

**Policy No: 20 Finance**

**May 2024**

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# **Introduction**

The Governors of St Anthony’s School are committed to providing sound financial controls, to achieving value for money and to being worthy custodians of public money. To achieve these aims the Headteacher and the Governing Body have drawn up this Finance Policy to provide the guiding principles for which all Governors and staff will operate within the **Circle Model of Governance**.

This policy is in accordance with the Local Authority’s (LA) Scheme for Financing Schools.

# **Principles**

St Anthony’s School Finance Policy will adhere to the following principles:

* The responsibilities of the Governing Body, its Finance Monitoring Group, the Headteacher and staff will be clearly defined and limits of delegated authority established, where applicable.

The ***Governing Body*** is responsible for taking steps to ensure that expenditure reflects best value principles. This is done by;

* Using both performance data and financial benchmarking to ***compare*** to similar schools locally and nationally.
* Using the information gained to ***challenge*** performance and set new targets
* Where financial benchmarking is available, using it to ***compare*** expenditure with similar schools
* Using fair ***competition*** through quotations and tenders, ensuring resources and contracts for services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way
* ***Consulting*** parents, where appropriate, on policy development and major changes in the use of resources

The school will establish sound internal financial controls, based on the LA’s Financial Controls to ensure the reliability and accuracy of its financial transactions.

The budget will reflect the school’s prioritised educational objectives through its links to the School Development Plan, which indicates the resource implications of each priority.

The budget will be subject to effective monitoring, allowing the Governors, Head and staff to maintain financial control in line with the Balance Control Mechanism by reviewing the current position and taking any remedial action necessary.

The school will be adequately insured against exposure to risk.

The school will ensure that:

* The Budget share is spent for the purpose of the school only.
* Purchasing arrangements achieve value for money
* There are sound procedures for the administration of personnel matters
* There are sound procedures for the administration of payroll matters
* Stocks, stores and assets are recorded and adequately safeguarded against loss or theft
* All income due is identified and all collections receipted, recorded and banked promptly
* The operation of the bank account and the reconciliation of bank balances with the accounting records are properly controlled
* The use of petty cash is strictly controlled
* The use of a NatWest **onecard** is strictly controlled
* The School Voluntary Fund and any other non-public funds are administered as rigorously as public funds
* Any suspected irregularity will be reported immediately to the LA’s Head of Audit and Risk
* The school will adhere to current GDPR and Data Protection legislation
* Appropriate training in financial administration will be given to enable staff cover at all times

# **Putting Policy into Practice**

# **Delegated Authority**

The **Full *Governing Body*** of St Anthony’s School has overall responsibility for the management of all of the school’s finances covering the revenue budget, other budgets delegated or devolved by the LA and other funds (e.g. the School Voluntary Fund).

The **Full Governing Body** of St Anthony’s School will ensure the annual detailed report of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) is provided to them and the Chair of Governors will sign the completed form prior to sending a copy to the Local Authority.

The ***Finance Monitoring Group*** is delegated responsibility by the Full Governing Body for the following aspects of financial management;

* Evaluate and recommend the three-year budget plan, which shows clear links to the School Improvement Plan, for approval by the Full Governing Body
* To annually review and approve the Finance Policy and all Terms of Reference for the Monitoring Group.
* To review the Charges and Remissions Policy
* To review a Pay and Reward Policy for approval by the Full Governing Body
* To make decisions in respect of service agreements and insurance.
* To advise the Full Governing Body of any consultations to the change the LA Scheme for financing schools, to allow the school to respond to any consultation.
* To report monitoring and the outturn position to the Full Governing Body, highlighting any significant variances
* Evaluate any proposed virements and report to the Full Governing Body
* Evaluate and report on Tenders for Contract Services to the Full Governing Body
* Keeping in-school financial procedures under review
* Benchmark the school’s financial performance and report to the Full Governing Body

The **Head** is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Governing Body and for the operational management of the school. The general administration of financial procedures may be delegated to other members of staff at the discretion of the Head and this delegation should be documented in the Finance Policy.

At present these delegations are as follows:

* School Business Manager – Kate Ford - Deals with the day to day running of the budget under the direction of the head teacher. Also responsible for the petty cash,
* School Admin Staff – Office Staff - Deals with incoming cash such as school dinner money, trip money or charity collections.
* PTFA Treasurer – Heather Leal deals with PTFA accounts.

# **Internal Financial Controls**

The internal financial controls operated by St Anthony’s School follow the controls set out in the LA’s Scheme for Financing Schools and the Budget Book.

