Controlled on completion

DERBYSHIRE County Council

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES AND ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DOCUMENT

September 2026

Peak Tor Federation

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Contents Page

Section	Page No.
Key Do's and Don'ts	2
Summary of key financial limits	4
Introduction	5
A. Income / Banking	7
B. Expenditure and orders for work, goods and services	8
C. Paying Accounts	9
D. Salaries, Wages and Pensions	10
E. Travel and Subsistence	11
F. Contracts	11
G. Revenue Budgets	12
H. Capital Expenditure	13
I. Internal Audit	14
J. Imprest Account and Charge Cards	15
K. Stores and Inventories	16
L. Insurance	16
M. Property and Assets	17
N. VAT	17
O. Procurement	17
P. Unofficial Funds	19
Q. Hospitality and Gifts	20
R. Retention of Records	21
S. Extended Services	22
Appendix 1 Roles and Responsibilities	22

School Financial Regulations

Key Dos and Don'ts for Staff, Headteachers, School Business Officers and Governors

Financial Aide-Memoire

1: DOs - Follow the controls, evidence decisions, and protect public funds

Use this page as a concise aide-memoire for good financial management and governance practice in schools.

GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY	PROCUREMENT & PURCHASING	PAYROLL, ASSETS & INFORMATION
• Declare interests and avoid conflicts of interest. • Provide governors with regular budget monitoring information. • Report suspected fraud, theft or financial irregularities immediately. • Implement agreed audit recommendations promptly. • Maintain compliance with SFVS and Financial Regulations.	• Use approved purchasing procedures and systems. • Ensure expenditure is authorised and within budget. • Obtain quotations and tenders in line with procurement rules. • Seek Governor approval when financial limits are exceeded. • Ensure there are no conflicts of interest. • Demonstrate value for money in all purchasing decisions.	• Submit staffing changes promptly to HR. • Maintain accurate inventories and annual checks. • Remove access permissions when staff leave. • Protect school information through appropriate security measures and encryption. • Review payroll reports regularly and investigate unusual or unexpected payments. • Reconcile payroll costs to budget and staffing records regularly. • Maintain segregation of duties between approving, submitting and reviewing payroll transactions. • Maintain segregation of duties between approving, submitting and reviewing payroll transactions.
BANKING, INCOME & CASH	**FINANCIAL CONTROL**	**GIFTS & HOSPITALITY**
• Issue receipts for all income received. • Bank income and record in SAP promptly and intact. • Ensure banking totals are independently verified. • Reconcile online payment systems monthly. • Actively pursue outstanding debts.	• Verify goods & services before authorising payment. • Check invoices for accuracy and legitimacy. • Pass invoices for payment promptly to avoid late payment charges and reputational damage. • Maintain segregation of duties wherever possible. • Monitor budget commitments regularly. • Check postings report regularly and ensure they are signed off by the Headteacher.	• Record all gifts and hospitality offered. • Report gifts and hospitality to the Headteacher using the school's register. • Maintain a Gifts and Hospitality Register.

School Financial Regulations
Key Do's and Don'ts for Staff, Headteachers, School Business Officers and Governors
Financial Aide-Memoire

2: DON'TS: Avoid actions that bypass controls, create risk, or reduce transparency

Use this page as a reminder of the key actions and behaviours that should be avoided.

PERSONAL USE & CONFLICTS	PROCUREMENT & PAYMENTS	ASSETS & INFORMATION
• Don't use school funds, assets or contracts for personal benefit. • Don't participate in decisions where you have a personal interest. • Don't have personal purchases delivered through school arrangements.	• Don't spend money without appropriate approval. • Don't participate in procurement processes where you have a personal interest. • Don't bypass quotation or tender requirements. • Don't enter contracts without proper authorisation. • Don't pay for goods before receipt except in approved exceptional circumstances.	• Don't use school assets for personal purposes without approval. • Don't leave safe keys on site overnight. • Don't dispose of confidential information insecurely. • Don't share SAP passwords or user accounts.
BANKING & INCOME	**PAYROLL & EXPENSES**	**GIFTS & HOSPITALITY**
• Don't cash personal cheques through school accounts. • Don't hold cash above authorised limits. • Don't delay banking income. • Don't start income-generating activities without approval.	• Don't approve your own expenses. • Don't pay salaries or wages through imprest accounts. • Don't process staffing changes, or retrospective payments without appropriate approval. • Don't share payroll reports containing personal data with unauthorized individuals. • Don't accept bank account changes without established verification procedures.	• Don't accept gifts valued at above £50. • Don't accept cash gifts. • Don't accept gifts or hospitality intended to influence decisions. • Don't purchase staff gifts or leaving presents from official school funds.

GOLDEN RULE

If in doubt, stop and ask. Before spending, approving, accepting a gift or entering into an agreement, ask: Is it authorised? Is it transparent? Is it good value for money? Would I be comfortable explaining the decision?

Summary of the School's financial limits

Details of the School's financial limits that have been approved by the Governing Body for use in line with the guidance notes within these Financial Regulations.

Area	Amount
Governing Body write off of debts limit (page 5)	**£30.00**
Headteacher write off of debts limit (page 5)	**£30.00**
Cash limit for the School safe (page 5)	**n/a no safe onsite. Maximum cash held in locked cupboard £200**
Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher delegated spending limit (page 6)	**£500**
School Business Officer delegated spending limit (where applicable) (page 6)	**n/a**
School maximum virement limit (page 11)	**£1500**
Headteacher Capital expenditure limit (page 12)	**£500**
Inventory limit (page 14)	**£250**
School tender limit (page 16)	**£10,000**
School written quotation limit (page 17)	**£1000**

The 'Suggested Financial Limits' guidance below should be used to aid Governors in achieving financial resilience and setting appropriate financial limits based on the total budget size of the School. It is essential that in setting the School's financial limits the Governing Body approvals allow both transparency and best value to be achieved.

Budget Size (£)	Suggested Financial Limits (£)			
	Tender*	Quotation; 3 written quotes	Governor Approval	Virement
Up to 500,000	15,000	1,000	1,500	1,500
500,001 – 1,000,000	20,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
Over 1,000,001	Cap 40,000	4,000	4,000	4,000

*above limits based on maximum budget size within range, capped at £40,000, see Section O for further details. Any purchases below the quotation limit should still have three verbal quotes wherever possible.

