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REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 10641561 (England and Wales)

<u>Trustees' Report and</u>
<u>Financial Statements for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017</u>
<u>for</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

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02/02/2018 COMPANIES HOUSE #130

UHY Hacker Young St John's Chambers Love Street Chester Cheshire CH1 1QN

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Reference and Administrative Details for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

MEMBERS Z Wakelam (appointed 27.2.17)

R Prideaux (appointed 27.2.17) (resigned 26.6.17)

J Devine (appointed 27.2.17) J H Owens (appointed 27.2.17) L Young (appointed 27.2.17)

TRUSTEES L G Bolland (appointed 27.2.17)

S Cotton (Vice Chair) (appointed 27.2.17)

J Davies (appointed 27.2.17) S Goodwin (appointed 27.2.17)

T Lacey (Accounting Officer & CEO) (appointed 27.2.17)

C Molyneux (appointed 27.2.17)

J H Owens (Chairman) (appointed 27.2.17)

R Taylor (appointed 27.2.17)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM M Leggett (Chief Finance Officer)

S Haworth (Assistant Headteacher)

S Collins (Deputy Headteacher - Poulton Lancelyn) N P Greathead (Headteacher - Egremont) (resigned

31.8.17)

C Arnold (Headteacher - Poulton Lancelyn) (appointed

1.9.17)

C Spinks (Headteacher - Egremont) (appointed 1.9.17) B Greathead (Headteacher - Poulton Lancelyn) (resigned

31.8.17)

P Joyce (Headteacher - Great Meols)
E Neal (Headteacher - Stanton Road)
T Lacey (Accounting Officer & CEO)
D Vernon (Headteacher - Stanton Road)
K Wilson (Deputy Headteacher - Egremont)
B Parker (Deputy Headteachers - Great Meols)
K Pennington (Deputy Headteacher - Stanton Road)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Stanton Road Primary School

Stanton Road Bebington Wirral Merseyside CH63 3HW

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

10641561 (England and Wales)

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Reference and Administrative Details for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

AUDITORS

UHY Hacker Young

St John's Chambers

Love Street Chester Cheshire CH1 1QN

SOLICITORS

Browne Jacobson

18-22 Bridge Street

Manchester M3 3BZ

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank

355 Woodchurch Road

Prenton CH42 8PE

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's reports of the academy trust for the period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The core goal of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Academy Trust is to bring about positive outcomes in all areas for the children in our schools. As a new trust, with all schools good or better in OFSTED rating on conversion, our clear aim for this year was to establish the trusts' policies and procedures and working relationships. Our business plan sets this out clearly and our strategic objectives are the guiding principles for our work.

We have a high quality staff team across the trust and a strong group of governors and trustees, all of whom contribute to our excellent processes for school improvement. We have focused attention on establishing the MAT, rather than grow too quickly without solid foundations in place.

We are committed to developing our staff through quality CPD, shared practice and networks across all areas. We will be able to maximise capacity by moving staff across the trust, thereby ensuring that the right expertise is in place where it is needed. As we grow, this strategy will be vital to help us retain the best people in whom we have invested our resources.

The oversight of the executive leadership team along with board of trustees and local governing bodies means that the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust retains a clear focus on strategic priorities within a secure governance framework. This places the trust in a strong position to grow and develop over time.

The trust operates 4 primary academies in Wirral known as Stanton Road, Great Meols, Egremont & Poulton Lancelyn Primary Schools. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1595 and had a roll of 1483 in the school census on January 2017.

INCORPORATION

The charitable company was incorporated on 27th February 2017 and commenced trading on 1st June 2017.

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The principal object of the charitable company is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom. It achieves this object principally through the operation of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust, the aim being to achieve the highest possible standard of education and pastoral care and maximise the life chances for our pupils of all abilities between the ages of 4 and 11.

