

Company registration number 11727632 (England and Wales)

**CREATE LEARNING TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 12
Governance statement	13 - 16
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	18
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	19 - 22
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	23 - 24
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	25 - 26
Balance sheet	27
Statement of cash flows	28
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	29 - 49

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# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

M Butcher  
S Swain  
C Thompson  
M Watson

### Trustees

M Butcher (Chair)  
F Russell  
K Jackson (Resigned 11 November 2021)  
K Ingle  
E Caddell  
R O'Donnell  
S Woodward (Accounting officer)  
I Hodgkinson (Appointed 1 September 2021)  
A S Poynton (Appointed 11 March 2022 and resigned 26 September 2022)

### Senior management team

- Principal & Accounting Officer	S Woodward
- CFO	J Goodwin
- Acting Head of School (Little Leigh)	T Clarke
- Headteacher (Sandiway)	C Priddey
- Headteacher (Cuddington)	S Mills

### Company secretary

L Mallon

### Company registration number

11727632 (England and Wales)

### Principal and registered office

Little Leigh Primary School  
Shutley Lane  
Little Leigh  
Cheshire  
CW8 4RN

### Academies operated

Cuddington Primary School  
Little Leigh Primary School  
Sandiway Primary School

### Location

Northwich  
Northwich  
Northwich

### Principal

S Mills  
T Clarke  
C Priddey

### Independent auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited  
24 Nicholas Street  
Chester  
CH1 2AU

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc  
8 Foregate Street  
Chester  
CH1 1XP

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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**Solicitors**

Cook Lawyers  
Manchester Business Park  
3000 Aviator Way  
Manchester  
M22 5TG

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates three primary academies in Northwich Cheshire of England. It has a pupil capacity of 630 and had a roll of 571 in the school census in Autumn 2022.

#### **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 Create Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

The Trust is a member of the DfE Risk Protection Arrangement which provides cover for Members and Trustees from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business.

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

The Members of Create Learning Trust are responsible for the appointment of Trustees. There are no ex-officio roles linked to roles in individual academies.

In September 2021 the Board recognised the ongoing need to recruit new Trustees, ideally with skills in education, legal and health and safety. Create Learning Trust instigated a recruitment campaign to recruit new Trustees. Potential Trustees were asked to complete a statement of interest in the role explaining their skills, expertise and personal attributes. Following a review of these, potential Trustees were invited to a interview with the Chair and CEO where the roles and responsibilities were explained further. Following this process two new Trustees were recruited. One was appointed to the board of Trustees, and one was appointed to serve a term of office within one of the Trust schools Local Academy Board where the need was greatest at the time. The Trust continues to advertise for Trustees within the remit of the skills desired to compliment to Board.

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

On appointment, Trustees receive information relating to the Trust and its academies and attend a briefing, visit to individual academies and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of Trustees. During the year Trustees are offered a variety of necessary training.

##### Organisational structure

The structure of the Trust consists of four levels: The Local Academy Boards (LABs), two sub committees of the Trustee Board (Business, Risk and Audit and The Quality of Education), the Trustee Board and the Members. The aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility and conduct review of information with appropriate skill and rigor. The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting the Trust vision and strategic plan, and setting the budget. They also monitor the performance of individual academies using financial reports, link champion reports from the LABs and test results. The Trustees make major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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The Trust's Senior Leadership Team is the Chief Executive Officer, the Trust's CFO, the Headteacher of Sandiway Primary School, the Headteacher of Cuddington Primary School and the Headteacher at Little Leigh Primary School. These leaders control the Trust at an executive level and in the case of Headteachers at individual academies, implementing the policies set out by the Trustees and are accountable to them for the performance of each school. The CEO is held accountable by the board for the performance of each school.

Day to day responsibility for the individual academies is devolved to a Local Academy Board (LAB). The Trust's Scheme of Delegation asks each LAB to meet twice a term. Each committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to the committee, to the Headteacher and to the academy Senior Leadership Team. The terms of reference and the meeting frequency for each committee are reviewed and approved by the LAB annually. The Trust stipulates the requirements for each LABs financial oversight and the Trust's Financial Handbook details the Trust's Academy's authorised spending limits.

Across the year, one LAB meeting per term is a clerked and minuted meeting and another is a designated developmental session where planning, training and stakeholder involvement in the School Development Plan (SDP) and School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) takes place. Each LAB has assigned a Link Champion for Finance, Quality of Education, Safeguarding and Health and Safety who provide reports to the subcommittees of the Trust Board on a termly basis. Each LAB also delegates responsibility of Link Champion roles linked to each area of the schools School Development Plan. This ensures that the monitoring and evaluation of development priorities in each school are reviewed and reported with rigor.

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

The pay and remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer is decided by the Trust Board on recommendation from the appraisal panel, which includes representatives from the Board of Trustees and an external advisor.

The pay and remuneration for academy Headteachers is decided by the Trust Board on recommendation from the appraisal panel, which includes the Chief Executive Officer and an external advisor.