Introduction

- The School will comply with all accounting policies and requirements of the Local Authority.

- These Financial Regulations and Procedures set out the duties and responsibilities of all staff and Governors in respect of the financial administration of the School, including the planning and control of the revenue budget and Devolved Formula Capital, the collection of income, and the security of School assets. Summary guidance on individual roles and responsibilities for the Governing Body/ Governors, Headteacher and School Business Officer are included in Appendix 1.

- Financial Regulations and Procedures govern the actions of all staff who have an involvement in the spending or collecting of money or any responsibility for the property of the School. They apply to all transactions even where the spending is fully reimbursable by a third party or where it is covered by any other form of income such as the Private School Fund, Parent Teacher Association or a grant. These regulations also apply to any trusts or subsidiaries that the School may control or operate, e.g. School Fund.

- No payments should be made through the School's financial accounts for any personal or private purchases. Personal items must not be delivered to School address or personal use made of any school contract.

- The overall responsibility for the expenditure of the School's delegated budget and other School finances is that of the Governing Body. The Headteacher should provide budget monitoring reports to Governors six times a year in order to comply with the requirements of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS). An annual Financial Skills Matrices should also be completed by all members of the Governing Body to ensure sufficient financial knowledge and support is available.

- The Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that all relevant staff, agency workers, volunteers and governors are aware of or have access to these regulations and procedures, understand their requirements and are made aware of any future changes agreed by the Full Governing Body. Schools are required to maintain a log which is signed and dated by each relevant individual to confirm that they have read and agree to comply with the School's Financial Regulations. Should any doubt exist on their meaning, the School Business Officer/Headteacher should be consulted in the first instance and the Local Authority in the second instance. Failure on the part of any member of staff to observe Financial Regulations and Procedures may result in disciplinary action.

- The Governing Body will appoint a committee for Finance responsibilities (for this document it as assumed a Finance Committee, however, sometimes called a Resources Committee) with delegated powers according to the terms of reference agreed annually by the Full Governing Body (good practice to be the first meeting of the Governing Body in the Autumn Term). Minutes of all Finance Committee meetings will be taken and maintained by the Clerk to the Governors. These minutes should be reported to the Full Governing Body with the discussion and approval of the Finance Committee meeting minuted. The Finance Committee should take no decision on any item having financial consequences without first obtaining a financial assessment of the initial cost and any future running costs.

- These regulations and procedures may only be altered subject to compliance with the Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools, or in the light of new legislation/regulations as advised by the Local Authority or to encompass changes in procedure brought about by new technology. They will be reviewed annually and kept up to date by the Finance Committee with final approval given by the Full Governing Body.

- Governors have a statutory responsibility not to take part in the decision making process relating to any purchase in which they, or immediate family members have a personal or business interest. This responsibility also applies to the School's staff. The Headteacher, in consultation with the Clerk to Governors is responsible for maintaining a Declaration of pecuniary and personal interest register in respect of all governors and **all staff**, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

- The Governors will operate within the guidelines of the School's Code of Conduct when carrying out their responsibilities. The financial and governance arrangements of the School should be compliant with the SFVS which must be approved annually by the Governing Body and signed by the Chair of Governors prior to submission to Internal Audit by the 31 March deadline set by the Department for Education.

- It is the responsibility of all staff, in cases of suspected fraud, misappropriation of funds, materials or equipment, or any other irregularities, to comply with the School's Whistleblowing Policy / Confidential Reporting Code and report any concerns to the Head Teacher or, where this is not appropriate, to the Chair of Governors. Upon receipt, the Headteacher / Chair of Governors must immediately notify the concerns to the Local Authority's Assistant Director of Finance (Audit).

A. INCOME/BANKING

1. The Governing Body is responsible for drawing up a statement of its policy on charging and remissions. The Headteacher in consultation with the relevant School staff shall undertake an annual review of all scales of charges with Governor approval sought for any changes made. Where lettings are also managed, a similar review should be undertaken.

2. The School Business Officer shall take prompt action to collect all amounts due to the delegated budget. All income shall be recorded at the point of receipt in a form approved by the Local Authority's Director of Finance. Official receipts must be made out at the time of receiving the income and copies retained in School. All income should be banked promptly and intact and the details entered into SAP. Two employees will be present to verify all totals which are to be presented to the Bank. This check should be evidenced by the signing/initialling of the paying in book counterfoil retained in School.

3. The School Business Officer, or if appropriate, the Clerk to Governors will raise invoices for lettings in accordance with the School Lettings policy creating invoices on SAP.

4. Recovery of debt should be pursued where it is practicable and economical to do so, taking into account any reputational damage that may be caused to the School. All supporting evidence must be retained to allow the debt to be pursued, the lack of evidence may result in the original transaction being reversed. Governing bodies are required to determine a policy concerning the writing off of debts, to include a limit appropriate to their size and circumstances. This policy should include levels as in the table on Page 2 for the Governing Body and a lower level for which delegation may be authorised for the Headteacher. Each school must supply a copy of such policy to the Director of Finance if requested to do so. In the case of larger debts (above the school limit and in any event where the debt is greater than £1,000) the school must consult the Director of Finance. Outstanding debt should be actively pursued and actioned promptly and accurately within 6 months of the original posting so that it is correctly reflected in the schools budget, non-compliance may result in the original transaction being reversed.

5. No sale of goods and services on credit shall be made without the prior approval of the Headteacher and must be reported to the full Governing Body.

6. No proposals involving the generation of income should be implemented without prior consultation with the Governing Body.

7. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the security, collection and banking of income due to the delegated budget.

8. Under no circumstances shall personal cheques be cashed from any school income.

9. The insurance limit for cash kept in a locked cabinet in an alarmed area with the key off site is £500. In an unalarmed area the limit is £250. The standard limit for the School's safe is £1,000 (higher limits can be discussed with the Insurance section). If the safe is accessed using a key, then the key must be taken offsite in the evening/weekend. If the safe access is via keycode the code should be periodically changed and when staff with knowledge of the code leave. The periodic changing of the code should be formally evidenced within a log which records the date that the code has been changed and the individual making the change.

