
drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

Investment Policy

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1. Trust Vision

'all pupils achieve the highest standard of educational outcomes regardless of circumstances or background.'

The Trust has been established through a shared belief that lives can be transformed by what goes on in schools. The Trust believes that the process of teaching and learning shapes futures. To this end the Trust's vision is to give every pupil learning experiences that excite them and give them the power to begin to shape their own lives.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 This Policy sets out the rules by which drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust invests its money, and explains the Trust's approach to this investment.

2.2 The Board of Trustees is given the freedom to invest to further the Trust's charitable aims, they must, however, ensure that investment risk is properly managed.

2.3 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 optimise returns, but ensuring the investment instrument are such that there is low risk to the loss of these cash funds.

3. What are the principles behind this Policy?

3.1 To ensure adequate working capital at all times.

3.2 To identify and manage the financial risks, including interest rate risk to enable the Trust to track exposure.

3.3 To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation.

3.4 To optimise returns on surplus cash balances for the benefit of the Trust's charitable aims and objectives.

3.5 To ensure value for money.

3.6 To take financial advice from qualified professionals as part of the decision-making process ensuring reasonable cost to deliver identifiable value for money.

3.7 To ensure that exposure to investment products is tightly controlled so that the security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

3.8 To ensure compliance with all banking mandates.

3.9 To ensure compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook, Trust Funding Agreement, Articles of Association, Companies Act (2006), Charities Act (2011), Companies (Trading Disclosure) Regs 2008 and the 7 principles of public life.

3.10 To develop and maintain strong, long-term relationships with the Trust's bankers.

4. Procedures

- 4.1** The Chief Financial Officer will regularly monitor Cash Flow and the individual Current Account balance to ensure that immediate financial commitments can be met.
- 4.2** The Chief Financial Officer must ensure that the Current Account does not become overdrawn.
- 4.3** The Chief Financial Officer will identify any funds surplus to the immediate and forthcoming cash requirements and transfer them to the money market which attracts a higher interest rate.
- 4.4** Any reserves that are being held for a longer period of time will be available for investment in a low-risk investment portfolio with banks authorised and monitored by the Financial Services Authority.
- 4.5** All investments will be made in accordance with the Trust Scheme of Delegation.

5. Ethical and appropriate investment

- 5.1** It is the intention of the Trust to invest in ways that are consistent with the values of the Trust.
- 5.2** The Trust will ensure that any bank or fund managers responsible for the Trusts investments are operating to socially responsible objectives consistent with those of the Trust.

6. Approved investments

- 6.1** Investments will only be made with organisations that meet the AA minimum rating.

7. Treasury reporting

- 7.1** An investment report will be presented at the Finance Committee meetings.

8. Policy review

- 8.1** This Policy will be monitored as part of the Trust's annual internal review and reviewed annually or as required by legislature changes.

9. Change Management

Monitoring and review:	Director of Finance (CFO) CEO Trust Board
Links:	GAG Pooling Policy Scheme of Delegation Financial Procedures Manual
Staff responsible:	Director of Finance (CFO) and CEO
Committee responsible:	Finance Committee
Date approved:	March 2023
Date reviewed:	March 2023
Next review:	March 2024
Signed off by Chair of Trust:	