



Anti-Fraud Policy

to be read in conjunction with Whistleblowing Policy

January 25

Date Approved by The Board of Trustees	12.12.24
Effective period	1st January 25 – 31st December 27
Reviewer	N Jones
Date of Review	December 24
Next Review Due	December 27

For the purpose of this policy statement fraud includes all irregularities which could normally be described as theft, deception, fraud, corruption, or impropriety. Fraud is always wrong. In any organisation, it countermands the management at every level and positive action is needed to prevent and discourage it. The prevention of fraud and the protection of the Academy is the responsibility of every member of staff. In every case, reported suspicions will be passed to an audit committee who will decide on the subsequent course of action.

- When fraud is identified, action will be taken to: Limit the damage
- Seek compensation for losses incurred
- Punish the perpetrators
- Revise procedures to prevent any recurrence

Response to suspected fraud

The Academy Trust has rules which attempt to allocate resources on a fair and even-handed basis. Fraudulent activity circumvents these rules and gives an unfairly generous allocation to one or more individuals to the detriment of all others.

Reporting of suspected fraud

Any suspicion of fraud should be reported to a member of the Senior Management Team. If it is considered more appropriate (for example, if a member of the Senior Management Team is involved) the suspicions may be reported directly to either the CEO/Deputy CEO, Chair of Trustees or Chair of Local Committees.

After a suspicion is reported

The Senior Management Team member or Trustee will make any initial enquiries considered necessary to validate the report. In every case and as soon as possible after these initial investigations, he or she will pass the matter to the Finance, Audit & Risk committee. Even if there is no evidence to support the allegation, the matter must be reported.

The trust **must** notify ESFA

The board of trustees must notify ESFA, (from March 25 this will be replaced by the DfE), as soon as possible, of all instances of fraud, theft or irregularity exceeding £5,000 individually, or £5,000 cumulatively in any financial year. Unusual or systematic fraud, regardless of value, must also be reported.

(Ref: Academy Trust Handbook section 6.10)

The audit sub-committee

The management of any investigation will be undertaken by an audit sub-committee setup and controlled by the Finance, Audit & Risk committee. They will:

1. determine whether further investigation is warranted
2. determine whether the matter should be reported to the Board of Trustees
3. determine who should carry out the investigation
4. determine which outside agencies (police, auditors) should be involved
5. assess the risk to the school
6. determine to whom day to day management of the response should be given
7. allocate responsibility for damage limitation action
8. determine if insurance or the RPA have offset any loss
9. determine the course of action for any disciplinary procedure and to recover losses
10. evaluate the events which enabled the fraud to occur and ensure preventative action is taken.

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