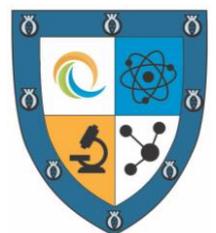




**INVESTMENT POLICY FOR
SCHOOLS WITHIN QUEST**

Company number 09306360

**St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley
Hindley Green Community Primary School
St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Hindley Green
St. John's C. of E. Primary School, Abram
University Collegiate School, Bolton**



May 2021

Review date May 2022

INVESTMENT POLICY

Introduction

Academies are able to make investments and these investments can be a good source of funding, but can also expose Academies to risks.

A financial investment is when an investment is made to get the best financial return within the level of risk considered to be acceptable. The Charity Commission (2011) and The Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 advises that trustees have several legal responsibilities when making financial investments.

They must:

- Know and act within their Academy Trust's powers to invest.
- Exercise care and skills when making investment decisions.
- Select investments that are right for the Academy Trust. This means taking account of:
 - How suitable any investment is for the Academy Trust
 - The need to diversify investments.
- Take advice from someone experienced in investment matters unless they have good reason for not doing so.
- Follow certain legal requirements if they are going to use someone to manage investments on their behalf.
- Review investments periodically.
- Explain their investment policy in their annual report

Trustees must be clear about what they aim to achieve through financial investment. They must consider exactly what they want to do, how they intend to do it and what the timescale will be. They must also consider the Academy Trust's long and short term financial commitments as well as its expected income.

At QUEST we are careful with the public money we are entrusted with.

We will carefully invest any money that is not required to cover anticipated expenditure and take steps to manage the risk associated with financial investments.

Objectives and Targets

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any surplus funds are invested well so that they achieve the best financial returns with the minimum risk. Good financial returns mean that more money can be spent on educating pupils.

Risk

A certain degree of risk is associated with all investments so trustees must do all they can to manage risk levels. Before any investment decisions are made, trustees must consider the level of risk they are able to accept. They must be satisfied that the overall level of risk they are taking is appropriate for the Academy Trust. Losses may result in a low return on an investment, or the complete loss of all money invested. If this occurs, trustees should review their approach to risk and take the opportunity to learn from their experiences.

Action Plan

Adequate cash balances must be maintained to ensure that there are always sufficient funds in the Trust's current account to cover financial commitments such as payroll and day-to-day expenses. If there is a surplus of funds after all financial commitments have been considered, this surplus will be invested.

Funds should be invested in tranches of up to £25,000 and after agreement from the Resources Committee. It may be beneficial to invest with a different financial institution ensuring ethically appropriate groups/funds. Funds, and any interest they earn, will be automatically reinvested, unless they are required for immediate or anticipated expenditure.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Chief Operating & Finance Officer will compare alternative investment opportunities regularly to ensure that the Trust's fund achieve the best interest rates.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operating & Finance Officer are responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to.

Reviewing

The CEO and trustees will carry out a review of this policy on a regular basis to ensure that any new or change in legislation is adhered to.

References

QUEST has used a template from CEFM who acknowledge the *Charity Commission's Charities and Investment Matters: A Guide for Trustees* documents in the production of this policy:

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/library/guidance/cc14text.pdf>

This policy was presented to and approved by Directors during the Summer Term 2021.

Signed

B. Anthon

Chair of Directors