

# United Schools Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

Registration number: 09255130

# United Schools Trust

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# United Schools Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Members</b>                         | Mr M Harding<br>Mrs E Thompson<br>Mr I Sheriff<br>Mr N Canham  |
| <b>Directors</b>                       | Mrs J Stuchberry-Ullah, Chair<br>Mr K Haines, Vice Chair<br>Mr M Harding<br>Dr P Fitch, Principal (appointed 1 September 2016)<br>Mr M West<br>Mrs C Mabin<br>Mrs S Clarke (appointed 1 September 2016)<br>Mrs C Vicary-Ward (appointed 9 February 2017) |
| <b>Company Secretary</b>               | Mr M West  |
| <b>Senior Management Team</b>          | Mr M Harding<br>Dr P Fitch   |
| <b>Principal and Registered Office</b> | St Michaels School<br>Church Street<br>Newton Abbot<br>Devon<br>TQ12 3BQ   |
| <b>Company Registration Number</b>     | 09255130   |
| <b>Independent Auditors</b>            | PKF Francis Clark<br>Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor<br>Sigma House<br>Oak View Close<br>Edginswell Park<br>Torquay<br>Devon<br>TQ2 7FF  |
| <b>Bankers</b>                         | Lloyds Bank Plc<br>41 Courtenay Street<br>Newton Abbot<br>Devon<br>TQ12 2QW  |

## **United Schools Trust**

### **Reference and Administrative Details (continued)**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Solicitors</b> | Wolferstans Solicitors<br>60-66 North Hill<br>Plymouth<br>Devon<br>PL4 8EP |
|-------------------|--|

# United Schools Trust

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2017. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates an Academy for pupils aged 3 to 11 serving a catchment area in Kingsteignton. It has a pupil capacity of 420 and had a roll of 17 in the latest school census as the school opened in September 2016.

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### ***Constitution***

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The company was incorporated on 8 October 2014. The Trustees of the United Schools Trust Limited are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year 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 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.

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

The board of Trustees is currently made up of 8 Trustees. These were selected and appointed by the Members (in line with the articles of association, articles 45-58). The membership of the board focuses on skills, and the primary consideration in the appointment and election of new governors is the acquisition of the skills and experience the board needs to be effective. The Board has developed a skills-based set of criteria for Trustee selection and recruitment which can also be used to inform on-going self-evaluation and Trustee training.

The 8 Trustees were also selected to ensure a smooth transition into the opening of the academy and to oversee the election of two parental Trustees who will be appointed via a vote of the parents within the academy. One parental trustee was appointed during the year and has an accountancy/finance background which was an area that the trustees had identified through a skills audit to be an area to develop on the board of trustees. The Principal of the academy is also a member of the board of Trustees.

Future appointments and recruitment will continue to be looked at in terms of the skills gap left by any vacancy and the members will recruit and appoint appropriate trustees to fill the vacancy efficiently. Should a parental vacancy occur, this post will be filled through a recruiting a parent from the academy and the post will be voted in by the parents of the academy.

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

The core policies are now in place and the induction and training of Directors is on-going. The board is committed to ensuring that their policies and procedures will follow the models of good practice outlined in DfE guidance.

## United Schools Trust

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### *3.3 Induction and on going training and development*

23. Boards are responsible for identifying and securing the induction and other ongoing training and development governors need. They should set aside a budget for this purpose.

24. As part of induction and continuous development, effective boards encourage every governor, especially those new to the role, to make the most of the resources and guidance available to develop their knowledge and skills. Examples of some of the support and resources available are listed within Section 14. Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996

25. Good boards set out clearly what they expect of their governors, particularly when they first join. The board's code of conduct should set an ethos of professionalism and high expectations of governors, including an expectation that they undertake whatever training or development activity is needed to fill any gaps in the skills they have to contribute to effective governance. Importantly, this includes their ability to understand and interpret educational and financial performance data. All governors should be able to engage fully with discussions on these matters and if they cannot, they should undertake appropriate training or development to enable them to do so.

