Special Partnership Trust

INVESTMENT POLICY

Date Last Reviewed: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

This policy will be reviewed annually and earlier if there are any changes to DfE guidance, the Academy Trust Handbook or the Trust's funding agreement requirements.

Investment Policy

Principles:

1.1 The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the Trust aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimize returns but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no tangible risk of the loss of these cash funds.

1.2 The board of trustees may invest to further its aims however they will ensure that the investment risk is responsibly managed.

Purposes:

2.1 To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover 'day to-day' working capital requirements

2.2 To ensure there is no tangible risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested

2.3 To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation

2.4 To optimise returns on invested funds

Guidelines:

3.1 Prior to investments the board will act within its powers to invest as described in its articles.
3.2 The Trust will ensure that all investment decisions comply with the current Academy Trust Handbook, the Trust's funding agreement and the principles of Managing Public Money. The Trust will only enter into investment arrangements where public funds are protected, risk is appropriately managed and any decision represents regularity, propriety and value for money.

3.2 Regular cash flows are to be prepared and monitored to ensure there are adequate liquid funds to meet all payroll related commitments and outstanding supply creditors that are due for payment.

3.3 Where the cash flow identifies a base level of cash funds that will be surplus to requirements these may be invested only in the following:

- Interest bearing deposit accounts with any UK-regulated banks/building societies
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- Treasury deposits, with maturity dates which do not result in the cash funds being unavailable for longer than 8 weeks

3.4 Periodically the CFO will review the interest rates being achieved and will compare with other investment opportunities that comply with the parameters of this policy.

3.5 The CFO will provide a statement on monies invested to the Resources & Estates Sub- Committee at their regular meetings.

3.6 The Board will review the investments and ensure that exposure to investment products is tightly controlled and within the risk appetite of the organisation.

4. Independent Financial Advice:

4.1 The CFO shall take independent financial advice for any fixed term investment for a period longer than six months in line with the Articles of Association and observe any guidance in the Academy Trust Handbook. In addition, these investments shall be restricted to ones that have a guaranteed return of capital rather than any equity-based investment. The Resources & Estates Sub-Committee shall approve any proposed investment options prior to any action being taken.