



Delegated Financial Powers Manual

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“Learning together, to be the best we can be”

1. Context

1.1. The Nexus Multi Academy Trust is governed by a Board of Directors constituted under a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. It should exercise its powers and functions with a view to fulfilling a largely strategic leadership role in the running of the MAT, addressing such matters as:

- **policy development and strategic planning**, including target-setting to keep up momentum on school improvement;
- ensuring **sound management and administration** of the MAT, and ensuring that managers are equipped with relevant skills and guidance;
- ensuring compliance with **legal requirements**;
- establishing and maintaining a transparent system of prudent and **effective internal controls**
- management of the Trust's financial, human and other **resources** (in particular control over the spending identified in the Trust's business plan);
- **monitoring performance** and the achievement of objectives, and ensuring that plans for improvement are acted upon;
- enabling constituent academies to be **responsive to the needs of parents and the community** and making it more accountable through consultation and reporting;
- setting the Trust's **standards of conduct and values**;
- assessing and managing **risk** (including preparation of a statement on the Trust's risk management for its annual report and accounts).

1.2. To ensure sound financial control, this manual specifies the decisions of the Trust Board with regard to which financial functions it chooses to delegate to a committee and which to an individual.

1.3. Where responsibility has been delegated, all decisions taken will be properly recorded for reporting to the Trust Board as and when it requires. The manual takes into account:

1.4. Academy Financial Regulations

- 1.5. Directors do not incur any personal liability in respect of anything done honestly, reasonably and in good faith in exercising their power to spend an Academy's budget share, or delegating that power to the Chief Executive Officer or Headteacher.
- 1.6. The Trust Board is accountable for all actions taken in its name by individuals or committees to which it has delegated functions. Where the Chief Executive Officer and/or the Headteacher delegates tasks to other members of staff, they remain accountable to the Trust Board. The Trust Board will review this manual annually.

2. Delegated financial powers

- 2.1. In order to allow the corporate centre of the Trust and Academies within the Trust to function efficiently, delegation to the Chief Executive, Headteachers, and to other members of staff is necessary.
- 2.2. The extent and level of any such delegation should be agreed by the Trust Board subject to approval by members of the Nexus Multi Academy Trust.
- 2.3. In this manual, a shaded box indicates that such delegation is not permitted because of national regulations or would not be best practice.
- 2.4. Where committees exist, the name of the committee to which the function is delegated should be specified either in the column heading(s) or in the "comments column".

Activity	Trust Board	CEO	Headteacher	Staff	Comment
1. Accounting					
1.1 Adhering to accounting policies and guidelines issued by the EFA.	✓ (Review for MAT)	✓ (Responsible for MAT)	✓ (Responsible for Academy)		May be delegated to CFO
1.2 Reconciling bank statements on a monthly basis.				✓ (Transactional Team Leader, with regular quality assurance by CFO)	
1.3 Maintaining a register of pecuniary and business interests.	✓ (For MAT)				Clerking Services will oversee logistics
1.4 Maintaining a record of all cash in the Trust's Academies.				✓ (Office managers)	Reconciled monthly
2. Assets					
2.1 Arranging security of buildings, furniture, equipment, stock, stores and cash.			✓ (For individual Academy)		
2.2 Maintaining an inventory of all				✓	

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moveable items of equipment and security marking such items.				(Business/Office Manager for their Academy)	
2.3 Annual review of the inventory to verify the location and condition of each item of equipment.				✓ (Business /Office Manager for their Academy)	
2.4 Authorisation of disposal of unusable or obsolete equipment included in the inventory.	✓ (Sign off any disposals if on the Fixed Asset Register)		✓ (Sign off any disposals if not on the Fixed Asset Register)	✓ (Business /Office Manager to prepare list)	
2.5 Maintain a record of all property borrowed by staff.				✓ (Business / Office manager)	Review register termly
3. Audit					
3.1 Availability of records and documents for inspection by the external auditors.		✓			May be delegated to CFO
3.2 Receiving the report from an audit inception and	✓ (Receive report and action plan)	✓			

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implementing recommendations.					
4. Budget					
4.1 Preparation of the annual budget plan.		✓ (Preparation of Central budget)	✓ (Preparation of Academy Budget)		CFO and Regional Finance Leads to support preparation process
4.2 Approving final budget.	✓				
4.3 Monitoring actual year-to-date income and expenditure against budget, including variants.	✓ (reviewed monthly for MAT)	✓	✓		CFO and Regional Finance Leads to monitor and prepare reports
4.4 Approving virements within agreed limits.	✓ (Over £50k)	✓ (up to £50k)	✓ (Up to £20k)		All virements exceeding £20k in any one term must be reported to Trust Board
4.5 Movement of monies by the Trust from an academy budget above and beyond the agreed top slice %	✓ (Over £50k)	✓ (up to £50k)			
5. Income					
5.1 Approving a lettings policy.	✓			CFO to prepare	
5.2 Rendering accounts promptly. Receipting	✓			CFO to ensure systems and	