The pay and remuneration for the Chief Financial Officer is decided by the Board of Trustees on recommendation from the appraisal panel, which includes the Chief Executive Officer and a representative from the Board of Trustees.

Decisions surrounding supplementary pay increases, including key management personnel, are made by Trustees.

#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The member, director, Trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definitions in the Charities SORP.

All three academy schools have used the company First4Maths this academic year to support the development of mathematics in our schools. First4Maths provided CPD for all staff and external moderation for all three schools during the academic period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Following rigorous procurement in previous years, we found that no other company could provide the bespoke level of service and substantial support our schools required. It was for this reason, that they were chosen to provide the SLA. In the account period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, the Trust spent £13,850 with First4Maths. First4 Maths provide their services at cost owing to one of the academies headteacher's being husband to one of First4Maths directors. In line with the ESFA requirements First4Maths provide their service at cost with a contract of support and a statement of assurance. These documents were uploaded to the ESFA, and approval requested but as the total of the contract was below £20,000, the ESFA response was that approval was not required.

As a Trust for the academic period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 we marketed the moderation work alongside First4Maths to other schools in the Northwich Education Partnership. This in turn markets the work of the Trust and raises its profile in the local area.

The academy trust received rental income from Building Blocks Day Nursery who are based at Little Leigh Primary School totalling £23,875. Sue Swain, a member of the trust, is a Director of Building Blocks Day Nursery. There is no amount outstanding at the year end.

#### **Trade Union Facility Time**

The trust has no relevant trade union officials.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objects and aims

##### Our Vision

In education, teachers often refer to a moment when they see something 'click' for a child; the exact moment where a concept is understood, an imagination is lit, or an idea is formed.

Create Learning is a network of academies committed to giving children and young people moments like that in their education. We embrace innovation, share best practice and shape opportunities: Creating an environment that sparks and ignites the talents and interests of our children and staff.

##### Our Values

To achieve this, every member of our community is committed to:

- Working together to provide the best quality of education
- Encouraging innovation, self-belief and confidence
- Acting with a moral purpose and with integrity

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

As a Multi - Academy Trust we have clear strategic aims which are founded in our vision and aims. The strategic plan 2021-2025 outlines the goals and targets of Create Learning Trust over the next 5 years to ensure that as a Trust, the public, parents and all stakeholders have confidence in our approach.

The Strategic Plan:

- Shares and defines the vision of the Trust for the next 5/6 years
- Defines the key goals and performance measures that will demonstrate our successes and the success of the individual academies
- Explains how we will track opportunities and risks in a continually changing environment
- Builds upon the individual academy successes already achieved
- Explains how other key strategies work alongside each other towards the overall performance and Growth of the Trust.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### Overarching Trust Priorities for 2021/2025

#### **Key Objective 1: School Improvement**

- To deliver a clear strategy for school improvement that ensures all schools deliver a high-quality education resulting in strong academic success.

#### **Key Objective 2: Growth**

- Growing to enhance the sustainability of the Trust and our ability to add value to the schools in the Trust.

#### **Key Objective 3: Staff Development & Recruitment**

- Staff engage in professional development activities that enable them to flourish and demonstrate impact on teaching and learning.

#### **Key Objective 4: Central Capacity**

- To build a strong infrastructure enabling school leaders to focus on their core educational purpose by delivering outstanding central services that are financially viable and sustainable.

#### **Key Objective 5: Strengthening Governance**

- To strengthen Governance at all levels to ensure that Trustees continually have a robust oversight of the Trust in line with expectations from the Governance handbook.

#### **Key Objective 6: Community**

- To ensure our academy schools are central to their communities, provide wide ranging opportunities for pupils to engage in local community activity and maintain strong relationships with all stakeholders.

#### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on the public benefit when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Strategic report**

#### **Achievements and performance**

Internal scrutiny conducted by Headteachers, senior leaders and subject leaders have shown considerable areas of strength across the curriculum in two of our academy schools. This has been validated and supported following the external scrutiny conducted by Governance Link Champions and an external leadership partner.

The CEO and senior leaders from Create Learning Trust continue to work alongside Leading Schools consultancy to support the development and facilitation of training courses and provide Leadership Partner support to schools in Wirral. Training was conducted in Cheshire West and Chester as well as other bordering Local Authorities. This has resulted in visits to both schools from other primary schools to see successful curriculum development and delivery in action. The CEO has also worked alongside Leading Schools consultancy to conduct quality assurance visits for Wirral Borough council in some of their school that Require Improvement.

The Headteacher at Cuddington continues to be a driving counterpart in the delivery of behaviour triage and support network within the Local Authority. This is a partnership that has developed with the leader from the Education Access Team to support quality first teaching, professional development, the development of pupil specific approaches in order to impact positively on behaviour management in the schools in Northwich. Behaviour triages are conducted every half term for Headteachers in the Northwich area to express concerns and seek advice.

Trust leaders continue to organise collaborative cluster moderation of English and Maths for other local schools through successful partnerships with English and Maths specialists. The collaboration has for many years, impacted positively on the outcomes for pupils in both English and Maths.

