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Policy for

## Asset Control

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Amended by:	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Signed	Review Date
MATBOM/CFOO Nov 17 per Resources Committee	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>	<b>K Harrop</b> ----- Chair of Resources Committee	<b>Summer Term 2020-21</b>

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## **Statement of intent**

In order to ensure that The Aspire Educational Trust's balance sheet reflects the assets and liabilities of the academies, the Board of Trustees has established this Asset Control Policy.

The policy has the full approval of the Board of Trustees and is reviewed on an annual basis.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide guidance for staff when dealing with the purchase and disposal of fixed assets.
- To provide guidance for staff on other aspects of fixed asset accounting such as depreciation and revaluation.
- To define the treatment of non-current, current, tangible and intangible assets.
- To provide a basis for a uniform and systematic approach to asset control.

The policy is to be used in conjunction with the academies' Fixed Asset Registers.

### **1. Definitions**

- 1.1. Accumulated depreciation: The total amount charged to the income and expenditure account to reflect the use of the asset by the academy over its economic life. The value of the asset will reduce over the life of the asset.
- 1.2. Capitalisation: The addition to the balance sheet of an amount attributed to an asset which has come into the academy's possession via purchase or donation.
- 1.3. Carrying amount/net book value: The purchase cost or valuation of a fixed asset less the accumulated depreciation on that fixed asset.
- 1.4. Depreciation: The annual charge made to the income and expenditure account each month to reflect the use of the asset during the period.
- 1.5. Fixed assets: An asset that has a useful life greater than one year. (Consumables used on a daily basis are not fixed assets.)
- 1.6. Fixed asset register (FAR): An inventory of all fixed assets including purchase dates, depreciation rates, net book values and depreciation.
- 1.7. Grant: Funds given to the academy by a third party to purchase unspecified fixed assets.
- 1.8. Recoverable amount: The proceeds received when an asset is disposed of.

## 2. Fixed asset categories

- 2.1. Freehold and long lease buildings: (The costs of acquiring freehold and long leasehold land and buildings.)
  - Legal fees
  - Building costs
- 2.2. Fixtures and fittings: (Items which will last a number of years but not as long as the building in which they reside.)
  - Shelving
  - Furnishings
- 2.3. Plant and equipment: (Items which will be used for many years.)
  - Air conditioning
  - Lifts
  - Heating systems
- 2.4. Vehicles: (Vehicles owned or leased by the Trust/academy.)
  - Minibus
- 2.5. Leasehold improvements: (The costs of enhancements which significantly extend the life of the leasehold and would not be carried out on a regular basis.)
  - Interior walls
  - Ceilings

## 3. Capitalisation of assets

- 3.1. Expenditure eligible for capitalisation:
  - Expenditure for an item which meets the definition of a fixed asset, and exceeds £1000 should be identified as a fixed asset and recorded on the Trust's balance sheet.
  - The cost of a fixed asset includes the cost of the asset and any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset into working condition. This may include:
    - The cost of consultants whose work is directly attributable to the asset's implementation.
    - The cost of enhancements which extend the life of the asset e.g. building improvements. This does not include repairs or renewals.
- 3.2. Expenditure ineligible for capitalisation:

- Individual assets costing less than £1000 unless procured in bulk as part of a capital project.
- The cost of staff training.
- Administration and general running costs for day-to-day activities.
- Planning costs relating to activities such as feasibility studies, option appraisals etc.
- The cost of abortive work.
- Support and maintenance costs related to software.

#### **4. Accounting**

- 4.1. Only costs eligible for capitalisation are entered into accounts.
- 4.2. Costs must always be allocated against individual fixed assets.
- 4.3. Discounts received should be deducted from the total cost.
- 4.4. Expenditure on enhancing a fixed asset already in the balance sheet should be added to the carrying amount, if the asset meets the capital expenditure criteria.
- 4.5. Fixed assets purchased with grant money should be clearly identified as such in the FAR.

#### **5. Revaluation of assets**

- 5.1. Revaluation of freehold and long leasehold land and buildings will take place as and when required.
- 5.2. Any gains made on revaluation must be credited to the relevant reserve.
- 5.3. Land, building and building improvement revaluations are transferred to the revaluation reserve.
- 5.4. Losses on revaluation must be debited to the relevant reserve.

