



# **Priory Non-Teaching Support Staff 'Shop of Support'**

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## PRIORY SUPPORT STAFF 'SHOP OF SUPPORT'

### SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR ALL SUPPORT STAFF AT PRIORY

This document outlines the type of collaborative support on offer for **all staff** at Priory, **you**, to complement **your** CPD, as well as our PM, appraisal or capability processes.

This 'shop of support' is not an exhaustive list. It will evolve year on year and throughout the year. It will be specific in some cases to certain individuals but is nevertheless listed within this document to provide concrete examples of the type of support available to **you** as an individual, as and when **you** might need or want it.

It will allow **you** to initiate conversations (please don't wait for colleagues to approach you) with colleagues about what needs to improve, what will move **you** from good to great, but importantly, **how** that might be achieved.

#### Why should I need support?

- **All staff** at Priory will always be assessed initially against each element of the employee's Job Description. Minimum expectations are that *'you are accountable for achieving the highest possible standards in work and conduct. Where you act with honesty and integrity; keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date and are self-critical; where you forge positive professional relationships; and work in the best interests of all pupils.'*
- Because **you** must support the best academic and pastoral progress of **all** our pupils.
- **You** must be willing therefore to reflect on **your** practice, year on year, to **avoid complacency** and change, evolve or tweak the way **you** do things so **your** practice is continuously honed and improved to achieve this.
- Because, *'what got you here, will not necessarily get you there'* – **you** must break any mind-set that chain **you** to certain ways of doing things and to doing things the way **you** have always done them.
- Because the highest form of accountability is **your** own professional accountability for the quality of **your** work and to the pupils/staff who **you** support.
- Because **you** must be an agent of **your** own accountability - committed to **your** own professional learning – improving **your** pedagogical skills, accessing and using best evidence, innovating, evaluating and improving learning.
- Because **you** must ultimately take ownership and accountability of **yourself** for the work **you** provide at Priory.

#### What will Priory aim to do?

- **Recognise that work is a huge part of our lives, and that our lives can affect our work.** Therefore, help address this **'lifestyle balance'** by providing **'professional support'** that enables us to be the best we can be in our work as well as **'personal support'** that focus on our welfare and well-being.
- Recognise that developing the quality of support staff, TA's, leaders and teachers, is one of the most important jobs in the school and make it the starting point that professional learning can always be better.
- Ensure there is sufficient investment in professional learning for **you**, and that developing professionalism is a key strategic priority.
- Remove obstacles and create the conditions that will allow **you** to develop.

- Support **you** to work collaboratively to evolve, to cultivate peer learning within school and between schools and to encourage innovation.
- Support **you** to plan and evaluate **your** work with colleagues, observing and learning from each other and sharing what works within or across groups of schools.
- Support **you** to access, where necessary and at the right times, relevant support as listed in this document.
- If necessary, prioritise support in the following order. Those staff following:
  - Formal capability
  - Informal capability
  - Appraisal
  - Staff not following appraisal or capability procedures.

## 'PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT' AVAILABLE FOR ALL SUPPORT STAFF AT PRIORITY

- Support from **SLT** in:
  - Leadership and management, appraisal, performance management, vision & missions – **ME**
  - Teaching & learning, DP, personal development – **LCO**
  - Pupil outcomes & curriculum courses – **NG**
  - Pastoral, Behaviour for Learning – **DC**
  - Financial, resources and HR - support from Cheryl Barker - staff can chat to Cheryl for independent, no obligation financial advice on work related aspects including payroll, HR and pension queries, including leave of absence, maternity and paternity leave, salary calculations to name a few - **CB**
- Support to progress through payment scales where applicable.
- Opportunity to work alongside other staff in their roles for further experience, 'upskilling' and/or succession planning.
- Support (financial or otherwise) to undertake a **Masters Degree** related to your work. Please note, it may not be possible to accommodate all requests, therefore the following process should be followed:
  - Staff to indicate an interest in the first instance to their line manager (preferably the June prior to commencement of the course)
  - Discuss how the qualification might impact on them:
    - Personally
    - Department/other colleagues
    - Whole school
  - Complete our brief application form covering:
    - Expression of interest
    - Summary/Explanation of the intended qualification
    - Cost
    - Summary/Explanation of which of the following criteria the course will meet and how:

