



**King's Group Academies**  
**POOLING RESOURCES POLICY**

Approved by:	KGA Trustees	Date:	December 2025
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## Introduction

The Trustees of King's Group Academies (KGA) recognise that the Pooling Resources Policy must address the management of financial risk across the Trust, while being mindful that existing pupils are not disadvantaged through the retention of excessive reserves.

The Department for Education (DfE) permits the pooling of General Annual Grant (GAG) under section 5.29-5.30 of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) 2025:

### *Pooling of GAG by trusts with multiple academies*

*5.29. The ability to amalgamate and direct funds to meet improvement priorities and need across the trust's schools can be integral to a trust's successful financial operating model. A trust with multiple academies can amalgamate GAG for its academies to form one central fund. This practice can enhance a trust's ability to allocate resources in line with improvement priorities and running costs across the trust's constituent academies.*

*5.30. If a trust decides to pool GAG, it **must** consider the funding needs and allocations of each constituent academy. The trust **must** have an appeals mechanism and an appeal can be escalated to DfE, if not resolved. DfE's decision will be final and can result in the pooling provisions being disappplied. A trust **must not** pool private finance initiative (PFI) funding.*

While this policy references the ATH 2025, the policy will continue to apply to future versions of the ATH if there are no changes to the ATH on this matter. Where there are changes, the policy will be updated to reflect such changes.

KGA reserves the right to amend the Pooling Resources Policy as needed.

## Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all academies within the Trust.

### Pooled Income Streams

- GAG funding
- Other central government revenue grants
- Capital income - Devolved Formula Capital
- Capital income – School Condition Allocation
- All operational income

### Income Excluded from Pooling

- Sports and PE Grant Funding
- Service Pupil Premium
- LA high needs funding
- Grants with conditions specifying where they must be spent.



## **Budget Setting and Monitoring**

The annual budget setting process will continue to be managed as a “bottom up” approach for each academy and the central fund.

Each academy will be issued with a Budget Statement setting out the budget elements devolved to its control, once the annual budgets have been approved.

Academies and the central fund will continue to be monitored on the cost centres for which they are accountable. Budget holders will be provided with visibility of spend to ensure expenditure is appropriately managed. The finance team will monitor the cashflow forecast to ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover budgeted costs.

## **Pooled Reserves**

The revenue and capital reserves respectively will be pooled centrally, and not allocated to academies irrespective of how they were accumulated.

## **Target Level of Reserves**

The Trustees have set a minimum level of revenue reserves, stated in the Reserves Policy as 8% of annual income.

## **Requests against the Central Reserves**

All requests for expenditure against the central **revenue or capital** reserves funds must be submitted as part of the annual budget setting process in the summer term, to be approved by Trustees alongside approval of the annual budget. Requests outside the regular budget setting process will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, such as to address unforeseen safeguarding or health and safety needs or to invest in emergency works in order to prevent imminent closure of premises.

## **Academies Leaving the Trust**

If an academy leaves the Trust, the Board will agree the level of reserves with which the academy may depart. This decision will take into account factors including the academy’s annual GAG income, the overall Trust reserves and the extent to which the academy has contributed to reserves.

## **Appeals Process**

If an academy feels unfairly treated through the application of the Pooling Resources Policy the appeals process is:

### **Internal Appeals**

In the first instance the Headteacher or Principal of the academy must inform the CEO of the appeal, in writing, within five working days of being issued with the annual Budget Statement. The appeal should document the nature of the dispute, how much additional funding is required (supported by appropriate evidence), what the funding will be used for, and what would be the potential impact on the academy if the funding were not received.



If the dispute cannot be fully resolved between the CO and the Headteacher./Principal, the appeal will be escalated to the Chair of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will meet to consider the appeal and notify the Headteacher/Principal of the outcome within ten working days of the receipt of the documentation.

### **Referral to the DfE**

If the Headteacher/Principal remains dissatisfied with the outcome, they must appeal directly to the Secretary of State, via the DfE. All decisions reached by the Secretary of State are considered final.