



The Painsley Catholic Academy
Better Together

**POOLED FUNDING AND APPEALS
POLICY 20/21**

Approved by:	Directors	Date: September 2020
Last reviewed on:	September 2020	
Next review due by:	June 2021	

1. Pooled Funding

- 1.1 The Academies Finance Handbook, 2020 states in section 5.29 (page 42) that;

*“a trust with multiple academies can amalgamate GAG for its academies to form one central fund. This can be used to meet the running costs at any constituent academy within the trust. In accordance with its funding agreement a trust **must not** pool PFI funding”.*

- 1.2 The collection of a percentage of individual academies' GAG funding for a MAT's central fund is sometimes referred to as 'top-slicing'.

- 1.3 For the financial year 2020/21 The Painsley catholic Academy will only retain a percentage of GAG funding. There is an appeals mechanism which is described within this policy document for academies who may feel that they are being treated unfairly by the Trust.

- 1.4 A statement will be issued as part of the Central Services Service Level Agreement no later than 31st August for the next academy year detailing the funds to be retained/charged on a monthly basis. The schools within the MAC will have a period of 10 working days to appeal.

- 1.5 The retained funding will be used to fund the following expenditure on behalf of the schools within the MAC:

Central services salaries: CEO, COO, partial funding towards 2 x DCEOs, central finance team, 50% ICT Network Manager, 0.1 FTE Compliance Officer, 0.4 FTE Marketing Co-ordinator, 0.6 FTE MAC internal auditor, MAC English Lead, MAC SEND Co-ordinator

Central services team training and travel across the schools

External auditor fees

MAC Accountancy - monthly and annual accounts including consolidation and all ESFA statutory financial returns

VAT support costs

HR Consultants/Advisory – Insight HR

Compliance support costs – GDPR and website compliance checks

Marketing support

MAC ICT network/ICT procurement support

Payroll costs – Stoke payroll (Painsley South) and Carval (Painsley North)
+ exiting fees from Carval as Painsley North moves to Stoke payroll from
April 2021,

IMP budgeting and salary modeller software

HMRC Returns

Corporation Tax returns

PS Financials finance package, ongoing training, licences, annual
maintenance and upgrades

- 1.6 The MAC reserves the right to review, consult on and amend this policy on an annual basis in preparation for each new financial year. Where appropriate, a fixed percentage top-slice may be introduced and this top-slice may be adjusted to reflect the costs relating to that financial year, the increasing of services provided directly by the MAC or cost savings generated through streamlining of back-office functions.

2. Appeals

- 2.1 The Academies Financial Handbook, 2020, section 5.30 states:

*“The trust **must** consider the funding needs and allocations of each constituent academy and **must** have an appeals mechanism. If a constituent academy’s principal feels the academy has been unfairly treated, they should appeal to the trust. If the grievance is not resolved, they can appeal to the Secretary of State, via ESFA. Where ESFA receives an appeal, it will review the process that the trust has followed, including whether the trust has considered the funding needs of the constituent academy, and whether the trust’s internal appeals process has been applied. ESFA will provide the constituent academy and the trust with the opportunity to provide any evidence they feel is relevant to the case.*”

ESFA's decision will be final and can result in the pooling provisions being dis-applied."

2.2 The MAC's appeals process is:

a) Schools within the MAC have 10 working days from the issuing of a settlement statement from the MAC to the academy to appeal

b) Appeals should be made in writing directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will liaise with Directors.

c) The CEO and the Resources committee will consider the appeal and notify the academy of their decision within 10 working days of receipt of the written appeal.