



Harton  
Academy



## Reserves Policy

May 2025

To be reviewed in May 2026

## **Introduction**

1. There are a number of constraints placed upon academies, in terms of financial management. One of these constraints is the inability to borrow funds. This constraint represents a key risk to Illuminare Multi-Academy Trust (“The Trust”) in relation to financial planning and monitoring.
2. One of the ways in which the Trust mitigates this risk is through the effective management of reserves, which provide alternative temporary funding streams, should there be a delay in grant receipts or a sudden unforeseen increase in expenditure.
3. Setting a reserves policy helps inform the way in which the Trust manages its cash, liquid assets and debt.

## **Level of Reserves**

4. The financial risks have been reviewed in terms of impact and likelihood, as part of the strategic risk management process. The main financial risk to the Trust is that of managing its short-term cash flow effectively. To mitigate this risk, it has been agreed that an appropriate minimum reserves balance would equate to 4% of the GAG income. In broad terms, this would equate to approximately £400k.

## **Restrictions**

5. The ESFA are able set limits on the sum of GAG that can be carried forward from one year to the next. There are currently no limits in place (as at 30.04.2025).
6. The DfE does expect Academy Trusts to use their allocated funding for the full benefit of their current pupils. Therefore, the Trust will not build up a substantial surplus, without having in place a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit our pupils.

## **Review of Policy**

7. The Reserves Policy will be reviewed by the Finance, Estates and Staffing Committee on an annual basis.