Following rigorous external reviews of both the quality and education and leadership and management strong key leaders were chosen to take on new roles within the trust and as 'professional learning hub leads'. Successful trust wide collaboration in the areas of early reading and phonics, EYFS and behaviour are beginning to show impact across our trust schools following two terms of effective end meaningful collaboration. The work of the professional learning hubs has also extended more widely as local maintained primary schools have also engaged with the work. The successful recruitment of a trust wide SEND and PE lead in the summer term of 2022 will only add to the overall effectiveness of trust wide improvement and accountability in our schools in these areas over the next academic year.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2021-22 EYFSP	
School	EYFS GLD
Little Leigh	73%
Cuddington	48%
Sandiway	73%

2021-2022: Phonics		
School	Year 1 Test	Year 2 Re-test
Little Leigh	83%	82%
Cuddington	80%	67% (4/6)
Sandiway	90%	100%

2021-2022: KS1 SATS – Pupils at/above expected standard			
School	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Little Leigh	53%	65%	59%
Cuddington* LA Moderated	63%	53%	60%
Sandiway	86%	76%	86%

2021-2022: KS1 SATS – Pupils above expected standard			
School	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Little Leigh	6%	6%	0%
Cuddington* LA Moderated	0%	0%	0%
Sandiway	15%	7%	14%

2021-2022: KS2 SATS – Pupils at/above expected standard				
School	Reading	Writing	GPS	Mathematics
Little Leigh	85%	80%	80%	90%
Cuddington	76%	63%* LA Moderated	68%	66%
Sandiway	94%	71%	94%	94%

2021-2022: KS2 SATS – Pupils above expected standard				
School	Reading	Writing	GPS	Mathematics
Little Leigh	25%	5%	30%	15%
Cuddington	34%	7%* LA Moderated	22%	12%
Sandiway	58%	10%	42%	42%

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

#### Key performance indicators

The Board uses several key performance indicators. These include, but are not limited to, Ofsted outcomes if available, exam results in comparison to Trust data and national averages, attendance percentages and total spend as a percentage of the overall academy budget.

There were no Ofsted visits to any Trust academy school in the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

KPI	Cuddington	Little Leigh	Sandiway
Current Ofsted Grade	2	2	1
Self-Evaluation Judgements QE/PD/LM/BA/EY	2/2/2/2/2	2/2/2/1/2	3/3/3/3/3
Quality assurance documentation	Complete	Complete	Complete
Admissions	Numbers on roll per Autumn 22 census: 192/210 based on PAN: 30. 91% of potential numbers.	Numbers on roll per Autumn 22 census: 166/168 based PAN: 24. However, the school has capacity for PAN of 30 and will admit up to a max of 30/class. 79% of potential numbers.	Numbers on roll per Autumn 22 census: 213/210 PAN: 30 101% of potential numbers.
Staff costs as a % of income	75%	72%	79%
Staff costs as a % of total expenditure	77%	75%	75%
Spend per pupil for non-pay expenditure	£1,416	£1,340	£1,471
Pupil : SLT/teacher ratio	20	19	25
Average SLT/teacher cost per pupil	£2,635	£2,602	£2,688
Pupil : TA ratio	48	46	42
Average TA cost per pupil	£718	£540	£782

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the 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.

#### **Financial review**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statements of financial activities. The principal accounting policies adopted during the year are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, total expenditure of £3,643,000 (2021: £3,279,000) was fully covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure (excluding actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme) was (£359,000) (2021: £12,000).

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, the net book value of fixed assets was £8,719,000 (2021: £8,761,000), including the value of the land and building which are lease on a 125-year lease. The assets are used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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#### Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to be reviewed in November 2022 by the Business, Risk and Audit committee. The review will result in no change to the requirement that academies should achieve a level of free reserves equivalent to one month's salary costs. However, it will now include an agreed timeframe in achieving this so that does not pose a risk to routine academy operation.

The Trust has overall reserves of £8,346,000 (2021: £7,462,000), included within is restricted general reserves (excluding pension & fixed asset reserves) of £nil (2021: £nil) and unrestricted reserves of £76,000 (2021: £126,000). The total free reserves (excluding pension & fixed asset reserves) amounts to £76,000 (2021: £126,000).

The pension scheme liability as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 was £415,000 (2021: £1,436,000). The vast majority of the movement of the pension scheme liability is due to actuarial assumptions and does not have a direct cash impact.

#### Investment policy

The Trust aims to manage its cash balances to provide the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. Although the Trust does not consider the investment of funds as a primary activity, because of good stewardship, the Trustees remain open to exploring investment opportunities.

The Trust had no investments at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust has a risk management policy which clearly outlines the responsibilities of the Board, Local Academy Boards, academy Headteachers and other staff regarding managing risk and the appropriate steps to take to manage risk.

The Board considers the major risks to which the Trust is exposed including those relating to governance, finance, insurance, attainment, attendance, behaviour, health and safety, organisational development, operations, safeguarding, HR, ICT, reputation and legal matters.

The Trust holds a comprehensive risk register which is reviewed annually (Due for review November 2022) by the Board and more regularly at operational level. A risk rating mechanism in the register focuses Senior Leadership Team and board attention to those areas identified as higher risk so appropriate actions can be taken.

