

**Risk Appetite Statement**

**1. Introduction**

Risk appetite is defined as “the Trust’s willingness to accept risk in pursuit of its objectives”.

**2. Scope**

The Trust recognises that it is impossible to achieve its vision and strategic objectives without taking risks as it will always be exposed to an element of risk. The Trust must, however, take risks in a controlled manner.

**3. Risk Appetite and Risk Management**

3.1 The Trust has a low appetite for risk and actively seeks to minimise risks in all areas. The Trust has no tolerance for the misuse of public funds and prioritises the mitigation of risks associated with safeguarding, pupil welfare and learning outcomes to ensure that these are kept to an absolute minimum.

3.2 Innovative approaches that will improve the quality of pupil learning, welfare and experiences are encouraged, but will be managed in a manner that reduces any risks that may arise as a consequence of pursuing such opportunities.

3.3 The reputation of the Trust and its Academies are vital to continued success. As such, it must be retained, and improved wherever possible.

3.4 The Accounting Officer is responsible for providing oversight and adequate controls for the management of risk. The development of policies, a system of internal control along with suitably trained staff minimise the exposure to risks. Key strategic and operational risks are recorded and managed in Trust and Academy risk registers. .