



**SANCTA  
FAMILIA**

CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Investment Policy

Policy Owner:	CFO
Review Cycle:	Annually
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Date of next review:	September 2026

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## Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The trust's funds are used only in accordance with the law, its articles of association, its funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook.
- The trust's funds are used in a way that commands broad public support.
- Value for money (economy, efficiency and effectiveness) is achieved.
- Directors fulfil their duties and responsibilities as charitable trustees and company directors.

## Legislation and Guidance

The [Academy Trust Handbook](#) (paragraph 2.22) states that academy trusts are required to have an investment policy to:

- Manage and track their financial exposure.
- Ensure value for money.

This policy is based on the Academy Trust Handbook and guidance from [The Charity Commission](#).

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Academy Directors

Academy Directors will ensure that investment risk is properly managed. When considering whether to make an investment, Directors will:

- Act within their powers to invest, as set out in our articles of association.
- Exercise caution in all investments, reducing risk and ensuring that the trust acts with the utmost integrity.
- Take investment advice from a professional adviser, as appropriate.
- Ensure that exposure to investment products is tightly controlled so security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation.
- Ensure that all investment decisions are in the best interests of the trust and command broad public support.

Directors will seek prior approval from the Department for Education (DfE) for investment transactions that are novel, contentious or repercussive.

**Novel transactions** are those of which the academy trust has no experience or are outside the range of normal business activity for the trust.

**Contentious transactions** are those which might give rise to criticism of trust by parliament, the public, or the media.

**Repercussive transactions** are those likely to cause pressure on other trusts to take a similar approach and hence have wider financial implications.

### **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR)**

Academy trustees delegate responsibility for the trust's investments to the FAR.

The committee is responsible for:

- Controlling and tracking financial exposure
- Reviewing the trust's investments
- Reporting to trustees on investments

### **The Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**

The CFO is responsible for producing cash flow forecasts and for making decisions on investments. The CFO also provides information to the finance committee and Directors, as appropriate.

## **Investment principles**

We only invest funds in low risk and easily accessible accounts. Funds will be placed in bank accounts with a withdrawal notice of no more than 6 months.

Risk is managed through diversification of investments, ensuring that the security of funds takes precedence over revenue maximisation.

Funds will only be placed with banking institutions that are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and with good credit ratings.

## **Procedures**

The following people are authorised signatories:

- Elaine Jones - Director
- Michael Holman - Director
- Paul O'Donnell - Director

Before any funds are invested, two authorised signatories will sign to indicate they agree to the investment and the investment will be minuted.

The CFO will review interest rates and compare them with other investment opportunities annually.

Cash flow and current account balances will be monitored regularly by the CFO to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met and that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments.

When there are funds surplus to immediate cash requirements in the current account, we will transfer these to an account with a higher interest rate.

Investments will normally be for a fixed term that does not exceed 1 year unless there is a clear rationale for longer-term investment that would benefit the trust.

Funds, and any interest earned on those funds, will be automatically reinvested unless money is required for immediate or anticipated expenditure.

## Monitoring arrangements

The CFO monitors the implementation of this policy.

## Links with other policies

This investment policy links with our policies on:

- Finance Policy
- Competitive tendering



# **SANCTA FAMILIA**

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Website: [www.sanctafamilia.co.uk](http://www.sanctafamilia.co.uk)

Email: [info@sanctafamilia.co.uk](mailto:info@sanctafamilia.co.uk)

Registered in England, Company Number: 15116317

UID: 17728

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