10. Where a cheque is accepted as payment it should be made payable to Derbyshire County Council with the School cost centre number recorded on the back.

11. Where the Local Authority has arranged for a security firm to collect deposits a receipt should be obtained and retained for the current year plus six previous years. The Security Firm's receipt must be attached to the paying in slip and stored securely. Where cash holdings on site are expected to exceed the insurance limit an additional cash collection should be arranged, or a deposit made directly into a bank branch.

12. The use of online payment solutions should be controlled within schools with staff provided with unique user accounts and passwords. Transactions processed by online payments systems should be supported by an audit trail of activities. All payments received from online payment solutions must be paid into the delegated budget. A monthly reconciliation should be undertaken and documented to ensure the amount of money collected agrees to the School's official records. Schools should periodically review user access rights and permissions to ensure leavers have been removed, and new staff added.

B. EXPENDITURE AND ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES

1. The ordering of goods and services and the payment of accounts, shall be in accordance with these financial procedures and advice from the School Business Officer/Headteacher. All orders shall be on an official order and be authorised by the officer agreed by the Governing Body. No expenditure is to be made without proper authority and provision in the budget estimates.

2. Official orders shall be placed for all goods and services except for such items as recurring charges for public utilities, periodic payments, petty cash purchases and any other exception approved by the Governing Body. Orders must be generated by the computerised FIORI ordering system (previously Orderpoint) wherever possible.

3. The payment of all goods and services shall be made by the Headteacher, or under arrangements approved or controlled by him/her.

4. Goods will not be paid for in advance of receipt, unless in urgent and exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher will authorise the payment in these circumstances and all such purchases will be reported to the Governing Body for approval. This does not apply to online purchases where School staff are required to use their official Lloyds debit card or charge card to place the order. Where necessary consult the Local Authority's School Support Finance Section prior to such payment being made.

5. If the School is included in the Local Authority's arranged contracts and services there must be compliance with the terms and conditions of the Local Authority's contracts in relation to those services.

6. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and School Business Officer (if applicable, and at a lower level) shall be authorised to approve orders up to the amounts in the table on Page 2, (including non-recoverable VAT) for individual purchases or combination of items forming a scheme or project before Governor's approval is required. Where this is exceeded a Governors' minute number is required before the order is placed.

7. FIORI ordering system (previously Orderpoint) must be used wherever possible however if raising a paper order then all parts of the order form should be completed, including the actual price of supply if known, or if not, a best estimate.

8. As soon as the order is placed, the commitment must be recorded by the School Business Officer. When using FIORI ordering system (previously Orderpoint), commitments are automatically recorded in SAP. All other orders i.e. Utility bills, Property Services cannot be recorded on SAP. Other ways of monitoring these commitments should be kept in School.

9. The School Business Officer shall be responsible for the ordering of controlled stationery and maintain appropriate records of its receipt and issue.

10. Expenditure against relevant budgets will be monitored by the Headteacher/School Business Officer in the first instance and by the Finance Committee (School Governors) in the second instance. Governors must also have oversight of the budget and be presented with at least six clear and concise budget reports per year. These reports should include estimated balances for the current and at least two further financial years.

C. PAYING ACCOUNTS

1. Goods should be received by the School Business Officer and be checked against any delivery note and the original orders. When an invoice is received, a check should be made to ensure that:
   a) The goods which have been supplied or the services rendered are of satisfactory quality and correct quantity.
   b) The goods and services have not been previously paid for.
   c) They are in accordance with the contract price or estimate where appropriate.

2. If satisfied that the invoice is correct the School Business Officer should email it to accounts.payable@derbyshire.gov.uk so the invoice can be processed.

3. Vendor Invoice Management (VIM) Coding and approval of Non FIORI ordering system (previously Orderpoint) invoices may not be used for any of the following transactions.
   a) Payments to individuals, unless via Summary of Accounts.
   b) Payments to the Local Authority Property Division
   c) Salary or travel payments or sub-contractors.
   d) Payments to the Private School Fund, unless via Summary of Accounts.

4. Any queries about the invoice should be raised with the firm concerned by the School Business Officer. If agreement cannot be reached, the matter should be referred to the Headteacher who should consult with School Support Finance or Internal Audit.

5. The following three duties must not be carried out by the same person. However, in small Schools **i** and **ii** can be the same person:
   i. ordering of goods and services.
   ii. Receiving of goods and services
   iii. Authorising invoices for payment (This should be in line with these regulations and procedures.

6. The process of authorising VIM Non FIORI ordering system (previously Orderpoint) invoices is as follows:
   1st authorisation: School Business Officer inputs the coding data and that the invoice is not a duplicate and being paid to the correct vendor.
   2nd authorisation: Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, (School Business Manager in Secondary Schools).

7. The person authorising an invoice for payment is confirming that:
   a) The goods and services to which the invoice relates have been received or carried out satisfactorily.
   b) The prices, calculations, discounts, credits and VAT are correct.
   c) The expenditure has been properly incurred and is within the relevant estimated provision.
   d) Appropriate entries have been made in the inventory.

8. All users of SAP must comply with current data protection legislation and the Computer Misuse Act 1990. User account details should not be written down or shared with other School staff. The Governing Body will approve the delegation limit and permission levels.

D. SALARIES, WAGES AND PENSIONS

1. The Headteacher shall notify the Local Authority's HR Services Centre of all appointments, changes to working hours or salary grades, resignations, absences, and any other matters affecting the pay or pension of current or former employees. Appropriate authorised forms must be used for starters, leavers, and contractual changes, with details submitted promptly to HR Services. Where applicable, resignation letters must be provided, and on termination of employment all IT access rights must be removed and School-owned assets returned. Contract changes must be approved in advance by the Governing Body, except for urgent short-term supply appointments. The Headteacher or School Business Officer will regularly verify that all related actions have been completed correctly.

2. The Headteacher will authorise all salary documents relating to appointments, resignations, additional supply or payments and absence of staff. Properly authorised new starter, adjustments or leaver forms should be used to notify of such contract changes and details promptly submitted to the HR Services. A resignation letter should be attached where applicable and all access rights to IT systems removed with all School owned assets collected.