- Whole school, **School Improvement Key Objectives** for that academic year
  - Other whole school practice/processes
  - Department/other colleagues
  - Personally
- If necessary, priority will be given to those qualifications that support the above criteria in that order.
  - Terms and conditions may apply to justify any financial or otherwise support offered (please see Cheryl Barker for further information)
- Support **within** Priory from **other colleagues** – e.g. Teaching staff, Support staff, T&L team, ELT lead, TLR Postholders, Intern, SLE’s, Lead Practitioners.
  - New/continued support from a teacher/s/leader/s from **other school/s**, particularly Lostock Hall academy and our partner primaries.
  - **Visiting** other staff from other school/s – observing their work, leadership discussions, moderation etc.
  - **Regular meetings** with SLT, line managers (co-ordinator).
  - **Observations** of other colleague/s/department/s - including those at other schools, and other colleagues at Priory.
  - Support from our **School Alliances** - Preston Primary & Secondary Alliance (PPSA), Endeavour Learning School Alliance (ELSA) – in relation to aspects of your work where applicable.
  - **School Improvement Partner** support.
  - **Independent associate advice** where applicable.

## **'PERSONAL SUPPORT' AVAILABLE FOR ALL STAFF AT PRIORY**

Our framework of personal support is focused around **'Self-Care'** and **'Team Care'**. A recognition of our own (Self-Care) and our colleagues (Team Care) **Mental Health; Physical Health and Nutritional Health** – all of which is wrapped around our **Priory culture**.

- **A culture** where open and honest discussions on how we might improve and/or support our welfare as staff are welcome.
- **A culture** where, collectively, as a staff, we help ourselves and help each other address our **'lifestyle balance'**.
- **A culture** where we recognise the signs in ourselves and our colleagues when the demands (professional and/or personal) on you/your colleague outstrip your/their belief in your/their ability to cope with them and:
  - Let others know/talk to colleagues

- Discuss possible short-term solutions
- Discuss possible longer-term solutions
- Focus in addition, on what is going well – the positive.
- **A culture** where open and honest discussions with colleagues, who may wish to discuss their own particular circumstances, will be facilitated as a viable alternative to capability. Please see Mr Eastham (or line manager in the first instance), should you wish to engage in a without prejudice and protected conversation – an ‘off the record’ conversation to discuss your own particular situation at any given time.

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#### STAFF ‘SELF CARE’ AND ‘TEAM CARE’ ‘WHEEL OF SUPPORT’:

Below are the health and wellbeing support services available for us all through partnership with our Schools Advisory Service for health and wellbeing:



Please note, support available on any of the above may take the form of an initial call with other professionals. The extent of any subsequent support will then need to be discussed on an individual basis.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE SUPPORT AVAILABLE:

