EVERYONE MATTERS
SCHOOLS TRUST

Investment Policy

Everyone Matters Schools Trust
Central Policy

Policy Owner	CEO and Trustees
Scope of the Policy	Trustwide
Date of Policy	July 2026
Date of Review	July 2029

HEAD OFFICE
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1. AIMS

1.1 This policy aims to ensure that:

- Guidelines are established on how the Trust can invest funds surplus to day to day operational requirements and ensure that investment risk is properly and prudently managed
- The 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 (paragraph 2.22) 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

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 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 (ESFA) 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 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.

3.2 Finance, Audit & Risk committee

Academy trustees delegate responsibility for the trust's investments to the finance 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 financial officer (CFO)

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

4. INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

4.1 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 6 months unless agreed with Trustees.

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

4.3 Investments must be placed within a UK regulated institution which is protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in whole (or in part if the amount to be invested is over the FSCS limit of compensation). Only banks which have their HQ in the UK or EU are to be used and with good credit ratings.

4.4 In managing its cash balances, the Trust prioritises the security, liquidity, and availability of funds over yield or values-based investment considerations. Where appropriate, the Trust may use Department for Education–recommended cash management platforms, such as Insignis, to place deposits with UK-regulated banks and building societies. The use of such platforms constitutes treasury management rather than investment activity, as funds are held as cash in the Trust's name and are not exposed to capital markets.

4.5 This approach is considered ethically appropriate and defensible for a publicly funded charitable body, as it supports diversification of risk, protection of public funds, and the continuity of educational delivery for pupils, while remaining transparent, prudent, and aligned with public-sector expectations. The Trust explicitly recognises that the use of such platforms does not represent ESG or values-based investing; however, this is judged proportionate and appropriate for operational cash, where the Trust's primary ethical duty is the safeguarding of children's education, staff stability, and financial resilience.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 The following people are authorised signatories for investments:

- Alexandra Fairclough – Marsh – CFOO
- Ian Young – CEO

5.2 Before any funds are invested, the 2 authorised signatories will sign to indicate they agree to the investment. An investment authorisation form can be found in appendix 1.

5.3 The following information will be recorded about investments:

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

5.4 The CFOO will review interest rates and compare them with other investment opportunities annually.

5.5 Cash flow and current account balances will be monitored regularly by the CFOO to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments.

5.6 Investments will normally be for a fixed term that does not exceed 1 year unless there is a clear rationale for longer-term investment that would benefit the trust.

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

5.8 The Credit rating or Implied credit rating will be checked at the time of placing a deposit with a new bank.

6. LIQUIDITY NEEDS

6.1 The Trust will ensure that a sufficient balance be held across accounts with short term (Instant or easy access) so that the Trust financial commitments can be met

6.2 It should also allow enough flexibility to deal with reasonable, one off events should they occur

6.3 The Trust cashflow forecasts will dictate how much is available for investment and for how long

6.4 The cashflow forecasts will be reviewed monthly as part of the management accounts cycle and on maturity of fixed term deposits

7. INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

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

- Overnight (instant access/easy access)
- Notice accounts (typically 30 days to 100+ days)
- Fixed term deposits (typically from 1 month to 12 months)

8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

8.1 The CFOO will report investments held and the performance of investments against objectives to the finance committee. The reporting will include:

- Funds invested
- Maturity dates
- Interest rates
- Latest cash flows showing future liquidity requirements
- Recommendations for the next three months

9. MONITORING

9.1 The CFOO monitors the implementation of this policy

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

This investment policy links with our policies on:

- Competitive tendering

Appendix 1: investment authorisation form

DATE INVESTMENT MADE		DURATION OF INVESTMENT	
AMOUNT			
INTEREST RATE		EXPECTED RETURN	
DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT			
DETAILS OF WHERE THE INVESTMENT IS HELD			
SIGNATORY NAME PRINT		SIGNATORY NAME PRINT	
SIGNATURE		SIGNATURE	
DATE		DATE	