Our key aims and goals as a trust are:

- To be dedicated to helping the whole child, to unlock their potential and instil a love of learning.
- To share the wealth of experience and expertise from across our trust to enrich and bring learning to life for our children.
- To mix the pursuit of academic excellence in core subjects with a creative curriculum which expands minds and instils a sense of curiosity of the wider world.
- To genuinely care about the achievement, development, well-being and future of all of our children.
- To be here for all children, to raise aspirations, inspire them to go far and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- To work in partnership with our families to help the children be the best they can be.
- We believe in the power and potential of all people to make a lasting difference.

Our Mission /Values

Co-operate and collaborate
Achieve excellence for all
Raise aspirations and inspire imaginations
Explore new interests and new ideas

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objective, strategies and activities

The main objectives during the year were:

- To establish positive working relationships between all levels of leadership and Governance.
- -To ensure that we have adequate resources at executive level to lead the MAT forward in the short and long term.
- To begin to plan the way forward to improve MAT performance in all areas, particularly in teaching and learning financial aspects.
- To induct the Trustee board in order for them to have the skills to carry out their statutory duties effectively.
- To develop key policies, including financial policies and procedures, to enable the MAT to be compliant and carry out its role effectively.

The main strategies for this work include:

- Networks of school leaders working together on curriculum and enrichment opportunities.
- Headteacher Board work together to ensure a coherent strategic direction and drive is in place.
- Each Headteacher is committed to working across the MAT and having an impact beyond their own school.
- Quality joint INSET and Continuing Professional Development, including training for new Headteachers and NQTs, is in place and run by leaders within the Trust.
- Clear and consistent financial procedures and reporting systems in place across the MAT.
- A shared focus on developing teaching and learning brought together through the MAT Business Plan and School Improvement Strategy.
- Regular MAT-wide events to develop a unified approach, such as cross-Trust maths and English challenges and an annual Awards evening.

Public benefit

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the Wirral area. The schools provide an extensive programme of educational and recreational activity - all designed to contribute to the overall education of our students in areas such as academic distinction, music, the arts and sport.

For example:

- a maths challenge has been agreed across the Trust in 17-18
- a cross-trust sports day is planned for 17-18
- a cross-trust awards evening is planned for 17-18

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The Oak Trees Trust was formed on a strong foundation, with all Academies being good or better on conversion. Great Meols Primary School is the single Outstanding Academy in the Trust.

Although the academy Trust was formed on June 1st 2017, which was after the Year 6 statutory tests were carried out, performance across the Trust improved from 57% Expected in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2016 to 61% combined in 2017, which is at the national average for attainment. Likewise, attainment at the higher level in all subjects rose from 3% in 2016 to 8% in 2017. This is testament to the good quality teaching and learning across the schools, and to the outcome of strong and effective collaboration between the schools which has been taking place before the Trust was set up.

On an individual school's basis, Great Meols and Poulton Lancelyn are both above the national average for Expected Reading, Writing and Maths combined, whilst Stanton Road is slightly below (-2%) and Egremont well below. (-26%). The latter 2 schools will be a key focus in driving up Trust standards in 2018.

Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust Unvalidated/Provisional School Performance Data 2017 -Key Stage 2 SATS and Teacher Assessments

	EGREMONT PRIMARY	GREAT MEOLS	POULTON LANCELYN	STANTON ROAD	NATIONAL AVERAGE
READING EXPECTED STANDARD					
+ READING HIGH	48%	79%	92%	66%	71%
SCALES WRITING EXPECTED STANDARD	6%	40%	36%	16%	TBC
+ WRITING GREATER	50%	86%	85%	73%	74%
DEPTH GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATI ON AND SPELLING	2%	13%	25%	9%	TBC
EXPECTED + GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATI ON AND SPELLING HIGH	58%	83%	94%	64%	77%
SCALES SCORE MATHS EXPECTED STANDARD	8%	33%	47%	25%	ТВС
+	58%	86%	94%	73%	75%

Trustees' Report

DEPTH

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and Charitable activitie MATHS HIGH	-				
SCALED SCORE	8%	24%	45%	220/	ТВС
READING,	870	24%	43%	32%	IBC
WRITING					
AND MATHS					
EXPECTED +					
COMBINED	35%	69%	79%	59%	61%
READING,					
WRITING					
AND MATHS					
HIGH					
SCALES					
SCORE /					
GREATER					

The Trust key improvement areas in terms of standards for 17-18 include:

11%

1. Support lower performing schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning and accelerate progress in order to raise attainment in 2018.