3. In addition to the properly authorised starters form, the following documents should be obtained from a new member of staff and sent to the HR Services:
   i. P45 (income tax) - in the event of the employee not having one, a new starter checklist should be completed.
   ii. Medical Clearance Form – medical clearance is required before a new employee commences employment. (HR Services does not require the medical form)

4. Documents relating to appointments, resignations or absence of the Headteacher shall be authorised by the Chair of Governors.

5. Timesheets or claim forms submitted as the basis for work done should be completed and signed by the member of staff and authorised by the Headteacher who must evidence the

satisfactory completion of the work/journeys for which payments are claimed. Should the claim relate to the Headteacher, the form should be approved/signed by the Chair of Governors.

6. All staff absences and temporary variations should be recorded monthly. A report (PT91) can be run on SAP after the absences have been entered, which should be entered (not uploaded) after authorisation to the SAP system.

E. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

1. The claiming and payment of travel and subsistence expenses is based upon the principle that the journeys and expenses are actually and necessarily incurred to enable members of staff to perform their duties and are appropriately authorised. All claims must be supported by a bona fide VAT receipt.

2. Claims should be completed on a monthly basis and checked by the School Business Officer and authorised by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. Where the claim relates to the Headteacher it should be authorised by the Chair of Governors. (NB. Staff should never authorise their own claim). Authorised forms should be submitted to the Local Authority's HR Services where the payment will be processed.

3. Governors may claim expenses in accordance with the Policy on Paying Governors' Allowances.

F. CONTRACTS

1. All contracts shall be in writing and:
   a) specify the subject matter, price, contract period, contract specification and terms of payment.
   b) contain a clause permitting cancellation in circumstances of corruption or failure to meet contractual terms.
   c) require access to the supplier's records under this contract for Internal Audit.
   d) require compliance with any British Standard specification or code.
   e) indemnify the School against any claim which may be made in respect of personal injury to any person unless due to negligence by the School and against any claim for damage to property due to negligence of the contractor, and the contractor shall produce evidence of suitable insurance against such claims.
   f) In the event that the contract relates to the processing of personal data, (as defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 "the Act") the contract must:
      a. specifically reference and require compliance with the Act.
      b. contain appropriate data processing or sharing provisions and contractual protections*

   *For further information please contact your Data Protection Officer.

   See Section I if the contract relates to the implementation of a new I.T. system involving personal or financial information.

2. No member of staff shall authorise work to be undertaken or goods to be supplied which are to be subject of a contract or other legally binding agreement until authorisation has

been given by the Governing Body or the Headteacher and depending on the value of goods or services.

3. All new Contracts must be formally approved by the Governing Body. Price increases on any contract shall be subject to prior consultation with the Finance Committee.

4. From 1 April 2024, a new International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS 16 Leases) was introduced for Local Authorities. IFRS 16 Leases ends the distinction between Operating and Finance leases for accounting purposes. This means that all leases will be now classed as Finance leases, which previously schools were not allowed to enter into without the approval of the Secretary of State. As a result, the Secretary of State has agreed to a blanket consent to common school leasing activities. Any leases which fall into the blanket consent do not require approval from the Local Authority, however, we do require details of these leases. For further information see School leases (Derbyshire SchoolsNet)

5. Any leases not included in the blanket consent will need to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for consent. See further guidance on submit a school land transaction proposal on the GOV.UK website.

6. The supplier is required to indemnify the School against any claim which may be made in respect of personal injury to any person unless due to negligence by the School, against any claim for damage to property due to negligence of the contractor, and against any claim or fine arising as a result of a personal data breach as defined in the UK GDPR. ”include a requirement for the contractor to take out and maintain with a reputable insurance underwriter or companies a policy or policies of insurance which are adequate to cover its liability under the contract and any other insurances required in order to comply with the Law for the duration of the contract”.

7. All contracts shall be subject to the financial limits as specified in these Financial Regulations and Procedures.

Please note: For the purpose of these procedures, the definition of a contract shall be any signed agreement (other than routine orders) for the provision of goods and/or services over a period of time. The School should ensure that the management of contracts is undertaken in accordance with the Government’s Buying procedures and procurement law for schools website Buying procedures and procurement law for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

G. REVENUE BUDGETS

1. Estimates of income and expenditure will be prepared for the forthcoming financial year, and at least the next two financial years, jointly by the Headteacher and the School Business Officer, based on advice provided by the Local Authority, and considered in detail by the Finance Committee where appointed or Full Governing Body.
2. The format of the estimates will be consistent with the needs of management information for financial control purposes, and the format of the annual accounts as prescribed by the Governing Body.

3. The estimated out-turn figures relating to the current financial year should also be included with the new financial year budget estimates, along with estimates for at least the next two financial years.

4. An annual budget timetable will be set by the Headteacher and the School Business Officer and agreed by the Finance Committee. The timetable must comply with the Local Authority's deadlines.

5. The Governing Body will formally approve the expenditure and income budgets for the financial year, plus at least the next two financial years, after which the School Business Officer will be instructed by the Headteacher to input the budget split into SAP (for the forthcoming year only). A deficit budget plan for the forthcoming year is not acceptable, unless a 2 or 3 year plan has been agreed with the Local Authority.

6. The Governors must have a strategy to use excessive surplus balances of the budget share.

7. The Headteacher will be responsible for the delegation of the authorised budget, and it is his/her responsibility to ensure that budget heads are not substantially overspent or underspent, taking into account the overall budget position.

8. Where it appears that an approved expenditure budget may be exceeded, or income target not realised, such information will be conveyed to the Finance Committee at the earliest opportunity. Recommendations will be made to the Governing Body in regular reports as to remedial action to be taken where appropriate. The Governing Body will determine the financial information which needs to be provided by the Headteacher for monitoring purposes with reports presented six times a year.

9. No expenditure which requires a continuing financial commitment in future years may be incurred without the prior approval of the Governing Body.

10. Virement of funds between budgets may only be made in accordance with limits set by Governors. To the maximum in the table on Page 2 may be made and must be reported to the Finance Committee. Virements exceeding this amount require the approval of the Finance Committee before they are carried out and the minute number recorded.

11. Any request for virement from Contingency / unallocated budget to any other budget head must be referred to the Finance Committee for approval before the virement is completed.

H. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

1. Capital expenditure generally falls outside the scheme of delegation and such expenditure on buildings can only be incurred with the approval of the Portfolio holder (the Local Authority / Diocese) with the exception of expenditure through the school's allocation of Devolved Formula Capital.

2. The Governors will be responsible for drawing up expenditure plans for Devolved Formula Capital, taking into account the three year spending deadline. Approval of the Local Authority must be sought for all schemes unless solely for I.C.T. purchases (which must not include alterations to electrics or the fabric of the building). Approval is also needed when using revenue monies for capital expenditure.

3. The Governors will delegate responsibility to the Headteacher to spend up to the maximum limit set in the table on Page 2 from Devolved Formula Capital (i.e. the same spending limit for orders of goods), before approval is sought from the Governing Body.

4. The Governors can approve expenditure from the delegated budget to meet the cost of capital expenditure on the School premises, subject to Section 2.14 of the Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools and the expenditure limits outlined above. Where Derbyshire County Council owns the premises, or the School has voluntary controlled status, the approval of the Local Authority for the proposed works must be obtained via an approved Project Approval Form. Governors of Voluntary Aided Schools must seek the approval of the Diocese.

I. INTERNAL AUDIT

1. The Local Authority's Internal Audit shall have unrestricted access to all records, personnel and physical properties of the School necessary for the purposes of audit work however and wherever these are held. The Local Authority's Internal Audit shall be entitled to require from any employee, Governor or volunteer of the School such information and explanation as may be necessary for that purpose.

2. It is the responsibility of all staff in cases of suspected fraud, misappropriation of funds, materials or equipment, or any other irregularities, to comply with the School's 'Whistle-Blowing Policy/Confidential Reporting Code' or otherwise and report immediately to the Headteacher and/ or the Local Authority's Assistant Director of Finance (Audit), Internal Audit as appropriate.

3. The Headteacher should notify the Local Authority's Assistant Director of Finance (Audit) in advance of any significant changes under consideration to existing systems for the maintenance of financial records or high-risk IT applications processing sensitive pupil personal data. Should there be a requirement for Internal Audit involvement, the Local Authority's Assistant Director of Finance (Audit) will liaise with the School on the expected control framework.

4. The implementation of new IT systems should be notified to the Assistant Director of Finance (Audit) where the School's financial data or sensitive pupil personal data will be processed.

5. In regard to paragraphs 3. and 4. above, the School must have considered or completed, a data protection impact assessment for the proposed system changes or new application under consideration.

6. The Headteacher and Governors are responsible for the maintenance of an effective control environment and securing School assets. The Headteacher and Governors should ensure that Audit Reports are addressed with agreed recommendations implemented promptly and periodically reviewed.

   If required, further information can be sought from Mark Lunn (Assistant Director of Finance) mark.lunn@derbyshire.gov.uk

J. IMPREST ACCOUNT AND CHARGE CARDS

1. The Imprest bank account debit cards or charge cards should only be used for transactions up to the amounts in the table below to purchase items which cannot be processed using official ordering procedures and shall be operated in accordance with the instructions of the Headteacher. The Imprest bank account shall not be allowed to be overdrawn. Schools may also receive income from Childcare vouchers into their Imprest bank account.

2. Cash floats shall be operated in accordance with the instructions of the Headteacher.

3. All disbursements from the Imprest bank account debit card or charge card must be supported by authorised vouchers, receipts and records with all transactions recorded promptly. For those that have been issued with a Lloyds Charge card; reconciliation must be completed monthly in a timely manner ensuring the spreadsheet is completed, authorised and receipts/invoices attached to the email for processing by sap.finance@derbyshire.gov.uk.

4. Salaries, wages or taxable expenses must never be paid through the Imprest account.

5. The School will maintain a bank account with the Local Authority's approved bank for the purposes of operating the Imprest account with three signatories approved by the Governing Body. The level of funds to be held shall be determined by the Headteacher with requests for further allocations submitted on a Summary of accounts form to be processed through the Vendor Invoice Management System.

6. The Local Authority will make debit cards available for School Imprest Account signatories. The Authority's Schools Debit Card Policy provides detailed guidance on using debit cards and describes the responsibilities and restrictions which cardholders must accept before being provided with any such card. Staff must comply with the Debit Card Policy at all times. For those issued with a Charge card you must comply with the Authority's Schools Charge Card Policy at all times.

7. The Imprest bank account shall be reconciled to the bank statement by an officer independent of the day to day running of the account and who does not hold a debit card. This should be evidenced through the bank statement being signed and dated by the reconciling officer. Where this is not possible then the Headteacher should countersign the reconciliation. The Form A shall be completed annually for the Imprest account at 31 March each year which shall be retained and made available for Audit inspection.

8. Cash withdrawals from the account should be kept to an absolute minimum with cash stored in line with the schools agreed insurance limits. Individual transactions should be specifically approved by the Headteacher and should not exceed below unless higher levels have been agreed with the Headteacher and approved by the Director of Finance. Cash withdrawals and debit card transactions incur transaction fees which will be recharged back to the school's budget. Any cash withdrawals made using a charge card will incur a 2.5% fee.

	Cash (£)	Internet (£)	Point of sale (£)
Primary	200	200	200
Secondary	200	500	500
Special	200	500	500

9. Out of Pocket Expenses – Wherever possible the School's debit card or charge card should be used for low value items of expenditure only. Under exceptional circumstances, and with prior approval, an Out of Pocket expenses claim form can be submitted for reimbursement of expenditure incurred by staff to acquire goods and services for approved School business. Local Authority's Internal Audit recommend a limit of £50 for Out of Pocket expenses. Under no circumstances can a member of staff authorise their own Out of Pocket claim form.

K. STORES AND INVENTORIES

1. The School Business Officer shall be responsible for the safe custody of stores and inventory items, and the maintenance of records. The inventory record should be held in the SAP Finance Inventory module or an alternative Asset Recording System (evaluated by Internal Audit) of all items deemed to be portable or desirable. The inventory must be kept up to date and amendments/additions made promptly. Serial numbers or other identifying reference should be quoted wherever possible.

