



Department
for Education

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To accounting officers in academy trusts

Dear colleague

Academy Trust Handbook 2025

I am pleased to inform you that we have published the 2025 Academy Trust Handbook today.

You tell us that publishing the handbook in June gives you time to read, digest and prepare for changes that will come into effect from 1 September when the handbook becomes effective.

The handbook is a principles-based document and supports you by signposting to new supplementary guidance covering areas such as:

- Estates management
- Procurement
- Sustainability

A full list of the main changes to this year's handbook can be found on in the [what's changed section of the handbook](#). Some particular areas I would like to draw your attention to are:

- **Executive pay** – we have provided greater clarity about the process for trusts determining executive pay
- **Digital and technology standards** – we have confirmed that trusts should have an understanding of and be working towards meeting the six core digital and technology standards by 2030 and provided a link to the [plan technology for your school](#) service to help them do this.
- **Oversight, support and intervention guidance** – we have provided trusts with a link to further information on DfE oversight and support, including intervention

- **Recovery of funds** – we have confirmed that the department may recover funds where there is evidence of irregularity or fraud

Cross-government discussions on electric vehicle salary sacrifice schemes (EVSS) are ongoing. We are committed to informing you when a decision has been made and the handbook will be updated accordingly.

Please share this letter with your board of trustees, chief financial officer and executives, and arrange for it to be discussed at your next board meeting.

Best wishes for your students' success in their examination results later in the summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Thomas". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Andrew" and "Thomas" being capitalized and prominent.

Andrew Thomas

Director – Funding & Financial Oversight Directorate
Department for Education