13%

7%

TBC

- 2. Focus on assessment as a key area for improvement in order to ensure consistency of assessment across the Trust.
- 3. Introduce a CPD programme for new Headteachers, Newly and Recently Qualified teachers and whole-school INSET training based on Headteacher requests.
- 4. Begin to develop teaching networks in key areas to move towards greater consistency and share good practice.

Key financial performance indicators

1. Suitably skilled and trained Finance staff in place.

0%

- 2. Financial regulations and policies approved, communicated and in place.
- 3. Suitable financial software, allowing multi school scrutiny and consolidation, sourced and in place.
- 4. Financial/budgetary reporting method for all levels of management agreed and set up.
- 5. Method of internal and external audit agreed and in place.
- 6. Cash flow is monitored closely to ensure credit bank balances throughout the year.
- 7. All schools carry a credit balance forward at the end of 17-18.

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) show that the trust has total a net surplus of income for the period of £13,089,000 and a total funds carried forward of £13,094,000. The fund balances as shown on the Balance Sheet include; Unrestricted funds of £102,000 and General Restricted Funds of £722,000 and a Capital Improvement Fund balance of £211,000.

As the trust incorporated on 27th February 2017 and the academies within only converted on 1st June 2017, these figures represent a three month opening period and also include the Transfer of Assets from the Local Authority on conversion.

Once the fixed assets and pensions liabilities transferred on conversion are excluded, the funds carried forward for the period amounts to £1,035,000, as described above under the different funds.

It was also noted that the academies had some significant cash balances transferred on conversion which has contributed towards the carried forward balances at the end of the period, which are shown on the cashflow statement..

The trustees are satisfied with the financial performance of the trust during this short period of time.

Investment policy and objectives

Investments, when appropriate, will be made in accordance with written procedures approved by the Trustees. All investments would be recorded in sufficient detail to identify the investment and to enable the current market value to be calculated. The information required will normally be the date of purchase, the cost and the description of the investment. Additional procedures may be required to ensure any income receivable from the investment is received.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the pupils.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent 5% of the Trusts income. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

The trustees will monitor the level of reserves to ensure that they are maintained at the required level. In the event that they are partly used the trust will strive to rebuild free reserves up to the level needed.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has 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 Statement of Accounting Policies.

<u>Trustees' Report</u> for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

We receive our income from a number of different sources. The majority of our income comes from central government via the ESFA, who provide us with grant, based largely on our student numbers, to cover our staffing and other general running costs. The ESFA may provide us with additional grants which are earmarked for specific purposes, (such as Pupil Premium, which must be used to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils). These appear in the accounts as DFE/ESFA grants. Where we receive grant or other finding from the Local Authority (such as where we undertake responsibilities on their behalf in respect of our students), this appears in the accounts as other government grants. Such income is collectively referred to as 'restricted funds'. Other income is received from parents (for example, contributions to trip or other costs) and from third parties (for example, from our bank for interest on our account balances) or from others who are charged for their use of our facilities). Such other income may be restricted or unrestricted, depending on whether it comes to us with conditions as to its use or whether it is available for spending at the discretion of the Trustees.

We hold funds in 2 broad categories, funds which are available for spending and other funds which are not available for spending.