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and banking promptly all income intact. Not cashing personal cheques. Recording cash passed from one person to another.	Oversight for whole MAT			processes are in place. Transactional team and Finance Business Partners to oversee operationally.	
5.3 Approving grant claims		✓			
5.4 Writing off of debts	✓ (Over £5k)	✓ (over £500)	✓ (Under £500)	CFO to present a comprehensive list of all write-offs that have occurred during the year to Trust Board.	
6. Information and communication systems					
6.1 Controlling systems, security and privacy data.				Named Information Controllers and Porcessors to manage locally.CEO is named Data Protection Officer for the MAT	
6.2 School pupil and staff census returns			✓		
6.3 Maintaining registration with		✓ Oversight for whole MAT	✓		

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Information Commissioner's Officer and ensuring ongoing compliance.			Oversight for constituent Academy		
7. Insurance					
7.1 Reviewing insurance cover in response to emergent risk assessment and analysis.	✓	✓	✓		CFO and Office/Business Managers will ensure and advise CEO and Headteachers
8. Investments					
8.1 Investing in any Accumulating Fund scheme	✓				Board to be advised by CFO.
9. Orders and paying for goods, works and services					
9.1 Ensuring that all contracts and agreements conform with finance policies and procedures.		✓	✓		CFO and Trust Procurement Lead to advise.
9.2 Accepting quotations/tenders and authorising orders/contracts for goods, works and services.	✓ Trust Board to approve orders over £500k. Must be approved by CEO	✓ CEO to approve orders between £7k - £500k	✓ Headteacher to approve orders below £7k		Prior to authorisation, compliance must be checked with the Trust's procurement policy. Headteachers may delegate approval to

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	before being submitted to Board.				staff using thresholds available in the finance system.
9.3 Receipting and custody of all tenders.				✓ Trust Procurement Lead for any over £7k. Office/Business Managers for anything below £7k.	
9.4 Authorisation of BACS payments / bank transfers				✓ Central transactions team	Senior Finance Officer to prepare in finance system, bank upload and authorisation by Transactional Team Leader, or Regional Finance Leads in cases of absence.
9.5 Authorising Direct Debits		✓		✓	2 Signatures, including CEO and one of the Assistant CEOs / CFO
9.6 Signatories for all cheques.		✓		✓	Must be CEO and one other (CFO / Assistant CEO) as referenced in bank mandate

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9.7 Signing tenancy agreements and operating leases		✓ All tenancy agreements		✓ Heads can approve operating leases if under 7 years.	
9.8 Not making payments unless goods have been received to the correct price, quantity and quality standard.				✓ School finance staff and central transactions team	
9.9 Paying the correct persona and the correct amount supported by an invoice.				✓ School finance staff and central transactions team	All signatories must check this when signing.
9.10 Returning and storing invoices, vouchers and other financial records in a secure way for the defined period.				✓ Assistant chief finance Officer to oversee.	
9.11 Approving applications for credit cards. Note: Debit cards are not allowed in Nexus schools.		✓ 2 Executive Leadership Team signatories required to approve any new credit card applications.		✓ Office Managers to reconcile supporting documentation on monthly basis	

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10. Salaries, Wages and Pension					
10.1 Certifying pay documents and over-time records			✓ Headteachers to certify monthly.	✓ Business Managers to review and report on changes monthly	
10.2 Approving settlement agreements		✓			
10.3 Approving monthly payroll			✓	✓ School Office Manager / Business Manager	Dual approval required. Regional Finance Leads / CFO/ Deputy CFO may give secondary approval in cases of absence.
10.4 Approving pay policy and appraisal policy.	✓ Trust Board to review annually. May be delegated to committee.				
11. Taxation					
11.1 Complying with VAT regulations				✓ CFO and Regional Finance Leads to ensure compliance.	

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12. Voluntary Funds					
12.1 Administering of voluntary funds				✓ Regional Finance Leads and Office Manager to maintain oversight	
12.2 Appointing of external auditor.	✓				
12.3 Receiving audited annual accounts.	✓	✓			CFO to advise CEO and Trust Board.