# **Financial Links to the School Improvement Plan**

The ***School Development Plan*** (SDP) has sufficient scope and depth of financial implications and it is reflected in the school’s three year budget plan.

# **Monitoring and Virements**

St Anthony’s School recognises that the regular monitoring of income and expenditure against the agreed budget is central to effective financial management. To this end, the Head carries out a termly internal monitoring procedure, copied to the Monitoring Governor/s. A monitoring report is taken to all Full Governing Body meetings. Monitoring reports are submitted to the LA in accordance with its timetable. Governors should ensure their meetings are timed to see all monitoring submitted to the LA either prior to submission or soon after. This will ensure they have an up to-date position of the school’s finances.

On occasions, virements need to be carried out. Virements to the approved budget are minuted appropriately and require the following authorisation:

Virements up to £8,000 - The Head, reported to the Monitoring Governor/s

Virements over £8,000 – The Full Governing Body

# **Insurance**

St Anthony’s School is insured through ***the Kent County Council (KCC) ‘Safe Hands’ Scheme*** with relevant cover, as identified by the schedule received from the LA’s Insurance section.

St Anthony’s School recognises that cash is not insured through the LA’s Insurance Policy.

# **Purchasing**

At St Anthony’s School, budgets are delegated to DHTs and Curriculum Leads. Budget holders prepare a ‘needs budget’ for their area of responsibility, which is approved by the Head in line with the priority needs of the school and the SDP.

A list of authorised signatories, containing name, position, budget held and value of budget, should be held in school as an appendix to the Finance policy **(See Appendix A)**

All staff adhere to the school procedures for purchasing items, as laid down in the School’s Staff Handbook, paying regard to value for money at all times. The Head or designated deputy authorises all orders and invoices prior to payment.

Where the school purchases large items, we adhere to the procedure for spending the Council’s Money as laid down in the Scheme for Financing Schools

[(www.kent.gov.uk/publications/business/spending-councilsmoney.htm)](http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/business/spending-councils-money.htm),

In summary;

For orders in excess of £8,000, but less than £50,000, three written quotations are obtained and submitted to the Full Governing Body for approval

For orders in excess of £50,000, no fewer than three competitive tenders are sought and submitted to the Full Governing Body for approval

As a matter of good practice, KCC recommend all orders under £8000 have one written quotation

All of the above will be reported and minuted at the Full Governing Body meeting to ensure that the School is seen to be obtaining value for money at all times.

**The school does not enter into any Hire Purchase agreements, Finance agreements or Finance Leases as this constitutes borrowing and this is not permitted.**

# **Personnel Matters**

At St Anthony’s School, at the start of every financial year the ***Head*** uses the three year salary calculator provided on Kent Trust Web to calculate the salary costs of all members of staff, including increments, where applicable. These details are used by the M***onitoring Governors*** for incorporation into the school budget planning process.

The ***Performance Management Committee*** undertakes an annual review of the Head teacher’s salary, and recommends enhancements, if applicable, to the Full Governing Body for approval.

The Head teacher undertakes an annual review of all other staff, in accordance with the Governors’ Pay Policy and reports to the Full Governing Body.

Details of all salaries are recorded as a confidential item in the minutes.

# **Payroll Matters**

The payroll provider at St Anthony’s School is Capita Business Services Ltd*,* who provides payroll services to the specification laid down by the LA. The Head, signs off the monthly payroll reports once they have been checked for accuracy.

# **Safeguard of Stocks, Stores and Assets**

All staff at St Anthony’s School are responsible for the security of school assets. DHT, Curriculum Leads and class teachers safeguard their assets and maintain asset registers, which are checked at least on an annual basis and certified by the Head*.* Other school assets are recorded on a general asset register, maintained and updated by the school office.

Items of value are held in a locked cupboard/cabinet, wherever possible and all items are visibly security marked to deter theft.

Where assets are written off and disposed of, the Full Governing Body agrees this and the agreement are minuted.

Where school assets are loaned to staff or pupils, a loans book is completed and signed when borrowing the item and again when the item is returned.

# **Income**

At St Anthony’s School, the Lettings Policy is reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the Governing Body.

Where debts are required to be written off, after every effort has been made by the Head and Governors to recoup the monies, the Full Governing Body will approve up to £1,000. Approval to write off debts over £1,000 is required in writing from the LA Finance Business Partner CYPE.

Since the LA does not insure for cash held on the school premises, we have agreed a level of cash to be held in school at any one time as £200. Cash will be receipted, recorded and banked promptly at all times.

