BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust

Premises & Estate Management Policy

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Approved by	**Board of Trustees**
Policy Owner	**Director of Operations**
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Target Audience	**Public**
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Version 1 – Date of Review	
Version 1 – Revision summary	

Context

The Bath & Wells Diocesan Academies Trust (the Trust) is a dynamic learning community. In order to ensure that the Trust is a safe, supportive environment where pupils and staff can learn and thrive, there needs to be clear procedures, structures, and expectations in place. Trust policies are a formal way of documenting the procedures and values of the Trust and are designed to provide an instant picture of the principles of the Trust. They form an important framework that will ensure consistency in applying the agreed values and principles across all elements the Trust.

The Estate Management Policy is a statutory document required by the DfE as part of best practice identified in the Good Estates Management for Schools guidance.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the physical environment supports the trust's educational objectives by providing safe, suitable, and inspiring spaces for learning.

The policy offers a framework for the strategic management of the estate, including maintenance, development, and utilisation of assets.

It ensures compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, including health and safety standards, and promotes sustainable practices to manage the estate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Additionally, the policy helps in managing the estate in a cost-effective manner, optimising the use of resources and ensuring financial sustainability.

Our vision for our premises and estate is to create a sustainable environment so that our multi-academy trust can deliver exceptional teaching and learning to enable children to be the best version of themselves and is underpinned by a distinct Christian ethos.

Scope

This policy relates to all schools in the Bath & Wells Diocesan Academies Trust. Our strategy to deliver the vision of this policy is…

1. **Our aims**

- **Innovative Learning Spaces:** We aim to develop and maintain state-of-the-art facilities that foster innovative teaching and learning, ensuring every student has access to high-quality educational resources.
- **Promote Sustainability**: Implement eco-friendly practices and technologies to reduce our environmental footprint, including energy-efficient buildings, waste reduction programs, and green spaces.
- **Ensure Safety and Accessibility**: Prioritise the safety and accessibility of our estates, ensuring all students, staff, and visitors can navigate our schools comfortably and securely.
- **Future-Proofing**: Plan and invest in long-term infrastructure projects that anticipate future educational needs and technological advancements, ensuring our estates remain relevant and adaptable.

- **Financial Responsibility**: Manage our estates with fiscal prudence, ensuring that investments are cost-effective and deliver maximum value for our trust and its stakeholders.

2. **Our objectives**
   - To provide a comprehensive overview of what input our premises need to provide safe and secure environments which support the Education Vision.
   - To ensure premise data, information and knowledge informs how we provide capital investment and prioritisation across the Trust.
   - To explore decarbonisation and green credentials across the Trust.

3. **Our focus areas**
   - **School Investment**: To ensure schools that are fully maintained and developed, strategic investment needs to be a priority. A long-term School Condition Allocation (SCA) investment programme needs to be implemented alongside schools prioritising their funding to ensure we are working towards joint goals. School expenditure needs to underpin the SCA policy with jointly funded projects prioritised to ensure we strategically allocate capital across the Trust. The impact of holistic funding will make a bigger difference to the education of our students. Invest and maintain the digital requirements of the Trust ensuring the latest technologies are available.
   - **Safe and secure buildings**: To ensure that our teaching environment is conducive to effective learning. Pupils and staff need to feel safe and secure in the environment provided, so that every child cared for in our schools is looked after and supported.
   - **Schools fit for purpose**: To develop our premises to ensure all spaces are accessible, stimulating, environmentally friendly and compliant spaces, fit for future generations.
   - **Strategic procurement**: By removing some of the operational bureaucracy and by centralising core tasks in H&S, digital procurement, capital funding, compliance and efficiencies, we plan to deliver economies of scale and lift the burden on School Business Managers (SBMs)/Senior Leadership Team (SLT) allowing strategic economies across the Trust.

Trust Alignment

This policy is linked to Pledge 3 of the Trust's Strategic Plan and the strategic priorities "*Invest in our estates, ensuring they are sustainable, well maintained, safe and exciting environments.*"

Other Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following national & Trust policies:

- **Trust School Condition Allocation (SCA) Spend Protocol**
- **Trust Estates Strategy – How will we deliver**
- **Trust Asset Management Plan (to follow)**
- **Trust Education Strategy**

  - Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust - Education Strategy 2025-30
- **Good Estates Management for Schools Guidance**
  - Good estate management for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK
- **The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations) 2014**
  - The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- **Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework**
  - statutory framework for the EYFS

Monitoring

This Estate Management policy is owned by the Director of Operations and will be subject to a 3 yearly review by the Board of Trustees. As part of this review, the Director of Operations will provide a report to Trustees on a regular basis about the impact of the policy.