THE PAINSLEY CATHOLIC ACADEMY

POOLED FUNDING AND APPEALS POLICY

Date of policy: 20th June 2019

Review date: June 2020
1. Pooled Funding

1.1 The Academies Finance Handbook, 2018 states in section 3.7.2 that;

“a MAT has freedom to amalgamate a proportion of GAG for 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. In accordance with its funding agreement a MAT must not pool PFI funding.”

1.2 The collection of a percentage of individual academies’ GAG funding for a MAT’s central fund is sometimes referred to as ‘top-slicing’.

1.3 For the financial year 2019/20 The Painsley catholic Academy will only retain a percentage of GAG funding. There is an appeals mechanism which is described within this policy document for academies who may feel that they are being treated unfairly by the Trust.

1.4 A statement will be issued as part of the Central Services Service Level Agreement no later than 31st August for the next academy year detailing the funds to be retained/charged on a monthly basis. The schools within the MAC will have a period of 10 working days to appeal.

1.5 The retained funding will be used to fund the following expenditure on behalf of the schools within the MAC:

- External auditor fees
- Internal auditor fees
- MAC Accountancy - monthly and annual accounts including consolidation
- VAT support costs
- HR Consultants/Advisory – Insight HR
- Compliance support costs – GDPR and website compliance checks
- Marketing support
- MAC ICT network/procurement support
Payroll costs – Stoke payroll (Painsley South) and Carval (Painsley North),
Salary modellers
ESFA financial statutory returns
HMRC Returns
Corporation Tax returns
Teaching Schools and Maths Hub Annex G statutory returns
PS Financials finance package, ongoing training, licences, annual maintenance and upgrades
HCSS ‘Read’ only licence for 19/20
Trust salaries including: CEO, CFO, partial funding towards 2 x DCEOs, central finance team
MAC English Lead and MAC maths Lead

1.6 The MAC reserves the right to review, consult on and amend this policy on an annual basis in preparation for each new financial year. Where appropriate, a fixed percentage top-slice may be introduced and this top-slice may be adjusted to reflect the costs relating to that financial year, the increasing of services provided directly by the MAC or cost savings generated through streamlining of back-office functions.

2. Appeals

2.1 The Academies Financial Handbook, 2019 states:

“The MAT must consider the funding needs and allocations of each constituent academy, and must have an appeals mechanism. If a constituent academy’s principal feels that the academy has been unfairly treated, they should appeal to the trust. If the principal’s grievance is not resolved, they can appeal to the Secretary of State, via ESFA, whose decision will be final and who can dis-apply the provisions for pooling.”

(Section 3.7.3)

2.2 The MAC’s appeals process is:
a) Schools within the MAC have 10 working days from the issuing of a settlement statement from the MAC to the academy to appeal

b) Appeals should be made in writing directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will liaise with Directors (Diocesan Scheme of Delegation May 2019 section 7.8).

c) The CEO and the Resources committee will consider the appeal and notify the academy of their decision within 10 working days of receipt of the written appeal.