



The
Boleyn
Trust

Central Funding and Appeals Policy

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1. POLICY STATUS AND REVIEW

Policy Owner:	Chief Finance and Operating Officer
Policy Author:	Chief Finance and Operating Officer
Approver:	Board of Trustees
Last Review:	August 2023
New Review:	August 2025
Ratified:	September 2023

The Board of Trustees has agreed to this Policy and, as such, it applies to all Boleyn Trust entities. Please note that should any further national guidance be issued by external agencies that are relevant to this policy, it will be updated accordingly prior to the review date shown below and re-circulated.

Please Note:

Boleyn Trust CEO and Accounting Officer: Tom Canning CBE
Boleyn Trust Chief Finance and Operating Officer: Steven Lock

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Chair of the Board of Trustees

2. RATIONALE

The Academies Trust Handbook makes clear that a Multi-Academy Trust has the freedom to amalgamate a proportion of general annual grant (GAG) funding from all its academies to form one central fund to be used to meet the normal running costs at any of its constituent academies within the trust. Whilst this is often referred to as 'top-slicing', the Boleyn Trust call this our Central Support Fund.

The Department for Education currently recommend a top slice of between 4 and 10%. The Boleyn Trust will retain 5% of constituent academies GAG funding excluding:

- Pupil Premium Funding
- Year 7 Catch Up funding
- Any academy specific sports grants
- Universal Free School Meals Funding
- Other non-GAG Government Funding
- Top-Up Funding for special educational needs (SEN)- or Additional Educational Needs funding (AEN) in mainstream academies
- Other income generated by individual schools

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board seek to ensure that transparency, prudence and fairness underpin its planning in welcoming new partner schools. The Boleyn Trust will consider the funding needs and allocations of each constituent school.

There is an appeals mechanism which is described within this policy document for schools who may feel that they are being treated unfairly by the Boleyn Trust Central Support Fund.

A statement will be issued to constituent academies no later than 31 August for the next academy year detailing the funds to be retained by the Boleyn Trust. The constituent schools will have a period of 10 working days to appeal.

The Central Support Fund will be used to support the Trust's strategy and implementation for school improvement and growth.

Outside of the Central Support Fund, the trust will work collaboratively and use its purchasing power on those high-value purchases/services to ensure that we provide best value for taxpayers and ensure we target as much money to front-line children.

The Boleyn Trust reserves the right to amend this policy on an annual basis at the beginning of each financial year. Where appropriate the Central Support Fund may be adjusted to reflect the costs relating to that financial year, the increasing services provided directly by the Boleyn Trust or cost savings generated through streamlining of back-office functions. The Central Support Fund will be kept under regular review by the Central Operations Team. As the Trust's work develops recommendations from the Central Operations Team will be considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

GAG Pooling

GAG pooling can help to alleviate financial pressures within individual schools during periods of fluctuating income and expenditure.

The Boleyn Trust reserves the right to review the relative benefits of introducing a pooling policy on an annual basis at the beginning of each financial year. The Headteacher Board will be fully consulted before a proposal is put to the Board. If implemented, where appropriate pooling may be adjusted to reflect the costs incurred in the previous financial year.

Appeals

The Academies' Financial Handbook states:

"If a constituent academy's principal feels that the academy has been unfairly treated, they should first appeal to the trust. If the academy's principal grievance is not resolved, they can then appeal to the Secretary of State, via the ESFA, whose decision is final and who can disapply the provisions for pooling" (Section 3.10.6)

The Boleyn Trust appeals process is:

- The constituent schools have 10 working days from the issuing of a Boleyn Trust settlement statement from the Boleyn Trust Chief Finance Officer to the school to appeal.
- Appeals should be made in writing directly to the Chief Executive officer.
- The Chief Executive Officer will consider the appeal and notify the school of her/his decision within 10 working days of receipt of the written appeal.
- An appeal will be heard by the Board of Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees discussion is final.