



Circular Letter 0075/2015

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools
and
The Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

JOB SHARING SCHEME FOR REGISTERED TEACHERS IN RECOGNISED PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Minister for Education and Skills directs you to implement the regulations and procedures regarding job sharing arrangements for eligible registered teachers employed in an approved teaching post funded by monies provided by the Oireachtas. These procedures apply to teachers who are in receipt of incremental salary under a permanent contract, contract of indefinite duration (CID), or fixed-term contract (e.g. temporary whole-time (TWT)).

The regulations and procedures are to be implemented by each employer with immediate effect and all teachers must adhere to the terms of the attached job sharing scheme.

This circular supersedes all previous circulars, memoranda, rules and regulations in relation to job sharing arrangements for teachers in recognised primary and post-primary schools. Please ensure that copies of this circular are provided to all members of the Board of Management/Education and Training Boards and its contents are brought to the attention of all teachers in your employment including those on leave of absence.

This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website under www.education.ie
Home – Education Staff – Breaks / Leave – Job Sharing

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Job Sharing Scheme for Teachers

Definitions

For the purposes of this scheme the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them here unless the context indicates otherwise:

Appropriately Qualified – means the teacher has qualifications suitable to the post and is registered with the Teaching Council for the sector for which s/he is to be employed.

Employer – means an Education and Training Board (ETB) for vocational schools/community colleges and a Board of Management/Manager in the case of primary, voluntary secondary, community and comprehensive schools. The ETB or Board of Management/Manager may delegate as appropriate responsibility for matters set out in this circular.

Host School – means the school to which the teacher is temporarily assigned for the purpose and duration of the job sharing arrangement.

Job Sharing Teacher – means a teacher who is sharing a wholetime post on a 50:50 basis or a teacher who has applied to reduce their hours to 50% of a wholetime post.

Leave Year – means the period 1st September to 31st August inclusive in each year.

On Line Claims System (OLCS) – means the system for recording of absences and input of claims for the payment of substitute and non-regular part-time teachers currently operating in primary, voluntary secondary, community and comprehensive schools.

Replacement Teacher - an appropriately qualified teacher recruited for the balance of available hours on a specified purpose (fixed term) contract for the duration of a job sharing arrangement.

School Year – as defined by the Minister for Education and Skills from time to time – currently beginning on 1st September and ending 31st August.

Teacher – means a person registered with the Teaching Council.

The Department – means The Department of Education and Skills.

Wholetime Teacher - means a teacher who is contracted for

28 hours 20 minutes per week in a Primary School

22 hours teaching per week in a Post-Primary School

1. PURPOSE OF THE JOB SHARING SCHEME

- 1.1 The purpose of the job sharing scheme is to assist teachers in combining work with personal responsibilities or choices.

2. SCHOOL POLICY

- 2.1 Each employer shall develop and maintain a policy statement specific to the needs of the school in relation to the approval of job sharing arrangements.

- 2.2 It is a matter for the employer to decide the time-sharing arrangement(s) which it is prepared to endorse e.g. week on /week off, split week. Post-Primary employers, for example, may require a job sharing teacher to be timetabled over 5 days per week. Subject to the exercise by the employer of its responsibility in this regard, timetable arrangements for job sharing teachers should be designed within the spirit of the scheme to facilitate the teacher, so far as is practicable.

- 2.3 In drawing up this policy, the welfare and educational needs of the pupils shall take precedence over all other considerations.

- 2.4 This policy shall have due regard to the capacity of the school to meet obligations to its pupils and may therefore apply a limit to the number of teaching staff that may avail of the scheme at any one time and also take into account the availability of an appropriately qualified replacement teacher.

- 2.5 In the case of Primary schools as soon as a Board of Management has decided to allow job sharing, parents should be informed that their child(ren) would be taught by job sharing teachers in the relevant school year. A Board is required to notify parents at the earliest possible opportunity by way of a special meeting called by the Principal/Board of Management. Teachers whose job sharing applications have been approved by a Board are required to attend such a meeting. The requirement for the special meeting should not be replaced by other means of communicating to parents the information regarding job sharing arrangements

3. BASIS OF SCHEME

- 3.1 A teacher may make an application to share a wholetime post on a 50:50 basis or may apply to reduce their hours to 50% of a wholetime teacher. This amounts to 14 hours 10 minutes per week in the case of a Primary teacher or 11 hours per week teaching in the case of a Post Primary teacher,

- 3.2 There are two options for a job sharing arrangement:

- a) Sharing a wholetime post: Two wholetime teachers in the same school apply to job share or in the case of interschool job sharing (primary schools only) where two wholetime teachers in two different schools apply to job share.

