

Meadowhead School Academy Trust

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION
SCHEME REGULATIONS 2014**

**EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS
POLICY STATEMENT**

Discretions of the Employing Authority

COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS		
Main Purpose of Regulation	Regulation	Discretion Exercised
Funding of Additional Pension through a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution - Where an active Scheme member wishes to purchase extra annual pension up to the maximum by making Additional Pension Contributions (APCs), the employer may choose to (voluntarily) contribute towards the cost of purchasing that extra pension via a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (SCAPC).	Regulation 16 (2)(e) and/or 16 (4)(d)	Because of the costs involved and the likelihood of this provision either being of little or no benefit to Meadowhead School Academy Trust (MSAT) or not being vital to the support would not normally expect to exercise its discretion to fund additional pensions for members either through regular contributions or lump sum contributions. However each and every application will be considered in the light of the circumstances of the individual case concerned and a decision reached on the merits of that case
Flexible Retirement - This regulation allows the employer to consent to the early release of all, or part, of a member's LGPS benefits provided they have also consented to the reduction of hours worked or grade in which the member is employed. The member must be aged 55 or over.	Flexible retirement, Regulation 30 (6)	MSAT seeks to support the principle of allowing members to prepare for retirement in as many ways as possible. In this it also seeks to support Government Policy where that policy supports MSAT in its efforts to run its business and services in the most efficient and cost effective manner. As such subject to the following criteria MSAT would normally expect to exercise its discretion in allowing members to retire flexibly: Any Reduction in working hours or salary must be permanent.

COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS

Main Purpose of Regulation	Regulation	Discretion Exercised
		<p>Any reduction in working hours or salary must be at least 40% of those hours or that salary being worked or earned immediately prior to the member's flexible retirement.</p> <p>The reduction in hours or reduction in responsibility allowing the member to be paid a reduced salary must not impact upon MSAT's ability to carry out its business efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>The individual flexible retirement concerned must support MSAT's overall plan and strategy.</p> <p>MSAT reserves the right, having considered each individual case, to refuse an application where any of the above criteria are not met.</p>
<p>Waiving of actuarial reduction - This regulation allows the employer to consent to the early release of all, or part, of a member's LGPS benefits provided they have also consented to the reduction of hours worked or grade in which the member is employed. The member must be aged 55 or over.</p>	<p>Regulation 30 (8)</p>	<p>Because of the additional costs involved to MSAT of waiving the actuarial reduction the member benefits in cases of voluntary retirement it is not envisaged that MSAT would normally exercise its discretion in favour of waiving those reductions. However, each case will be considered on its merits and with reference to the circumstances involved of the individual concerned.</p> <p>A potential exception to this policy would be where the individual can make a case for the waiving of such a reduction to be granted on compassionate grounds. An example of Compassionate Grounds may be where the member has been forced to cease work to take up a caring role</p>

COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS		
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		<p>for an immediate family member, although it is recognised that other grounds could and may exist.</p> <p>Every application will be considered on the circumstances of the individual concerned. Financial hardship alone would not constitute Compassionate Grounds</p>
<p>Switching on the 85-year rule for members voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 -</p> <p>Whilst the 85-year rule does not automatically apply in full if the employee decides to voluntarily draw benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60, this regulation allows the employer to switch the rule back on.</p> <p>If the employer switches on the 85-year rule they will pick up any strain on Fund cost.</p>	<p>Schedule 2 of the Transitional Regulations.</p>	<p>Because of the potential impact on the 2020 fund Valuation and the future additional costs that the exercise of the discretion would bring to MSAT, and the fact that MSAT does not deem the exercise of this discretion to be necessary that there will be any instances where MSAT will switch on the rule of 85 for members wishing to retire voluntarily between ages 55 and 60.</p>
<p>The power of employing authority to award additional pension - this regulation allows an employer to resolve to award a member an amount of additional</p>	<p>Regulation 31</p>	<p>Because of the costs involved and the likelihood of this provision either being of little or no benefit to MSAT, or not being vital to the support and application of the MSAT business plan and strategy then MSAT would not normally expect to exercise its</p>

COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS		
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pension, up to the LGPS maximum, to an active scheme member or within 6 months of leaving to a member whose employment was terminated on the grounds of redundancy or business efficiency.		discretion to award additional pension to members. However each and every application will be considered in the light of the circumstances of the individual case concerned and a decision reached of the merits of that case.

OPTIONAL DISCRETIONS		
Main Purpose of Regulation	Regulation	Discretion Exercised
Whether to waive any actuarial reduction for a member voluntarily drawing benefits before normal pension age other than on the grounds of flexible retirement (where the member has both pre 1/4/14 and post 31/3/14 membership) a) on compassionate grounds (pre 1/4/14 membership) and / or, in whole or in part on any grounds (post 31/3/14 membership) if the member was not in the Scheme before 1/10/06, b) on compassionate grounds (pre 1/4/14 membership) and / or, in	TP3(1), TPSch 2, para 2(1) & B30(5) & B30A(5)	

<p>whole or in part on any grounds (post 31/3/14 membership) if the member was in the Scheme before 1/10/06, will not be 60 by 31/3/16 and will not attain 60 between 1/4/16 and 31/3/20 inclusive c) on compassionate grounds (pre 1/4/16 membership) and / or, in whole or in part on any grounds (post 31/3/16 membership) if the member was in the Scheme before 1/10/06 and will be 60 by 31/3/16 d) on compassionate grounds (pre 1/4/20 membership) and / or, in whole or in part on any grounds (post 31/3/20 membership) if the member was in the Scheme before 1/10/06, will not be 60 by 31/3/16 and will attain 60 between 1/4/16 and 31/3/20 inclusive</p>		
<p>Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to deferred benefits paid early under B30 (member)</p>	<p>B30(5), TPSch 2, para 2(1)</p>	
<p>Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early under B30A (pensioner member with deferred benefits, i.e. a</p>	<p>B30A(5), TPSch 2, para 2(1)</p>	

suspended tier 3 ill health pensioner)		
Grant application for early payment of deferred benefits on or after age 50 and before age 55	L31(2)	
Waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to deferred benefits paid early	L31(5) & TPSch 2, para 2(1)	
Whether to “switch on” the 85 year rule for a member with deferred benefits voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60	TPSch 2, para 1(2) & 1(1)(f) & R60	
Grant application for early payment of deferred benefits on or after age 50 on compassionate grounds	TP3(5A)(vi) TL4 & L106(1) & D11(2)(c)	

Date Revised	Date Approved	Summary of Changes	Author