



Learning Together Trust
Trustees' Report
Year Ended 31st August 2016

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charitable Company of the Learning Together Trust, for period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016.

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. 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 new trustees were nominated by the diocese 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.

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 officers 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 and Canon Sharples Church of England Primary School and Nursery. To establish, maintain, manage and develop each school; offering a broad and balanced curriculum for children from 3 - 11 years.

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.

The Executive Headteacher of the Learning Together Trust acts as CEO and is an ex-officio member of the board of 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 LTT 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.

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, 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 schools 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 School Development Plan. 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 at least once 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.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular 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 (eg 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 (eg 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.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed an external responsible officer whose 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 EFA's requirements and no material control issues arose.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

The Trust works closely with the Diocese 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 Academy. 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 principle object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery 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.

An initial objective was 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 aims of the school rest on the following mission statement:

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery 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.

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.

Achievements and performance

Achievements at the Trust remain very high. We believe that all children are entitled to a high quality education.

The high standards maintained by St. Wilfrid's are reflected in the following school test results and school accreditations and awards:

NCTL designation as a National Support School; Arts Mark Gold; National Healthy Schools Partnership Award; School Games Mark Gold; Eco Silver Award; Mentally Healthy School Gold Award; LA Behaviour Bronze Award; Wigan and Leigh Education Career Aspiration Award; Arts Award; Church School Distinctiveness Award; Active Community Award

Performance

St. Wilfrid's

Key Stage 2 Results 2016

These tables show the percentage of Year 6 pupils achieving the 'Expected Standard' and 'High Standard' compared to National Test Results and Teacher Assessment for 2016. The number of eligible children is: 59. Figures may not total 100 per cent because of rounding

SCHOOL TEST RESULTS 2016 COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEST RESULTS 2016						
			Percentage at each judgement			
			Below Expected	Expected or above	High	A
Maths	All	School	10	90	20	0
		National	30	70	17	0
	Boys	School	13	87	21	0
		National	30	70	18	0
	Girls	School	5	95	20	0
		National	30	70	15	0
Reading	All	School	19	81	32	0
		National	34	66	19	0
	Boys	School	23	77	23	0
		National	38	62	16	0
	Girls	School	10	90	50	0
		National	30	70	22	0
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	All	School	12	88	47	0
		National	28	72	22	0
	Boys	School	15	85	33	0
		National	33	67	18	0
	Girls	School	5	95	75	0
		National	22	78	27	0

A represents pupils who were absent

SCHOOL TEACHER ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2016						
			Percentage at each judgement			
			Below Expected	Expected or above	High	A
Writing	All	School	17	83	34	0
		National	26	74	15	0
	Boys	School	23	77	21	0
		National	32	68	11	0
	Girls	School	5	95	60	0
		National	19	81	19	0
Science	All	School	17	83	N/A	0
		National	19	81	N/A	0
	Boys	School	23	77	N/A	0
		National	21	79	N/A	0
	Girls	School	5	95	N/A	0
		National	17	83	N/A	0

A represents pupils who were absent

Key Stage 1 Results 2016

This table shows a summary of the National Curriculum assessment results of pupils in the school and nationally (2016) at the end of Key Stage 1, as a percentage of those eligible for assessment. The number of eligible children is 81: This may not total 100 per cent because of rounding.

SCHOOL TEACHER ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2016						
Percentage at each judgement						
			Below Expected	Expected Standard +	Greater Depth	A
Maths	All	School	16	84	15	0
		National	27	73	18	0
	Boys	School	18	82	10	0
		National	28	72	19	0
	Girls	School	14	86	19	0
		National	26	74	16	0
Reading	All	School	17	83	20	0
		National	26	74	24	0
	Boys	School	23	77	21	0
		National	30	70	20	0
	Girls	School	12	88	19	0
		National	22	78	27	0

Writing	All	School	22	78	14	0
		National	35	65	13	0
	Boys	School	28	72	13	0
		National	41	59	10	0
	Girls	School	17	83	14	0
		National	27	73	17	0
Science	All	School	10	90	N/A	0
		National	18	82	N/A	0
	Boys	School	15	85	N/A	0
		National	21	79	N/A	0
	Girls	School	5	95	N/A	0
		National	16	84	N/A	0

A represents pupils who were absent

Canon Sharples

Achievement

Canon Sharples has recently had a very successful SIAMS inspection which graded the school as Outstanding and has worked hard to achieve the Basic Skills Quality Mark. A number of pupils have also been successful in achieving Arts Award.

