



The Park Federation Academy Trust

**Board of Directors Financial
Delegation Statement**

2021

Version History

| Version | Date | Status and Purpose | Changes overview |
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| 1 | 19 January 2013 | Draft for comment | |
| 2 | 08 July 2013 | Final | |
| 3 | 21 June 2016 | Periodic review | |
| 4 | July 2020 | Periodic review | |
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Approval

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| Signed by CEO and Federation Principal on behalf of the Board of Directors |  Dr. Martin Young |
| Date of approval | 15 th July 2021 |
| Date of review | July 2022 |

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SECTION 1: DELEGATION STATEMENT

As at 19th January 2013, The Park Federation Academy Trust formally appointed the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Martin Young as Accounting Officer.

The Board of Directors formally delegated the day to day financial management of the budget and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer to the Chief Executive Officer of The Park Federation Academy Trust.

In accordance with the current Academies Financial Handbook the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer are listed below:

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER

The Accounting Officer (Chief Executive Officer) has responsibility, under the board of the Multi Academy Trust's (MAT) guidance, for the overall organisation, management, and staffing and for its procedures in financial and other matters, including conduct and discipline.

The Accounting Officer is personally responsible to Parliament and to the accounting officer of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the resources under their control. The essence of the role is a personal responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which they are answerable; for the keeping of proper accounts; for prudent and economical administration; for the avoidance of waste and extravagance; for ensuring value for money; and for the efficient and effective use of all the resources in their charge. Essentially accounting officers must be able to assure Parliament and the public of high standards of probity in the management of public funds.

The Accounting Officer must advise the board of directors in writing if, at any time, in his or her opinion, any action or policy under consideration by the governing body is incompatible with the terms of the Academies Financial Handbook. Similarly, the Accounting Officer must advise the board in writing if the board appears to be failing to act where required to do so by the terms and conditions of the Academies Financial Handbook.

Where the board of directors is minded to proceed, despite the advice of the Accounting Officer, the accounting officer must consider the reasons the board gives for its decision. If, after considering the reasons given by the board, the accounting officer still considers that the action proposed by the board is in breach of the Handbook or FA, the accounting officer must advise in writing the ESFA's accounting officer of the position.

More detailed guidance on the role of an accounting officer is set out in Chapter 3 of HM Treasury's Managing Public Money. HM Treasury's handbook, Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money describes what these concepts mean in a financial context.

(The ESFA's accounting officer will send a letter annually to all MAT accounting officers, with updates for new Accounting Officers, setting out their key responsibilities and highlighting any changes from previous years.)

The MAT accounting officer, under the guidance of the board, must ensure that there is appropriate oversight of financial transactions. In doing so, they must:

- ensure that bank accounts, financial systems and financial records are operated by more than one person;
- ensure that all the MAT's property is under the control of the directors, and that measures are in place to prevent losses or misuse;
- keep full and accurate accounting records; and
- prepare accruals accounts, giving a true and fair view of the MAT's incoming resources and application of resources during the year, and the state of affairs at the year-end, in accordance with existing accounting standards.

The Accounting Officer is personally responsible to the board, and through it to the Secretary of State and Parliament, for:

- ensuring regularity and propriety;
- ensuring prudent and economical administration;
- avoiding waste and extravagance;
- securing value for money through the efficient, effective and economic use of available resources; and
- the day to day organisation, staffing and management of the AT.

(Further guidance on these responsibilities is set out in HM Treasury's "Managing Public Money").

The accounting officer of the ESFA is required to provide assurance that the bodies that the ESFA funds on behalf of the Secretary of State are in sound financial health. For this reason, the MAT must submit to the ESFA a copy of that final budget in a form specified by the ESFA by a date to be notified.

The MAT's accounting officer is required to complete and sign a short statement each year explaining how the MAT has secured value for money. This should be completed as an annex to their annual accounting officer's statement (see below). Both the accounting officer's statement and its annex on value for money will form part of the annual report accompanying the MAT's accounts and so must be sent to the ESFA and published on the MAT's website.

Accounting Officer's Statement

An accounting officer's statement on governance, regularity, propriety and compliance must be included in the MAT's annual report. This is a formal declaration by the MAT's accounting officer that they have met their personal responsibilities to Parliament for the resources under their control during the year. It includes a responsibility to ensure that public money is spent for the purposes intended by Parliament (regularity) and a responsibility to ensure that appropriate standards of conduct, behaviour and corporate governance are maintained when applying the funds under their control (propriety), a responsibility to ensure good value for money and for the efficient and effective use of all the resources in their charge. The accounting officer also has a responsibility to advise the board of directors and the ESFA of any instances of irregularity or impropriety, or non-compliance with the terms of the MAT's funding agreement. The format of the statement is included within the Accounts Direction which is issued annually.

SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE DAY TO DAY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST BUDGET

The Chief Executive Officer will prepare and submit an annual Budget Plan to the Finance and Operations Committee for submission to the Board of Directors for approval during the Summer Term. If final budget funding notification from ESFA is awaited, a draft budget will be prepared for approval, to be adjusted in the new financial year.

The Chief Executive Officer will ensure that the end of year accounts are prepared, audited and submitted to the ESFA in accordance with ESFA notified timescales.

The Chief Executive Officer will prepare budget reports for the Finance and Operations Committee to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval termly. The budget reports submitted to the Finance and Operations Committee will include relevant system reports i.e. a cost centre group report or equivalent, a full bank reconciliation and cash flow statement. The Chief Executive Officer will monitor the expenditure under the control of the Board of Directors, producing appropriate financial reports to the Academy Councils and Board of Directors at least monthly including the following reports from the Finance Management Information System, Civica:

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| Report on Income by Type or equivalent Report on Expenditure by Type or equivalent Bank Balances Details of any proposed or agreed Virements Revenue and Capital reserves Cash flow |
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The Chief Executive Officer will prepare an annual 3 Year Strategic Financial Plan in line with the Academies Improvement Plan and reflecting the financial and resource consequences for each year including options, where appropriate, for consideration by the Finance and Operations Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer may undertake virements and budget revisions up to a value of £30,000 per academy which should be retrospectively reported to the Finance and Operations Committee. Should there be emergency requests relating to staff costs the Chief Executive may obtain the approval of the Chair of Finance and Operations until a Finance and Operations Committee meeting can be arranged.

Academy Principals may undertake virements and budget revisions up to a value of £5000.00 per academy which should be retrospectively reported to the Finance & Operations Committee.