

Suite of Academy Information Documents

Contribution, provision and services - DCAT

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The Trust proposes to operate a model of contribution consisting of two elements; a variable Central Services contribution and a Common Infrastructure Services contribution. This is consistent with its stance on a differentiated model of governance predicated on school performance, whilst enabling it to fulfil statutory functions. Some of these functions were previously undertaken by the Local Authority (LA), others relate to additional demands from the Department for Education (DfE) when a school converts to academy status. The Trust will also use the contributions to provide certain services helpful to the whole group. The final total contribution figure for a school will be tailored and should be between 3-6%.

2. CENTRAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION

- 2.1 The differentiated Central Services contribution is straightforward and depends on the current OfSTED judgement of a setting:

<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>1% of General Annual Grant</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>2% of General Annual Grant</i>
<i>RI</i>	<i>3% of General Annual Grant</i>
<i>Category</i>	<i>4% of General Annual Grant</i>

- 2.2 This enables the Trust to provide core services which
- are required to enable the Trust and each individual school to fulfil its statutory and other duties
 - provide immediate and ongoing school improvement support to each school
 - are required to ensure appropriate accountability to the DfE, LA (which still carries statutory responsibility for education outcomes for children and young people residing in Kent), the Charity Commission and other relevant bodies.

- 2.3 The Trust will therefore undertake the following duties:

Statutory Financial

- Accounting returns to the Charity Commission and Education Funding Agency
- VAT accounting and recoupment
- External (mandatory) Audit of Accounts (annual)
- Responsible Officer role
- Accounting Officer (responsible to Parliament)
- Monitoring of accounts

2.4 In addition, the Trust offers the following support:

Financial support

An initial finance set-up to ensure compliance with statutory requirements
Accounting support and advice including budget
Support with accounting software

Quality Assurance for school effectiveness

Attached consultant
Securing improvement resources and training from a wide range of providers
Data analysis, target setting and pupil progress reviews
Triangulation of evidence, demonstrating impact
Headteacher appraisal

Building and emergency support

Support to manage projects, bids or capital development
Emergency support e.g. building damage or dealing with the media

3. Common Infrastructure Services

- 3.1 This contribution exists to ensure best value as well as consistent reporting. It is important that all schools within the Trust use common infrastructure services so that specific external services and internal management systems are standardised.
- 3.2 The Trust will procure and charge for the following (including licences where appropriate):
- Finance package (Corero)
 - Payroll
 - Management Information System including assessment and tracking
 - Human Resources/Personnel support
 - Legal support
 - Insurances
- 3.3 Other services required by a school can be commissioned by the individual school in line with devolved responsibilities, which are described in the Scheme of Delegation. The Trust will also ensure that schools are able to take advantage of its 'buying power' by providing access to additional services where it has already undertaken due diligence, e.g. IT and recruitment specialists.
- 3.4 The Trust also provides:
- Opportunities to access coaching for leadership and other training
 - Training for Local Governing Bodies
 - Model statutory policies and guidance/principles for others
 - The opportunity to commission pedagogical action research projects through Canterbury Christ Church University and participate in post-graduate courses
- 3.5 The DBE Core Services Agreement remains in place, payable separately to the Board of Education.