Summary statement of academy trusts' financial arrangements – Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Introduction

This summary statement outlines how some of the funds are distributed across academies within Fylde Coast Academy Trust.

The information provided matches that as set out in our annual accounts for the year to 31st August 2026, which provides further details and can be found on the trust website https://fcat.org.uk/

Theme 1: trust overview

Details about the trust and our academies can be found on Get Information About Schools.

Statement authorised by – Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Jane McCumiskey

Theme 2: financial operating model

Financial operating models are decided by academy trustees with input from academy leaders.

Fylde Coast Academy Trust's model is explained in the following table.

Financial operating model (derived from note 11 in AAD model accounts academy GAG statements)
Fylde Coast Academy Trust funds its central services and staff through a top slice on academy income of 5.25% of GAG. Unspent funds at year end are retained by the individual academy but may be ring fenced for meeting specific strategic objectives in the following financial year. Top slicing GAG allows the trust to fund centralised administrative support for schools so that school-level budgets can be used wholly for the provision of education. This aligns with the trust strategy that academy leaders are best placed to understand the needs of their settings, with central oversight aimed at sharing best practice across our academies. Where a project or initiative would benefit the whole trust, we maintain a central fund to finance trust-wide initiatives, procuring them centrally rather than at each of our academies individually to ensure maximum value for money.

Theme 3 – central services

Academy trusts can operate central services that support all of the academies in their trust.

We have outlined our central services and charging basis in the following table:

Central services (derived from note 11 in AAD model accounts)
The trust provides the following central services to its academies through a top slice charge of 5.25% of GAG to each academy: ● School Improvement support - CEO, Director of Education, subject specialist leads, and intervention support. ● Financial services - CFO, specialist advice, internal and external audit services, treasury management, and procurement support. ● HR support - complex casework management, specialist advice, policy development. ● IT support - strategic planning, infrastructure support, cybersecurity management, and hardware procurement. ● Payroll services ● Estates & Health & safety - compliance auditing, capital funding (SCA), premises management, and H&S support. ● Governance and compliance - Data Protection Officer (DPO), GDPR support, clerks to the board and local governance committees, and legal services. ● Communications - media relations, marketing, design, and website management.

Theme 4 – expenditure by academy

We have provided the following information on income and expenditure by academy, including the amount spent on central services to support all of our academies.

Expenditure by academy

The following table shows the total DfE revenue income for each academy, split by GAG and other income. It then shows the actual amount charged as a top slice to fund central services and the total expenditure for each academy.

-	**Funding received from DfE**	**Funding received from DfE**	-	-
School	Total GAG received	Total other DfE grants (*1)	Amount taken as top slice to fund central services	Total expenditure
Armfield Academy	£7,977,000	£943,000	£432,000	£10,001,000
Blackpool Aspire Academy	£6,986,000	£808,000	£378,000	£8,037,000
Blackpool Gateway Academy	£2,147,000	£442,000	£117,000	£2,611,000
Garstang Community Academy	£5,330,000	£339,000	£288,000	£5,840,000
Hambleton Primary Academy	£1,070,000	£141,000	£58,000	£1,428,000
Mereside Primary Academy	£1,658,000	£376,000	£90,000	£2,216,000
Montgomery Academy	£8,568,000	£749,000	£463,000	£10,182,000
Unity Academy	£6,931,000	£1,039,000	£376,000	£8,560,000
Westcliff Primary Academy	£1,115,000	£166,000	£61,000	£1,630,000
Westminster Primary Academy	£2,619,000	£570,000	£143,000	£3,449,000
Central Services	Nil	Nil	Nil	£2,539,000
Total	£44,401,000	£5,573,000	£2,406,000	£56,493,000

*1: Includes universal infant free school meals and Pupil Premium funding.

*2: Central services do not receive direct DfE income – the total top slice figure represents incoming resources for central costs. Unspent top slice funds go into the central reserves to support trust-wide improvement projects.