Spendable funds are in turn sub-categorised between those which are available for spending at the discretion of Trustees (unrestricted funds) and those which are subject to condition and restriction (restricted funds). Funds not available for spending include the book value of fixed assets, such as land, buildings and equipment. These have value and are therefore included as assets in the accounts, but clearly, we cannot spend this value. In common with all academies and local authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit must also be reflected in our accounts and as this is not a conventional liability, it does not need to be deducted from spendable funds. We meet our obligations in respect of the LGPS by paying over pension contributions due as calculated by the schemes actuaries.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those relating to academic performance, finances and child welfare. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the company faces, and have developed policies and procedures to mitigate those risks. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The company has an effective system of internal financial controls, and this is explained in more detail in the governance statement.

The principal financial risk faced by the trust is that ongoing pressure on funding results in a risk that deficits may be experienced. The budgeting and reporting process, including scrutiny by the Trustees, of actual financial performance mitigates the risk.

As the nature of the financial instruments dealt with by the company is relatively simple, (bank balances, debtors and 'trade' creditors), governors consider the associated risk in this area to be minimal.

The risk resulting from the company's share of the LGPS deficit is managed by following the advice of the schemes actuaries, specifically as regards the level of contributions payable, ensuring that annual budgets are drawn up to reflect the actuary's advice.

Most of the Trust income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31st August 2017 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

- 1. Develop coherent growth of the Trust
- 2. Audit current pre-school and nursery provision
- 3. Audit current contracts and services to ensure that the Trust is fully compliant and has the necessary services in place
- 4. Ascertain a picture of where economies of scale can be achieved
- 5. Plan centralised services for the future

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company is known as Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page.

Members' liability

Each member of the academy trust 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 cease to be a member.

Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy Trust maintains Governors' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its Governors. The Academy Trust has also granted indemnities to each of its Governors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Governors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Governors or officers of the Academy Trust. Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and its member schools are insured through the RPA scheme.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Chief Executive Officer is a Trustee as agreed by the trust board. Trustees are recruited after a skills audit has been carried out, with vacancies filled due to a gap in skills determined from the analysis. Trustees can be co-opted according to the necessary skill set being filled. All trustees are appointed and removed by the members and have a 4-year term of office by default. New trustees are recruited from external sources. In such case a prospective trustee is interviewed by the Chair of Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. A proposal is then brought to the members for formal ratification.

Trustees' Report

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of three levels: the Trustees, the CEO/Accounting Officer and the Academy Headteachers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general Trust policy, adopting the Trust annual plan and budgets, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy Trust.

The CEO provides dynamic and strategic direction and leadership to the MAT, and is wholly responsible for the organisation. The CEO holds statutory headship responsibility for all of the Academies in the Trust, and will line manage the Headteachers in these academies.

The Headteachers are responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of their individual academies, working with the CEO to ensure strong performance both financially and academically. The Headteachers have delegated responsibility to monitor and spend their own budgets up to specific limits, to set their own curriculum and to make staffing appointments, although some senior appointments may be made with support of the CEO. The Headteacher Board and the CEO meet regularly to plan strategy and ensure a clear link between the Trustees, CEO and Headteachers.

The Trust plan is to arrange 2 different committees, Finance and Resources and School Performance, once Trustees have the general understanding and skills to carry out their role effectively and once terms of reference are drawn up for each committee.

Induction and training of new trustees

As no new Trustees have been appointed since incorporation, there has been no need for induction procedures as such. In the Autumn of 2017, an induction pack will be produced by the Trust which will provide information and guidance for all new Trustees to enable them to carry out their duties effectively.

Key management remuneration

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise of the trustees and the senior management team as listed on the reference and administrative page. The total amount of employee benefits (including employers pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £172,575.

Related parties

All Trustees, Governors, CEO, CFO and Headteachers complete a register of business interests on an annual basis. Any person requesting or authorising purchases on behalf of the academies is also required to declare any relationship or connection to the supplier concerned.

Each academy has their own separate PTA.

<u>Trustees' Report</u> for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay policy, setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the board of trustees on conversion, after taking advice from the Headteacher and following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies and following the LA model pay policy. Naturally the Headteacher was not involved in setting his/her own remuneration package.

