



**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**



**Company Registration Number:**  
**08561302 (England and Wales)**

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Mr R A McKenzie  
Rt Rev'd Philip North  
Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Mr S Whittaker  
Father R Peers

### Trustees

Mr A Stokes  
Rev'd WJJ Matthews (end of term of office 13 April 2019)  
Mr R A McKenzie  
Mr P Witkiewicz  
Dr A Oyeyele  
Mr B Dorgan  
Rev'd Canon A Holliday (Chairman)  
Mr D Ballard (appointed 27 September 2018)  
Mrs J A Hyde (appointed 25 September 2019)

### Senior management team

Mrs J Kneale (Executive Headteacher)  
Mr S Colothan (Headteacher)  
Mrs J Woodcock (Headteacher)  
Mrs R Crompton (Finance Director)  
Mr R Woods (Head of School)  
Mrs J Charnley (Headteacher) (end of temporary contract 31 August 2019)

### Company registration number

08561302 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

The Learning Together Trust  
Rectory Lane  
Wigan  
WN6 0XB

### Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Bluebell House  
Brian Johnson Way  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR2 5PE

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank  
2-6 Market Street  
Wigan  
Lancs  
WN1 1JN

### Solicitors

Eversheds LLP  
Bridgewater Place  
Water Lane  
Leeds  
LS11 5DR

## **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

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The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Constitution**

The original academy was incorporated on 7th June 2013 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital, registration number: 08561302. The company commenced operation as an academy on 1st July 2013. On 14th April 2015 the academy became a Multi Academy Trust trading as The Learning Together Trust. Canon Sharples joined the trust on the 1st July 2015, Haigh and Aspull St David's joined the Trust on 1st November 2018 and Adlington St Paul's joined on 1st January 2019. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy. The initial members of the charitable company were nominated by the governing body of St Wilfrid's CE Primary School. The MAT trustees were nominated by the Dioceses of Blackburn and Liverpool. The Articles of Association require the members of the charitable company to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the academy.

The trustees of The Learning Together Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as The Learning Together Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

##### **Members' liability**

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

##### **Trustees' indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased professional indemnity and directors and officer's insurance to protect the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligence, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides indemnities of up to £20,000,000 in any one claim.

##### **Principal activities**

As a Multi Academy, the trust's principal activities are to provide a high quality of education for the children on roll at St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery, Haigh and Aspull St David's CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School. To establish, maintain, manage and develop each school; offering a broad and balanced curriculum for children from 3 - 11 years.

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy continues to strengthen partnerships with the Diocese of Blackburn, the Church of St. Wilfrid and the wider community. Following an 'outstanding' SIAMs inspection in 2019, St. Wilfrid's have worked closely with Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, providing support and training to delegates on the Christian Leadership Programme. Diocesan advisor, Dot Thompson, reported: 'The Christian Distinctiveness is in the DNA of the school and is driven by strong Christian leadership and the vision for every child to achieve and believe.'

Through consultation with a range of stakeholders, the school has extended the mission statement to include scripture and celebrate the Christian Ethos and Distinctiveness of the school.

**Achieve, Believe, Care...  
at St. Wilfrid's we can.**

**'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' Philippians 4:13**

School leaders have developed a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of the children in the Church Community. The curriculum is designed to motivate, inspire, engage and challenge children, through deepening knowledge and developing skills. This is further enhanced by the recently developed three Es: Enrichment (inspirational visitors, educational visitors and events), Extra-Curricular (committees, clubs and competitions) and Experiences (experiences to develop cultural capital). St. Wilfrid's Christian Values are at the heart of the curriculum and underpin all aspects of school life.

St. Wilfrid's continues to maintain and further improve its academic standards, with children achieving well and making excellent progress at each stage of their education. Outcomes at the end of each key stage are outstanding, with children performing significantly above National in all areas last year.

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy was named 'Primary School of the Year 2019' at the Wigan Education Awards, which the Governors, staff, parents and children are immensely proud of. St. Wilfrid's was also awarded 'Sustainable School of the Year 2019' for their highly effective Eco Team.

Other successes include being shortlisted for the 'Health and Wellbeing Award' for the work that the school has undertaken around mental health and wellbeing, 'Community Award' for the collaborative 'Joy' project with Wigan Hospice, and finally 'Inspirational Teacher of the Year' for the school's specialist music teacher, Mrs Goulding. St. Wilfrid's also had National success in sport, competing in the National Finals for both swimming and football. St. Wilfrid's was accredited 'School Games Platinum Award' in recognition of their outstanding provision in PE and School Sport. The school is currently applying for ArtsMark Award and the 'Global Neighbours' accreditation, through Christian Aid.

Canon Sharples is confident and proud to be a Church of England School within a Church of England Trust. At the last SIAMs inspection (November 2016), the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school was judged to be Outstanding and at the last OFSTED inspection (June 2018) they were judged to be Good with Outstanding Early Years Provision and Personal Development. School knows its context well and has a clear rationale for its curriculum, including its enrichment, extracurricular and experience offer all of which is underpinned by their vision and values. They strive to live 'life in all its fullness.' John 10:10 As school aims to take their next step towards being an 'Excellent' Church of England Primary School, they have started a full stakeholder consultation in relation to their Vision Statement. They want to make a clear link between the school vision and its core values, grounded in a clear theology that is rooted in Christian narrative with a meaningful 'strap line' that underpins every thought and action within the school community. In doing this, they have considered how their vision makes the clear link to Jesus, through School, Home and Church.

**Trust God. Love Always. Aim High.**

Good progress has been made this year in introducing the Cornerstones Curriculum across school, and in developing and defining the wider curriculum offer and practice. As a result, all teachers in school have a clear picture of the rationale, aims and curriculum vision as a school, and are familiar with the Cornerstones resources and underpinning pedagogy. Further development of the curriculum intent and implementation will take place over the following 12 months as they strive to design a quality curriculum, bespoke to Canon Sharples that will provide pupils with a quality education. Across the year, the curriculum leader has led a range of staff meetings, training and scheduled regular planned professional development activities for subject leaders which has supported their CPD. In particular, staffs' understanding of progression and attainment in their subject area and how the new inspection framework applies to their subject area.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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A range of monitoring and evaluation over the course of the year has confirmed quality teaching and learning in Science and the foundation subjects across school. Data for 2019 shows that the vast majority of children across all year groups have made expected progress in Science and foundation subjects.

Over the past twelve months, Canon Sharples has secured a number of awards including Arts Mark Award Silver and have already started to plan and work towards the Gold Award. With this in mind, they have registered to take part in the Cultural Education Challenge. In recognition of the school's high quality teaching of Read Write Inc Phonics they were awarded the Ruth Miskin Accreditation. This award is given to schools who teach RWI Phonics with fidelity and passion and that have raised standards in reading and writing for children. Most recently, they achieved the Quality Mark for English and Mathematics. There have been many sporting achievements to celebrate too, including medals at the Swimming Gala, certificates at "Just Join In", Inter school sports success and Cross Country awards and most significantly the school football team won their first ever trophy! The dedication to sport has been recognised with the School Games Award Gold. At the Wigan and Leigh Education Awards, school was shortlisted in four categories. It was wonderful to see a Year Six pupil win Primary Pupil of the Year! As well as Mr Clark being awarded a Highly Commended Certificate in the Inspirational Teaching category and school to receive Highly Commended accolades in both the Health and Wellbeing Award and Primary School of the Year.