- b) A teacher applies to job share and the employer is willing to recruit a teacher for the balance of the available hours on a specified purpose (fixed term) contract which will terminate at the end of the school year.

4 DURATION OF JOB SHARING AGREEMENT

- 4.1 The minimum period for which a job sharing arrangement may occur is one school year.
- 4.2 In exceptional circumstances an employer may authorise a job sharing arrangement to commence during the course of the school year and terminate not earlier than the end of that same school year.

5 ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 A teacher may apply to job share where he/she
 - a) is registered with the Teaching Council and
 - b) will have satisfactorily completed at the end of the school year in which they are applying 12 months of continuous service with the current employer and
 - c) holds a post for the following school year greater than 50% of a wholetime teacher. (i.e. 14 hours 10 minutes per week in the case of a Primary teacher or 11 hours per week teaching in the case of a Post Primary teacher).

Job sharing is not available to the following:

- d) at **Primary**: Principal and Home School Liaison Co-ordinator and
- e) at **Post Primary**: Principal, Deputy Principal and Home School Liaison Co-ordinator.
- f) Teachers on secondment.

6 OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

- 6.1 A teacher seeking to job share must submit the prescribed application form **JS1** attached to this circular to the employer not later than the 1st February prior to the school year in which he/she proposes to commence/continue job sharing.
- 6.2 A teacher who wishes to extend his/her job sharing arrangement must apply for this extension on an annual basis.
- 6.3 Each application to job share shall be considered on its own merits by the employer within the context of the school's policy statement. The decision of the employer shall be final.

- 6.4 The employer who hosts the teachers availing of the inter school job-sharing arrangement (primary schools only) is considered to be the employer for both job sharers for the duration of the job sharing period and the teacher should sign a Form of Agreement with the host employer.
- 6.5 A teacher on a career break or other approved leave of absence may apply to resume teaching duties on a job sharing basis.
- 6.6 The employer shall issue a written notice of approval or refusal, which will set out the basis of the refusal, to the teacher by 1st March at the latest.
- 6.7 Taking account of the extent of arrangements to be put in place by the employer to cater for a job sharing post, the applicant should not be permitted to withdraw his/her application after 14th April, or from once the replacement teachers contract has been signed, whichever happens first. This should be included in the notice from the school to the teacher.
- 6.8 In exceptional circumstances if the applicant can be accommodated within the approved staffing allocation and subject to contractual arrangements, an application for withdrawal from a job sharing scheme and/or an earlier return to full-time employment may be considered by the employer. However, such an application may not be considered beyond 1st November.
- 6.9 The employer must list the names of all teachers availing of job sharing arrangements on the annual change of staff form/relevant ETB system. The job sharing application must be retained in the school.

7 DUTIES

- 7.1 Employers shall ensure that appropriate communication processes are in place between teachers sharing a post in order for them to fulfil the responsibilities of the post.
- 7.2 A job sharing teacher must be available for relevant staff and parent meetings in accordance with school policy and agreements.
- 7.3 The obligation to provide additional hours under the existing Public Service Agreements is pro-rata for teachers who are job sharing.

8 PAY/RECKONING OF SERVICE

- 8.1 Job sharing teachers will receive where applicable remuneration equal to 50% of a full time post inclusive of qualification allowances (i.e. Higher Diploma, Primary, Masters and Doctorate Degree, Ard Teastas Gaeilge)
- 8.2 Where a teacher holds any job role allowance e.g. - Teaching through Irish Allowance / Diploma in Special Education / Diploma for Teachers in a Specific Disability Category the teacher may lose these allowances under a job-sharing arrangement.

8.3 Each year of job sharing service given, will reckon as one year of service for promotion and incremental purposes.

9 ADDITIONAL WORK BY JOB SHARING TEACHER

9.1 Job sharing teachers may not

- a) engage in any substitute teaching
- b) act as a special needs assistant in the school in which he/she is employed or any other school or
- c) undertake home tuition hours

9.2 It is not permissible for a job sharing teacher to engage in outside employment without the consent of the employer. It shall be a matter for the employer to determine whether or not any such employment is in conflict with their ability to carry out their duties as an employee of the school. If such a conflict is deemed to exist, the approval of the employer shall be withheld.