Each academy school now holds its own risk register and risks are escalated by the LAB to both the Quality of Education and Business, Risk and Audit committees of the trust board if required.

The Autumn term of 2021 saw significant staff absence owing to Covid, with long Covid absence playing a major factor in the financial implications for one trust school. Sickness absence insurance does not cover long covid absence and so the increased cost came as a result of having to fund two teachers for a considerable period of time.

The fall in pupil numbers at one trust school has been a cause for concern and the potential financial impact that this has on future years budgets. In order to mitigate this risk, the board consulted and opted to reduce PAN from 45 to 30. This mitigated the financial risk of the requirement for another qualified teacher needing to be employed for such small pupil numbers if a PAN over 30 was admitted into the reception class. The Trust meet annually with the Local Authority to assess birth rates and will consider increasing the PAN based on the need in the local area should it arise.

Pay rises for both teachers and support staff are causing considerable financial strain on already tight budgets. Coupled with the increase in energy costs the finances in each academy school are under constant scrutiny. Staffing cutbacks will need to be considered if the funding to cover such large gaps is not supported.

One school within the trust has had considerable staffing changes beyond our control which has had a negative effect on the schools' reserves. This has been a cause for concern and constantly reviewed by the trust to mitigate these issues as much as possible. The school remains under scrutiny by the trust given the impact on its reserves and the need for staff stability following a year of change.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022*

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The pandemic has had a negative impact on the growth of the Trust. Despite converting to academy in October 2019, our Trust has only really operated fully since the reopening of schools in March 2021. Effectively meaning we have just completed our first year as a normally functioning Multi Academy Trust. Only now, are we seeing that leaders are beginning to be able to think more about the direction of travel to academy conversion and discussions with potential converters are in full swing.

The retention of staff has been a possible identified risk to the Trust as we have seen staff have to adapt to an ever-changing working climate. Many teachers in the industry have considered other options for a career given the direction of travel with the teaching profession.

#### **Fundraising**

The academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. The school's within the Trust undertake a variety of fundraising activities to support several charities and the Trust itself. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Each Trust academy has an appropriately constituted Parent Teacher Association (PTA). These solicit donations, primarily from parents, for specific projects, through organising Christmas and Summer fairs, school discos, parents' social evenings etc.

The Trust monitors the activities of its PTAs to ensure that both vulnerable people and members of the public are protected against unreasonable intrusion or unreasonably persistent approaches for soliciting money or undue pressure to make donations.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The core purpose of the Trust is to achieve continued and consistent high outcomes for children. The Trust's embedded culture is supporting our academies to thrive by developing and sharing best practices/systems across our academies, rigorous internal challenge and decisive early intervention to secure improvement where needed. The Board continues to work through the action plan, devised to consider and implement recommendations following both internal and external reviews. The Trust is committed to improving standards for all young people in the locality and regards sponsoring additional academies as one of the means by which that can be achieved. Separate to that aim the Trust continues to create alliances and be actively involved with local schools to engage in discussions around school improvement. This is most notably done through the Trusts' professional learning hubs and the CEO working in neighbouring authorities in a school improvement capacity.

The Trustees allocate their budget each year on receipt of the GAG from the ESFA. Approximately 85% of the budget is taken up each year by staffing costs with the remainder allocated to the running of the school on a day-to-day basis ensuring the staff have sufficient financial resources to develop and influence curriculum and pupil development to achieve the key academic performance indicators set by the Trustees.

Each December, the SDP is approved by the Trustees for the January – December period with the delegated spend for key priorities given and approved. Through a system of distributed leadership, key decisions are made that improve the quality of learning for all.

#### **Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The Trust does not hold any fund as custodian on behalf of others.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Auditor**

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 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' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 08/12/2022 and signed on its behalf by:



M Butcher  
**Chair**

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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#### Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, 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 Create Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

In practice, much of the day-to-day financial responsibility is delegated to the Trusts' Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Mrs Jenni Goodwin who is directly employed by the Trust.

#### 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 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
M Butcher (Chair)	4	4
F Russell	4	4
K Jackson (Resigned 11 November 2021)	0	0
K Ingle	3	4
E Caddell	3	4
R O'Donnell	2	4
S Woodward (Accounting officer)	4	4
I Hodkinson (Appointed 1 September 2021)	3	4
A S Poynton (Appointed 11 March 2022 and resigned 26 September 2022)	1	4

#### Conflicts of interest

Every member of staff signs a business interests/pecuniary interests' form. Following best practice advice this form is redone in full every 4 years.

Each September at the start of the new academic year, heads email staff (or write a memo - or issue an email to staff. This communication asks them to ensure last year's form is up to date. It is staff's responsibility to ensure any form completed remains relevant and to identify any changes. The forms are stored centrally.