Since joining the Trust last November St David's has worked hard to develop its curriculum. The Cornerstones curriculum has been implemented across the school and pupils have enjoyed range of experiences, enrichment and extra-curricular activities related to their learning. There has been a significant investment in staff development and staff have embraced opportunities to work collaboratively with other staff and schools in the Trust. The Head of School was appointed in March and a new leadership and staffing restructure was put in place with release time given to staff to enable them to undertake curriculum leadership. This also included restructuring the support staff. SEND provision has been enhanced and opportunities have been accessed for pupils to take part in a range of school based and external events, including inclusive sporting activities at Knotty Ash and weekly PE school based sessions. The school sits within the Haigh Hall estate and maximises use of the range of facilities within the estate, with each class visiting on a regular basis.

### **Together in God's Love: aim high, stay strong, be determined.**

The school has worked closely with the church and the Diocese to develop its worship and successfully utilises Roots and Fruits values and Picture news to promote British Fundamental Values. Child led worship has also been developed. The school is currently working with the Diocese to develop its Worship Community.

Over the course of the year the school has also worked hard to further develop PSHE and SMSC. Its recent Keeping on Track visit was very positive.

### **Be on your guard: stand firm in the faith: be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.**

**(1 Corinthians 16:13-14)**

Over the year the school has achieved the School Games Gold 2018 and won the Wigan Council Electric Van competition, receiving Early Years equipment. The school has also successfully bid for Lottery funding and has developed a DT room and is in the process of developing an outdoor kitchen garden, fire pit, den and trail. The Trust has supported the school in developing its building, creating better teaching accommodation for year 6 pupils, relocation of the Head of School office and the development of the library.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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Adlington St Paul's joined the Trust in January 2019. An experienced Head was put in place supported by an Associate Headteacher for the Spring and Summer terms, pending the appointment of a substantive Headteacher in September. The Executive Headteacher has been deployed 3 days a week to support school improvement, leadership and teaching and learning. A range of staff from across the Trust have also supported the school in a range of strategies. These include SLT support through the successful Ofsted monitoring visit in September 2018, support for RWInc, support in developing the learning environment and support for teachers and subject leads. During the year, St Paul's has continued to move forward on its journey as part of the Learning Together Trust.

### **"Whatever you do work at it with all your heart"**

The bible verse from Colossians was chosen by Governors and staff and sits alongside our vision statement:

### **"Learning Together, Following Jesus"**

which embodies the hard-working attitude of staff and children within the school. Strong links with the school and the church have provided plenty of opportunities for the children to participate in leading acts of worship both inside and outside of school life. Work with Blackburn Diocese has provided opportunities to develop collective worship and support staff in the delivery of a well-planned and sequenced RE curriculum including God's Big Story. Previous SIAMS inspection in 2014 was GOOD and we are now looking at the new framework, working closely with advisors to prepare for a new inspection. A strong wider curriculum has been implemented with training for all staff in how to deliver it effectively, working alongside other schools in the Trust to support and guide teachers. The OFSTED monitoring inspection recognised the impact joining the Trust has had on the school and how the school was seen to be moving forward. The drive of leadership, staff and children continues to hold teaching and learning at the heart of Adlington St Paul's with high expectations for all.

A range of curricular initiatives have been put in place including RWInc, Language and Literacy, and Cornerstones. Staff are working hard to embed these in all year groups. There has been a big focus on staff CPD as in recent years there has been a significant underinvestment in training. A number of new staff appointments have raised the profile and the quality of teaching and learning and leadership, however there still remain many new challenges for the school.

#### **Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees**

Trust board members, who are the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, are nominated by either, The Diocese of Blackburn or the Diocese of Liverpool and hold office for four years. One Director has been co-opted. A new Trustee has been appointed at the end of term of office of a former Trustee.

The Executive Headteacher of The Learning Together Trust acts as CEO and is the executive reporting officer to the Trustees.

#### **Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees**

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the board of trustees or based on a proposal to the board of trustees by representative groups. On appointment, trustees receive information relating to the trust and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of trustees. The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new trustees will be given information about the The Learning Together Trust and the schools forming them and given the opportunity to visit the individual academies and the chance to meet with staff and students. All relevant trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees. As there are normally only a few new trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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#### Organisational structure

Trustees are responsible for the strategic management of the schools; setting strategic direction, annual budgets, senior staff appointments, policy changes etc. Collectively they make decisions on annual spending and set the budget for the year in liaison with the executive head teacher, headteachers and senior leaders. They also offer expertise in curricular subjects, project management and capital bids. Trustees are responsible for the recruitment of staff; in particular, the appointment of the Executive Head Teacher and Finance Director.

Trustees are supported in their work by Local Governing Body Committees at each school. The Trust has committees which comprise: St Wilfrid's LGB, Canon Sharples LGB, St David's LGB and St Paul's LGB, Performance and Standards, Finance and Audit.

The Executive Head Teacher, as accounting officer, is responsible for the strategic leadership of the trust and trust schools. The daily management and organisation of each school is led by the individual Headteachers. They are supported by the senior leaders who are responsible for Key Stage management, standards of attainment and curriculum provision within the school; Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, upper and lower KS2. The Finance Director has responsibility for finance, capital funding and academy administration.

Each school's management develop policies for trustee approval. The Trustees are responsible for approving general policy including the vision, aims and ethos of the Trust. They provide information about the standards, curriculum, pupil attainment and attendance for trustee information and monitoring purposes. This is verified by external inspection and monitoring reports. Through performance management, they challenge the senior leadership and hold them to account regarding priorities for improvement set out in the Trust Strategic and Development School Development Plans, and individual school strategic and development plans. The School Development Plan is derived from a rigorous process of monitoring and evaluation and the school's self-evaluation.

The board of trustees meets twice each term to receive reports and manage its strategic objectives. The working committees also meet on a termly basis. Training is in place for the executive staff and the board of trustees.

#### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All pay and remuneration of the Trust and Academy's key management personnel is in line with the current National School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and Wigan Council (Schools) Pay Policy.

#### Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, the following information is given:

#### Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
0	0

#### Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1% - 50%	0
51% - 99%	0
100%	0

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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#### Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	0
Total pay bill	£3,978,000
Total pay bill spent on facility time	0%

#### Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0
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#### Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. The trustees have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement.

Internal audit (RSM Risk Assurance Services LLP) have been appointed for the financial year 2018/19 and their role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy's financial system. The academy confirms that this function has been fully delivered in line with ESFA's requirements and no material control issues arose.

#### Connected organisations, including related party relationships

The Trust works closely with the Dioceses of Liverpool and Blackburn, parents, our Foundation Parishes and Wigan LA to further the principal activities of the Trust.

The Trust works closely with many school networks to further the principal activities of the Academies.

St Wilfrid's Trading Company is a trading subsidiary 100% owned by The Learning Together Trust as defined by the relevant Charities SORP. The members, directors, trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definitions in the Charities SORP.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School, Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School to provide education for pupils between the ages of 3 - 11 years.

The schools provide an education for pupils who are preferentially drawn from the area in which the schools are situated in line with the published admission policies. The Learning Together Trust was set up on 14th April 2015 to advance, for the public benefit, education in the Standish and Whelley areas of Wigan. St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School offer a broadly-based primary curriculum which seeks to develop outdoor learning. It has subsequently taken on Adlington St Paul's and Haigh and Aspull St David's. Each school's ethos and philosophy are firmly rooted in the Church of England.

Our objective has been to ensure a smooth and seamless conversion of each school from local authority directed and funded to academy status. In doing this the board of trustees determined to maintain the traditional ethos, values, standards and achievements of each school, whilst continuing to work to fulfill the school's medium and longer-term development plans.



## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### The aims of the Trust rest on the following mission statement:

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School, Haigh and Aspull St David's CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School enable every child to develop as an individual in a caring, safe and stimulating, distinctly Christian learning environment in which children feel secure and happy. In partnership with parents, we motivate children to achieve the highest standards of attainment, within a balanced curriculum of academic, social, cultural, physical and moral teaching. We aim to enable all pupils to become independent, self-confident and respectful individuals who are equipped with the skills for life in modern Britain.