The only trustee remunerated is the CEO, who only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide under their contract of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees.

Specific disclosures concerning staff trustees' remuneration is included in notes to the accounts.

The day to day running of the pay policy is delegated to the Headteachers and monitored by the Chief Finance Officer and in future years by the Trust Finance and Resources committee. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the pay policy and appraisal policy which are reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking. Senior management salaries are, when possible, linked [closely] to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual is remunerated at an appropriate level. As such salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

The board always bear in mind the charitable status of the academy trust and recognise the fact that the trust receives funding under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensure the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the trust. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money. The CEO is externally Performance Managed, whilst Academy Headteachers are Performance Managed by the CEO.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS

The Trust does not currently act as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

AUDITORS

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 21st December 2017 and signed on the board's behalf by:

J H Owens - Chairman

Governance Statement for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Oak Trees Multi Academy 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 of loss.

The board of the trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees 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 Trustees Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 2 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J H Owens	2	2
T Lacey	2	2
S Cotton	2	2
R Taylor	2	2
J Davies	-	2
S Goodwin	1	2
C Molyneux	-	2
L G Bolland	-	2

A process of appointment will be carried out in Autumn 2017 to recruit for the 2 vacancies on the board once a thorough skills audit and assessment has taken place.

As we are a new Trust, the Trust board was initially set up after a skills audit was carried out and its' composition evaluated and agreed with the Headteacher Board. On conversion, it was clear that there were 2 vacancies which need filling, but it was agreed unanimously that this should be done after a skills audit and analysis was carried out and new Trustees be appointed after a rigorous process of appointment. Skills audits were carried out September 2017 with a rigorous appointment procedure taking place during the Autumn term. Draft terms of reference have also been developed, with a view to committees being set up by December 2017 based on skills and clear terms of reference for each committee.

The Finance and Resources Committee, when set up in Autumn 2017, will be a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose will be to ensure that the Trust is financially compliant with Charity Law and the Academies Financial Handbook. Its other purposes will include to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the Trust effectively, and to ensure the Trust provides a safe educational environment. One of the Committee's responsibilities will be Trust-level budget approval and monitoring.

The duties of this committee will be carried out by the full Trust board until the relevant committee is appointed Autumn 2017.

The audit committee will also be a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose will be to support and approve the annual audit and ensure that any actions from the audit are addressed with haste, as well as to manage the risk strategy across the Trust.

Governance Statement for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. As the Trust has only been in existence for 3 months, there has been little opportunity as yet to secure evidence of value for money in the current year. The accounting officer for the academy trust will deliver improved value for money during the next financial year.

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 on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of charitable company 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust for the period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the charitable company 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 charitable company's significant risks that has been in place for the period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017 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 academy 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 Finance and General Purposes Committee 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;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- to appoint UHY as internal auditor commencing in the spring term.

The auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a 6-monthly basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

Governance Statement

for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

The Risk and Control Framework

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations

As the internal auditor was only appointed Autumn 2017, there has been no internal audit carried out during the period of trust opening on 1st June 2017 to 31st August 2017.

Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 21st December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

J H Owens - Chairman

Mr T Lacey - Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

As accounting officer of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the charitable company 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 charitable company 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 2016.

I confirm that I and the charitable company board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the charitable company, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the charitable company's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

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.

Mr T Lacey - Accounting Officer

21st December 2017

<u>Statement of Trustees Responsibilities</u> for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

The trustees (who act as governors of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those 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 2016 to 2017;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 to 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 with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21st December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

J H Owens - Chairman

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust (the 'charitable company') for the period ended 31st August 2017 on pages twenty three to forty five. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

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.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st August 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period 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 Charities SORP 2015 and Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017.

Basis for opinion

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 Auditors 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 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Other information

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, 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. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has 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.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept 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 seventeen, the trustees (who 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.

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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 www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Mr Nicolaus S Jenkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young

St John's Chambers

Love Street

Chester

Cheshire

CH1 1QN

21st December 2017

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust during the period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Oak Trees Multi Academy 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Oak Trees Multi Academy 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.

