

Pooling Policy



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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on: 8th December 2021

Review date: December 2023

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Schools with shared governance.....	3

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1. Introduction

Under the provisions in the Academies Financial Handbook, Community Academies Trust (CAT) Board of Trustees 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 the following limited circumstances:

- to enable schools within the trust which share a Local SSC (LGB) or Education Advisory Board (EAB) to adjust the allocated GAG budget between the schools on an annual basis.

2. Schools with shared governance

- This Policy only applies to schools within the trust that share a single SSC or EAB
- The SSC may request that the Board allow the schools operated by the SSC to transfer a GAG budget from one school to another.
- The request **must** be formally approved and minuted at the meeting of the SSC in the summer term when the SSC proposes the school budgets for the following academic year and must go forward to the Board of Trustees along with the school budgets.
- The Board of Trustees **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 SSC as soon as is practical after the meeting.
- If pooling is approved an amount of GAG will be transferred between schools operated by the SSC 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 Trustees 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 Trustees 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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