2. The Headteacher shall be responsible for ensuring that an evidenced, independent check of inventory items is carried out at least once a year. Where applicable, an evidenced, independent stock take of stores should also be carried out.

3. Any inventory/stores discrepancies should be investigated promptly. Any writing off of obsolete inventory/stores shall be done only with the prior approval of the Governing Body. Details of disposal where appropriate, including authorization, signature, date, and method of disposal should be documented.

4. Items which need not be included on an inventory are furniture, personal property and consumables and equipment worth less than the level included in the table on Page 2 (recommend between £50 and a maximum of £200). Exemptions to this, may include a group of items, e.g. 10 tablets in one classroom which exceeds the value quoted above.

5. The School Business Officer will maintain an inventory using the SAP Finance Inventory Module or an alternative Asset Recording System of curriculum software used in School, ensuring that all software is covered by appropriate licences and the software inventory should be subject to independent, evidenced checks.

6. Due to the inherent weaknesses and lack of effective audit trail, spreadsheets must not be used as a means of recording the School's inventory.

L. INSURANCE

1. The Governors through the Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring the School has the necessary insurance cover in line with the policy determined by the Governing Body.

2. All staff shall notify the School Business Officer/ Headteacher immediately of any loss, liability or damage which may lead to a claim. The Authority's Insurance Section should also be notified.

M. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

1. All School staff shall be responsible for ensuring the proper physical and logical security of all buildings and other assets under their control.
2. No School assets shall be subject to personal use by staff or students without proper authority from the Headteacher.

3. An up-to-date register of all assets used outside the School by School staff should be kept. The staff member should sign the register to confirm both receipt and return of the asset along with the Headteacher or nominated representative.

4. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that suitable arrangements are made for the safe custody of keys to buildings, safes, and similar receptacles. Keys to the safe should be taken off site in the evening/weekends.

5. To maintain the security of information away from the school, all mobile devices including laptops and USB devices should be encrypted to prevent unauthorised access to the School's data in line with current data protection legislation. Where the School IT Acceptable Usage Agreement allows the use of USB devices, they must be encrypted and issued by the school with a log maintained of the staff these have been allocated to.

N. VAT

1. The Headteacher shall be responsible for ensuring that the School conforms to VAT procedures as issued by the Local Authority (failure to comply could lead to HM Revenue and Customs claims against the School's budget). Where in doubt, staff should seek guidance from Authority's Corporate Finance Division.

2. The Authority's VAT Officer or their representatives shall have right of access to all records appertaining to VAT. The VAT Officer will also, from time to time be required to visit the School in order to confirm that VAT procedures are being adhered to.

3. HM Revenue & Customs inspectors visit Derbyshire County Council to carry out inspections. They will include Schools within their inspection and are legally entitled to inspect Schools' records.

O. PROCUREMENT

Where there is a potential conflict of interest or relationship between a member of staff and a prospective contractor or supplier, the member of staff must not be involved in the recruitment or procurement process. This will help ensure the process is fair and reduce the risk of allegations of bias, preferential treatment and unfair practice.

Tendering

1. Each School's maximum tendering threshold is determined by the following formula:

£10,000 plus 1% of a School's budget (to include Schools Block, High Needs Funding, Pupil Premium, EYSFF and Post 16 funding; excluding rent and rates).

If the calculation of the above generates a figure of less than £40,000, then that is the maximum tender limit for your School. If the figure generated is over £40,000, then your maximum tender limit is £40,000, (applies to Schools with budget / income streams of over £3,000,000).

Schools can have a lower tender limit if they wish (Not recommended to be lower than £10,000).

*limit based on maximum budget size within range, capped at £40,000

2. The School's tender limit is set in the table on Page 2.

3. Schools are advised that, in operating within this increased upper threshold, they should consider:
   - tendering below this if they feel it is of benefit on a specific scheme; and
   - reviewing their internal authorisation limits regularly as part of the SFVS governance framework.

4. Where the estimated value or amount of a proposed contract exceeds the School's tendering threshold, tenders shall be invited by a competitive tendering process.

   Schools must follow Public Procurement Law throughout a competitive tendering process. For all procurements published from 24 February 2025 this shall mean the Procurement Act 2023 and the Procurement Regulations 2024, which succeeded the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

   This means changes in procurement regulation and practices, aimed at bringing about a more flexible, strategic approach to public procurement. School buyers must familiarise themselves with the new procurement rules and guidelines outlined in the Act. This includes the revised tendering processes, evaluation criteria, and contract management practices.

   **Please note: All contracts procured prior to 24 February 2025, will continue to be regulated by the requirements set out in the Public Contract Regulations 2015.*

   The Government has provided a dedicated "Buying for Schools" page that provides more information including Transforming Public Procurement (TPP) training resources, supporting information with school's procurement.
   Buying for schools: how to buy what you need - Find the right route to buy - Guidance - GOV.UK

   a) The requirement to go out to the market with a tender may be waived only by the Governing Body where they are satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying exemption. Such exemptions shall be recorded in the minutes with reason(s) for waiving the tendering requirements.

b) Acceptance of Tenders

The School will award to the supplier submitting the most advantageous tender. It is not always the lowest price submitted that wins a tender and therefore consideration must be given to price and quality through weighting each criterion as a representative percentage of total importance when issuing the specification as part of the initial tender pack.

A list of tenders received identifying the tender accepted shall be reported to the Finance Committee with the successful tenderer minuted.

Further information on the Procurement Act and help and support can be found in the following link: Request help and support for your procurement (get-help-buying-for-schools.service.gov.uk)

Further information on approved frameworks, how to buy goods or services and/or run a tender as recommended by the DfE can be found following the link below:
Buying procedures and procurement law for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Quotations

5. Quotations

a) Where the estimated value of a proposed contract does not exceed the tendering threshold but does exceed the limit set in the table on Page 2, alternative written quotations shall be invited by a minimum of three firms/suppliers considered competent to perform the contract. (It is strongly recommended that where a planned project or purchase is non-routine a minimum of three written quotations are obtained irrespective of the estimated cost in order to demonstrate best value).

b) The Finance Committee may waive the requirements for quotations below the tender limit where they are satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying exemption. Such exemption shall be recorded in the minutes.

c) Under normal circumstances the School will award to the supplier quoting the lowest price. It is not always the lowest price submitted that wins a tender and therefore consideration must be given to price and quality through weighting each criterion as a representative percentage of total importance. Any such reasons for accepting a higher quote must be reported to the Governing Body and be recorded in detail.

