?
Less than 26 weeks service (Irrespective of hours worked) as at the 15 th week before the expected week of childbirth.	A I would like to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	SMP 1 from payroll and apply to the Benefits Agency for Statutory Maternity Allowance
	B I would like to resign	Not applicable	As above
26 weeks or more as at the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth and less than 1 years service as at the 11 th week before the expected week of childbirth (Irrespective of hours worked)	C I would like to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid.
	D I would like to keep my options open as I may choose to resign or to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid.
	E I would like to resign	Not applicable	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP

<p>At least 1 years continuous service (Irrespective of hours worked) as at the 11th week before the expected week of childbirth</p>	<p>F I would like to return to work</p>	<p>Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth.</p>	<p>6 weeks at 90% of contractual full pay plus an additional 1/10th of pay for the same period, followed by 12 weeks half pay.</p> <p>Payment of the additional 1/10th of pay and 12 weeks half pay can be paid as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the 1/10th of pay to be paid over the first 6 weeks and the 12 weeks half pay to be paid in equal instalments spread over the following 12 weekperiod; 2. in equal instalments spread over 33 week lower rate SMP period; 3. in one lump sum at the beginning of the maternity pay period; 4. in one lump sum on the return to work. <p>Plus, depending on salary and average earnings:- 33 weeks lower rate SMP to be paid alongside the 12 weeks at half pay</p> <p>You must return to work for a minimum of 3 months otherwise the 6 weeks additional 1/10th of pay and 12 weeks half pay must be repaid</p>
	<p>G I would like to keep my options open as I may choose to resign or to return to work</p>	<p>Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth</p>	<p>Depending on salary and average earnings:- 6 weeks at 90% of full pay followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid.</p> <p>6 weeks additional 1/10th of pay along with the 12 weeks at half pay will only be paid if you return to work for a minimum of 3 months</p>
	<p>H I would like to resign</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Depending on salary and average earnings:- 6 weeks at 90% of full pay followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP.</p>

SMP - Service for SMP is continuous service with the current employer only and is only payable if employed during the 8 week period 15 weeks before the expected week of childbirth, subject to the qualifying period.

Support Staff Application for Maternity Leave and Pay

Please read the *Notes of Guidance* and the table overleaf, then complete and return the form below to the school office during or before the 15th week before your expected week of childbirth.

Name:
Payroll Number:
Home Address:

School:

Expected Week of Childbirth (EWC): _____

The MATB1 certificate is available from your midwife from the 20th week of pregnancy onwards (*please tick*)

I enclose my MATB1 certificate with this form

I will forward my MATB1 certificate to the school as soon as possible and understand that I will not receive any maternity pay until I provide this

Maternity Options: Please circle one option below

(Refer to table overleaf)

Options **A** **C** **D** **F** _{1 2 3 4} **G**

My first date of Maternity Leave is: _____

(I understand this date can be altered and I must give at least 28 days notice of the revised date maternity leave is to commence)

Options **B** **E** **H**

I do not intend to return to work and thereby wish to formally **terminate** my contract of Employment to take effect from (*please tick*)

_____ (date)

To be completed by all Support Staff:

I have read and understand the accompanying *Notes of Guidance*, which I have retained.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NB. If you wish to continue to pay pension contributions for any period of unpaid maternity leave please contact your Pensions Department for further information.

Keeping in Touch Days

You are entitled to “keep in touch” with the workplace for up to a maximum of 10 days during your maternity leave without affecting your entitlement to statutory or contractual maternity pay. The exact arrangements for “keeping in touch” must be discussed with your headteacher/line manager.

I wish to discuss with my headteacher/line manager arrangements for “keeping in touch” days.

I do not wish to discuss arrangements for “keeping in touch” days but reserve the right to discuss this with my headteacher/line manager at a later date during my maternity leave.

Completed form received by Headteacher:

I confirm that an assessment to identify hazards that could be a risk to any new, expectant, or breastfeeding mothers has been or will be undertaken and I have discussed “keeping in touch” days with the employee if requested.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form to EPM as soon as possible to enable a response to be provided to the employee within 28 days of this form being returned to the school office.

