



# **HOLY TRINITY**

## **Church of England Academy**

**Brockley Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 0TS**

### **RESERVES POLICY**

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY (SOUTH SHIELDS) TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

#### **Reserves policy**

The Academy holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds).

Unrestricted funds are held:

- To provide funds which can be designated to specific areas such as breakfast club.
- To cover ongoing costs in relation to the running of the Academy including catering provisions, school trips and uniform costs.

The level of reserves is reviewed by Governors regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the Academy is reviewed by the Governors on an annual basis.

This review encompasses

the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Governors therefore consider it is prudent to hold reserves in the general fund in the form of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserves) and unrestricted funds of £160,000.

As at 31 August 2025 the Academy holds available reserves of £390,000, comprising of restricted general funds

(excluding pension reserves) of £102,000 and unrestricted funds of £288,000. The Governors continue to consider additional activities related to the Academy's objectives to which the excess reserves may be applied including:

- Future capital expenditure projects- provision for two-year olds
- Uncertainty over future cost pressures
- Increased salary costs due to the number of children with significant SEND who are having to be educated in mainstream provision as no places are available in the specialist schools named on the EHCP.

#### **Investment policy**

The Academy invests surplus funds through money market accounts. Interest rates are reviewed prior to each investment. This policy maximises investment return whilst minimising risks to the principal sum.

#### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Academy considers all risks and since conversion Governors have begun to implement a system to assess risks that may impact the Academy both immediately and medium-term. Particular risks

identified are in relation to teaching, management of ICT security, AI, Cyber interference, Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Educational Visits and in relation to financial controls. To mitigate risk the Academy has introduced systems relating to operational procedures, and internal financial controls relating to ordering and online banking. Governors are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks and take onboard advice from external sources.

The Academy is managed by the school Caretaker, however an SLA is in place with South Tyneside Local Authority. This ensures regular inspection of the site, liaison with the Health and Safety team. Adherence to Health and Safety legislation and adoption of all LA policies.

The Academy is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties in common with other Academies.

Holy Trinity

CE Academy has in place procedures to identify and mitigate financial risks. These are discussed further in the

Risk Management section of this report, and in the Governance Statement.

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating specifically to teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy and its finances. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to, teaching, health and safety, safeguarding, school visits and bullying) and in relation to all areas of financial management. Where significant financial risk is apparent there is appropriate insurance cover in place. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is detailed further in the Governance Statement.

#### **Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)**

The Academy has fully implemented the requirements of the Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff have

received Child Protection training.

#### **Fundraising**

The Academy historically has raised funds annually for the benefit of the children and to help subsidise the costs of educational visits and activities for the children e.g Christmas Parties. The funds raised are used totally for the benefit of the children. The Academy does not work with any commercial participators / professional fundraisers. Contributions to the fundraising activities is purely voluntary, without pressure to any individuals or vulnerable people. Monies raised are spent on the children.

#### **Plans for future periods**

All of the predicted outcomes were achieved. However, issues still remain and these will stay on the school improvement plan this academic year. The Academy will also be increasing the focus on community cohesion and tolerance in line with the Academy Christian values of Love, Joy and Respect. Future impacts will be the unknown amount of increase in energy costs and the very recently announced increase in public sector wages.

The Academy has discussed plans to join a larger trust but no decision has been made, so for now will stay as a SAT.

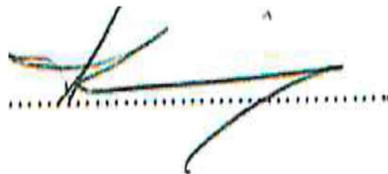
The Governing Body and Accounting Officer will continue to monitor income and expenditure on a regular basis, making savings wherever possible. Resources as always will be directed to the needs of the children in the Academy.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the Governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the Governors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Governors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Governing body, as the company directors, on 17 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**A Gedling**

17.12.2025