26. Boards should consider giving the vice-chair or another governor a specific responsibility for ensuring every governor develops the skills they need to be effective. Rather than simply track governors' attendance at training courses, with administrative support from the clerk, this governor would be responsible for ensuring that every new and existing governor develops their skills to make an active and valuable contribution to the work of the board. Any persistent skills gaps across the board or for individual governors should be brought to the attention of the chair.

27. If, in the view of the board, a governor fails persistently to undertake the training or development they need, then they should consider suspending the governor on the grounds that they will be in breach of the board's code of conduct and may bring the board or the office of a governor into disrepute.

28. Boards should have succession plans in place and develop future leaders by identifying and nurturing talent and sharing responsibility.

(Governance handbook for trustees of academies and multi-academy trusts and governors of maintained schools, DfE, Nov 2015).

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

Trustees have agreed a pay range for the school. Key management personnel are subject to an appraisal process and a meeting is held in the autumn with an external consultant and the pay/appraisal committee to review the success of this and agree any pay award.

# United Schools Trust

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### ***Organisational structure***

#### The Trust Members

There are 4 Trust Members. All members have a clear understanding of the vision of the Academy Trust and are fully on board with its ethos.

The Members are responsible for appointing and removing trustees. In order to ensure that they do an effective job the Members will have a thorough knowledge of the school, its performance and where the Board of trustees lacks expertise (information to be gained through an annual skills audit and Termly reports from the Chair of the Board of Trustees). The Members will appoint the trustees on a skills need basis. They will consider the outcome of a skills audit and feedback on the Free School's performance to establish what person they need and then they should properly assess the skills set of any proposed candidate.

#### The Board of Trustees

As a multi academy trust the board of trustees will oversee more than one academy as the trust grows. The board of trustees will be reconstituted as another academy joins the trust to incorporate the Principal and parental representatives of the academies within the MAT. Initially the board will oversee more than one academy with no local governing body.

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

The United Schools Federation provided support for the school improvement work during the pre-opening and opening of the academy and continue to provide this support, post-opening. The Trustees voted on this decision and all decisions around this are and were discussed and voted upon with the full declaration of any interests. This is evidenced within the minutes of the trustee meetings and the declaration of interest forms. Appropriate procedures are followed, as set out in the Articles of Association to ensure there is no conflict of interests within discussion or voting in this area. The United Schools Federation is a group of 5 schools who work as school improvement partners to the United Schools Trust and Kingsteignton School; the USF and the UST form part of a co-operative trust – The United Schools Learning Partnership.

## United Schools Trust

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### Objectives and activities

##### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

The United Schools Trust aims to provide all children at Kingsteignton School with an outstanding and inspiring education within a caring and nurturing environment. We value individuals, recognise and celebrate their gifts and talents and provide the opportunities they need to help them achieve personal and academic excellence. The values that we promote throughout our school are Friendship, Compassion, Justice, Courage and Perseverance.

Our curriculum aims to inspire and motivate children to explore and learn about the world around them. It helps them gain an awareness of the role within their communities and prepares them for their future lives. We actively encourage children to embrace technology and lead healthy and active lives.

The school places a great importance on developing links with the community. The school is a Dementia Friendly School, with a high quality healthy curriculum that will prepare children for healthy adult lives. Community links will be a large part of this. The Principal has undergone the training to be a Dementia Champion and will aim to develop a Dementia Alliance within the local community which will include local businesses and the local Chamber of Commerce.

The school has invested heavily and will continue to invest heavily in Technology including notebooks, tablets, multimedia recording equipment, editing equipment and environmental and scientific monitoring tools, interactive table tops and the use of robotics to inspire and motivate children in their learning. Technology will be used to support children and ensure that they make excellent progress and achieve their full potential. The use of robotics within the classroom employs technology developed in order to help those with dementia to remain living independently within their homes for as long as possible and we hope that in the future, programming of a robot (through the involvement of Year 6 pupils initially within the USF and ultimately within the UST, and a link with the London Technology UCT will not only enhance learning particularly in the early years but also allow children to be involved in the support of those with dementia in the local community.

