INTEGRATED CURRICULUM & FINANCIAL PLANNING (ICFP)

Key Guidance for Schools & Trusts

ALIGN • PLAN • MONITOR • IMPROVE

ICFP connects your strategic priorities, curriculum intent and financial resources to ensure every investment supports the best outcomes for pupils.

WHY ICFP MATTERS

- ✓ Links spending to strategic priorities
- ✓ Ensures resources are used effectively
- ✓ Supports decisions with evidence
- ✓ Helps improve outcomes for pupils
- ✓ Strengthens governance and accountability

This guidance supports ATH expectations for strategic planning and resource management.

KEY ICFP PRINCIPLES

1 WHAT IS ICFP?

- ✓ A strategic approach that aligns your curriculum, resources and priorities.
- ✓ Ensures every pound spent supports pupil outcomes and school improvement.
- ✓ Looks at the whole picture, not just the next budget cycle.

Think long term & plan for impact.

2 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- ✓ Start with your vision, values and strategy priorities.
- ✓ Make sure your curriculum intent supports your improvement goals.
- ✓ Ensure your financial plan reflects what matters most.

Strategy drives everything.

3 CURRICULUM INTENT TO IMPACT

- ✓ Design an affordable curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- ✓ Focus on teaching, learning and assessment that drives progress.
- ✓ Use data to identify gaps and inform curriculum decisions.

Great teaching changes lives.

4 RESOURCE PLANNING

- ✓ Link resources to priorities and expected outcomes.
- ✓ Plan staffing, CPD technology and other investment wisely.
- ✓ Consider total cost and long-term sustainability.
- ✓ Utilise KPIs to support effective deployment of resources.

Spend where it matters most.

5 MONITORING & EVALUATION

- ✓ Track progress against your strategic and financial plans.
- ✓ Use robust data and KPIs to measure impact.
- ✓ Review regularly and make evidence-based decisions.

Measure it, to improve it.

6 GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ Trustees, LGBs and leaders hold clear responsibility.
- ✓ Ensure transparency and challenge at all levels.
- ✓ Report clearly on progress and outcomes.

Strong governance builds trust.

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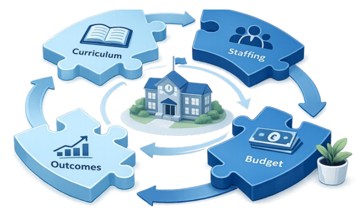

Practical continuation page for evidence, assurance, action planning and review.

7 DATA & EVIDENCE

- ✓ Use reliable data to inform curriculum and financial decisions.
- ✓ Combine attainment, progress, curriculum and staffing data.
- ✓ Ensure data is accurate, timely and easy to access.

Good data leads to better insight.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Identify financial, operational and educational risks.
- ✓ Assess impact and likelihood
- ✓ Plan mitigations and build flexibility into budgets.
- ✓ Consider long terms risk management.

Managing risk protects schools.

9 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ✓ Involve staff, pupils, parents, governors and Trustees.
- ✓ Communicate priorities, plans and progress clearly.
- ✓ Work together to support shared goals and long-term sustainability.

Engagement creates stronger support.

10 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Review outcomes and resource use regularly.
- ✓ Learn from what works and what doesn't.
- ✓ Adjust curriculum and spending to improve impact.
- ✓ Continue to produce and review KPIs.

Improvement is built on learning.

11 VALUE FOR MONEY & SUSTAINABILITY

- ✓ Ensure resources deliver the greatest impact.
- ✓ Challenge costs and seek efficiencies.
- ✓ Plan for long-term financial sustainability.

Smart spending secures the future.

12 REPORTING & COMMUNICATION

- ✓ Provide clear, concise reports on performance and spending.
- ✓ Highlight key outcomes and progress.
- ✓ Support transparency and informed decision making.

Clear reporting builds trust.

SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

	Yes	No	In Progress	N/A
Strategic priorities are clear and linked to outcomes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Curriculum intent drives staffing and resource plans	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data informs curriculum and financial decisions	☐	☐	☐	☐
The financial plan supports strategic priorities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Resources are allocated using impact and need	☐	☐	☐	☐
Risks are identified and managed effectively	☐	☐	☐	☐
ICFP calculations are completed and used to inform strategic planning	☐	☐	☐	☐
Curriculum and staffing are reviewed before financial decisions are made	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strategic decisions are supported by evidence from ICFP analysis	☐	☐	☐	☐
Governors review ICFP outcomes and monitor delivery against priorities	☐	☐	☐	☐

GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

1. **Align** – Confirm strategic priorities, curriculum intent and resource assumptions.
2. **Plan** – Link staffing, budgets and investments to agreed outcomes.
3. **Evidence** – Use attainment, progress and finance data together.
4. **Review** – Monitor impact, affordability and risk each term.
5. **Improve** – Adapt plans and reinvest where evidence shows impact.

DISCUSSION

1. Do our resources follow our strategic priorities?
2. Can we evidence the impact of curriculum investment?
3. Are staffing plans affordable and sustainable?
3. Can we evidence the impact of non staffing investment?
4. What trade-offs have leaders considered?
5. How do Trustees monitor value for money?