



Investment Policy

Version 1

<p>Important: This document can only be considered valid when viewed on the Trust website. If this document has been printed or saved to another location, you must check that the version number on your copy matches that of the document online.</p> <p>Name and Title of Author:</p>	<p>CEO/CFO</p>
<p>Name of Responsible Committee/Individual:</p>	<p>Trust Board</p>
<p>Implementation Date:</p>	<p>April 2026</p>
<p>Date Policy Agreed:</p>	<p>April 2026 – Version 1</p>
<p>Target Audience:</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>
<p>Related Documents:</p>	<p>Financial Management Policy Reserves Policy Scheme of Delegation</p>
<p>Review Date:</p>	<p>April 2027</p>

Contents

Page

1.PURPOSE OF THE POLICY AND POLICY STATEMENT	3
2. OBJECTIVES	3
3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	3
4. INVESTMENT STRATEGY	4
5. MONITORING AND REVIEW	5

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY AND POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to set out the processes by which Board of Trustees will meet their duties under the Articles of Association and the Academy Trust Handbook issued by the DfE to invest monies surplus to operational requirements in furtherance of the Trust's charitable aims and to ensure that investment risk is properly and prudently managed.

The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations. In addition, the Trust aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns whilst ensuring minimal risk of financial loss.

2. OBJECTIVES

The investment objectives are:

- To invest funds surplus to operational need based on all financial commitments being met without the Trust's bank accounts becoming overdrawn
- To invest funds in low risk accounts
- To invest funds with UK banking institutions regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
- To avoid capital at risk investments.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Whilst the Board of Trustees has responsibility for the Trust's finances, the Scheme of Delegation delegates responsibility to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to approve the Investment Policy.

3.1 Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee will:

- Manage, control and track financial exposure
- Ensure value for money
- Review the Trust's investment policy on a regular basis
- Take investment advice from a professional adviser, as appropriate
- Ensure that all investment decisions are in the best interests of the Trust and command broad public support.

3.2 CEO (Accounting Officer)

The CEO, as Accounting Officer, is responsible for the proper and efficient use of public funds. Regarding investments, the CEO will:

- Provide strategic recommendations to Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
- Seek prior approval from the DfE for investment transactions that are novel, contentious or repercussive.

Novel transactions are those of which the 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 or the media.

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

3.3 CFO

The CFO is responsible for the financial management and control framework that underpins the investment policy. The CFO will:

- Produce reliable cash flow forecasts as a basis for decision making
- Provide sufficient management information to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee so it can review and monitor investment performance.
- Make investment decisions that comply with this policy

4. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Investment risk will be managed through asset class selection to ensure that security of deposits held with the Trust's bankers takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

4.1 Investment types

The Trust will deposit surplus funds into the following types of interest-bearing bank accounts:

- Current accounts
- Notice deposit accounts – maximum notice period of 95 days
- Term deposit accounts – maximum term of 1 year

The decision on how much to invest and how long to invest for, will be based on operational requirements, demonstrated by cash flow forecasts produced by the CFO.

Whilst the above strategy may exceed the maximum amount protected under the bank guarantee scheme, the risk to the Trust is considered to be minimal.

4.2 Investment authorisation

The following people are authorised signatories:

- CEO
- CFO

Before funds are invested, the investment authorisation form must be signed by **both** signatories to indicate they agree to the investment.

4.3 Delegated investment limits

The following types of investments must be approved by the Trustees:

- Notice deposit accounts with a maximum notice period greater than 95 days
- Term deposit accounts with maximum term greater than 1 year
- Investments greater than **£150,000**.

5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The CFO will monitor the cash position and cash flow forecast **monthly** to determine investment opportunities
- The CFO and Accounting Officer will review investment returns **termly**
- The CFO will provide sufficient management information to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee so it can review and monitor investment performance

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on an annual basis.

Investment Policy Version 1 agreed by Finance, Audit and Risk Committee May 2026