



GDST Responsible Investment statement

March 2024

The GDST believes that in investing its funds, significant attention must be given to environmental, social and governance issues (ESG).

The GDST believes that its investments should mirror its own desire to be sustainable and promote sustainability, as set out in its strategy document.

The GDST has investments in both restricted funds (for future bursary provisions, for example) and unrestricted funds for general usage. Investments are held in collective funds managed by investment managers on behalf of the GDST.

Investment managers are reviewed and appointed on a periodic basis and are expected, in their investment process, to encourage sustainable business practices through the screening of investments, and through robust engagement with the companies in which they invest. They must also be signed members of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment ([UNPRI](#)) initiative, the UK Stewardship Code, as defined by the Financial Reporting Council ([FRC](#)), and the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative ([NZAM](#)).

In their investment decisions, GDST expects its appointed managers to consider the following principles for the investments they make:

1. Respect for human rights, alongside a demonstrable and active diversity, equality and inclusion agenda.
2. Promotion of sound business and employment practices.
3. Protection of the global environment, its climate and its biodiversity.

The GDST has chosen to place restrictions on sectors which may cause harm to people, in which it will not hold investments on ethical grounds. The GDST will avoid investing in companies whose primary activities involve the following industries:

- Gambling
- Adult Entertainment
- Tobacco

While operating within these criteria, appointed investment managers are left, at their discretion, to select individual investments and to operate within their own ESG (or equivalent) investment policy.

In order to obtain diversified exposure to listed equities the GDST may invest in exchange-traded funds, which track common global indices. Within these indices there may be indirect exposure to restricted areas of investment. The aggregate

exposure to these restricted areas would be a very small portion of the GDST's listed investments, most likely <0.75%. The exposure will be monitored on an ongoing basis and adjustment will be considered if required.

The appointed managers will be accountable to GDST's Investments Committee in terms of financial performance and adherence to commitments made on issues of responsible investments and sustainability. Investment managers should be open and transparent and able to demonstrate adherence with this statement and should expect this to be a regular point of discussion with the GDST Investments Committee and the Council of GDST Trustees.

Approved by Council: 13 March 2024