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 2016 to 2017. 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 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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 consequently 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.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the charitable company's income and expenditure.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

Conclusion

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 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

UHY Hacker Young

St John's Chambers

Love Street Chester Cheshire

CH1 1QN

21st December 2017

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

	Not es	Unrestricted fund £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	Total funds £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and capital grants	2	15	-	241	256
Transfer from Local Authority on					
conversion	18	68	(2,469)	15,168	12,767
Charitable activities					
Funding for the academy's educational					
operations	3	37	1,679	-	1,716
Other trading activities	4	13	-		13
Total		133	(790)	15,409	14,752
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations		31	1,577	55	1,663
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		102	(2,367)	15,354	13,089
Other recognised gains/(losses) Actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit					
schemes			5		5
Net movement in funds		102	(2,362)	15,354	13,094
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	ı	102	<u>(2,362</u>)	<u>15,354</u>	13,094

All of the charitable company's activities derive from acquisitions in the current period.

Balance Sheet At 31st August 2017

	Not es	Unrestricted fund £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	Total funds £'000
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	10	-	-	15,144	15,144
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Cash in hand	11	102	394 872		394 1,185
		102	1,266	211	1,579
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	12		(544)	(1)	(545)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		102	722	210	1,034
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		102	722	15,354	16,178
PENSION LIABILITY	15	-	(3,084)	-	(3,084)
NET ASSETS		102	(2,362)	15,354	13,094
FUNDS Unrestricted funds: General fund	14				102
Restricted funds: Fixed Asset Fund Pension fund General Annual Grant Capital Improvement Fund					15,143 (3,084) 722
					12,992
TOTAL FUNDS					13,094

Balance Sheet - continued At 31st August 2017

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st December 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

J H Owens -Chairman

<u>Cash Flow Statement</u> for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

	Notes	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities: Cash generated from operations	19	335
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		335
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchase of tangible fixed assets Capital grants from DfE/ESFA		(31) 242
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		211
Cash transferred on conversion to an academy	18	639
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,185
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,185

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of accounting policies

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, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

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 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 academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy 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.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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 academy 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 29, 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 2017. 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.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income

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

Expenditure & liabilities

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 undertaking 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.

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold - Straight line over 125 years

Fixtures and fittings - 20% on cost

Computer equipment - 50% on cost and 25% on cost

Assets costing £4,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and nay 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 requiring 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.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank - is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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 part 11, chapter 3 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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are 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 prospective unit credit method. As stated in notes, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. 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 balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus 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 in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Conversion to an academy

Where assets are received by the trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as Transfer on conversion within Donations and capital grant income.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Donations	-	241	241
Grants	1.5	241	241
School Trip Income	15		15
	15		<u>256</u>
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:			£'000
Capital Improvement Fund			241

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other income from the academy trust's educational			
operations	37	-	37
Grants	.	1,679	1,679
	<u>37</u>	1,679	1,716

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS - continued

An analysis of grants received is given below:

			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
			funds	funds	funds
			£'000	£'000	£'000
	70 (F) (F) (F)		£000	£'000	£000
	DfE/ESFA revenue grant				
	General Annual Grant(GAG)		-	1,363	1,363
	Start Up Grant		-	100	100
	Othe Grants		-	184	184
					
		•	-	1,647	1,647
				2,0 . /	1,0 1,
	Other government grant				
				22	22
	Local Authority Grant			32	32
				<u>1,679</u>	<u>1,679</u>
4.	OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES				
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
			funds	funds	funds
			£'000	£'000	£'000
	TT: CC '11'-			£ 000	
	Hire of facilities		11	-	11
	Catering income		2		2
	·				
			13		13
					