10 APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT TEACHER

10.1 Where a replacement teacher is to be employed, the position must be filled in accordance with current rules for teacher recruitment. This teacher may apply for any available hours within the school/ETB's allocation up to the maximum of a wholetime post.

10.2 Any queries related to permission to fill a post or part of a post vacated by a teacher engaging in a job sharing agreement should be raised with the Teacher Allocations Section of the Department.

10.3 Where a replacement teacher is to be employed he/she shall be offered a specified purpose (fixed term) contract. Such a contract must include a condition that the contract will terminate on the job sharing teacher resigning, retiring or returning to full time employment or the following 31st August whichever happens first.

11 POSTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

11.1 *Primary*

- a) Where a primary school Deputy Principal is approved for job sharing he/she must relinquish his/her post of responsibility and the appropriate allowance for the duration of the job sharing arrangement.
- b) An Assistant Principal or a Special Duties Teacher may retain his/her post of responsibility allowance while job sharing provided the employer decides that the duties of the post can be performed in full.

- c) Where an employer decides that it is not possible for the job sharing teacher to perform the full duties of the Assistant Principal or Special Duties post an acting Assistant Principal or Special Duties Teacher may be appointed and the allowance will be shared equally between the two teachers (i.e. the acting post holder and the job sharing teacher.) The allowance shall be restored to the actual post holder on resumption of fulltime duties.
- d) The acting post holder will not establish personal title to the allowance and will relinquish same when the Job Sharer resumes full time duties.

11.2 Post Primary

- a) An Assistant Principal or a Special Duties Teacher may retain his/her post of responsibility allowance while job sharing provided the employer decides that the duties of the post can be performed in full.
- b) Where an employer decides that it is not possible for the job sharing teacher to perform the full duties of the Assistant Principal or Special Duties post, he/she shall forfeit the allowance for the duration of the arrangement. The allowance shall be restored on resumption of fulltime duties.
- c) The acting post holder will not establish personal title to the allowance and will relinquish same when the Job Sharer resumes full time duties.

Primary and Post Primary

- 11.3 Appointment to and payment in respect of Acting Posts of Responsibility at Primary and Post Primary level will be in accordance with the applicable Circular Letters and /or other regulations.
- 11.4 The employer in consultation with the Principal, should keep the operation of posts of responsibility held by job sharing teachers under review to ensure responsibilities are adequately discharged.
- 11.5 Any queries regarding the entitlement to fill a Post of Responsibility is a matter for the Teacher Allocations Section of the Department.

12 TERMINATION/RESUMPTION OF DUTY

- 12.1 Employers must ensure that teachers participating in the job-sharing scheme are aware that the arrangement may be terminated at any time if it is not operating in the best interests of pupils.
- 12.2 It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that the Payroll Section of the Department/ETB is informed in advance of the date of termination of the job sharing arrangement of the teacher and the date of termination of the employment of the replacement teacher in order to avoid any overpayments of salary.

13 MATERNITY LEAVE /ADOPTIVE LEAVE

- 13.1. A full time teacher on maternity/adoptive leave, opting to job share in the next school year, will be paid at the full time rate of pay up until the beginning of the next school year at which point the teacher will be paid the job sharing rate of pay for the remainder of the leave.
- 13.2. A job sharing teacher on maternity/adoptive leave, opting to return to full time duties in the next school year, will be paid at the job sharing rate of pay up until the beginning of the next school year at which point the teacher will be paid the full time rate of pay for the remainder of the leave.

14 PUBLIC HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENTS

- 14.1. Entitlements arising to a job sharing teacher from e.g. bank holidays, will accrue to the teacher who would otherwise be scheduled for duty on the day in question. In such cases however, the normal attendance regime will, where necessary be varied slightly by the employer with a view to allowing both job sharing partners to benefit equally from school closures.

15 RESIGNATION WHILE JOB SHARING

- 15.1. A teacher engaged in a job sharing scheme who wishes to resign from his/her teaching post must notify the employer in writing in accordance with the teacher's terms of employment.

16 PENSION

- 16.1. In accordance with the applicable circular letters and /or other regulations, a job sharing teacher shall be eligible for superannuation benefits on the same basis as full-time staff, save that each year of service given in a job sharing capacity will reckon as six months full-time service for superannuation purposes.
- 16.2. It may be open to a job sharing teacher to purchase notional service for superannuation purposes. Further information in relation to the purchase of notional service and other pension related matters is available from the Departments website [Retirement-Pensions](#) or by contacting the relevant ETB. Any queries regarding the purchase of notional service should be submitted by email to pensions@education.gov.ie or the relevant ETB.

