



**Twyford**  
**C of E**  
Academies Trust

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Voluntary Funds Policy</b>
<b>Committee Responsible for Policy</b>	<b>Resources Committee/Student Committees</b>
<b>Review Frequency</b>	<b>Every three years</b>
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>November 2023</b>
<b>Next Review Due</b>	<b>November 2026</b>
<b>Policy Author</b>	<b>Director of Finance &amp; Operations</b>

## Assessment of the Impact of a Policy on Equality & Diversity

<b>Policy:</b> Voluntary Funds Policy	
<b>Impact assessed by:</b> R Lane	<b>Date:</b> 3/11/2023
<p><b>1. What is the potential for this policy impacting a person or group with a protected characteristic differently (favourably or unfavourably) from everyone else?</b></p> <p>Limited potential. Funds may be used on projects which do not benefit pupils from protected groups.</p>	
<p><b>2. How would this be evidenced?</b></p> <p>Through a review of projects funded from voluntary funds.</p>	
<p><b>3. Is there evidence that the operation of the current policy might impact a person or group with a protected characteristic differently from everyone else?</b></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><b>4. If the answer to 3 is 'Yes', please provide details and evidence.</b></p>	
<p><b>5. How might the new policy change this?</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Are there any other changes to the policy which might impact a group with a protected characteristic differently from everyone else?</b></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><b>7. If the answer to 6 is 'Yes', please provide details and evidence.</b></p>	
<p><b>8. Policies are required to reduce or eliminate inequality and disadvantage and promote diversity. Does this assessment indicate that the Policy passes or fails this test?</b></p> <p>Pass</p>	

## Voluntary Funds Policy

### **1 Background**

Trust schools invite parents to make voluntary donations to funds which are held and accounted for separately from government funding and other sources of income. These funds are an important means by which parents can contribute to the education of their children and other pupils in their school.

The funds held for parental donations are known as the 'School Fund'.

### **2 Priorities and Restrictions on the Use of Funds**

Directors have decided that these funds should be applied at the discretion of the local governing body – with the additional approval of the Board for larger projects (see below).

The only formal restrictions are that funds should only be spent for the benefit of pupils in the school concerned.

Directors have stated that priority will be given to projects which add to basic, state-funded provision. Flag-ship projects, possibly in partnership with industry sponsors and/or involving match funding will be favoured.

### **3 Project Proposal and Approval Process**

The Master List of Delegated Powers and Responsibilities states that the relevant local governing body is empowered to approve expenditure up to £10,000 and that the Board of Directors approves expenditure above this limit.

Proposals should be submitted on the attached form (appendix A) – with the agreement of the Headteacher/Associate Headteacher of the school – to the Local Governing Body for approval. Projects costing more than £10,000 should then be submitted to the Board of Directors.

### **4 Refunds of Donations**

To maintain the reputation of the funds, it is important that parents and other donors feel in control of their donations. Since most donations are made by standing order, donors sometimes continue to donate after the child has left the school and then request a refund. It is the Trust's policy to make it clear to donors that it is their responsibility to cancel standing orders when they wish to stop donating – but to provide a refund back to the date when the last child left the school or six months (whichever is the shorter period). Parents of children leaving the school will be routinely reminded to cancel standing orders.

The attached letter (Appendix B) should be used when responding to refund requests.

## Appendix A



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### Use of Voluntary Funds Proposal and Authorisation Form

Fund: Twyford Governors' Fund\* / William Perkin School Fund /  
Ealing Fields School Fund / Ada Lovelace School Fund

Name of the project: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount requested – excluding VAT: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Proposal prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

With the support of the Headteacher/Associate Headteacher:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Outline of the proposed project:** (attach further details as required. Include details of benefits to pupils and explain how the project meets fund priorities.)

Approval of the Local Governing Body:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of the Board of Directors:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

Recipient  
Address 1  
Address 2  
Town/City  
Postcode

Date

Dear

### **Re: Request for Refund of Donations**

Thank you for your recent [letter/email/phone call] requesting a refund of donations of £xxxx made since your child left the school in [month/year].

A. I am pleased to confirm that your request falls within our policy on refunds and enclose a cheque for £xxxx.

B. I regret that your request falls outside our policy on refunds which provides for donations made within the last 6 months or since your last child left the school (whichever period is shorter) to be reimbursed. I therefore attach a cheque for £xxxx representing a refund of donations as provided for in this policy.

Please note that we are unable to cancel or alter standing orders on your behalf so you will need to contact your bank if you wish to do this.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lane  
**Director of Finance & Operations**