#### Public benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The key public benefit delivered by the Learning Together Trust is the maintenance and development of the high-quality education provided by the Schools, to the young people of Wigan and Lancashire.

In doing this The Learning Together Trust not only offers a broadly-based education but aims to educate the whole individual. A wide-range of extra-curricular activities, educational visits, authors and consultant workshops are commissioned throughout the year.

### STRATEGIC REPORT

#### Achievements and performance

#### The Learning Together Trust – Headline Data 2019

GLD (End of Reception)	Learning Together Trust	National	Difference
	107/151 71%	72%	-1%

Year 1 Phonics (Expected Standard)	Learning Together Trust	National	Difference
	147/167 88%	83%	+5%

Year 2 Phonics (Expected Standard)	Learning Together Trust	National	Difference
	145/149 97%	92%	+5%

End of Key Stage 1		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Greater Depth	
		Learning Together Trust	National	Learning Together Trust	National
Reading	All pupils	120/150 80%	75%	42/150 28%	25%
	Boys	59/80 74%	71%	14/80 18%	22%
	Girls	61/70 87%	79%	28/70 40%	29%
Writing	All pupils	103/150 69%	69%	28/150 19%	15%
	Boys	47/80 59%	63%	9/80 11%	11%
	Girls	56/70 80%	76%	19/70 27%	19%
Maths	All pupils	123/150 82%	76%	45/150 30%	22%
	Boys	63/80 79%	75%	21/80 26%	24%
	Girls	60/70 86%	77%	24/70 34%	19%
RWM	All pupils	101/150 67%	65%	28/150 19%	11%
	Boys	46/80 58%	60%	8/80 10%	10%
	Girls	55/70 79%	70%	16/70 23%	13%

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

End of Key Stage 2		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Higher Standard	
		Learning Together Trust	National	Learning Together Trust	National
Reading	All pupils	117/158 74%	73%	52/158 33%	27%
	Boys	51/81 63%	69%	21/81 26%	22%
	Girls	66/77 86%	78%	31/77 40%	32%
Writing	All pupils	127/158 80%	78%	48/158 30%	20%
	Boys	57/81 70%	73%	17/81 21%	15%
	Girls	70/77 91%	85%	31/77 40%	25%
Maths	All pupils	131/158 81%	79%	56/158 35%	27%
	Boys	62/81 77%	78%	33/81 41%	29%
	Girls	69/77 90%	79%	23/77 30%	24%
RWM	All pupils	112/158 71%	65%	29/158 18%	11%
	Boys	47/81 58%	60%	12/81 15%	9%
	Girls	65/77 84%	70%	17/77 22%	13%
EGPS	All pupils	125/158 79%	78%	64/158 41%	36%
	Boys	57/81 70%	74%	29/81 36%	31%
	Girls	68/77 88%	83%	35/77 45%	41%

### St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy – Headline Data 2019

GLD (End of Reception)	St. Wilfrid's	National	Difference
	58/76 76%	72%	+4%

Year 1 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. Wilfrid's	National	Difference
	71/75 95%	82%	+13%

Year 2 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. Wilfrid's	National	Difference
	71/71 100%	91%	+9%

End of Key Stage 1 (71 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Greater Depth	
		St. Wilfrid's	National	St. Wilfrid's	National
Reading	All pupils	61/71 86%	75%	25/71 35%	25%
	Boys	27/36 75%	71%	7/36 19%	22%
	Girls	34/35 97%	79%	18/35 51%	29%
Writing	All pupils	58/71 82%	69%	19/71 27%	15%
	Boys	24/36 67%	63%	6/36 17%	11%
	Girls	34/35 97%	76%	13/35 37%	19%
Maths	All pupils	65/71 92%	76%	27/71 38%	22%
	Boys	31/36 86%	75%	11/36 31%	24%
	Girls	34/35 97%	77%	16/35 46%	19%

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

RWM	All pupils	57/71 80%	65%	17/71 24%	11%
	Boys	23/36 64%	60%	6/36 17%	10%
	Girls	34/35 97%	70%	11/35 31%	13%

End of Key Stage 2 (64 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Higher Standard	
		St. Wilfrid's	National	St. Wilfrid's	National
Reading	All pupils	59/64 92%	73%	34/64 53%	27%
	Boys	30/34 88%	69%	15/34 44%	22%
	Girls	29/30 97%	78%	19/30 63%	32%
Writing	All pupils	62/64 97%	78%	29/64 45%	20%
	Boys	32/34 94%	73%	12/34 35%	15%
	Girls	30/30 100%	85%	17/30 57%	25%
Maths	All pupils	62/64 97%	79%	41/64 64%	27%
	Boys	32/34 94%	78%	26/34 76%	29%
	Girls	30/30 100%	79%	15/30 50%	24%
RWM	All pupils	59/64 92%	65%	21/64 33%	11%
	Boys	30/34 88%	60%	9/34 26%	9%
	Girls	29/30 97%	70%	12/30 40%	13%
EGPS	All pupils	62/64 97%	78%	42/64 66%	36%
	Boys	32/34 94%	74%	23/34 68%	31%
	Girls	30/30 100%	83%	19/30 63%	41%

### Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery– Headline Data 2019

GLD (End of Reception)	Canon Sharples	National	Difference
	21/34 62%	72%	-10%

Year 1 Phonics (Expected Standard)	Canon Sharples	National	Difference
	30/36 83%	82%	+1%

Year 2 Phonics (Expected Standard)	Canon Sharples	National	Difference
	32/34 94%	91%	+3%

End of Key Stage 1 (34 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Greater Depth	
		Canon Sharples	National	Canon Sharples	National
Reading	All pupils	24/34 71%	75%	6/34 18%	25%
	Boys	12/19 63%	71%	3/19 16%	22%
	Girls	12/15 80%	79%	3/15 20%	29%
Writing	All pupils	20/34 59%	69%	5/34 15%	15%
	Boys	9/19 47%	63%	2/19 11%	11%
	Girls	11/15 73%	76%	3/15 20%	19%

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

Maths	All pupils	25/34 74%	76%	8/24 24%	22%
	Boys	14/19 74%	75%	5/19 26%	24%
	Girls	11/15 73%	77%	3/15 20%	19%
RWM	All pupils	19/34 56%	65%	4/34 12%	11%
	Boys	9/19 47%	60%	1/19 5%	10%
	Girls	10/15 67%	70%	3/15 20%	13%

End of Key Stage 2 (48 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Higher Standard	
		Canon Sharples	National	Canon Sharples	National
Reading	All pupils	33/48 69%	73%	10/48 21%	27%
	Boys	12/23 52%	69%	3/23 13%	22%
	Girls	21/25 84%	78%	7/25 28%	32%
Writing	All pupils	32/48 67%	78%	11/48 23%	20%
	Boys	11/23 48%	73%	3/23 13%	15%
	Girls	21/25 84%	85%	8/25 32%	25%
Maths	All pupils	35/48 73%	79%	10/48 21%	27%
	Boys	13/23 57%	78%	4/23 17%	29%
	Girls	22/25 88%	79%	6/25 24%	24%
RWM	All pupils	29/48 60%	65%	7/48 15%	11%
	Boys	9/23 39%	60%	3/23 13%	9%
	Girls	20/25 80%	70%	4/25 16%	13%
EGPS	All pupils	34/48 71%	78%	17/48 35%	36%
	Boys	12/23 52%	74%	4/23 17%	31%
	Girls	22/25 88%	83%	13/25 52%	41%