As a sponsored academy, Canon Sharples is in a significant period of change and is working hard to raise standards in all areas of the school. Starting points for children are well below average. Significant improvement has been achieved at Foundation stage and in Year 1 and 2 phonics. Standards of attainment have been maintained at KS1 and progress is in line with national at both KS1 and KS2. KS2 progress is above DfE floor target. However because of pupils starting points, attainment at KS2 is below the DfE floor targets. Improving attendance has been a key priority for the school and attendance is now at the National average.

Performance

Key Stage 2 Results 2016

These tables show the percentage of Year 6 pupils achieving the 'Expected Standard' and 'High Standard' compared to National Test Results and Teacher Assessment for 2016. The number of eligible children is: 59. Figures may not total 100 per cent because of rounding

SCHOOL TEST RESULTS 2016 COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEST RESULTS 2016						
			Percentage at each judgement			
			Below Expected	Expected or above	High	A
Maths	All	School	33	67	0	0
		National	30	70	17	0
	Boys	School	27	73	0	0
		National	30	70	18	0
	Girls	School	40	60	0	0
		National	30	70	15	0
	All	School	54	46	4	0
		National	34	66	19	0

Reading	Boys	School	50	50	4	0
		National	38	62	16	0
	Girls	School	60	40	5	0
		National	30	70	22	0
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	All	School	50	50	0	0
		National	28	72	22	0
	Boys	School	50	50	0	0
		National	33	67	18	0
	Girls	School	50	50	0	0
		National	22	78	27	0

SCHOOL TEACHER ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2016						
			Percentage at each judgement			
			Below Expected	Expected or above	High	A
Writing	All	School	30	70	2	0
		National	26	74	15	0
	Boys	School	23	77	0	0
		National	32	68	11	0
	Girls	School	40	60	5	0
		National	19	81	19	0
Science	All	School	30	70	N/A	0
		National	19	81	N/A	0
	Boys	School	31	69	N/A	0
		National	21	79	N/A	0
	Girls	School	30	70	N/A	0
		National	17	83	N/A	0

Key Stage 1 Results 2016

This table shows a summary of the National Curriculum assessment results of pupils in the school and nationally (2016) at the end of Key Stage 1, as a percentage of those eligible for assessment. The number of eligible children is 81: This may not total 100 per cent because of rounding.

SCHOOL TEACHER ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO NATIONAL TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2016						
Percentage at each judgement						
			Below Expected	Expected Standard +	Greater Depth	Absent
Maths	All	School	34	66	6	0
		National	27	73	18	0
	Boys	School	50	50	14	0
		National	28	72	19	0
	Girls	School	20	80	0	0
		National	26	74	16	0
Reading	All	School	19	81	4	0
		National	26	74	24	0
	Boys	School	27	73	9	0
		National	30	70	20	0
	Girls	School	12	88	0	0
		National	22	78	27	0
Writing	All	School	40	60	0	0
		National	35	65	13	0
	Boys	School	59	41	0	0
		National	41	59	10	0
	Girls	School	24	76	0	0
		National	27	73	17	0
Science	All	School	9	91	N/A	0
		National	18	82	N/A	0
	Boys	School	9	91	N/A	0
	Science	National	21	79	N/A	0
	Girls	School	8	92	N/A	0

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.

Key performance indicators

For details of examination results and teacher assessment, please refer to the Achievements and Performance sections above.

Financial review

Most of the trusts income is obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the form of recurrent grants to each school, some of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the EFA during the year ended 31st August 2016 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The trust's financial position for the year to 31st August 2016 demonstrates total income of £3,248,000 with a surplus for the year of £466,000 (excluding depreciation and actuarial gain on the LGPS pension reserve). The surplus has been allocated to reserves.