Any purchases below the quotation limit should still have three verbal quotes wherever possible.

P. UNOFFICIAL FUNDS

1. The Governing Body has responsibility for the unofficial funds of the School. The Headteacher shall report to the Governing Body on the unofficial funds.

2. The Headteacher shall arrange for a suitable bank account to be opened for any unofficial funds. A minimum of two signatories for the bank account shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Governing Body. The number of bank accounts should be kept to a minimum. Bank accounts must be opened in the name of the School.

3. The Headteacher is responsible for the maintenance of accurate financial records and banking records of all unofficial funds. The School Business Officer will maintain the records on a day-to-day basis with a cash book / excel spreadsheet used to record all transactions so that statements of income and expenditure can be generated at any time.

4. All payments must be supported by vouchers and receipts giving full details of the expenditure and made by cheque or debit card where applicable.

5. All income must be banked intact at least weekly or as the cash in hand exceeds £250 in total with other funds been held in school. (Or approved limit for the safe if applicable).

6. The running of particular activities (e.g. School journeys etc) must wherever possible be operated through SAP Fiori. However, if this is not suitable, Unofficial Funds can be used, and the teacher in charge or School Business Officer should keep a simple account of the money received and spent.

7. The accounts should be prepared to run from 1st September to 31st August each academic year and an annual summarised statement of receipts and payments, supported by the subsidiary records and vouchers, must be submitted for audit. The Governors should appoint an auditor that is independent of the operation of the unofficial funds and should not have had close connections with the fund or been involved in the fund raising activities. The audit should be undertaken annually in accordance with advice issued by the Local Authority's Director of Finance. It should be completed within three months of the period end and a signed certificate provided by the auditor that states the accounts represent a 'true and fair view' or include details why they do not. The accounts and the certificate should then be presented to the Governing Body.

8. No payments for overtime to members of staff or for payment of fees to staff for carrying out additional work as part of their normal duties should be paid out of the School fund. Under no circumstances must personal cheques be cashed from the School fund.

9. To provide transparency, summary information should be made available to interested parties with details published on the School's website including the auditor's certificate.

Q. HOSPITALITY AND GIFTS

1. Hospitality may only be accepted where it is of minimal value, with no attached conditions, and there is a genuine need to impart information or represent the School. The acceptance of hospitality must not create a conflict of interest or cause embarrassment to the School. The offer must be reported to the Headteacher regardless of whether it is accepted. If hospitality is offered to the Headteacher this should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

2. 'Token' gifts may be accepted from parents/guardians up to the value of £50. Acceptable examples are calendars, diaries, pens or chocolates. All gifts should be reported to the Headteacher. Gifts worth more than £50 must not be accepted, and you must report such offers to the Headteacher. Any offer of a gift where you suspect that an improper motive may exist must be refused, for example the giver is seeking to influence your decisions or actions and you must report such offers to the Headteacher. This is the case regardless of the monetary value of the offer.

Any gifts from suppliers/contractors to the school itself should be declared and recorded and any over £50 in value reported to Governors e.g., school sports kit, iPads etc.

3. If it is suspected that an improper motive may or is perceived to exist, i.e. the giver is seeking to influence decisions or actions, the offer must be declined and reported to the Headteacher.

4. In no circumstances should a monetary gift be accepted and such offers must be reported to the Headteacher.

5. All offers of gifts and hospitality should be recorded in a gifts and hospitality register whether these are accepted or declined. Annual review of the entries made in the register should be undertaken by the Governing Body with evidence of the review minuted.

6. Where delegated or unofficial funds are used to pay for staff hospitality e.g. to celebrate an Ofsted success or provide a meal on an inset day, this must be formally approved by the Governing Body with consideration given as to whether it is an appropriate use of funds. The hospitality is deemed a 'benefit in kind' and potentially has a tax implication should the value exceed £50 and as such must be notified to HR Services. A number of exemptions apply whereby there is no tax implication and as such no need for notification with further information available at the link below.

7. Under no circumstances should any gifts (e.g. staff leaving presents) be purchased through the school budget official funds (including using debit or charge cards), or Private School Funds (unless permitted by the PTA's constitution).

School payroll - HMRC advice re P11Ds for benefits provided

R. RETENTION OF RECORDS

1. All financial records should be retained in accordance with the Local Authority's retention guidelines, Information Governance services, Data Protection: Contracts, Services and Training | Derbyshire Services for Schools or similar e.g. IRMS Schools Toolkit - Information and Records Management Society (further information can be found on the Local Authority's Education Data Hub website). The majority of financial records should be retained for six years, plus the current year. Certified, paid invoices must be kept for the current year plus the previous six years in a safe, secure environment which will enable easy location and be available for inspection by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Schools using SAP will not retain invoices as they are sent to Derbyshire County Council where they are scanned and then destroyed as approved by HMRC.

2. Disposal of confidential information and records should be done in a secure manner in compliance with current data protection legislation. If records are shredded using an external company, then a Certificate of Destruction should be obtained and retained.

3. The School should maintain and annually review an approved record retention schedule covering both financial and non-financial records. Records held within School should be reviewed annually and securely disposed of in accordance with the retention schedule.

S. EXTENDED SERVICES

1. If a School decides to provide extended or 'wraparound' services these need to be formally agreed and approved in advance by the Governing Body. In addition, a nominated officer should be appointed within the School to manage and coordinate the additional services and ensure that the Governing Body is provided with regular budget monitoring information on the financial position of the services being provided. The extended or 'wraparound' services should be managed in line with the principles of these financial regulations and procedures.

2. To enable the Governing Body to make informed decisions on the effectiveness, an initial projection of income and expenditure plan must be prepared. The plan should include details of all potential 'losses' to the School so that the Governing Body can approve the funding that will be required from the 'mainstream' School budget to support such services. Where the initial funding from the 'mainstream' budget is not sufficient, approval of the Governing Body must be obtained for any additional shortfall in advance.