#### **6. Depreciation of assets**

- 6.1. Depreciation is charged against a fixed asset over its expected useful life. It is calculated on an annual basis by the Chief Finance and Operations Officer in preparation for the end of year accounts.
- 6.2. The Trust uses the method of straight-line depreciation where the asset value is reduced in equal amounts annually.
- 6.3. The period of depreciation (the asset's useful life) varies according to the category of the asset. The Chief Finance and Operations Officer is

responsible for allocating a useful economic life to each asset where expenditure is capitalised.

6.4 Tangible fixed assets must be depreciated as follows:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Estimated useful life</b>	<b>Depreciation method</b>
Leasehold improvements	20 years	Straight-line with nil residual value
Fixtures and fittings	8 years	Straight-line with nil residual value
Plant and equipment	8 years	Straight line with nil residual value
Computers and IT equipment	3 years	Straight line with nil residual value
Assets under construction	These are not depreciated until the asset is brought into use	

## **7. Damage of assets by staff**

- 7.1. In the event any assets are damaged or broken by staff, whether damaged accidentally or deliberately, the Trust will only be able to request payment for the damage if the employee's contract states this will be the case.
- 7.2. If the contract does not state that the employee will need to cover any costs, then they will not be required to do so.
- 7.3. The Trust may ask for a contribution towards the repair/replacement of the asset; however, there will be no requirement to pay.
- 7.4. Taking money out of pay cheques is prohibited, the staff member and academy will have agreed a salary, and deviation from this will be considered a breach of contract.
- 7.5. If there is reasonable evidence to believe the damage has been caused deliberately, the Trust will treat this as a legal matter, and may receive compensation depending on the outcome of any legal proceedings.

## **8. Disposal of assets**

- 8.1. The best possible value should be obtained from the disposal of assets. Assets with a carrying amount of above £500 require approval from the Board of Trustees prior to disposal. A Disposal of Equipment Form is available in [Appendix A](#).

- 8.2. When an asset is disposed of or sold, a loss or profit may occur. The difference between the total sale proceeds, less the cost of disposing of the asset, and the net carrying amount of the asset is used to calculate the loss or profit.
- 8.3. The loss or profit should be recorded as follows:
- Profits on disposal of fixed assets must be included in the income and expenditure account under 'profit or loss on sale of fixed assets'.
  - Losses on disposal of fixed assets must be treated as additional depreciation and included in the relevant account.
  - Lost or destroyed assets replaced by insurance proceeds should be removed from the balance sheet. Any profit or loss must be recognised in the income and expenditure account under 'profit or loss on sale of fixed asset'. The replacement asset is capitalised at cost in the normal manner.

## **9. Advanced payments and assets in-progress**

- 9.1. Advance payments for fixed assets must be recorded at the time of payment. It should be reclassified to the appropriate fixed asset item once the goods or services have been supplied.
- 9.2. Fixed assets which are incomplete by the balance sheet date, but for which costs have already been incurred, must be recognised as 'assets-in-progress'. Once completed, the costs are reclassified to the appropriate fixed asset category.

## **10. Monitoring and review**

- 10.1. The effectiveness of the Asset Control Policy is monitored by the Chief Finance & Operations Officer.
- 10.2. The policy is reviewed annually.

## Appendix A – Disposal of equipment form

Item to be disposed of:	
Reason for disposal (circle as appropriate):	Broken Surplus to requirements Irreparable Obsolete
Residual value (if appropriate):	
Action to be taken (circle as appropriate):	Disposal Sale
By whom:	
Signed:	
Date:	

### Office use only

Value obtained for item:	
Ledger code:	
Cost Centre:	
Fund:	
Original cost:	
Accumulated depreciation:	
Carrying amount:	
Grant received for original purchase (delete as appropriate):	Yes/No
Reinvested grant (if applicable):	
Repayment to Secretary of State:	
Value repaid:	
Removed from fixed asset register(delete as appropriate):	Yes/No
Removal date:	