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 Asset 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 fulfill 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.

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.

Reputational risk

The continuing success of the Learning Together Trust depends on maintaining the highest educational standards. As an Outstanding School St. Wilfrid's has become a sponsor to Canon Sharples in order to develop and improve its current Ofsted rating. 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.

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 £150,000. 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 maximize liquidity and minimize risk. The academy had no financial investments during the financial year ended 31st August 2016. The policy will be kept under review.

Plans for future periods

The Multi Academy 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.

Auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The audit business RSM UK, LLP, have been appointed as the company's auditor. The audit report has therefore been issued by RSM UK, LLP.

The report of the trustees was approved by the trustees on 30th November 2016 and signed on their behalf by

Rev'd Canon Andrew Holliday, chair of trustees.

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 Joss.

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 Learning Together Trust (St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy / Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School) and the Secretary of State for Education. The Executive Head Teacher is 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 of the Learning Together Trust (1st Sept 2015 – 31st August 2016) has met 4 times during the period. Attendance during the meeting of the full board of trustees was as follows:

The **Learning Together Trust** Directors have met on 4 occasions from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016.

	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Rev'd Andrew Holliday	4	4
Andrew Stokes	4	4
Paul Witkiewicz	4	4
Rob McKenzie	2	4
Dr Ade Oyelele	3	4
Rev'd Bill Matthews	3	4

St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy LGB	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Rev'd Canon A Holliday (Chair)	5	5
Mrs K Ashton	2	5
Mr P Witkiewicz	3	5
Mrs E Berry	1	5
Mr A Stokes	5	5
Mr S Colothan	5	5
Mrs R Crompton	5	5
Mrs L Roberts	4	5
Mrs V Walder	5	5
Mrs G Kohler	5	5
Mr L Mortlock	1	5
Mr D Grundy	4	5
Rev'd T Brampton	1	1

Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School LGB	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr R McKenzie (Chair)	3	4
Dr A Oyelele	4	4
Mrs L Burney	3	4
Mrs S Murray	3	3
Mrs H Hollis	3	4
Mr V McCarthy	3	4
Mrs J Woodcock	4	4
Mrs N Westhead	3	4
Mrs S Wilcock	2	2
Rev'd Bill Matthews	2	4
Rev'd Carol Close	4	4

Previously each LGB had an Asset committee which were sub-committees of the Local Governing Bodies. Their purpose was to report to the individual LGB and subsequently the board of trustees on a timely basis the finance of the trust. This has now been replaced by a Trust Finance and Audit Committee which reports to each LGB committee and to the Trustees.

During the year to 31st August 2016 this included: reviewing and agreeing the budget, monitoring financial performance and expenditure, application for capital funding, monitoring financial procedures in line with reports from internal audit, authorising expenditure (when required by scheme of delegation), ensuring all EFA reporting requirements were met and receiving the reports of the external auditor.

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

Attendance at St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy Asset committee meetings in the period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Wikiewicz (Chair)	2	3
Mr A Stokes	3	3
Mr S Colothan	3	3
Mr D Grundy	1	3

Attendance at Canon Sharples CE Primary School Asset committee meetings in the period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 was as follows:

Governor	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Mr V McCarthy	2	3
Mr R McKenzie	3	3
Dr A Oyelele	3	3
Mrs J Woodcock	3	3
Rev'd Bill Matthews	1	3

In addition, there were two further sub-committees of each LGB: staffing committee and curriculum committee. The LTT had an Audit committee made up from members of each LGB.

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 2015 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 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 2015 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 UK, LLP, as internal auditors.

During the year there was one internal audit at each school and the recommendations have been agreed and addressed by the Trust.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Executive Headteacher (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 30th November 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Chair of Trustees

Accounting Officer

As accounting officer of the Learning Together Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

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.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.

Accounting Officer

Learning Together Trust

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

Year Ended 31st August 2016

The trustees (who act as trustees for Learning Together Trust are also directors of the Learning Together Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the academy and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the academy for the 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;
- make judgments and 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 academy will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the academy's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the academy 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 academy 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 academy applies financial and other controls which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the academy's auditor is 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 auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial

information included on the academy'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 20th December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