Teaching is exciting and motivating, based on the experience acquired through the Federation. It inspires children to make excellent progress ensures that they become confident, successful and independent learners. Results from the first year of opening show that Reception and Year 1 children showed excellent learning behaviours (lesson observations) and the proportion achieving a good level of development in Reception was well above both Devon and National figures.

The Trust values the wider experiences of children as individuals and provides, through partnership with the USF, a wide range of curriculum and extra curriculum activities including a range of sporting, adventurous and creative activities and residential experiences will be available from Year 2 upwards.

Kingsteignton School teaches Mathematics and English using the new National Curriculum and is heavily supported with individualised learning through the use of ICT. The International Primary Curriculum (<http://www.greatlearning.com/ipc>) is used as a way of teaching the National Curriculum foundation subjects. Staff at Kingsteignton School work in partnership with the staff in the USF. This ensures that expertise is shared and children receive the highest quality learning experiences -providing a much broader, exciting and enriched curriculum than might be expected from a small, newly created school.

## **United Schools Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)**

The projected numbers (from Devon County) show a clear demand for pre-school places in Kingsteignton for children aged 0-4. A nursery will form part of Kingsteignton School from 2019. The experience within the Federation clearly shows that an attached nursery helps improve attainment on entry into school ensuring that children have a better starting point from which to progress.

From September 2017 the Trust will aim to provide 'wrap around' care from 8.00 am until 6.00 pm as well as a holiday club. The care outside of school hours will need to be paid for by parents, but this will be offered at a reasonable cost to ensure that it is accessible to all parents. The United Schools Trust is in negotiation with SMASC (St Michael's After School Club) with the ultimate aim of transferring the running (and assets) of SMASC to the UST. We are working with our Solicitors to draw up a contract of transfer.

#### ***Public benefit***

The Academy Trust provides educational services to all children in the local area. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

# United Schools Trust

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### Strategic Report

#### Achievements and performance

##### *Key performance indicators*

The new academy, opened in September 2016 with 17 pupils in a single mixed Reception/Year 1 class and was effective in terms of teaching and learning, leadership and management, safeguarding and welfare and pupil outcomes from the start (this is evidenced through the DfE documentation, Trustee's board meeting minutes and the pre-opening Ofsted inspection, DfE inspection report and Devon Audit monitoring report). Over the course of the year the numbers within this class grew to 24. The applications for Reception places for September 2017 exceeded the PAN of 30 and a full class of Reception children is expected for September 2017.

The end of year results for Reception children showed that they had achieved at a level which exceeded both Devon and National figures. The phonics results for Year 1 children showed that they had achieved at a rate comparable to national figures with only one child, who joined the school one week before the phonics test, failing to reach the required level.

The recruitment of new staff for the year beginning September 2017 illustrated once again that the prospect of being part of the development of a new and exciting school is a great draw to high calibre candidates and a new outstanding teacher and a teaching assistant who had recently been awarded a Higher Level Teaching Assistant award were appointed to teach the current reception children for next year.

Working in partnership with the USF has been the single most important reason why the school has been able to develop at such a rate and with such confidence. The partnership work allows the Trust teachers to plan, assess and moderate with a wider group of experienced practitioners and to avoid any sense of isolation that being part of very small school might have engendered. The children benefit hugely from this but also from the fact that they have access to the much wider range of learning experiences that are afforded through working in partnership. The partnership work with the USF will be ongoing into the future.

##### *Going concern*

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has an expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

##### **Financial review**

The Academy opened on 1 September 2016, therefore all comparative incoming resources and resources expended related to the initial grants received and costs incurred in setting up the Academy. Incoming resources in the current period totalled £356,000 (2016: £583,000) and resources expended totalled £199,000 (2016: £67,000). After the gain of £1,000 (2016: £nil) on the pension scheme, the total net movement in funds for the period was an increase of £158,000 (2016: an increase of £516,000).

The Academy adheres to the financial management policies as contained in the Finance Policy.