### St David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School – Headline Data 2019

GLD (End of Reception)	St. David's	National	Difference
	12/16 75%	72%	+3%

Year 1 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. David's	National	Difference
	17/26 65%	82%	-17%

Year 2 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. David's	National	Difference
	18/19 95%	91%	+4%

End of Key Stage 1 (19 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Greater Depth	
		St. David's	National	St. David's	National
Reading	All pupils	16/19 84%	75%	5/19 26%	25%
	Boys	10/12 83%	71%	3/12 25%	22%
	Girls	6/7 86%	79%	2/7 29%	29%

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

Writing	All pupils	10/19 53%	69%	0/19 0%	15%
	Boys	7/12 58%	63%	0/12 0%	11%
	Girls	3/7 43%	76%	0/7 0%	19%
Maths	All pupils	14/19 74%	76%	5/19 26%	22%
	Boys	9/12 75%	75%	3/12 25%	24%
	Girls	5/7 71%	77%	2/7 29%	19%
RWM	All pupils	10/19 53%	65%	0/19 0%	11%
	Boys	7/12 58%	60%	0/12 0%	10%
	Girls	3/7 43%	70%	0/7 0%	13%

End of Key Stage 2 (21 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Higher Standard	
		St. David's	National	St. David's	National
Reading	All pupils	9/21 43%	73%	4/21 19%	27%
	Boys	4/12 33%	69%	3/12 25%	22%
	Girls	5/9 56%	78%	1/9 11%	32%
Writing	All pupils	16/21 76%	78%	6/21 29%	20%
	Boys	8/12 67%	73%	2/12 17%	15%
	Girls	8/9 89%	85%	4/9 44%	25%
Maths	All pupils	14/21 67%	79%	1/21 5%	27%
	Boys	8/12 67%	78%	1/12 8%	29%
	Girls	6/9 67%	79%	0/9 0%	24%
RWM	All pupils	9/21 43%	65%	0/21 0%	11%
	Boys	4/12 33%	60%	0/12 0%	9%
	Girls	5/9 56%	70%	0/9 0%	13%
EGPS	All pupils	10/21 48%	78%	3/21 14%	36%
	Boys	5/12 42%	74%	2/12 17%	31%
	Girls	5/9 56%	83%	1/9 11%	41%

### Adlington St. Paul's CE Primary School

GLD (End of Reception)	St. Paul's	National	Difference
	16/25 63%	72%	-9%

Year 1 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. Paul's	National	Difference
	29/30 97%	82%	+15%

Year 2 Phonics (Expected Standard)	St. Paul's	National	Difference
	24/25 96%	91%	+5%

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

End of Key Stage 1 (26 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Greater Depth	
		St. Paul's	National	St. Paul's	National
Reading	All pupils	19/26 73%	75%	6/26 23%	25%
	Boys	10/13 77%	71%	1/13 8%	22%
	Girls	9/13 69%	79%	5/13 38%	29%
Writing	All pupils	15/26 58%	69%	4/26 15%	15%
	Boys	7/13 54%	63%	1/13 8%	11%
	Girls	8/13 62%	76%	3/13 23%	19%
Maths	All pupils	19/26 73%	76%	5/26 19%	22%
	Boys	9/13 69%	75%	2/13 15%	24%
	Girls	10/13 77%	77%	3/13 23%	19%
RWM	All pupils	15/26 58%	65%	3/26 12%	11%
	Boys	7/13 54%	60%	1/13 8%	10%
	Girls	8/13 62%	70%	2/13 15%	13%

End of Key Stage 2 (25 pupils)		Working at Expected Standard		Working at Higher Standard	
		St. Paul's	National	St. Paul's	National
Reading	All pupils	16/25 64%	73%	4/25 16%	27%
	Boys	5/12 42%	69%	0/12 0%	22%
	Girls	11/13 85%	78%	4/13 31%	32%
Writing	All pupils	17/25 68%	78%	2/25 8%	20%
	Boys	6/12 50%	73%	0/12 0%	15%
	Girls	11/13 85%	85%	2/13 15%	25%
Maths	All pupils	20/25 80%	79%	4/25 16%	27%
	Boys	9/12 75%	78%	2/12 17%	29%
	Girls	11/13 85%	79%	2/13 15%	24%
RWM	All pupils	15/25 60%	65%	1/25 4%	11%
	Boys	4/12 33%	60%	0/12 0%	9%
	Girls	11/13 85%	70%	1/13 8%	13%
EGPS	All pupils	19/25 76%	78%	2/25 8%	36%
	Boys	8/12 67%	74%	0/12 0%	31%
	Girls	11/13 85%	83%	2/13 15%	41%

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### Key performance indicators – Strategic Plan 2018-21

KPI 1 – Consolidated data for the Trust compares well against National data. At KS1 writing is below National at both expected and GD and at KS2 below at expected. EGPS is below National at both Expected and National. Progress is stronger than National in all areas and is positive at St Wilfrid's, Canon Sharples and St Paul's. At St David's progress is slightly below national in Reading and Maths (-0.27 and -0.1) This was a small cohort of 21 pupils, 4 of which were new in Year 6 all of which were low ability with poor progress.

			Trust	National
KS1	Expected	Reading	78.4%	74.9%
	GD	Reading	25.6%	25.0%
	Expected	Writing	62.7%	69.2%
	GD	Writing	14.2%	14.8%
	Expected	Maths	78%	75.6%
	GD	Maths	26.8%	21.7%
KS2	Expected	Reading	62.7%	64.8%
	GD	Reading	27%	27%
	Progress	Reading	+1.4	+0.03
	Expected	Writing	75.8%	78.4%
	GD	Writing	26.3%	20.1%
	Progress	Writing	+1.49	+0.03
	Expected	Maths	79%	78.6%
	GD	Maths	26.5%	26.6%
	Progress	Maths	+1.63	+0.03
	Expected	EGPS	72.7%	78.0%

KPI 2 – The quality of teaching at St. Wilfrid's is good 37%, outstanding 63%. At Canon Sharples the quality of teaching has significantly improved over the year with a 20% rise in Outstanding teaching, and a 35% rise in Good/Outstanding teaching. All teaching is now judged as Good 57% or Outstanding 43%. At St David's recent monitoring and triangulation of evidence has changed the profile of teaching which is now Outstanding 17%, Good 50%, RI 17% and IA 17%. At St Paul's, Ofsted judged all teaching as Inadequate. Due to an investment in high quality training and ongoing development days there is an improving picture. There has also been a change in 2 members of staff with the return of a teacher from Maternity leave and the appointment of another highly experienced teacher who has previously worked in the Trust. There needs to be further triangulation of evidence over time but currently the picture is 25% Good or better, 50% RI and 25% IA.

KPI 3 – Ofsted judgements - St. Wilfrid's judged as Outstanding (2007); Canon Sharples judged as Good with Outstanding for Early Years and Personal Development (2018). St David's is judged as Good (2014) and St Paul's judged as IA (2017). SEF judgements - St Wilfrid's Outstanding, Canon Sharples Good, St David's overall effectiveness is Good, Behaviour and Safety of Pupils is Good, and Leadership and Management are Good, however EYFS, Outcomes for Pupils and Quality of teaching are RI. St Paul's Overall effectiveness RI, Leadership and Management Good, Behaviour and Safety of Pupils Good, EYFS RI, Quality of Teaching RI, Outcomes for Pupils RI.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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KPI 4 – St Wilfrid's, Canon Sharples and St David's are judged as Outstanding by SIAMs. St David's has a Keeping on Track visit in July and Canon Sharples had a very successful Keeping on Track visit in September 2019. St Paul's is good however it is due to be inspected under the new framework in the next academic year and will require substantial improvements if this is to be retained. The school is working closely with the Diocesan Advisor. St Wilfrid's continues to receive excellent reports from Diocesan advisor visits.

