

## Pooling Policy



Education is for improving lives and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Approved by the Board of Directors on: 24 May 2018

Review date: May 2020

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## 1. Introduction

Under the provisions in the Academies Financial Handbook, Community Academies Trust (CAT) Board of Directors are able to amalgamate a proportion of General Annual Grant (GAG) funding for all its academies to form one central fund. This fund can then be used to meet the normal running costs at any of its constituent academies within the trust. This is known as pooling.

This Policy allows the trust to operate pooling in very limited circumstances to enable schools within the trust which share a Local Governing Body (LGB) or Education Advisory Board (EAB) to adjust the allocated GAG budget between the schools on an annual basis.

## 2. Policy

- This Policy only applies to schools within the trust that share a single governing body (LGB or EAB).
- The governing body may request that the Board allow the schools operated by the governing body to transfer a GAG budget from one school to another.
- The request **must** be formally approved and minuted at the meeting of the governing body in the summer term when the governing body proposes the school budgets for the following academic year and must go forward to the Board of Directors along with the school budgets.
- The Board of Directors **must** approve or reject the request at the meeting in the summer term when the trust budget is approved for the following year. The outcome of the board meeting will be reported to the governing body as soon as is practical after the meeting.
- If pooling is approved an amount of GAG will be transferred between schools operated by the governing body to create a budget for the academic year on the trust's finance system.
- No further transfers between schools will be made after the budgets are set.
- Reported reserves remain with the schools and reserves cannot be pooled.
- The headteacher or executive headteacher of an affected school has the right to appeal directly to the Board of Directors in writing if they feel their school has been treated unfairly by the proposed pooling. Such an appeal will be considered alongside the proposed pooling.
- Should the headteacher or executive headteacher still feel their school has been unfairly treated by the CAT Board of Directors they have the right to appeal directly to the Secretary of State. The decision of the Secretary of State is final.

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