## United Schools Trust

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### Strategic Report

##### *Reserves and Investment policy*

The aims of this policy are to:

1. Regularly monitor Cash Flow and Current Account balances to ensure immediate financial commitments can be met (payroll and payments runs) and that the current accounts have adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments. In practice a working balance of between £20,000 and £30,000 is likely to be maintained in a primary school
2. The Trust will avoid any of its Current Accounts going overdrawn.
3. Identify funds surplus to immediate cash requirements and transfer to Lloyd's High Interest Deposit Accounts.
4. Periodically (at least annually) review interest rates and compare with other investment opportunities
5. The Trust's current policy is to only invest funds in risk free and immediately accessible Deposit Accounts.
6. Any change in policy requires the approval of the Trustees.

##### Introduction

At Kingsteignton School, we are careful with the public money we are entrusted with. We will carefully invest any money that is not required to cover anticipated expenditure and take steps to manage the risk associated with financial investments.

##### Objectives and targets

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any surplus funds are invested well so that they achieve the best financial returns with the minimum risk. Good financial returns mean that more money can be spend on educating pupils.

##### Action Plan

Adequate cash balances must be maintained to ensure that there are always sufficient funds in the school's current account to cover financial commitments such as payroll and day-to-day expenses. If there is a surplus of funds after all financial commitments have been considered, this surplus will be invested. Funds should be invested in tranches of £10,000 where possible and after agreement from the Board of trustees. It may be beneficial to invest each tranche with a different financial institution. Funds, and any interest they earn, will be automatically reinvested, unless they are required for immediate or anticipated expenditure.

##### Monitoring and Evaluation

The Business Manager will compare alternative investment opportunities every six months to ensure that the school's funds achieve the best interest rates.

The Chief Executive Officer and Business Manager will carry out a review of this policy on a regular basis to ensure that any new or changed legislation is adhered to. Next school review due January 2018.

# United Schools Trust

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### Strategic Report

#### *Principal risks and uncertainties*

There is a need for a school in Kingsteignton and, therefore, minimal risk that the school will not continue to grow at its current rate and beyond into the future.

The United Schools Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been developed by the Trustees in conjunction with Devon Audit Services and include the financial risks to the Trust.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities (including buildings) and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls. Where significant financial risk still remains, the trustees ensure that the Trust has adequate insurance cover. Working in partnership with the United Schools Federation and the opportunities and support that this provides in all areas help to mitigate many of the risks identified.

Whilst the local population continues to grow, risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are relatively small. However, changes in the Funding Formula, changes in funding arrangements for special educational needs and the increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at Board of Trustee meetings.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

#### Financial

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA with the majority of the Trust's incoming resources being ultimately Government funded and whilst the funding formula is still uncertain there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue on the same levels or on the same terms.

#### Failures in governance and/or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Trusts' finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The trustees will continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

#### Reputational

The continued success of the Trust is dependent on academic attainment and progress measures being at or above Devon and National figures thus maintaining the highest educational standards. This will ensure that applicants are attracted in sufficient numbers to ensure that the Trust remains financially sustainable.

#### Safeguarding and child protection

The trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and behaviour.

# United Schools Trust

## Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### Strategic Report

#### Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

#### Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust has engaged its external auditors to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training and support to keep them up to date with financial and to develop their skills in this area.

The Trust will continue to strengthen its risk management process into the future by continually reviewing and improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A Risk Register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis by the Board of trustees.

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

Kingsteignton School opened in September 2016 in purpose built temporary accommodation on the site of St Michael's School in Kingsteignton. The temporary school had one classroom for a mixed year class of 30 Reception and Year 1 children. As it became apparent that the new school at Newcross would not be available for occupancy in September 2017, contingency plans to refurbish an existing outside classroom at St Michael's were actioned and a completely refurbished classroom with new toilet and washing area and disabled ramp will be available to accommodate the current pupils leaving the existing classroom ready to accommodate the new intake of reception children in September 2017. The number of children admitted into the future will increase in line with local need. When full, the school will have the capacity to take 15 classes of 30 children including a nursery class. This will provide enough places for 420 primary and 60 nursery children.