New staff are issued on recruitment with a business interests/pecuniary interests' form. Each Headteacher reads the staff members form and tick and sign it also. That way, Heads are aware of any conflicts and would raise it with the relevant bodies. Governors and trustees and staff who undertake a governor position also complete an online profile on Trust Governor. In there they are asked to state their business interests and pecuniary interests. At each clerked formal meeting. A section of the agenda identifies that any business interests and pecuniary interests must be declared.

All relevant governance members/trustees/governors etc are identified on Create Learning Trust website along with any interests declared.

#### Meetings

Although the board meet less than six times during the year it was deemed that The Trust maintained effective oversight of funds with fewer meetings due to its use of a Business Risk and Audit Committee to which the Board of Trustees delegates financial scrutiny and oversight.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### Governance reviews

The Trust board has undertaken a review of its practice, reviewed its structure and its committees and in doing this, has reviewed and amended its Terms of Reference for the next academic year. The Trustees have been part of a number of strategy sessions agreeing a strategic plan with clear aims and objectives for the next 5 years. Recruitment has also remained a priority for the board ensuring all gaps in skills analysis are being filled and proactively seeing the recruitment of new Trustees. A thorough induction programme has been established for governors at all levels including ensuring core training modules from the NGA have been offered. The clerk to all levels of governance across the trust has completed NGA Leading Governance Development for School & Trust Governance Professionals and has been awarded the ICSA Accredited Level 3 Certificate in Clerking of School and Academy Governing Boards.

A formal review of Governance has not taken place during the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 owing However Trustees will be using the NGA 20 question self-review for the trust board and its committees and trust governance review is scheduled for the New Year.

The Trust has completed the online Academies Financial Management and Governance Review to form an action plan for the year ahead. Governance has been part of the three internal audit reviews and continues to be a priority for the trust during the 2022-23 academic year.

The business risk and audit committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for internal controls and finances. The Trust Board retains overall accountability for the governance functions referenced above, however it delegates some authority to the Business Risk and Audit Committee, as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation.

Attendance by trustees at meetings in the year was as below. Along with the Trustees the following people attended the meetings:

- E Zouhbi 2 out of 3 meetings
- P Hardy 2 out of 3 meetings
- C Priddey 1 out of 3 meetings
- S Mills 2 out of 3 meetings
- T Clarke 2 out of 3 meetings

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of possible</b>
M Butcher (Chair)	3	3
E Caddell	0	3
S Woodward (Accounting officer)	2	3
A S Poynton (Appointed 11 March 2022 and resigned 26 September 2022)	2	3

### Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the principal 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.



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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The accounting officer considers how the academy 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 or by using a framework where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Developing opportunities to share teaching and learning resources and CPD across the Trust along with common leadership approaches to improve educational outcomes for all groups of pupils in the Trust.
- Regularly reviewing and challenging performance, processes and procedures to ensure they focus on raising standards and improving outcomes.
- Forming a procurement schedule of trust wide contracts and services to achieve best value and potentially reduce costs.

#### **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 academy trust 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 Create Learning Trust for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy 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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. 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.
- Monthly review of management accounts by the Chair of the Trust, CFO and CEO, followed by a review by each academy school Headteacher alongside their Finance Link Champion.
- 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 decided to use a trustee with skills in internal audit to conduct its internal scrutiny.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. The area of coverage in the current period was:

- Monthly financial closedown

The auditor has prepared an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations, and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The board of trustees also decided to conduct a variety of other internal audits this year including:

- Leadership and management review in each trust school conducted in July 2021 by Leading Schools consultancy.
- Safeguarding review in each trust school conducted by Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority Safeguarding team. Unfortunately, only one schools audit was completed owing to shortages in the capacity of the CWAC team. New dates are to be scheduled for the other Trust schools in the Autumn Term.
- A SEND review in one Trust school by Leading Learners Trust

#### 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 internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- correspondence from ESFA

In Spring 2020, following a tendering process, the Board appointed Mitchell Charlesworth as its auditors for the period 2021-2022. The Board will continue to use the services of Mitchell Charlesworth until the next procurement window.

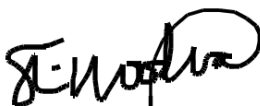
The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

08/12/2022

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



M Butcher  
Chair



S Woodward  
Accounting officer

## CREATE LEARNING TRUST

### STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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As accounting officer of Create Learning Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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.



S Woodward  
Accounting Officer

02/12/2022  
.....

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Create Learning Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 published 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts 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 that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

08/12/2022

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



M Butcher

Chair

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATE LEARNING TRUST

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of Create Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.

### **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 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. 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.

### **Opinions 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 including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## CREATE LEARNING TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts 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, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust'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 have no realistic alternative but to do so.

##### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## CREATE LEARNING TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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#### Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the school's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the academy's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body, along with the Academies Financial Handbook and Accounts Direction 2021-22 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. This includes regulations concerning Data Protection and Safeguarding.

## CREATE LEARNING TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CREATE LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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As a result of performing the above, we identified income recognition, override of controls and adherence to laws and regulations as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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.



