



Every Opportunity for Every Child

Alpha Trust

Teachers Severance Discretions Policy



Alpha Trust Policy & Procedures No: AT P17

Committee:	Board of Trustees
Responsibility:	CFOO
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Adopted by all Alpha Trust Academies	

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Changes since previous version (June 2025)

Footnote 2	Clarification added that a break in service is not required in the case of Phased Retirement.
Footnote 3	New reference to increase in the Minimum Pension Age in 2028.
Footnote 4	Previously footnote 3, renumbered.

Alpha Trust Teachers Severance Discretion Policy

Introduction

Employers have certain discretions under the Teachers' Pension Regulations and in other areas related to severance. This statement sets out how such discretions will be exercised.

Redundancy

Age & Service	Statutory Redundancy payment	Discretionary Compensation (subsuming statutory redundancy payment) ¹	Immediate pension benefit (pension & lump sum)	Cost to Academy	Paid Notice
All ages - with less than 2 years continuous LG service	No	No	No	None	Yes
All ages - with more than 2 years LG service	Yes	No	No	Redundancy Payment	Yes

¹Academy to determine if payable for new staff. TUPE may apply such that staff who transferred from a Maintained School where the home Authority made compensation payments, may be entitled to these payments, the cost of which must be borne by the Academy.

Early Retirement

Type	Age & Service	Pension benefit payable	Employers consent needed	Cost to Academy	Paid notice
Efficiency Retirement	Age 55 ³ and over 3 months pensionable service	Immediate pension, no reduction with employer consent or reduction without consent	Yes ² – The Academy will not consent to any early retirements which incur a cost	Financial strain	No
Actuarially Reduced Benefits (ARB)	Age 55 ³	Immediate pension with reduction	Yes ² – cannot be withheld beyond 6 months	None	No
Phased Retirement (20% reduction)	Age 55 ³⁺	Immediate pension with reduction where applicable	Yes	None	No

² The Teachers' 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 7 day break if the employee is to return to work following retirement. A break is not required in the case of Phased Retirement.

³ Minimum Pension Age will increase from 55 to 57 with effect from 6 April 2028.

Other Discretions

Discretion	Policy
Pension Enhancement (Extra Service or Additional Added Years)	The Academy will not grant pension enhancements under any circumstances
Waiving of pension reductions	The Academy will not waive pension reductions other than on exceptional compassionate grounds ⁴
Shared cost additional voluntary contributions (SCAVC)	The Academy will not make additional voluntary contributions
Transferring of other pension after 12 months	The Academy 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.
Age Retirement	An employee may retire at their Normal Retirement Age (NRA) and receive benefits due at no cost to the Academy. The Teachers' 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 7-day break if the employee is to return to work following retirement.

⁴ **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.