3. Costs and income should be recorded using the extended services codes:
   Extended Services Employee Costs: 111500 – 111515
   Extended Services Resources: 146150
   Extended Services Income: 231080

4. It is important that on-going monitoring of income and expenditure is undertaken so that the Governing Body is fully appraised on the impact of the additional provision on the School's budget. The financial information relating to extended or 'wraparound' services including any identified losses should be reported on a regular basis, at least 6 times a year, with the agreed actions and approvals formally recorded within the Governing Body minutes.

5. If the above codes are not used, internal monitoring of costs incurred against other codes will need to be performed. Transfers of costs between codes can be actioned in School to simplify the monitoring process.

Appendix 1 Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The statutory responsibilities of the Governing Body are detailed in Section 21 of the Education Act 2002. Governors have collective responsibility for the financial decisions and are answerable to parents and the wider community.

The Governors have a strategic responsibility for managing the School finances and resources to optimise the standards of education.

The Governors' role will be to:-

- Manage the School budget. Consider and approve the annual budget plan in line with the School Improvement Plan, by the second Friday in May each year.
- Decide whether to delegate responsibilities to the Finance Committee, Headteacher, School Business Officer and establish the level of their responsibility and financial limits.

- To determine the staff establishments in line with the School Improvement Plan / Strategic Forward Planning Document, and a pay policy for the School.
- To determine a procedure for ensuring there are adequate cover arrangements for teaching and support staff absences, considering budget limitations.
- Receive and consider information received from the Local Authority regarding changes to the funding formula.
- Ensure accurate accounting records are maintained and retained for appropriate periods of time in accordance with the Governors' Document Retention Policy and legal requirements.
- To provide support, advice, and act as a 'critical friend' to the Headteacher.
- Receive budget monitoring reports and consider changes to the budget plan in the light of information contained in the monitoring reports.
- Ensure the School meets all statutory financial responsibilities through the establishment and annual review of the financial regulations and procedures, taking into account the Local Authority financial regulations.
- Ensure the School meets all statutory and regulatory requirements relating to Data Protection, Records Management and Cyber Security.
- Ensure the School achieves 'Best Value' from its budget.
- Ensure that a Declaration of pecuniary and personal interest register is maintained for all governors and all staff.
- Ensure that prompt responses are made where necessary to audit and other inspections, and improvement action plans are followed.
- Authorise the disposal/write off of inventory items and "written off stock".
- Ensure the School has an appropriate Confidential Reporting Code or 'Whistle Blowing' policy that staff, parents and contractors are made aware of.

The Governing Body may delegate some of its responsibilities to Committee. If this decision is taken, the main Governing Body will: -

- Define the terms of reference of all Committees that are in operation.
- Define the extent of delegation.
- Ensure the main Governing Body receives minutes and reports from each Committee.
- Annually review the Committee's terms of reference.
- Ensure there is a formal link between the Committee and other Governors' Committees where decisions of one affect the other.

The DfE's Governance guide is available for reference via:

Maintained schools governance guide - Guidance - GOV.UK

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will be responsible for the day to day leadership and financial management of the School. The level of those responsibilities and maximum limits of expenditure will be determined by the Governing Body and formally minuted.

The key responsibilities of the Headteacher will be:-

- The internal organisation of the School to ensure the sound management of financial systems and procedures.

- Formulate the draft budget plan for submission to the Governors in line with the School Improvement Plan and agreed staffing establishments.
- To monitor the School budget at least ***monthly*** and provide reports to the Governors / Finance Committee at least 6 times per year, covering the current financial year, and at least the next two.
- Formulate and implement financial policies and procedures to ensure efficient and effective management and control (and in accordance with LA requirements).
- To ensure there is adequate supply cover for teaching and support staff absences in line with Governors' procedures and strategies.
- Ensure all staff with financial responsibilities receive training and advice on financial policies and procedures.
- Manage the School's voluntary funds and ensure they are independently audited on an annual basis, and the accounts and auditor's report are presented to the Governors promptly.
- Implement budget virements up to the limit as agreed by the Governors and obtain Governors' approval for virements above that level.
- Respond to the audit reports and action plans and provide reports to the Governors on progress against these requirements.
- Ensure the maintenance of an up to date inventory of equipment in a form approved by the Local Authority, which is reviewed annually.
- Ensure the School has appropriate insurance cover for public liability, building and contents etc.
- To sign official orders for the purchase of goods and services up to the limit agreed by the Governors. The Governors will be responsible for approving orders above that limit.
- Be responsible for the authorisation of employee timesheets / starters / leavers / changes forms.
- To ensure that financial and confidential information is held securely at the School with access restricted to authorised staff only.

Role of the School Business Officer

The level of responsibility of the School Business Officer will be determined by the School Governors on the advice of the Headteacher who will be the employee's Line Manager. The School Business Officer may be given responsibility for a level of expenditure determined by the Governing Body and formally minuted.

The key responsibilities of the School Business Officer are:-

- The general administration of the School Finance Systems and procedures ensuring good practice and efficiency.
- Working with the Headteacher to formulate a draft annual budget plan for submission to the Governing Body.
- To maintain accurate and up to date financial records and accounts, this will be retained for the statutory length of time.
- To monitor expenditure against budget headings in respect of the School's formula budget and provide reports to the Headteacher.
- To sign official orders for the purchase of goods and services up to the limit approved by Governors. The Headteacher and Governors will be responsible for orders above that limit.
- The management and training of staff with financial responsibilities under the guidance of the Headteacher.
- Work with the Headteacher to respond to audit reports and action plans.

- Maintain the School inventory in conjunction with the Headteacher and assist with its annual review.
- Maintain the School Imprest / petty cash system and provide reports for the Headteacher.
- To bank all income promptly and intact, working with a second employee for verification purposes ensuring cash held in school is securely stored and does not exceed £250.
- Ensure invoices are paid promptly in line with the School's Financial Procedures.
- Ensure all SAP "postings" are promptly and regularly checked and 'signed off'.
- Be responsible for the completion of all employee leaver / starter / changes forms for authorisation by the Headteacher and onward submission to the HR Services at Matlock.
- Ensure access to the SAP and Integris MIS systems are adequately controlled and that user accounts are promptly deleted following staff departures.