Please return to:

EPM Ltd, St John’s House, Spitfire Close, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6EP

**APPENDIX 2: TEACHING MATERNITY
ENTITLEMENTS (Norfolk)**

What service do I have ?	What options are available to me?	How much maternity leave am I entitled to?	What maternity pay am I entitled to ?
Less than 26 weeks service (Irrespective of hours worked) as at the 15 th week before the expected week of childbirth.	A I would like to return to work	Up to 52 week's absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	SMP 1 from payroll and apply to the Benefits Agency for Statutory Maternity Allowance
	B I would like to resign	Not applicable	As above
26 weeks or more as at the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth and less than 1 years service as at the 11 th week before the expected week of childbirth (EWC) (Irrespective of hours worked)	C I would like to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid.
	D I would like to keep my options open as I may choose to resign or to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid.
	E I would like to resign	Not applicable	Depending on salary and average earnings:- Six weeks higher rate SMP at 90% of average earnings followed by 33 weeks lower rate SMP
At least 1 years continuous service (Irrespective of hours worked) as at the 11 th week before the expected week of childbirth	F I would like to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth.	4 weeks at full pay and 2 weeks at 90% of full pay, followed by, 12 weeks half pay. You must return to work for a minimum of 13 weeks otherwise the 12 weeks half pay must be repaid. Plus, depending on salary and average earnings:- 33 weeks lower rate SMP to be paid alongside the 12 weeks at half pay
	G I would like to keep my options open as I may choose to resign or to return to work	Up to 52 weeks absence in total including up to 11 weeks before the expected week of childbirth	4 weeks at full pay and 2 weeks at 90% Plus depending on salary and average earnings:- 33 weeks lower rate SMP and the remainder unpaid. The 12 weeks at half pay will only be paid if you return to work for a minimum of 13 weeks
	H I would like to resign	Not applicable	4 weeks at full pay and 2 weeks at 90% Plus depending on salary and average earnings:- 33 weeks lower rate SMP

SMP - Service for SMP is continuous service with the current employer only and is only payable if employed during the 8 week period 15 weeks before the expected week of childbirth, subject to the qualifying period.

Teacher Application for Maternity Leave and Pay

Please read the *Notes of Guidance* and the table overleaf, then complete and return the form below to the school office during or before the 15th week before your expected week of childbirth.

Name: _____ Payroll Number: _____

Home Address: _____

School: _____

Expected Week of Childbirth (EWC): _____

The MATB1 certificate is available from your midwife from the 20th week of pregnancy onwards (*please tick*)

I enclose my MATB1 certificate with this form

I will forward my MATB1 certificate to the school as soon as possible and understand that I will not receive any maternity pay until I provide this

Maternity Options: Please circle one option below

(Refer to table overleaf)

Options **A** **B** **C** **D** **F** **G**

My first date of Maternity Leave is: _____
(I understand this date can be altered and I must give at least 28 days notice of the revised date maternity leave is to commence)

Options **B** **E** **H**

I do not intend to return to work and thereby wish to formally **terminate** my contract of Employment to take effect from (*please tick*)

_____ (date)

The end of my maternity pay period

To be completed by all Teachers:

I have read and understand the accompanying *Notes of Guidance*, which I have retained.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NB. If you are intending to take a period of unpaid absence during your maternity leave you should be aware that you will not pay contributions during this period. You are advised to contact Teachers Pensions to seek advice on the effect that a period of unpaid maternity leave will have as well as any options available to enhance your pension www.teacherspensions.co.uk

Keeping in Touch Days

You are entitled to “keep in touch” with the workplace for up to a maximum of 10 days during your maternity leave without affecting your entitlement to statutory or contractual maternity pay. The exact arrangements for “keeping in touch” must be discussed with your headteacher/line manager.

I wish to discuss with my headteacher/line manager arrangements for “keeping in touch” days.

I do not wish to discuss arrangements for “keeping in touch” days but reserve the right to discuss this with my headteacher/line manager at a later date during my maternity leave.

Completed form received by Headteacher:

I confirm that an assessment to identify hazards that could be a risk to any new, expectant, or breastfeeding mothers has been or will be undertaken and I have discussed “keeping in touch” days with the employee if requested.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form to EPM as soon as possible to enable a response to be provided to the employee within 28 days of this form being returned to the school office.

Please return to:

EPM Ltd, St John’s House, Spitfire Close, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6EP