KPI 5 – System leadership is well established and is at the heart of school improvement. The Trust works with a range of other system leader groups at LA, Diocesan and across Greater Manchester as part of the GMLP (Greater Manchester Learning Partnership) taking part in reviews.

KPI 6 – A new Director has been appointed, induction is complete.

KPI 7 – Directors and Governors have a good understanding of their different roles and effectively hold senior leaders to account. Induction procedures for new Directors are in place.

KPI 8 – Leadership was judged as Good at Canon Sharples. The SLT is now a very strong and effective team. Leadership at St David's is judged as Good, but with the removal of the Deputy Headteacher post I am supporting the Head of School and the TLR post as part of the SLT. A temporary TLR has been appointed to lead on the curriculum and they are working closely with other members of the SLT. Initial monitoring shows that this is having a positive effect. Leadership at St. Wilfrid's is Outstanding. Leadership at St Paul's has been substantially strengthened with the substantive Headteacher appointment. Leadership development for other members of the SLT (Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and TLR) has been put in place. A member of staff is undertaking NPQCEML. The Headteacher is undertaking a church leadership course.

An area of development for all schools is Middle Leadership and training for Subject leadership has taken place and further is planned. A leadership Trust training day for January 2020 is currently being planned with support from the Wigan LA and Blackburn Diocese.

KPI 9 – St Wilfrid's, Canon Sharples, St David's and St Paul's operated at least at break-even point during the year 2018-19 Overall Trust forecasts for the end of year anticipate that the use of reserves used to support 19/20 budget will be less than predicted due to prudent budget management by the Finance Director and Headteachers.

#### **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust and the schools have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

#### **Financial review**

Most of the trusts income is obtained from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants to each school, some of which is restricted to purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31st August 2019 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust's financial position for the year to 31 August 2019 demonstrates total income of £6,130,000 (2018: £4,340,000) with a deficit for the year of £321,000 (2018: surplus of £37,000) (excluding depreciation and actuarial gain on the LGPS pension reserve). The deficit has been allocated to reserves.



## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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The reserves will be utilised for supporting the staffing structure due to the increase in pupil numbers.

The principal financial management policies adopted in the year are:

- regular financial reviews of income and expenditure versus planned budgets at Finance and Audit committee meetings; and
- consideration as to whether income streams demonstrate a robust and stable position to continue to enable the provision of resources of sufficient quality to fulfil the academy's educational obligations.

#### **Financial and risk management objectives and policies**

The academy trust's activities expose it primarily to cash flow risk. The board of trustees continually monitors cash flows to ensure The Learning Together Trust and subsequently each school has sufficient funds available to meet debts as they fall due. The board of trustees maintains significant cash reserves at all times; see reserves policy below.

The board of trustees acknowledges the defined pension scheme deficit. It considers that the trust is able to meet its known contribution commitments for the foreseeable future.

#### Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of each academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure stream, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent of up to 1 month of the GAG, approximately £410,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### Investment policy

In a period of financial uncertainty and low interest rates, the Learning Together Trusts policy has been to maximise liquidity and minimise risk. The academy had no financial investments during the financial year ended 31st August 2019. The policy will be kept under review.

#### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The trustees have identified the following principal risks and uncertainties facing The Learning Together Trust:

#### Financial risk

The Learning Together Trust is operating in a period of considerable financial uncertainty with regard to public funding. Financial planning is focused on maintaining the breadth and quality of future work in the context of diminishing budgets.

Trustees have also given due consideration to the risks associated with financial mismanagement and/or compliance failures.

#### Failures in governance and/or management

Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

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#### Reputational risk

The continuing success of The Learning Together Trust depends on maintaining the highest educational standards. St Wilfrid's is an Outstanding school. Canon Sharples is a Good school with outstanding features. St David's is a Good school which continues to improve. St Paul's is an improving school. Trustees are clearly focused on monitoring and reviewing the achievement and progress of children. Trustees continue to give due consideration to other aspects of each school's activities where there could be a reputational risk, including behaviour management, safeguarding, health and safety etc.

#### Safeguarding and child protection risks

Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the selection and monitoring of staff and volunteers, the operation of child protection policies in school and in training and support, in order to protect the vulnerable young people in its care.

#### Significant changes in staff

Trustees regularly review and monitor arrangements for recruitment and the development of existing staff to minimise the risk resulting from major changes in key staff.

#### Plans for future periods

The Learning Together Trust is planning to provide continued progression from conversion in developing the best quality of education for all its pupils in developing their talents and opportunities to learn and grow.

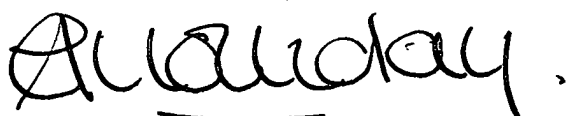
#### **AUDITOR**

RSM UK Audit LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

#### **Statement as to disclosure of information to auditor**

The Trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees' Report is approved by order of the board of trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the board of trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 12/12 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Chair

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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#### Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Learning Together Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Head Teacher, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Learning Together Trust (St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy / Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School / Haigh and Aspull St David's CE Primary School / Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School) and the Secretary of State for Education. The Executive Head Teacher is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees for any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of responsibilities. The full board of trustees has met 6 times in the period 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019. Committees comprising the Local Governing Body of each school, Finance and Audit Committee and Performance and Standards Committee also meet each term. During the year they reviewed and agreed budgets, monitored financial performance and expenditure, applied for capital funding, monitored financial procedures in line with reports from internal audit, authorised expenditure in line with the scheme of delegation, ensured all ESFA reporting requirements were met and received reports from external audit.

The Learning Together Trust	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Ballard	5	6
Mr B Dorgan	6	6
Rev A Holliday	6	6
Mr R McKenzie	5	6
Dr A Oyeyele	5	6
Mr A Stokes	6	6
Mr P Witkiewicz	4	6
Rev WJJ Matthews (on Sabbatical)	0	6

There are two other Trust committees, Finance and Audit and Performance and Standards. Members of these committees are predominantly Directors but each LGB has representation. Their purpose is to report to the Directors on all matters of finance and premises and individual school and Trust standards. During the year to 31 August 2019 this included: reviewing and agreeing the budget, monitoring financial performance and expenditure, application for capital funding, monitoring financial procedures in line with reports from the external reviewer, authorising expenditure (when required by scheme of delegation), ensuring all ESFA reporting requirements were met and receiving the reports of the external auditor.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Finance & Audit Committee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Ballard	1	2
Mrs L Burney	1	2
Mr S Colothan	0	2
Mrs R Crompton	2	2
Mrs J Kneale	2	2
Mr R McKenzie	1	2
Dr A Oyeyele	2	2
Mrs N Sinclair	2	2
Mr P Witkiewicz	2	2
Mrs J Woodcock	1	2

Performance & Standards Committee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr S Colothan	3	3
Mr B Dorgan	2	3
Rev'd A Holliday	3	3
Mrs J Kneale	3	3
Mrs S Murray	3	3
Mr A Stokes	3	3
Mrs V Walder	2	3
Mrs J Woodcock	3	3

There have been no issues arising from any financial reports submitted to the ESFA during this time.

#### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Executive Head Teacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money for the year by:

#### Improving Educational and Wider Outcomes for Pupils

Examples of activities to improve education include:

- Sharing of specialist provision - resources, facilities and teachers in Music, PE and Swimming.
- Shared executive leadership from the Executive Headteacher, Finance Director and Inclusion Manager.
- Centrally employed staff admin and IT.
- Collaboration in the advancement of IT delivering economies of scale through shared contractors.
- Targeting the use of Pupil Premium Grant funding to raise standards and close the gap between PPG pupils and others nationally.
- Joint staff training and development days.
- Support for schools new to the Trust.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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#### Financial Governance and Oversight:

Termly budget monitoring reports are sent to all budget holders for checking. A monthly budget monitoring report is produced for the Executive Headteacher who discusses variances with the Finance Director and instructs any corrective action to be taken. A monthly meeting with the CEO and Chair of Directors. The Finance and Audit committee meet each term. The Annual Budget is approved by the Directors and each Local Governing Body and the Annual Accounts are approved at the AGM.

#### Better Purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money in purchasing include:

- Exploring alternative purchasing options both on-line and direct through suppliers to find the best value
- Working with other local schools in partnership to identify products and services which can be procured across a number of schools in order to drive down costs and/or negotiate favourable rates.
- Implementing a tender process for significant purchases.
- The Finance Director is proactive in driving down costs through better procurement and negotiation including property management, school insurance, catering and IT services.
- Contracts are renewed on an annual basis except where there are significant savings to be made through agreement to a longer term.

#### Better Income Generation:

Examples to maximise income include:

- Regular lettings of the school buildings and swimming pool
- Run Aqua Tots sessions for parents and babies/toddlers
- Deployment of Executive Head Teacher as a National Leader of Education
- Hosting trainee teachers
- Teaching School Alliance partnership

#### Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover. Professional advice (HR and Legal) is sought as required.

#### Future Objectives:

- More shared procurement to achieve greater economies of scale.
- Undertake workforce review to achieve effective and efficient leadership.
- Build the size and scope of the existing trust to provide more opportunities to achieve economic benefit from procurement and to share expertise and professional development.
- To effectively plan for succession.

#### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trusts policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy for the year 1st September 2014 to 13th April 2015 and subsequently the Learning Together Trust from 14th April 2015 ended 31st August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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#### Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which The Learning Together Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31st August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### The risk and control framework

The trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the asset committees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines; delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has appointed RSM Risk Assurance Services LLP, as internal auditors.

#### Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Head Teacher (Mrs J Kneale), has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the Finance Director within the Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and general purposes committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12/12 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Chair of Trustees

Mrs J Kneale  
Accounting Officer

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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As Accounting Officer of The Learning Together Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

I confirm that I and the board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of Trustees and ESFA.



**Mrs J Kneale**  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 12/12 2019

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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The trustees (who are also Directors of The Learning Together Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the strategic report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standard (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

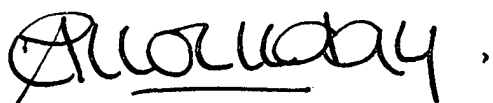
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the DfE/ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12/12 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Chair of Trustees



## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

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#### **Qualified opinion on financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of The Learning Together Trust (the "academy trust") for the year ended 31 August 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies: Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

#### **Basis for qualified opinion**

As explained in Note 13 to the Financial Statements, the Trustees have concluded, as in prior years, that the supplemental agreements with the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the land and buildings to the academy trust and consequently the arrangements are accounted for as operating leases.

As a consequence, the financial statements exclude leasehold land and buildings in respect of Standish St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School with a value of £5,787k. The trust has also recognised a donated value of the use of properties equivalent to the previous depreciation charge of £115k. A corresponding cost has also been recognised.

A further 2 schools were converted into the Trust during the year, Aspull St David's CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School, both of which also operate under supplemental agreements with the Blackburn and Liverpool Diocesan Boards of Education. The Trustees have similarly drawn the conclusion that do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the land and buildings to the academy trust and consequently the arrangements are accounted for as operating leases. The value of the properties is unknown.

In addition the Trust has incurred £444k of expenditure in the year on enhancements to the property at St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy. This additional expenditure has been treated as an in year cost and not capitalised consistent with the Trust's stated policy of non-recognition.

In our opinion, the supplemental agreements described above give the right to use the land and buildings and the substance of the arrangements is that this will be on an ongoing basis and the risks and rewards of ownership sit with the Academy Trust. Therefore, we consider that the land and buildings should be included on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust. Accordingly, land and buildings values and accumulated depreciation as at 1 September 2019 (in respect of Standish St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School)

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

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should be recognised and increased by £6,231k and £599k respectively and at 1 September 2018 by a cost of £5,787k and accumulated depreciation of £484k. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund should be increased by £5,303k at 1 September 2018 and by £5,632k at 31 August 2019. In addition, income and costs should be reduced by £115k (2018: £115k) and a depreciation charge of £115k included.

In respect of Aspull St David's CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School values are unknown. However, the components of the accounts which are impacted by this treatment are the balance sheet values of Land and buildings cost and related depreciation to date, the amounts transferred on conversion in the statement of financial activities and the depreciation charge in the statement of financial activities. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund should also be increased by the same value as the net book value of the land and buildings at 31 August 2019. It is not practical to quantify a value for these items and their precise impact on the result for the year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you, where:

- the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

**Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees Report and the incorporated Strategic Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees Report and the incorporated Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report and the incorporated Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page 20, the Trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company, and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
**Karen Musgrave (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Chartered Accountants  
Bluebell House  
Brian Johnson Way  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR2 5PE

Date: 18/12/2019

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**


**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	116	393	509	133
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	5,121	-	5,121	3,772
Other trading activities	4	499	-	-	499	435
Income from Investments	5	1	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>4,340</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	(22)	-	-	(22)	(24)
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	6	(384)	(5,364)	(466)	(6,214)	(4,296)
- On conversion	23	121	(357)	-	(236)	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(285)</b>	<b>(5,721)</b>	<b>(466)</b>	<b>(6,472)</b>	<b>(4,320)</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>215</b>	<b>(484)</b>	<b>(73)</b>	<b>(342)</b>	<b>20</b>
Transfers between funds		(175)	111	64	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Remeasurement of net defined benefit obligations	21	-	(602)	-	(602)	295
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>(975)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(944)</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>848</b>	<b>(595)</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>775</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>(1,570)</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1,090</b>

## CONSOLIDATED AND TRUST BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Note	Consolidated 2019 £'000	Trust 2019 £'000	Consolidated 2018 £'000	Trust 2018 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13	816	816	837	837
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	234	352	191	307
Cash at bank and in hand		1,439	1,320	1,009	892
		1,673	1,672	1,200	1,199
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(514)	(513)	(298)	(297)
<b>Net current assets</b>		1,159	1,159	902	902
<b>Total assets excluding pension liability</b>		1,975	1,975	1,739	1,739
Defined benefit pension liability	21	(1,829)	(1,829)	(649)	(649)
<b>Total net assets</b>		146	146	1,090	1,090
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
. Restricted fixed asset fund	17	828	828	837	837
. General fund		259	259	54	54
. Pension reserve		(1,829)	(1,829)	(649)	(649)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		(742)	(742)	242	242
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17	888	888	848	848
<b>Total funds</b>		146	146	1,090	1,090

The financial statements set out on pages 28 to 50 were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 12/12 2019 and are signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Chair of Directors

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**

**CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2019 £'000</b>	<b>2018 £'000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<b>19</b>	<b>(85)</b>	160
Cash funds transferred on conversion	<b>23</b>	<b>121</b>	-
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Capital grants from DfE and ESFA		<b>124</b>	18
Capital funding received from others		<b>269</b>	-
Interest receivable		<b>1</b>	-
Payments for fixed assets		-	(96)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>430</b>	82
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		<b>1,009</b>	927
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>		<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,009</b>

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### General information

The Learning Together Trust is a group, limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of operations is set out in the trustee's report.