			•		
5.	EXPENDITURE				
٥.	EM EMPITORE				
			Non no	y expenditure	
		Staff costs	Premises	Other costs	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Charitable activities				
	Academies educational operations				
	Direct costs	1,020	18	170	1,208
	Allocated support costs	210	44	201	455
	**			·	
		1,230	62	371	1,663
		1,230			

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

5. EXPENDITURE - continued

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	£'000
Audit Fees	5
Other non-audit services	. 2
Depreciation - owned assets	55
Other operating leases	6

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

emmanable herry mes	endenti o edecimionale or	EIU III IOI (O	
Direct costs Support costs	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000 1,177 455	Total funds £'000 1,208 455
	31	1,632	1,663
Analysis of symmetry south			Total £'000
Analysis of support costs Support staff costs			210
Technology costs			210
Premises costs			44
Other support costs			172
Governance costs			7
Total support costs			454

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31st August 2017.

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of CEO under their contract of employment.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefit was as follows:

Mr T Lacey (CEO & trustee) (pro rata yearly equivalent)

- Remuneration £65,000 £70,000
- Employer's pension contributions paid £5,000 £10,000

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31st August 2017.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

8. STAFF COSTS

·	£'000
Wages and salaries	975
Social security costs	68
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	<u>116</u>
	1,159
Supply teacher costs	71
	1,230
The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the company during the period was as follows:	charitable

Teachers 74
Administration & Support 116
Management 7

197

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

£70,001 - £80,000

9. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

The charitable company has opted into the Department for 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 £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

10.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
		Long leasehold £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Totals £'000
	COST				
	Transfer on conversion	15,065	45	58	15,168
	Additions	31			31
	At 31st August 2017	15,096	45	58	15,199
	DEPRECIATION Charge for year	18	17	20	55
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31st August 2017	15,078	28	38	15,144
11.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING I	OUE WITHIN O	NE YEAR		
					£'000
	Trade debtors				14
	Other debtors				308
	VAT				53
	Prepayments and accrued income				19

394

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade creditors Social security and other taxes Other creditors Accruals and deferred income	£'000 175 80 100
	545
Deferred income	
	2017 £'000
Deferred income at 27th February 2017 Released from previous years	- -
Resources deferred in year	167
Deferred Income at 31st August 2017	167

The above income relates to various grants received in advance and for the following year.

13. 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/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Net	Transfers	
	movement in	between	
	funds	funds	At 31.8.17
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	102	-	102
Restricted funds			
Fixed Asset Fund	15,113	30	15,143
Pension fund	(3,084)	-	(3,084)
General Annual Grant	722	-	722
Capital Improvement Fund	241	(30)	211
	12,992	-	12,992
TOTAL FUNDS	13,094		13,094

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains and losses £'000	Movement in funds £'000
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	133	(31)	-	102
Restricted funds				
Fixed Asset Fund	15,168	(55)	-	15,113
Pension fund	(3,040)	(49)	5	(3,084)
General Annual Grant	1,935	(1,213)	-	722
Other Grants	215	(215)	-	-
Start Up Grant	100	(100)	-	-
Capital Improvement Fund	241			241
	14,619	(1,632)	, 5	12,992
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,752</u>	<u>(1,663</u>)	5	13,094

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

•	Total
	2017
	£'000
Stanton Road	146
Egremont	131
Great Meols	349
Poulton Lancelyn	409
Total before fixed asset and pension reserve	1,035
Restricted fixed asset fund	15,143
Pension reserve	(3,084)
Total Funds	13,094

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

15. PENSION 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 Merseyside Pension Scheme. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

Contributions amounting to £80,128 where payable to the schemes at 31 August 2017 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' pension scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

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. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

15. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension 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 latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge (currently 14.1%))
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%.