- **Unlimited, Confidential Physical Health Telephone Support** - Administered by our registered nursing team partners - available Mon- Fri 8:30 - 4:30
- **Unlimited, Confidential Mental Health Telephone Support** - Administered by our registered nursing team partners - available Mon- Fri 8:30 - 4:30
- **Unlimited Bereavement Support** - Emotional support and guidance for navigating bereavement of a loved one.
- **Unlimited Menopause Support** - Support covering issues associated with menopause.
- **Unlimited Cancer & Chronic Illness Support** - Support to staff if they or their family are affected by a diagnosis of a chronic, long term condition. Additional complementary therapies could be made available to assist with the physical/psychological symptoms which can accompany such a diagnosis.
- **Weight management** - Support and guidance for navigating our nutritional health and weight loss.
- **Free access to Thrive** - NHS approved guided CBT, mindfulness, meditation and relaxation app.
- **Free access to The Relaxation Room** - SAS guided mindfulness & meditation evening webinar sessions.
- **Free access to E-gym** - App based exercise programme for range of abilities and experience.
- **A Range of Work-Related Stress Support** - Access to information and advice surrounding work-related stress to identify solutions to deal with stress, help instill the user with coping strategies for stress and anxiety and/or provide mindfulness focused sessions that concentrate on relaxation techniques. Also support that may need to be considered to assist in reducing any workplace stress that may have a detrimental impact on future health and attendance i.e. Occupational Health Referrals, Counselling sessions, Health Risk Assessments, Education Support Partnership, ASCL Wellbeing Zone etc.
- **Physiotherapy** – support to alleviate discomfort while you are waiting for a referral.
- **Private medical operations** - support to try and reduce waiting times for non-urgent operations, enabling staff to return to their usual duties sooner.
- **Free health screening days/checks/ including:**
  - Blood pressure and pulse
  - Total / HDL cholesterol test
  - Height, weight, BMI and waist measurements (weight & waist circumference)
  - Lifestyle assessment of risk factors
  - A calculation of your risk of developing heart disease or stroke in the next 10 years.
  - Advice and information on how to reduce your risk.
- **Flu jabs for eligible staff**

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#### IN ADDITION, COLLEAGUES AT PRIORY MAY WISH TO ACCESS THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF SUPPORT TOO:

- **Access to 'Supervision' sessions** – Provided by one of our trained, in house Pastoral Managers should staff feel the need to talk to someone to support their wellbeing either professionally or personally.

- **Access to our ‘friend of the school’ Charlotte Lowe – counselling service for confidential Physical and Mental Health Support** – solution focused therapy sessions should staff feel the need to talk to someone in order to support their wellbeing through particularly difficult or challenging times in their professional or personal life.
- **Support from Cheryl Barker - financial advice** – staff can chat to Cheryl for independent, no obligation financial advice on work related aspects including payroll, HR and pension queries, including leave of absence, maternity and paternity leave, salary calculations to name a few.
- **Access to our ‘friend of the school’ Shauna Speight – financial advisor** – staff can chat to Shauna for independent, no obligation financial advice on work related or personal finance – whether that be savings, investments, retirement planning, pensions etc.
- **Access to our ‘friend of the school’ Phil Dyer – leadership and healthy leaders advisor** - staff can chat to Phil to support their leadership roles where applicable but also to support their wellbeing in relation to our ‘Self Care’ and ‘Team Care’ focus across the school.
- **Access to our ‘friend of the school’ Gary Walker – UCLAN Physiotherapy** – as long as staff are referred to the Physiotherapy services at UCLAN by the school, they will receive a discounted service.
- Open discussion with Headteacher regarding ‘special leave’ if required.
- **‘Leadership lunches’** every Friday – an opportunity for SLT and ELT to get together for informal discussion and chat.
- **Tea and coffee** available from ‘The Bistro’.
- **Staff socials** – BBQ’s/meals out/Christmas meal etc.
- **Pre-order lunch service**
- Access to the **Digital Healthy Schools** platform for staff
- **Staff Welfare activities at reduced rates** – please see those items marked in yellow in the staff calendar i.e. Yoga, Zumba classes etc.
- **‘Listening Tree’ support** – a forum to allow staff to review and reflect on their practice.
- **Results day** – continental breakfast provided for staff coming in on results day to see how our pupils have done.
- **Edapt UK - a union giving legal support and advice without political agenda.**
- **Support the Health and Safety Executive’s (HSE) ‘Go Home Healthy’ programme**, so that we take health risks as seriously as safety ones, particularly the prevention of work-related stress:
  - The [Talking Toolkit](#) is a downloadable free resource, which gives staff in school templates for simple, practical conversations about work issues which can be causes of stress, if they are not managed properly. The toolkit has six templates for six different conversations to be held between school leaders, line managers and staff. Each conversation is shaped around an area which, if not properly managed, is associated with poor health, lower productivity and increased sickness absence.
- **Flexible working/working from home** – flexible approach allowing flexible working where possible.