#### **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.

Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Governing Body, as the company directors, on ~~31.08.17~~ and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Dr P Fitch  
Director

  
.....  
Mr M West  
Director

# United Schools Trust

## Governance Statement

### Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that United Schools 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 Dr P Fitch, 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 United Schools Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 7 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

| <b>Trustee</b>         | <b>Meetings attended</b> | <b>Out of a possible</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs J Stuchberry-Ullah | 7                        | 7                        |
| Mr K Haines            | 3                        | 7                        |
| Mrs C Mabin            | 7                        | 7                        |
| Mr M Harding           | 6                        | 7                        |
| Mr M West              | 5                        | 7                        |
| Mrs S Clarke           | 5                        | 7                        |
| Mrs C Vicary-Ward      | 3                        | 4                        |
| Dr P Fitch             | 7                        | 7                        |

Dr P Fitch (Principal) and Mrs S Clarke were appointed to the board of trustees by the members on the 1st of September 2016. Mrs C Vicary-Ward was appointed to the board by the trustees on 20.04.17 with financial/accountancy expertise (an area identified in a skills audit that required development in the board of trustees).

# United Schools Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

### Impact report

The Board of Trustees play a very strong role in driving the school forward and ensuring that the pupils progress very well in their education and appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic and motivated staff who constantly strive for excellence in all they do and who work as a cohesive team within a safe, supportive yet challenging, working environment and support the values and vision of the school at all times. They work in close partnership with the United Schools Federation under the umbrella of the United Schools Learning Partnership to develop their skills and to share theirs and their own outstanding practice and to ensure that standards are at a very high level and that both staff and pupils are aspirational in terms of their targets and outcomes.

The Trustees work co-operatively with the Principal in the writing and monitoring of the School's Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), the 3 year Strategic Plan and the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP is set out with clear aims, the key actions which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SIP is monitored and reviewed termly by the standards trustee with the Principal, and an evaluation overview is completed and presented to the board of trustees.

The key targets for the school improvement plan 16-17 were:

- Rigorous appraisal systems encourage, support and challenge all staff to improve and develop. As a result, the majority of teaching is outstanding and never less than good
- Board of Trustees to evaluate their effectiveness regularly and systematically challenge senior leaders to ensure the strategic development of the school and to ensure that governance is at least good
- To ensure pupil numbers are increased by September 2017 (25-30 children for Reception intake)
- To raise the profile of the school in the local community
- To investigate a range of marketing options to raise the profile of the school and increase pupil numbers
- To monitor the development of the new school on the Newcross site
- To ensure that, if the new school is not ready for September 2017, contingency plans are in place for additional temporary accommodation at St Michael's Primary.

The Board of trustees demonstrates its focus on its three core strategic functions: firstly, ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; secondly, holding the Principal to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils; and finally overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

### 1. Vision, ethos and strategic direction

The Board of trustees seek to provide all children at Kingsteignton School with an outstanding and inspiring education within a caring and nurturing environment.

We value individuals, recognise and celebrate their gifts and talents and provide the opportunities they need to help them achieve personal and academic excellence.

Our curriculum aims to inspire and motivate children to explore and learn about the world around them, it will help them gain an awareness of the role within their communities and prepare them for their future lives. We actively encourage children to embrace technology and aim to be at the cutting edge of using technology in the classroom.

# United Schools Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

The values for life that we promote through our Trust are Friendship, Compassion, Justice, Courage and Perseverance.

We are a dementia friendly school and actively encourage children to lead healthy and active lives and to engage with more elderly members of the local community in a wide range of ventures and activities. The school and its trustees will be central to developing a dementia friendly local community.

Finally, our trust is aspirational - we want every child to reach his or her potential and every member of staff to do the same. Our overarching motto is 'Aiming Higher, Achieving More' and this encompasses everything we do.

The challenges of opening a new school have formed the basis of the strategic development of the school by the trustees over this first year. Ensuring that the school is valued within the local community has been a priority and this has been achieved through a range of marketing strategies and the development of an aspirational culture which allows children to perform at a very high level (see below). The school started with 14 pupils in September 2016 - this grew to 25 pupils by July 2017. Applications for reception places for September 2017 were oversubscribed and the school will start its second year with 55 pupils across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The school is now held in high regard by the local community and the trustees are confident that the school will continue to grow rapidly towards its capacity of 420 pupils.