17. PRSI IMPLICATIONS

- 17.1. Teachers who propose to undertake job sharing should satisfy themselves (by contacting the Department of Social Protection if necessary) as to whether the proposed pattern of job sharing will have any implications for their PRSI contributions/credit record.

18. IN SERVICE/SCHOOL PLANNING DAYS

- 18.1. Job sharing teachers in primary schools who are required to attend courses/school planning days on days they are not due to teach shall be granted leave in lieu for such days. Leave in lieu will not be granted where the teacher's attendance on such days is part of the additional hours commitment under the current Public Service Agreements.
- 18.2. Where leave in lieu is to be granted, confirmation of attendance at the course/school planning day should be submitted in writing to the employer for input on the OLCS/ relevant ETB system. Substitution for such days is not paid by the Department.

19. RE-DEPLOYMENT

- 19.1. Job sharing teachers will be subject to the same conditions of re-deployment as full time teachers.

20. COMPLIANCE

- 20.1 All teachers/employers must adhere to the regulations and procedures set out in this circular. Failure to abide with the regulations and procedures will be dealt with under the agreed disciplinary procedures and may lead to the cessation of salary in the case of teachers and/or the withdrawal of substitute cover for schools.
- 20.2 All documentation relating to job sharing arrangements must be retained by the employer with the relevant personnel records.

21. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 21.1 In accordance with the introductory paragraph the regulations in this circular are to be implemented by the employer. All queries should initially be brought to the attention of the employer /school management who may wish to consult with their representative organisation who may further wish to consult with the Department at the following email address: teachersna@education.gov.ie



APPLICATION FORM FOR JOB SHARING

Form JS1

Part 1 (A separate form must be completed by each job sharing applicant)

Name	
Home Address	
Contact Telephone No.	
E-Mail Address	
PPSN	
Teaching Council Registration Number	
Length of continuous service with current employer	
In case of Fixed Term Teachers, contract end date	
School Name & Address	
School Roll Number	

Part 2 – Options for Job Sharing Arrangement

Please indicate which Job Sharing Options you wish to apply for

Please Tick - ✓

- Application to share a wholetime post with another teacher in the same school

Name of other Teacher: _____

- Application to share a wholetime post with another teacher through an Interschool Job Sharing Arrangement (primary schools only)

Name of other Teacher: _____

Name of other School: _____

Roll No of other School: _____

- Application to share a whole time post with a replacement teacher. (The replacement teacher to be recruited by my employer)
- Application to reduce hours of teaching that are less than wholetime hours to job sharing hours and the school is requested to recruit a teacher for the balance of the available hours

Part 3 – Details of Proposed Job Sharing Arrangement

Proposed start date of job sharing arrangement: - -

Please Tick - ✓

I, the undersigned:

- wish to apply for job sharing in accordance with the regulations as set out in Department Circular 0075/2015.
- I consent to the transfer of the personal information provided by me on this application form to the partner school involved in the proposed job sharing arrangement
- I declare that the information which I have given in this Application Form is true and accurate.

Signature of Teacher (Named in Part 1)

Date: - -

Part 4 (must be completed by the Employer(s))

NOTE: The following information should be noted before completion.

1. On the basis of the information contained in Part 1 of the completed application form, Employer(s) should determine whether the teachers satisfy the eligibility criteria as set out in Circular 0075/2015 - Paragraph 5.
2. The decision to approve a job sharing arrangement

Please Tick - ✓

I, the undersigned declare:

- that I have examined and approved this Job Sharing Application.
- that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria in Circular 0075/2015 Paragraph 5 and the regulations and procedures set out in this circular have been adhered to.
- that I have informed the teacher of the decision in writing.

Name: _____ **(In Block Capitals)**

Signature of Employer (Host School) _____

Address: _____

Date: --

I, the undersigned declare:

- that I have examined and approved this Job Sharing Application.
- that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria in Circular 0075/2015 Paragraph 5 and the regulations and procedures set out in this Circular have been adhered to.
- that I have informed the teacher of the decision in writing.

Name: _____ **(In Block Capitals)**

Signature of Employer (Other School) _____

Address: _____

Date: --

*The second signature is only required in respect of an interschool job sharing arrangement (primary schools only).