

Corvus Learning Trust

Policy Documentation

Name of Organisation	Corvus Learning Trust
Name of policy	Central Funding and Appeals Policy
Status of policy	
Consultation	This policy has been developed following a process of consultation with: The Chief Business and Finance Officer - CBFO The Chief Executive Officer - CEO School Business Managers – SBM Headteachers The Board of Trustees The Local Governing Body - LGB

Relationship with other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Additional School/Trust Supporting Documents

Whilst Corvus Learning Trust will be looking to align all policies we do wish to ensure there is an opportunity for Local Governing Bodies to retain some flexibility in order to respond to any identified school need. Should this be the case this will be included as a separate appendix to this document. This is included as Appendix * delete as appropriate

Date policy was agreed by Trustees **05th February 2019**

Date policy was agreed by LGB

Date for review by Trustees **February 2020**

1. Introduction

The Academies Financial Handbook states that a multi academy trust (MAT) has the freedom to amalgamate a proportion of General Annual Grant (GAG) funding from all its schools to form one central fund. This fund can then be used to meet the normal running costs at any of its constituent schools within the Trust. The collection of a percentage of individual school GAG funding for a MAT's central fund is sometimes referred to as 'top slice'.

The Academies Financial Handbook also states that if a constituent school feels that it has been unfairly treated, they should appeal to the Trust. If the school's grievance is not resolved, then they can appeal to The Secretary of State, via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), whose decision is final and who can dis-apply the provisions for pooling.

2. Objectives

The Trust's Funding and Appeals Policy sets out:

- The Trust's approach to the Central Funding Pool which is applicable to all schools within the Trust.
- The appeals procedure for any school that feels they are being treated unfairly by the Central Funds Process.

3. Trust Funding Percentage from Schools

3.1 Each year the Trust will retain **4%** of the GAG funding for each constituent school **excluding** funds allocated specifically for:-

Pupil Premium Funding
Year 7 Catch Up Funding
PE Sports Grants
Nursery Funding
Universal Free School Meals Funding
Deprivation Funding
Looked - after children
Summer School Funding
Top-up funding for SEN
Additional Educational Needs (AEN) funding (e.g. low prior attainment, English a additional language etc).
Income generated by individual schools (donations, trips, lettings etc)
Other non GAG government funding
Rates Relief

3.2 The Trust will give consideration to the funding needs and allocations of each constituent school.

There is an appeals process which is described within this policy document for schools who feel they have been unfairly treated by the allocation of the Trust's top slice.

4. Use of Central Funds

4.1 The top slice will be used to fund the following expenditure on behalf of the schools – this list is non exhaustive:-

- Trust Central Office and support
- Audit and accountancy fees
- Pension re-valuation fees
- Central school improvement support (also known as ‘Interventions’)
- Trust approved conferences and events for schools and LGBs
- Finance management system Software (PS Financials)
- HR and payroll services
- Fixed Assets System (Parago) first year cost
- Centralised services
- Legal advisory fees
- Trust Main Board and Committee Clerking Service
- Teachers’ pension returns
- Maternity costs for all relevant teaching staff within the Trust

The Trustees reserve the right to update the areas of expenditure on an annual basis. Where appropriate the top slice may be adjusted to reflect any increases in costs or increases in the service to be provided directly by the Trust, or as a result of cost-savings generated through streamlining of back-office functions. This will be with the approval of the schools.

5. Appeals

The Trust’s Appeals process is:

- Constituent schools have 10 working days from the issuing of a settlement statement to appeal to the CBFO and CEO in writing.
- The CBFO and the CEO will consider the appeal and notify the school within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal.
- If the school remains dissatisfied with the outcome they should appeal in writing directly to the Chair of the Trustees.
- The Trustees will consider the appeal and notify the school within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal.
- If the school remains dissatisfied with the outcome they should appeal in writing directly to the Secretary of State via the ESFA. The Secretary of State’s decision is final.