During the previous year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £165,145 A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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 2017 was £65,846, of which employer's contributions totalled £48,237 and employees' contributions totalled £17,609. The agreed contribution rates for future years are up to 32.5 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

15. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:	Defined
Present value of funded obligations Fair value of plan assets	benefit pension plans £'000 (4,015) 931
	(3,084)
Deficit	(3,084)
Liability	<u>(3,084</u>)
The amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities are as follows:	
	Defined
Current service cost Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	benefit pension plans £'000 100
	<u>126</u>
Actual return on plan assets	
Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:	
Defined benefit obligation Current service cost Contributions by scheme participants Interest cost	Defined benefit pension plans £'000 3,873 100 16 26

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

15. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:	
Fair value of scheme assets Interest income	Defined benefit pension plans £'000 833
Contributions by employer	71
Contributions by scheme participants	16 5
Assets other remeasurement	3
	931
The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:	
Assets other remeasurement	Defined benefit pension plans £'000
1 about out 1 amount and 1	
	5
The major categories of scheme assets as amounts of total scheme assets are as follows:	
	Defined benefit pension plans £'000
Equities Government Bonds Other Bonds	488 32 111
Cash/Liquid	45
Other Property	180 75
Property	
	931

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

15. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages)

Discount rate	2.5%
Future salary increases	3.7%
Future pension increases	2.2%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.2%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in the mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	. At 31 August 2017
Retiring today Males	21.9
Females	24.7
Retiring in 20 years Males	24.9
Females	27.7
Sensitivity analysis	At 31 August 2017 £'000
Discount rate +0.1%	2,238
CPI Rate +0.1	2,383
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	. 2,363

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The following related party transaction took place in the period of accounts.

Related Trustee	Related Party	Nature	Details	Amount £000
C Molyneux	Church Drive Primary School	Governor	Sales to - Recharge of salaries	3
C Molyneux	Church Drive Primary School	Governor	Sales to - Recharge of Schools Direct	3
C Molyneux	Church Drive Primary School	Governor	Sales to – Recharge of Professional Fees	7
J Owens	Edsentials	Chair	Various Purchases of Goods and Services	25

In entering into these transactions, the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

17. CENTRAL SERVICES

No central services were provided by the trust to its academies during the period and no central charges.

18. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY

On 1st June 2017, Stanton Road, Egremont, Great Meols & Poulton Lancelyn Primary Schools converted to academy status under the Academies Act 2010 and all operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust from the Wirral Local Authority 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 value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations - transfer from Local Authority on conversion.

The following tables sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

	Restricted Fixed			
	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Stanton Road Tangible fixed assets - Leasehold land and building - Other tangible fixed assets	-	- -	3,637 10	3,637 10
Budget surplus on LA funds Budget surplus on other school funds	1	90	-	90 1
LGPS pension surplus / (deficit)	-	(658)	-	(658)
Net Assets	1	(568)	3,647	3,080
Egremont Tangible fixed assets - Leasehold land and building - Other tangible fixed assets Budget surplus on LA funds Budget surplus on other school funds LGPS pension surplus / (deficit) Net Assets	- - 19 - - 19	74 - (893) (819)	2,625 34 - - - 2,659	2,625 34 74 19 (893) 1,859
Great Meols Tangible fixed assets - Leasehold land and building - Other tangible fixed assets		· - -	4,184 35	4,184 35
Budget surplus on LA funds Budget surplus on other school	-	262	-	262
funds LGPS pension surplus / (deficit)	13	(719)	-	13 (719)
Net Assets	13	(457)	4,219	3,775

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Period 27th February 2017 to 31st August 2017

19.

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Poulton Lancelyn Tangible fixed assets				
 Leasehold land and building Other tangible fixed assets 	- -	-	4,619 24	4,619 24
Budget surplus on LA funds Budget surplus on other school funds	-	145		146
	35	-	-	35
LGPS pension surplus / (deficit)	-	(770)	<u> </u>	(770)
Net Assets	35	(625)	4,643	4,053
TOTAL OF ALL CONVERSIONS	68	(2,469)	15,168	12,767
RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM				
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				£'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities) Adjustments for:				13,089
Depreciation				55
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA				(242)
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion Increase in debtors				(12,767) (394)
Increase in creditors				545
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions				49
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities				335