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charitable Company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000 unless otherwise indicated.

The Learning Together Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

##### Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate those of The Learning Together Trust and its subsidiary (i.e. an entity that the group controls through its power to govern the financial and operating policies so as to obtain economic benefits).

All financial statements are made up to 31 August 2019. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.



## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### **Income**

All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

##### Grants

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

##### Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

##### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertakings each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and included costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

##### Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on the Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their expected useful lives. The depreciation periods used for the assets are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	2% straight line
Computer equipment	20% straight line

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The land and buildings operated by the Trust are not included in the financial statements as the schools operate under Church Supplemental Agreements. The remaining amounts included within long leasehold land and buildings relates to leasehold improvements. A notional figure, which in the view of Trustees, represents the value of the use of properties for the previously existing schools is included in donations in each year. No amounts have been included for the new convertor schools in the year.

##### **Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

##### **Financial instruments**

The Academy Trust has chosen to adopt Sections 11 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

##### *Financial assets and liabilities*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Academy Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets measured at fair value through the profit or loss, which are initially measure at fair

value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### *Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities*

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flows expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

#### **Investments**

The Trust's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, St Wilfrid's Trading Company Limited, is initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any impairment in the Trust balance sheet. An assessment for impairment is made at each reporting date.

#### **Taxation**

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### **Pension benefits**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'), which are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently there is insufficient information to use defined benefit accounting, it is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

The LGPS is a funded scheme multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each reporting date. The amounts charged to net income are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised as other comprehensive income.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately as other comprehensive income.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used toward meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the ESFA and the Department for Education.

#### **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### Critical judgements

The Trustees have concluded that the lease arrangements for the Academy Trust use of land and buildings owned by the Diocese do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the Academy Trust

### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2019 Total Funds £'000	2018 Total Funds £'000
Capital Grants	-	393	393	18
Private Sponsorship	-	116	116	115
	-	509	509	133

The income from donations and capital grants was £509,000 (2018: £133,000) of which £nil was unrestricted (2018: £nil) and £116,000 was restricted (2018: £115,000) and £393,000 was restricted fixed asset (2018: £18,000).

### 3 Funding for Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2019 Total Funds £'000	2018 Total Funds £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	4,020	4,020	3,005
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	697	697	450
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	404	404	317
	-	5,121	5,121	3,772

The income from funding for educational operations was £5,121,000 (2018: £3,772,000) of which £nil was unrestricted (2018: £nil) and £5,121,000 was restricted (2018: £3,772,000).

THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2019 Total Funds £'000	2018 Total Funds £'000
School fund income	19	-	19	16
Lettings income	23	-	23	8
Other income	237	-	237	195
Trading company	220	-	220	216
	<u>499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>435</u>

The income from other trading activities was £499,000 (2018: £435,000) of which £499,000 was unrestricted (2018: £435,000) and £nil was restricted (2018: £nil).

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2019 Total Funds £'000	2018 Total Funds £'000
Interest from short term deposits	1	-	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The income from funding for investment income was £1,000 (2018: £nil) of which £1,000 was unrestricted (2018: £nil) and £nil was restricted (2018: £nil).

6 Expenditure

	Staff Costs £'000	Premises Costs £'000	Other costs £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	22	22	24
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	3,610	-	231	3,841	2,940
- Allocated support costs	548	976	849	2,373	1,356
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>4,158</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>6,236</u>	<u>4,320</u>

The method used for the apportionment of support costs is disclosed in the accounting policies.

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 6 Expenditure (Continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Fees payable to auditor - audit	14	11
- other services	5	4
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	27	21
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	21	17

### 7 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
Direct costs – educational operations	56	3,785	3,841	2,940
Support costs – educational operations	328	2,045	2,373	1,356
	384	5,830	6,214	4,296

The expenditure on educational operations was £6,124,000 (2018: £4,296,000) of which £384,000 was unrestricted (2018: £370,000), £5,364,000 (2018: £3,909,000) was restricted and £466,000 (2018: £17,000) was restricted fixed assets.

Analysis of support costs	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Support staff costs	548	406
Depreciation	21	17
Premises costs	955	215
Other support costs	581	491
Governance costs	268	227
	2,373	1,356

### 8 Staff Costs

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Wages and salaries	3,037	2,264
Social security costs	257	191
Other pension costs	684	509
Total staff costs	3,978	2,964
Supply staff costs	151	129
Staff development and other staff costs	29	26
	4,158	3,119
Restructuring costs - contractual	4	-

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 8 Staff Costs (Continued)

#### Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
Teachers	58	42
Non-teaching	107	63
Management	6	4
	<u>171</u>	<u>109</u>

#### Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2019 No.	2018 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer NI contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £432,544 (2018: £330,000).

### 9 Central Services

The academy trust has provided central services to its academies during the year. The trust charges a top slice of 6% of the General Annual Grant to cover these costs.

The amounts charged in the year were as follows:

	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
The Learning Together Trust	-	-
St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy	106	102
Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School	78	78
St David's Church of England Primary Academy	-	-
Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School	-	-
	<u>184</u>	<u>180</u>



# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

There were no other related party transactions involving the trustees other than those set out in note 22.

### 11 Trustees and officers insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £20,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

### 12 Investments

The academy owns the entire £1 issued share capital of St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd (registered office: St Wilfrid's C of E Primary Academy, Rectory Lane, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0XB), with company number 08563916.

### 13 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Land and buildings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Total £'000
<b>GROUP AND TRUST</b>			
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 September 2018	880	13	893
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 August 2019	<u>880</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>893</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 September 2018	46	10	56
Charged in period	18	3	21
At 31 August 2019	<u>64</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>77</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 August 2019	<u>816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>816</u>
At 1 September 2018	<u>834</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>837</u>

The trustees have concluded that the lease arrangements for the Academy Trust use of land and buildings owned by the Diocese do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the Academy Trust. Because of this, the land and buildings are not recognised as assets on the Trust's balance sheet. A donated value representing the annual use of the previously existing properties has been included in restricted income and expenditure in each year. No amounts have been included for the new convertor schools in the year.

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**14 Debtors**

	Consolidated 2019 £'000	Trust 2019 £'000	Consolidated 2018 £'000	Trust 2018 £'000
Trade debtors	6	-	5	-
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	124	-	122
Prepayments and accrued income	169	169	156	156
VAT recoverable	59	59	30	29
	<u>234</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>307</u>

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Consolidated 2019 £'000	Trust 2019 £'000	Consolidated 2018 £'000	Trust 2018 £'000
Other taxation and social security	67	67	45	45
Trade creditors	182	182	134	134
Accruals and deferred income (see note 16)	196	196	83	83
Other creditors	69	68	36	35
	<u>514</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>297</u>

**16 Deferred income**

	2019 £'000
Deferred income is included within:	
Creditors due within one year	<u>86</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2018	67
Amounts deferred in the year	(67)
Released from previous years	86
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2019</b>	<u><u>86</u></u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for free school meals income.

THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17 Funds

	Balance at 31 August 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant	54	4,020	(3,926)	111	259
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	697	(697)	-	-
Other government grants	-	404	(404)	-	-
Donations	-	116	(116)	-	-
Funds excluding pensions	54	5,237	(5,143)	111	259
Pension reserve	(649)	-	(578)	(602)	(1,829)
	<u>(595)</u>	<u>5,237</u>	<u>(5,721)</u>	<u>(491)</u>	<u>(1,570)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE / ESFA other capital grants	515	393	(458)	64	514
Amounts transferred from local authority on conversion	74	-	(2)	-	72
Capital expenditure from GAG	248	-	(6)	-	242
	<u>837</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>(466)</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>828</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>242</u>	<u>5,630</u>	<u>(6,187)</u>	<u>(427)</u>	<u>(742)</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	848	500	(285)	(175)	888
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>1,090</u>	<u>6,130</u>	<u>(6,472)</u>	<u>(602)</u>	<u>146</u>

THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17 Funds (Continued)

Funds (prior year)

	Balance at 31 August 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant	36	3,005	(2,909)	(78)	54
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	450	(450)	-	-
Other government grants	-	317	(317)	-	-
Donations	-	115	(115)	-	-
Funds excluding pensions	36	3,887	(3,791)	(78)	54
Pension reserve	(789)	-	(155)	295	(649)
	<u>(753)</u>	<u>3,887</u>	<u>(3,946)</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>(595)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE / ESFA capital grants	436	18	(17)	78	515
Amounts transferred from local authority on conversion	74	-	-	-	74
Capital expenditure from GAG	248	-	-	-	248
	<u>758</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>(17)</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>837</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>3,905</u>	<u>(3,963)</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>242</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	770	435	(357)	-	848
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>775</u>	<u>4,340</u>	<u>(4,320)</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>1,090</u>

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 17 Funds (Continued)

#### Total cost analysis by each academy and trading company

Expenditure incurred by each academy and trading company (other than restricted fixed asset costs, pension costs and costs on conversion) during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
The Learning Together Trust	122	90	-	43	255	30
St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy	1,515	50	61	661	2,287	2,426
Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School	1,192	83	35	435	1,745	1,582
St David's Church of England Primary Academy	386	31	7	186	610	-
Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School	365	36	13	126	540	-
St Wilfrid's Trading Company Limited	-	96	-	16	112	110
Total expenditure	<u>3,580</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>1,467</u>	<u>5,542</u>	<u>4,148</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

#### *Restricted general fund*

This fund represents grants received for the Trust's operational activities and development.

#### *Fixed asset fund*

These grants relate to funding received from the DfE, ESFA and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital nature as part of the school improvement plan.

#### *Other restricted funds*

These funds relate to monies received from the local government, private sector and private sponsors to carry out works of a capital or revenue nature.

#### *Unrestricted funds*

This fund primarily relates to income from lettings.

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**17 Funds (Continued)**

**Total fund analysis by academy and trading company**

	<b>Total 2019 £'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 £'000</b>
Fund balances at 31 August were allocated as follows:		
The Learning Together Trust	(8)	-
St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy	368	391
Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School	565	511
St David's Church of England Primary Academy	53	-
Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School	169	-
Sub-total	1,147	902
Restricted fixed asset fund	828	837
Pension reserve	(1,829)	(649)
Total funds	146	1,090

**18 Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £'000</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £'000</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000</b>	<b>Total 2019 £'000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	816	816
Current assets	888	773	12	1,673
Current liabilities	-	(514)	-	(514)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,829)	-	(1,829)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>(1,570)</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>146</b>

**Fund balances at 31 August 2018 are represented by:**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £'000</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £'000</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 £'000</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	837	873
Current assets	848	351	-	1,199
Current liabilities	-	(297)	-	(297)
Pension scheme liability	-	(649)	-	(649)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>(595)</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>1,090</b>

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 19 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net from operating activities

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Net income	(342)	20
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	21	17
Capital grants from ESFA/DfE and other capital income	(393)	(18)
Interest receivable	(1)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(43)	(24)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	216	10
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	194	134
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 21)	27	21
Net surplus/deficit on conversion of academy	236	-
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(85)</b>	<b>160</b>

#### 20 Members' Liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

#### 21 Pensions and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £68,000 were payable to the scheme at 31 August 2019 (2018: £35,000) are included within creditors.

##### Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions 2014. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer.

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

## THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 21 Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 except it has been prepared following the Government's decision to pause the operation of the cost control mechanisms at the time when legal challenges were still pending.

The valuation report was published in April 2019. The key results of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (pensions currently payable and the estimated cost of future benefits) of £218 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £22 billion
- Discount rate is 2.4% in excess of CPI

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19.) DfE has agreed to pay a teachers' pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019-20 academic year.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £497,047 (2018: £326,337).

The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme on as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2019 was £223,000 (2018: £153,000) of which employer's contributions totalled £171,000 (2018: £118,000) and employees' contributions totalled £52,000 (2018: £35,000).

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

The past service cost of £51,000 (2018: £nil) relates to the effect of the McCloud judgement regarding age discrimination respect of public service pensions.

Total contributions made	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Employer's contributions	171	118
Employee's contributions	52	35
Total contributions	<u>223</u>	<u>153</u>



# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 21 Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2016 updated to 31 August 2019 by a qualified independent actuary.

#### Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 August 2019 %	At 31 August 2018 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.4	3.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.2	2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.9	2.8

	At 31 August 2019 Years	At 31 August 2018 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.7	21.5
Females	24.3	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.6	23.7
Females	26.5	26.2

#### The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	Fair value at 31 August 2019 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2018 £'000
Equities	1,494	1,128
Bonds	319	265
Property	179	116
Cash	239	149
<b>Total fair value of assets</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>1,658</b>
Actual return on scheme assets – gain/(loss)	113	82

#### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Current service cost (less contributions by employer)	314	134
Net interest cost	27	21
Past service cost (including curtailments)	51	-
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>155</b>

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 21 Pensions and similar obligations (continued)

#### Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

2019  
£'000

Obligations at 1 September 2018	2,307
Obligations acquired on conversion	602
Past service cost	51
Current service cost	314
Interest cost	82
Employee contributions	52
Actuarial gain	660
Benefits paid	(8)
<b>At 31 August 2019</b>	<b>4,060</b>

#### Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

2019  
£'000

Assets at 1 September 2018	1,658
Obligations acquired on conversion	245
Interest income	55
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	58
Employer contributions	171
Employee contributions	52
Benefits paid	(8)
<b>At 31 August 2019</b>	<b>2,231</b>

### 22 Related parties

Owing to nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

None of the Trustees received remuneration in the year. A connected party to A Stokes, a Trustee, is a teaching assistant at the trust. Total remuneration paid in the year was £14,555 (2018: £14,377).

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 23 Conversion to an academy

On 1 November 2018, St David's Church of England Primary Academy converted to academy trust status; and on 1 January 2019, Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School converted to academy trust status; under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Learning Together Trust from the Wigan and Chorley Local Authorities for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

Academy	Location	Date of conversion
St David's Church of England Primary Academy	Wigan	1 November 2018
Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School	Chorley	1 January 2019

#### Net assets transferred:

	2019 £'000
Cash	121
LGPS pension surplus/(deficit)	(357)
	<u>(236)</u>

#### Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted General Funds £'000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £'000	Total 2019 £'000
LA budget funds	121	-	-	121
LGPS pension funds	-	(357)	-	(357)
	<u>121</u>	<u>(357)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(236)</u>

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

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### **Conclusion**

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Learning Together Trust during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Basis for conclusion**

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 Part 9: Regularity Reporting. We are independent of The Learning Together Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

### **Responsibilities of The Learning Together Trust's accounting officer and Trustees**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Learning Together Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2016, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of The Learning Together Trust and appointment of the accounting officer.

### **Reporting Accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity**

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity. A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and the procedures vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have not been applied to purposes identified by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

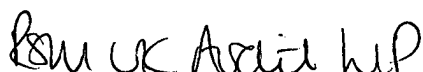
**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON  
REGULARITY TO THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
FUNDING AGENCY**

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Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academies Financial Handbook 2016 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a material risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019.

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

This report is made solely to The Learning Together Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2019. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the The Learning Together Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Learning Together Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.



**RSM UK AUDIT LLP**  
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Date: 18/12/2019