**Robert Hall (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

15 December 2022

**Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

24 Nicholas Street  
Chester  
CH1 2AU



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

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

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022***

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 August 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Create Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Create Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Create Learning Trust and 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 Create Learning Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Create Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Create Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 September 2021 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by 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 academy trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the activities to ensure they are in keeping with the charitable objectives and framework.
- Reviewing declarations of interest and seeking further representations.
- Reviewing the control environment and considering potential weaknesses.
- Reviewing minutes of various committees, management accounts and holding discussions with key personnel.

**CREATE LEARNING TRUST**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO CREATE LEARNING TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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**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 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



**Reporting Accountant**

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Dated: 15 December 2022

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	29	-	19	48	268
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,887	-	2,887	2,830
Other trading activities	5	271	78	-	349	193
<b>Total</b>		<u>300</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3,284</u>	<u>3,291</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	1	-	-	1	-
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	349	3,103	190	3,642	3,279
<b>Total</b>	6	<u>350</u>	<u>3,103</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>3,643</u>	<u>3,279</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(50)	(138)	(171)	(359)	12
Transfers between funds	17	-	(84)	84	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	1,243	-	1,243	(293)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(50)</u>	<u>1,021</u>	<u>(87)</u>	<u>884</u>	<u>(281)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		<u>126</u>	<u>(1,436)</u>	<u>8,772</u>	<u>7,462</u>	<u>7,743</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>76</u>	<u>(415)</u>	<u>8,685</u>	<u>8,346</u>	<u>7,462</u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2021		Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds:		Total 2021 £'000
			General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	
	Notes				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	11	-	257	268
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,830	-	2,830
Other trading activities	5	148	45	-	193
<b>Total</b>		159	2,875	257	3,291
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	76	3,031	172	3,279
<b>Total</b>	6	76	3,031	172	3,279
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		83	(156)	85	12
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(293)	-	(293)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		83	(449)	85	(281)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		43	(987)	8,687	7,743
Total funds carried forward		126	(1,436)	8,772	7,462

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

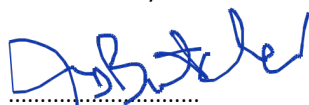
## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		8,719		8,761
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	105		156	
Cash at bank and in hand		257		497	
		<u>362</u>		<u>653</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(299)		(492)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			63		161
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			8,782		8,922
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(21)		(24)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability</b>			8,761		8,898
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(415)		(1,436)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			8,346		7,462
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17				
- Fixed asset funds			8,685		8,772
- Pension reserve			(415)		(1,436)
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			8,270		7,336
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17		76		126
			<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Total funds</b>			8,346		7,462
			<u><u></u></u>		<u><u></u></u>

08/12/2022

The accounts on pages 25 to 49 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and are signed on their behalf by:



M Butcher

Chair

Company registration number 11727632

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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	Notes	2022 £'000	£'000	2021 £'000	£'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20		(108)		675
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Capital grants from DfE Group		19		257	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(148)		(676)	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(129)		(419)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
New other loan		-		27	
Repayment of long term bank loan		(3)		-	
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>			(3)		27
			<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(240)		283
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			497		214
			<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			257		497
			<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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#### 1 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.

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

##### 1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

##### 1.3 Income

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

##### Grants

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

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

Capital grants are recognised 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.

##### Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

##### Donations

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

##### Other income

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

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

##### Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in 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. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Assets under construction	nil
Land and buildings	50 years
Computer equipment	4 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

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.

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leased assets

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

#### 1.8 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. 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. 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.

#### 1.9 Taxation

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

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.10 Pensions 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer 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 net income or expenditure 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.

#### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

#### 1.12 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.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. 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.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Capital grants	-	19	19	257
Other donations	29	-	29	11
	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>268</u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

#### 4 Funding for the academy trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,538	2,538	2,356
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	82	82	82
- Pupil premium	-	85	85	96
- Others	-	119	119	177
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,824</u>	<u>2,824</u>	<u>2,711</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,824</u>	<u>2,824</u>	<u>2,711</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	49	49	61
	<u>-</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>61</u>
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	14	14	48
<b>Non-DfE/ESFA</b>				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	-	-	4
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	6
	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>58</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>58</u>
<b>Total funding</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>2,830</u>

The academy received £9k in covid recovery funding and £5k in covid workforce grants in 2022, these were spent in full during the year.

In 2021 £48k of funding was received for catch-up premium and costs incurred in 2021 in respect of this funding totalled £48k.

The 2021 funding received under the government's CJRS scheme of £4k relates to staff costs which are included within note 9 below as appropriate.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
Hire of facilities	28	-	28	27
Catering income	-	78	78	45
Enrichment club	120	-	120	76
Other school activities	67	-	67	16
Insurance income	14	-	14	23
Other income	42	-	42	6
	<u>271</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>193</u>

### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2022 £'000	Total 2021 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	1	1	-
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,948	170	255	2,373	2,225
- Allocated support costs	832	180	257	1,269	1,054
	<u>2,780</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>3,643</u>	<u>3,279</u>

#### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	6	6
- Other services	6	5
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	190	172
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	25	18
	<u>217</u>	<u>201</u>

