Omega Multi-Academy Trust – Risk Appetite Statement (2025-26)

Introduction

Omega Multi-Academy Trust (the Trust) recognises that risk is inherent in all its activities and is committed to managing risk in a proactive, structured, and consistent manner. This Risk Appetite Statement defines the level and types of risk the Trust is willing to accept in pursuit of its strategic objectives, as outlined in the Risk Management Policy and evidenced in the Trust's Strategic Risk Register.

Purpose

This statement supports informed decision-making by providing a framework for evaluating risks and aligning them with the Trust's values, strategic goals, and capacity to manage risk. It ensures that risk-taking is balanced, transparent, and aligned with the Trust's commitment to delivering high-quality education and safeguarding its stakeholders.

Overall Risk Appetite

The Trust has a moderate overall risk appetite. It is willing to accept a degree of risk in pursuit of innovation, school improvement, and operational efficiency, provided that the risks are well understood, appropriately mitigated, and do not compromise the safety, compliance, or financial sustainability of the Trust.

Risk Appetite by Category

Risk Category	Appetite Level	Rationale
Health & Safety	Low	The Trust has zero tolerance for risks that could endanger the health, safety, or wellbeing of students, staff, or visitors. All incidents must be prevented through robust controls, training, and compliance with statutory requirements.
Safeguarding	Low	The Trust maintains a very low appetite for any risk that could compromise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable individuals. All safeguarding risks must be rigorously assessed and mitigated.
Financial Control & Reporting	Low to Moderate	The Trust accepts minimal risk in relation to financial mismanagement or fraud. However, it is open to investing in systems and processes that improve efficiency, provided robust controls are in place.
Strategic & Business Planning	Moderate	The Trust is open to taking calculated risks to achieve strategic growth, improve educational outcomes, and innovate in service delivery. These risks must be supported by strong governance and performance monitoring.

People (Recruitment & Retention)	Moderate	The Trust recognises the importance of attracting and retaining skilled staff and is willing to take moderate risks in recruitment strategies, workforce planning, and professional development initiatives.
IT & Cybersecurity	Low	Given the increasing threat of cyberattacks, the Trust has a low appetite for risks in this area. It prioritises investment in cybersecurity infrastructure, training, and incident response.
Brand & Reputation	Low to Moderate	The Trust is cautious about reputational risks but acknowledges that some exposure is inevitable in the pursuit of transparency, stakeholder engagement, and change management.
Governance & Compliance	Low	The Trust has a low appetite for non-compliance with legal, regulatory, or governance standards. All statutory obligations must be met without exception.
Educational Outcomes	Moderate	The Trust is prepared to take measured risks to improve student outcomes, including piloting new teaching methods or interventions, provided these are evidence-based and monitored.

Application and Review

This Risk Appetite Statement is to be used by Trustees, Executive Leaders, and Local Governing Bodies when evaluating strategic decisions, operational plans, and risk mitigation strategies. It will be reviewed annually by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees to ensure it remains aligned with the Trust's evolving priorities and external environment.

Review date is October 2026.