



Medway Anglican Schools Trust Pooling Policy and Appeals Process.

Medway Anglican Schools Trust (MAST) has a policy (as allowed by the DfE Academies Financial Handbook see extract below) of pooling (known colloquially as top slicing) a proportion of the General Annual Grant (GAG) and retaining this in the central MAST bank account to pay for staffing, services and projects which will benefit academies in the MAT.

3.10.4 Pooling of GAG by multi-academy trusts

3.10.5 A multi-academy trust has the freedom to amalgamate a proportion of 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. In accordance with its funding agreement a multi-academy trust must not pool PFI funding.

3.10.6 The multi-academy trust must give individual consideration to the funding needs and allocations of each constituent academy, and must have an appeals mechanism in place. If a constituent academy's principal feels that the academy has been unfairly treated, they should first appeal to the trust. If the academy principal's grievance is not resolved, they can then appeal to the Secretary of State, via EFA, whose decision will be final and who can dis-apply the provisions for pooling in this handbook in relation to the multi-academy trust.

The proportion pooled at the centre for the first year of operation (September 2015 – August 2016) was determined by the MAST working party in advance of conversion and confirmed at the first Board meeting. For the first year of operation the pooling was the equivalent of the ESG element of each schools GAG.

The proportion of the GAG pooled at the centre will be decided by the Board having considered both the financial position of each individual academy, including draft forecast budgets, and the funding needed to address strategic priorities during the next year and meet statutory requirements for multi-academy trusts. This will be notified in writing to the local governing body before the date for submission of forecast budgets for the next financial year. The pooled amount will be collected from the monthly EFA funding to each academy once salaries, pensions, national insurance and taxes have been paid.

If necessary, the proportion pooled at the centre from the individual academy GAG may vary across the Trust.

Appeals Process:

Should an individual academy feel that they have been unfairly treated, they should put their concerns in writing to the Board of Directors, giving reasons for their concerns and including financial reports to show the impact of pooling on their budget and planned provision.

The appeal should be sent to Directors by 1 July so that the Board can meet to consider the appeal before the end of the summer term.

The decision of the Board will be communicated to the LGB in writing by the 31 July. This will facilitate budget planning for the year commencing 1 September.

Should the Academy feel that their concerns remain unresolved they should notify the Board in writing of their intention to appeal to the Secretary of State via EFA and then follow the processes laid out by EFA for such an appeal.