### 7 Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year for the following:

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services

The academy trust charges for these services in full to the individual schools in the academy trust in proportion to their total income. This is a change from the previous year, when services were charged in proportion to their GAG income from the ESFA, given the make up of income across the three schools and the variation in work associated with those income streams.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

<b>7 Central services</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>			
The amounts charged during the year were as follows:			<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
			<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Cuddington Primary School			73	46
Little Leigh Primary School			53	32
Sandiway Primary School			70	41
			<u>196</u>	<u>119</u>
			<u><u>196</u></u>	<u><u>119</u></u>
<b>8 Charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	349	2,024	2,373	2,225
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	1,269	1,269	1,054
	<u>349</u>	<u>3,293</u>	<u>3,642</u>	<u>3,279</u>
	<u><u>349</u></u>	<u><u>3,293</u></u>	<u><u>3,642</u></u>	<u><u>3,279</u></u>
			<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
			<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>				
Support staff costs			832	662
Depreciation			20	18
Technology costs			27	33
Premises costs			160	175
Legal costs			20	31
Other support costs			198	124
Governance costs			12	11
			<u>1,269</u>	<u>1,054</u>
			<u><u>1,269</u></u>	<u><u>1,054</u></u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Wages and salaries	1,859	1,828
Social security costs	178	160
Pension costs	669	571
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Staff costs - employees	2,706	2,559
Agency staff costs	31	7
Staff restructuring costs	43	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	2,780	2,566
Staff development and other staff costs	35	14
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>2,815</u>	<u>2,580</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	43	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### Severance payments

The academy trust paid 2 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

0 - £25,000	2
-------------	---

#### Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	25	25
Administration and support	76	75
Management	8	8
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	109	108
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 9 Staff (Continued)

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2022 Number	2021 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £450,000 (2021: £399,000).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

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

S Woodward (Principal)

Remuneration: £70,001 - £75,000 (2021: £70,001 - £75,000)

Employer's pension contributions £15,001 - £20,000 (2021: £15,001 - £20,000 )

During the year ended 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2021, no travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees.

### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust 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 trust 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.



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under Construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 September 2021	8,649	306	41	81	2	9,079
Transfer on completion	259	(259)	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	107	4	37	-	148
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 August 2022	8,908	154	45	118	2	9,227
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2021	287	-	18	11	2	318
Charge for the year	160	-	11	19	-	190
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 August 2022	447	-	29	30	2	508
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2022	8,461	154	16	88	-	8,719
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 August 2021	8,362	306	23	70	-	8,761
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 13 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	6	2
VAT recoverable	20	46
Other debtors	1	-
Prepayments and accrued income	78	108
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	105	156
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Government loans	3	3
Trade creditors	50	131
Other taxation and social security	53	37
Other creditors	57	60
Accruals and deferred income	136	261
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	299	492
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Government loans	21	24
	<u>21</u>	<u>24</u>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Analysis of loans</b>		
Wholly repayable within five years	24	27
Less: included in current liabilities	(3)	(3)
	<u>21</u>	<u>24</u>
Amounts included above	<u>21</u>	<u>24</u>
<b>Loan maturity</b>		
Debt due in one year or less	3	3
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	15	15
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	6	9
	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>
	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>

Loans creditor relates to Salix loans received in relation to CIF bids.  
The Salix Loan is over 8 years and payable 6 monthly.

16 Deferred income	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	51	57
	<u>51</u>	<u>57</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	57	58
Released from previous years	(57)	(58)
Resources deferred in the year	51	57
	<u>51</u>	<u>57</u>
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2022</b>	<u>51</u>	<u>57</u>

At 31 August 2022 the academy trust had Universal Infant School Meal Funding and future field trip income included within deferred income.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,538	(2,454)	(84)	-
UIFSM	-	82	(82)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	85	(85)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	14	(14)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	119	(119)	-	-
Other government grants	-	49	(49)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	78	(78)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,436)	-	(222)	1,243	(415)
	<u>(1,436)</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>(3,103)</u>	<u>1,159</u>	<u>(415)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	8,012	-	(154)	-	7,858
DfE group capital grants	760	19	(16)	-	763
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	(20)	84	64
	<u>8,772</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>(190)</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>8,685</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>7,336</u>	<u>2,984</u>	<u>(3,293)</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>8,270</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	126	300	(350)	-	76
	<u>126</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>7,462</u>	<u>3,284</u>	<u>(3,643)</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>8,346</u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,356	(2,356)	-	-
UIFSM	-	82	(82)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	96	(96)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	48	(48)	-	-
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	4	(4)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	6	(6)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	25	177	(202)	-	-
Other government grants	-	61	(61)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	45	(45)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,012)	-	(131)	(293)	(1,436)
	<u>(987)</u>	<u>2,875</u>	<u>(3,031)</u>	<u>(293)</u>	<u>(1,436)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	8,169	-	(157)	-	8,012
DfE group capital grants	518	257	(15)	-	760
	<u>8,687</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>(172)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,772</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>3,132</u>	<u>(3,203)</u>	<u>(293)</u>	<u>7,336</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	43	159	(76)	-	126
	<u>43</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>(76)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>7,743</u>	<u>3,291</u>	<u>(3,279)</u>	<u>(293)</u>	<u>7,462</u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

