



# VISION

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## Investment Policy

November 2025

**Date of Review:** October 2025  
**Approved by:** Trust Board  
**Next Review Date:** October 2027

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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The Trust’s funds are used only in accordance with the law, its Articles of Association, its funding agreement and the Academies Financial 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 [Academies Trust Handbook](#) states that academy trusts are required to have an investment policy to:

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

This policy is based on the Academies Trust Handbook and guidance from [The Charity Commission](#). This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

#### 3.1 Academy trustees

Academy 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 or contentious.

**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.

### **3.2 Finance, Audit, Risk and Resources Committee**

Trustees delegate responsibility for the trust's investments to the Finance, Audit, Resources and Risk Committee.

The committee is responsible for:

- Controlling and tracking financial exposure
- Reviewing the trust's investments
- Reporting to trustees on investments

### **3.3 The Chief Finance Officer**

The CFO is responsible for producing cash flow forecasts and for making decisions on investments. The CFO also provides information to the finance committee and academy trustees, as appropriate.

## **4. Investment principles**

We 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 12 months.

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.

## **5. Assessing liquidity needs**

The Trust should ensure that a sufficient balance must be held across accounts with instant access so that the Academy's financial commitments can be met without the risk of the Trust's current accounts going overdrawn. It should also allow enough flexibility to deal with reasonable, one off events should they occur.

The Trust's cash flow forecasts will dictate how much is available for investment and for how long. The cash flow forecasts should be reviewed quarterly or on maturity of fixed term deposits.

## **6. Investment Products**

The Trust is able to invest surplus funds in a mixture of interest bearing accounts and money market facilities (where the capital is not placed at risk) including:

- Overnight (instant access)
- Notice accounts (typically from 30-days to 100-days)
- Fixed term deposits (typically from 1-month to 12-months)
- Investments should not exceed 12-months in term.

In making investment decisions, the trust should also consider the conditions of access to funds including any charges or penalties from access at short notice or early termination.

## **7. investment decisions**

The CFO is responsible for producing reliable cash flow forecasts as a basis for decision making. The target closing balance level of the current account should be no less than £100k on a monthly basis. Anything greater than this then the CFO with authorisation from the CEO has been delegated responsibility to place surplus funds within easy access accounts up to a maximum of £85k. Where there is an expectation that the closing balance be less than £100k then the CFO has been delegated responsibility to draw from existing instant access accounts to make up the shortfall, prioritising those with lower returns.

For larger, long term deposits approval from the FARR committee must be sought.

Any concerns with investments should be referred to the Chair of the Trust immediately.

## **8. Monitoring arrangements**

The CFO monitors the implementation of this policy and will report on investments within each set of management accounts.

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the academy trustees every 2 years.

## **9. Links with other policies**

This investment policy links with our policies on

- Accounting
- Competitive tendering