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# Press Release

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**For immediate release**  
**13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

## **Foreign & Colonial launches schools programme for 4 to 7-year-olds**

*\* Introducing financial capability through Pounds and  
Pennies, Past, Present and Future \**

Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust (FCIT) has teamed up with the National Schools Partnership to launch Pounds and Pennies, Past, Present and Future – a structured programme of lessons, homework and fun activities aimed at introducing ideas about money and saving to schoolchildren in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2).

Foreign & Colonial pioneered collective investment for savers when it launched in 1868 with the aim of giving 'the investor of modest means the same advantages as the large capitalists'. With the UK retail savings industry now totalling more than £305bn in investment trusts and Oeics<sup>1</sup>, FCIT was clearly on to a good idea. Yet lack of financial education is still a problem for many people, so FCIT is going back to its roots to bring its core belief of the benefits of saving to a wider audience – starting with the very youngest, who currently receive no formal financial education under the National Curriculum. These children are also the first to benefit from the Government's Child Trust Fund scheme, which will provide a windfall when they reach 18. By starting early with simple concepts like coin recognition, FCIT – itself a leader in the Child Trust Fund market, managing money on behalf of nearly 20,000 young savers – hopes to reinforce the message that saving should continue throughout life, and not grind to a halt the moment a CTF pays out.

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Initially targeting 2,000 primary schools across the UK, the Pounds and Pennies programme features a friendly cartoon pig character called Penny to reinforce messages such as the importance of saving.

Classroom activities include exercises where the children act as shopkeepers, deciding on the price of imaginary goods and then 'selling' them to classmates. Homework tasks, designed to be carried out with the help of an adult, include a web-based tool where children can investigate how the price of everyday items has changed since their parents and grandparents were young. There are also online games designed to improve coin recognition and practise simple addition skills.

National Schools Partnership works with businesses to provide educational programmes that benefit both schools and companies. Examples include the Morrisons 'Let's Grow' campaign, which provides seeds and tools for children to grow their own vegetables at school.

Scott Stevens, Head of Global Wholesale & Marketing at F&C Investments, said: "Financial capability is a really hot topic at the moment, but it only appears on the National Curriculum in Key Stage 4, meaning children under 14 may receive no financial education at all. By introducing simple financial concepts to the youngest children, the Pounds and Pennies programme should help ensure the current generation of youngsters are better informed than some of their older counterparts. Best of all, the programme allows the children to have fun while learning, which hopefully will help to dispel the myth that money is 'boring'."

Mark Loveday, Chairman of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, added: "We are very pleased to be supporting this programme. It seems only fitting that as the oldest retail investment fund in the world, we should be encouraging a new generation of savers to think about how to achieve the things they want in life."

Through the website used for homework and play activities, parents can find out more about saving with a Child Trust Fund – for which every child born since September 2002 should be eligible – and also have the chance to win a family trip to Disneyland Paris.

Pounds and Pennies, Past, Present and Future will begin appearing in schools this term. To find out more, please contact Sarah Godfrey in the F&C Press Office, on 020 7011 4215 or [sarah.godfrey@fandc.com](mailto:sarah.godfrey@fandc.com). You can access the online resources at [www.poundsandpennies.org.uk](http://www.poundsandpennies.org.uk).

**- Ends -**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Investment Management Association – total UK domiciled Oeic assets £261.2bn at July 2009; Association of Investment Companies – total investment company assets £44.52bn at 31 August 2009. F&C Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) FRN: 119230. Limited by shares. Registered in England and Wales, No 517895. Registered address and Head Office: Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2NY.

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## Notes to Editors

### Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust

- Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC (FCIT) is one of the largest global growth trusts listed on the London Stock Exchange, with assets of £1.9 billion and over 109,000 private investors owning approximately 82% of the shares.
- The objective of FCIT is to secure long-term growth in capital and income through a policy of investing primarily in an internationally diversified portfolio of publicly listed equities, as well as unlisted securities and private equity, with the use of gearing. Approx 34.6% of FCIT's assets are invested in the UK, 18.6% in the USA, 11.2% in Europe, 11.1% in Emerging Markets, 5.3% in Japan, 5.3% in Developed Asia and 13.9% in Private Equity.
- Over the years FCIT has helped finance a diverse range of projects and industries such as North Sea Oil, Cats (the musical), the Independent Newspaper, the Channel Tunnel and, more recently, Resolution Life.
- FCIT is run by an independent Board of Directors responsible for governance, strategy and results, while management of the investments is carried out by F&C Management Limited under contract.
- FCIT owns the name "Foreign & Colonial" and F&C Asset Management PLC owns the name "F&C". There are no cross-directorships, no cross-holdings and no conflicts of interest between FCIT and its Manager, F&C.

[www.foreignandcolonial.com](http://www.foreignandcolonial.com)

### F&C Investments

- F&C Asset Management (F&C) is an independent London Stock Exchange listed asset management group which traces its origins back to 1868 with the launch of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the first ever publicly listed investment fund. Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust remains a client of F&C.
- F&C now manages £88.3 billion (€103.7 billion) of assets\* for a diverse range of institutional, insurance and retail clients across all major asset classes – equities, bonds, cash and property – as well as alternative and specialist product classes such as Socially Responsible Investment funds, hedge funds, private equity funds and Liability Driven Investments. F&C invests globally and has

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been a longstanding investor in emerging markets. The firm acts as fund manager for 15 investment companies.

\* As at 30 June 2009.

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