# **The School Bank Account**

St Anthony’s School operates its school bank account(s) in accordance with the regulations in the LA’s Scheme for Financing Schools and the guidance in the Budget Book.The school operates only one current account for the administration of KCC official funds.

Bank account signatories are updated immediately, when there is a change in staffing and details are copied to the Statutory Unit, as a matter of course.

Bank statements at St Anthony’s School are received on a monthly basis and reconciled to the school’s local system immediately. The Head teacher signs and dates the bank statement when the reconciliation has been checked.

# **Petty Cash**

Petty Cash is held securely at all times and the limit for petty cash is £200. At St Anthony’s School, petty cash transactions are kept to a minimum and the maximum value of any one transaction is £30.00*.* All staff obtain proper VAT receipts for petty cash purchases, wherever possible, as this demonstrates value for money in respect of the school budget and satisfies legislative requirements. **Staff must not use their own cash, personal debit or credit cards for the purchase of any items for the school.**

# **NatWest onecard**

St Anthony’s School operates an approved onecard in accordance with the guidance in the LA’s Budget Book. The approved users are

Approved **one**card/s are held as an additional method of payment in accordance with the LA guidance. (*refer to Financial Control no7*)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cardholder and/or Position** | **Single transaction limit** | **Monthly card limit** |
| Kate Ford SBM | No limit | £5500 |
| Matt Pegg Food Tech | No limit | £600 |
| Alison Clark Food Tech | No limit | £600 |

**Personal credit cards will not be used for the purchase of items for the school.**

# **The Voluntary Fund**

The School does not operate a school Voluntary Fund.

# **Fraud and Irregularities**

The school has a robust system of controls to safeguard us against fraudulent or improper use of public money and assets. Staff are made aware of the systems and procedures of the schools Whistleblowing arrangements and to whom they should report concerns. This information must be communicated to all staff and also be included in induction for new school staff and governors.

# **Data Protection**

St Anthony’s School (as Data Controller) adheres to the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 including paying a data protection fee to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). The School pays £35 as determined by the ICO**.**

# **Information Systems**

St Anthony’s School has a password protection procedure laid down in the staff handbook. Systems are backed up regularly and the backups held securely, virus protection is in place and is updated regularly and the school has a disaster recovery plan for the administration network.

# **Financial Administration**

At St Anthony’s School, one member of staff is trained in the use of the finance software and financial administration procedures. We also purchase a support contract through the LA’s Trading and Contract Management Unit, which is reviewed on an annual basis, allowing us the option to purchase additional area support, if required. In the event of staff absence we would seek additional support through this contract.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Document Title:** | Finance Policy |
| **Version:** | K-SENT Version 8 |
| **Prepared by:** | Head teacher – Robert Page |
| **Governing Body Acceptance Date:** | Ratified at the FGB meeting on the May 2024 |
| **Date for Next Review:** | May 2025 |
| **Link on School Website** | Yes |

**Appendix A**

All order requests/invoice authorisation must be signed by the budget holder. A list of authorised signatories, containing name, position, budget held, and value of budget should be included as an appendix to the schools Finance Policy. The school office should hold a copy that includes a specimen signature for each budget holder.

This document should be updated annually as part of the budget setting process.

**Budget holders for year 2024-25**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** | **Delegated Budget Held (indicate if person is the authorised deputy)** | **Budget Value** | **Specimen signature\*** |
| Robert Page  Antony Curry | Headteacher  Retires 31.8.24  Headteacher  1.9.24 | Oversight of all areas  E09 Training | 9 000 | U:\Shared Office Work\Scanned Signatures\R Page.jpg  U:\Shared Office Work\Scanned Signatures\A Curry.jpg |
| Kate Ford | SBM | E12 Building, main and improvement  E13 Grounds main and improvement  E14 Cleaning and Caretaking  E18 Other Occupancy Costs  E22 Admin Supplies | 40 000  6 000  51 720  10 000  6 200 | U:\Shared Office Work\Scanned Signatures\K Ford.jpg |
| Antony Curry | DHT | E19 Learning Resources  E20 ICT  E21 Exams | 90 175  34 000  4 700 | U:\Shared Office Work\Scanned Signatures\A Curry.jpg |
| Abi Cranson | DHT | E26 Agency Supplies  E27 Bought in Professional Services | 20 000  83 890 | U:\Shared Office Work\Scanned Signatures\Abi Cranson.jpg |

**Agreed by:**

Head teacher: Date

Chair of Governors : Date