

Investment Policy



STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY	NON-STATUTORY
MEMBER OF STAFF RESPONSIBLE	CFO
DATE APPROVED BY HEAD/SLT	March 2023
GOVERNING BODY OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	March 2023
DATE OF FULL GOVERNING BODY APPROVAL	March 2023
REVISION DUE DATE	March 2025

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The academy trust's funds are used only in accordance with the law, its articles of association, its funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook
- The trust's funds are used in a way that commands broad public support
- Value for money (economy, efficiency and effectiveness) is achieved
- Trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities as charitable trustees and company directors

2. Legislation and guidance

The Academy Trust Handbook states that academy trusts are required to have an investment policy to:

- Manage and track their financial exposure
- Ensure value for money

This policy is based on the Academy Trust Handbook and guidance from The Charity Commission. This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association

3. Roles and responsibilities

Trustees

Trustees will ensure that investment risk is properly managed. When considering whether to make an investment, trustees will:

- Act within their powers to invest as set out in our articles of association
- Exercise caution in all investments, reducing risk and ensuring that the trust acts with the utmost integrity
- Take investment advice from a professional adviser, as appropriate
- Ensure that exposure to investment products is tightly controlled so that security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation
- Ensure that all investment decisions are in the best interests of the trust and command broad public support

Trustees will seek prior approval from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for investment transactions that are novel, contentious or repercussive.

Novel transactions are those of which the academy trust has no experience or are outside the range of normal business activity for the trust.

Contentious transactions are those which might give rise to criticism of the trust by Parliament, the public, and the media.

Repercussive transactions are those likely to cause pressure on other trusts to take a similar approach and hence have wider financial implications.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Academy trustees delegate responsibility for the trust's investments to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The committee is responsible for:

- Reviewing the trust's investments
- Reporting to trustees on the performance on investments

The full Board of Trustees will be consulted when initially looking to invest funds.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The chief financial officer (CFO) is responsible for producing cash flow forecasts and monitoring investment accounts. The CFO also provides information to the finance committee and academy trustees, as appropriate.

4. Investment principles

Trustees only invest funds in low risk and easily accessible accounts. Funds will be placed in bank accounts with a withdrawal notice of no more than 26 weeks.

Risk is managed through diversification of investments, ensuring that the security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

Funds will only be placed with banking institutions that are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and with good credit ratings.

The following information will be recorded when investments are made:

- Date
- Amount and description of the investment
- Length of investment
- Interest rates/expected return

The CFO/Finance Manager will review interest rates and compare them with other investment opportunities annually.

Cash flow and current account balances will be monitored regularly by the CFO to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments. When there are funds surplus to immediate cash requirements in the current account, we will transfer these to an account with a higher interest rate.

Investments will normally be for a fixed term that does not exceed one year, unless there is a clear rationale for longer-term investment that would benefit the trust.

A maximum of £85,000 will be placed with one financial institution. This is because the first £85,000 of an investment is protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Funds, and any interest earned on those funds, will be automatically reinvested unless money is required for immediate or anticipated expenditure.

5. Monitoring arrangements

The CFO monitors the implementation of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the academy trustees every three years.

6. Links with other policies

This investment policy links with other Trust documents including:

- Noadswood Finance Manual
- Reserves Policy
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