

# Supporting the education sector



**Julie Hutchison**  
Charities Specialist,  
Aberdeen Standard Capital



## We can support you

At Aberdeen Standard Capital, we can run investment portfolios in line with your organisation's diverse requirements. For example, you may need to generate income and capital growth, or you may have a specific project, all with different time horizons. We can help your organisation meet its financial goals and also help to align your investments with your underlying purposes.

Our Charities Specialist, Julie Hutchison, is well placed to support your investment policy discussions. Julie was a tutor at Edinburgh Law School for many years after graduating, and her involvement in education continued as she helped to develop new tax-related qualifications with the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. More recently, Julie has written investment policy statements in her role as a trustee for a charity. She also sits on the working group on fossil fuel investment for the Church of Scotland.

To find out how we can support your organisation, please email us at [charities@aberdeenstandard.com](mailto:charities@aberdeenstandard.com)

## How does your board approach investments?

The education sector in the UK is diverse and that diversity is represented among our charity clients at Aberdeen Standard Capital. From independent schools and grant-making educational trusts, to a music school and an Oxford college, we have extensive experience in supporting a range of bodies that focus on education.

A common theme for all in the education sector is good governance, which includes the approach taken to investments. In this respect, an investment policy statement is key to aligning your organisation's investments with its financial objectives and its underlying purposes.

## Framing your discussion

The focus of your organisation may be on making grants or funding bursaries to support young people in education. Or perhaps you have a permanent endowment and derive an income from investments to support annual activity? For some institutions, there is a capital project on the horizon, such as a new science block or refurbishment of a building. These goals all translate into investment objectives and can be reflected in your investment policy statement.

## Areas to consider

At Aberdeen Standard Capital, many of our charity clients also include ethical criteria in their investment policy, in order to ensure that their investments are compatible with their goals. For example, when considering young people, a number of our education sector clients exclude tobacco. Others express their concerns by excluding companies associated with alcohol or child labour.

The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015, meanwhile, shone a light on the future of carbon-intensive activities. As a result, some universities have taken steps to address this within their investments, as well as reviewing the carbon output of their broader activities. Student activism in this area adds another dynamic to investment policy decisions. We have seen evidence of charitable bodies responding to this with reviews and committees convened to focus on climate change.

The value of an investment is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up. An investor may get back less than they invested.

Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited, registered in Scotland (SC317950) at 1 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2LL. Aberdeen Standard Capital is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.  
[www.aberdeenstandard.com](http://www.aberdeenstandard.com)

ASC\_0011\_Charities\_Education\_A5  
GB-211218-79451-1