#### 17 Funds (Continued)

##### Total funds analysis by academy

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:		
Cuddington Primary School	60	44
Little Leigh Primary School	32	25
Sandiway Primary School	(27)	59
Central services	11	(2)
	<u>76</u>	<u>126</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	76	126
Restricted fixed asset fund	8,685	8,772
Pension reserve	(415)	(1,436)
	<u>8,346</u>	<u>7,462</u>
Total funds	<u><u>8,346</u></u>	<u><u>7,462</u></u>

##### Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cuddington Primary School	684	273	76	143	1,176	1,137
Little Leigh Primary School	521	153	62	106	842	810
Sandiway Primary School	739	250	88	151	1,228	1,037
Central services	3	156	31	17	207	122
	<u>1,947</u>	<u>832</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>3,106</u>
	<u><u>1,947</u></u>	<u><u>832</u></u>	<u><u>257</u></u>	<u><u>417</u></u>	<u><u>3,453</u></u>	<u><u>3,106</u></u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

#### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,719	8,719
Current assets	281	51	30	362
Current liabilities	(205)	(51)	(43)	(299)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	(21)	(21)
Pension scheme liability	-	(415)	-	(415)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>(415)</b>	<b>8,685</b>	<b>8,346</b>

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,761	8,761
Current assets	126	314	213	653
Current liabilities	-	(290)	(202)	(492)
Non-current liabilities	-	(24)	-	(24)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,436)	-	(1,436)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>(1,436)</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>7,462</b>

#### 19 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 The Cheshire Pension Scheme. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £50,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021: £50,000) 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' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary. These contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

### 19 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 every 4 years. 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 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £396,000 (2021: £402,000).

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 an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy 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 contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.5% - 28.8% for employers and 5.5% - 6.5% 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.

Total contributions made	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Employer's contributions	187	175
Employees' contributions	38	36
Total contributions	225	211

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

<b>19</b>	<b>Pension and similar obligations</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
	<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		%	%
	Rate of increase in salaries	3.10	3.60
	Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.80	2.90
	Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:		
		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
	Retiring today		
	- Males	21.2	21.4
	- Females	23.8	24.0
	Retiring in 20 years		
	- Males	22.1	22.4
	- Females	25.5	25.7
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:		
		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	Discount rate + 0.1%	42	64
	Mortality assumption + 1 year	73	109
	CPI rate + 0.1%	4	7
	Pension rate increase 0.1%	39	55
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>Defined benefit pension scheme net liability</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	Scheme assets	1,415	1,298
	Scheme obligations	(1,830)	(2,734)
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Net liability	(415)	(1,436)
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>



# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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19 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	Fair value	Fair value
	£'000	£'000
Equities	693	597
Bonds	453	545
Property	184	130
Other assets	85	26
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total market value of assets	1,415	1,298
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
The actual return on scheme assets was £(108,000) (2021: £138,000).		
Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	384	288
Interest income	(24)	(18)
Interest cost	49	36
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total operating charge	409	306
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2021	2,734	1,961
Current service cost	384	288
Interest cost	49	36
Employee contributions	38	36
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(1,375)	413
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 August 2022	1,830	2,734
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

<b>19</b>	<b>Pension and similar obligations</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
	<b>Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets</b>		
		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	At 1 September 2021	1,298	949
	Interest income	24	18
	Actuarial loss/(gain)	(132)	120
	Employer contributions	187	175
	Employee contributions	38	36
		—	—
	At 31 August 2022	1,415	1,298
		=====	=====
<b>20</b>	<b>Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>Notes</b>		
	Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(359)	12
	Adjusted for:		
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(19)	(257)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	<b>19</b>	113
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>19</b>	18
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	190	172
	Decrease in debtors	51	420
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(193)	197
		—	—
	<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(108)</b>	<b>675</b>
		=====	=====
<b>21</b>	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
		<b>1 September</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>
		<b>2021</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	Cash	497	(240)
	Loans falling due within one year	(3)	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(24)	(21)
		—	—
		470	(237)
		=====	=====

# CREATE LEARNING TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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### 22 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

At 31 August 2022 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts due within one year	2	2
Amounts due in two and five years	-	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

### 23 Capital commitments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	41
	<u>-</u>	<u>41</u>

### 24 Related party transactions

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 arms 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 account.

The academy trust obtained training services from First4Maths Ltd totalling £13,850 (2021: £4,775). The wife of Mr Priddey, the headteacher at Sandiway Primary School, is a director of that company. The services were provided to the trust at cost. In entering into the transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021 in reporting them to the ESFA using the online form.

The academy trust received rental income from Building Blocks Kindergarten totaling £23,875 (2021: £24,379). Sue Swain, a member of the trust, is a trustee of Building Blocks Kindergarten. There is no amount outstanding at the year end.

T Priddey, spouse of C Priddey, is employed by the trust as a supply teacher. C Priddey was not involved in the decision making process regarding T Priddey's appointment. T Priddey is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to key management personnel.

### 25 Members' liability

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