### **2. Holding the Principal to account for education performance or the school**

The trustees are rigorous in their evaluation of the educational performance of the school and individual trustees work alongside the Principal as described in their portfolio terms of reference. The trustees and the Principal are aspirational in terms of pupil progress and attainment and half termly assessment results are shared with the trustees. SMART interventions are put in place to accelerate progress where a child is falling behind and the impact of these interventions is closely monitored. The outcome of this is that pupils performed well above national and Devon expectations at the end of the first year of the school's opening. Trustees actively promote the partnership work between the UST and the USF and recognise the importance of this work in the development of our new school. The significant benefits of working in partnership have also been recognised by external agencies including Ofsted and the Department of Education. Individual trustees have clear responsibilities for monitoring particular areas of school business as part of their portfolio terms of reference and meetings are scheduled in every term with the Principal.

### **3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school**

The majority of trustees have been trained in School Finance management. The impact of the trustees' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

# United Schools Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

### Governance reviews

#### 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.

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 where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Working in partnership with the United Schools Federation enabling economies of scale by sharing administration, kitchen, IT expertise and procurement costs
- Partnership work has also enabled the sharing of good practice both educationally and financially to drive up standards - end of year results for children in this first year of opening are above both Devon and National standards
- Tendering is used appropriately and effectively to get the best deal and market

The impact of delivering improved value for money is that Kingsteignton School has a very healthy carry forward for this year and the budget forecast shows that for at least the next 4 years, the school will operate on a very positive credit budget.

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 United Schools Trust for the year ended 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees are reviewing 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 and are in the process of developing a Risk Management Strategy and a Risk Register.

#### 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 board of trustees which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;

## United Schools Trust

### Governance Statement (continued)

- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Devon Audit Partnership as an internal auditor. Internal checks are carried out on a termly basis and include giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Governance, accounting and financial control
- Accounting and financial control – anti fraud
- Internal financial control - income
- Internal financial control – purchases and payments
- Internal financial control – contracts and tendering
- Internal financial control – salaries, wages and expenses
- Internal financial control – assets
- Internal financial control – investments

On a termly basis, the internal auditor produces a report following the audit visit and the principal/accounting officer reports to the board of trustees on the operation of systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustee's financial responsibilities.

Due to the fact that the school was in its first year of opening in 2016-17, the first termly audit visit was delayed until January to allow the setting up of systems in the first term and then a double audit visit was carried out. The third element of the audit in the summer term involved the training of trustees so that they were in a position to develop a Risk management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan for the Trust. All areas for development identified in the January audit were actioned and signed off by the internal auditor before the final report was shared with the board of trustees.

#### Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Principal 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 and the financial consultant employed from Babcock LDP working with the Chief Financial Officer of the Trust.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the review of the system of internal control by the Board of Trustees and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

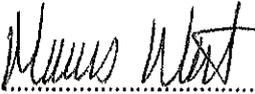
# United Schools Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

Approved by order of the members of the Governing Body on 6.12.17 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....

Dr P Fitch  
Accounting officer  
Director

  
.....

Mr M West  
Director

## United Schools Trust

### Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of United Schools Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

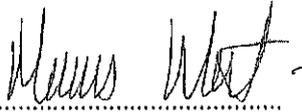
I confirm that I and the Academy Trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6.12.17 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....

Dr P Fitch  
Trustee

  
.....

Mr M West  
Trustee

# United Schools Trust

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who act as the governors of United Schools Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction 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 financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

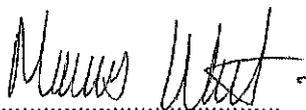
The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6.12.17 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Dr P Fitch  
Director



.....  
Mr M West  
Director

## **United Schools Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of United Schools Trust**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of United Schools Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2017, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2017 and of its results for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy and its Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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

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

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

#### **Other information**

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

## United Schools Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of United Schools Trust (continued)

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

*PKF Francis Clark*  
.....  
Sharon Austen (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
PKF Francis Clark, Statutory Auditor

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
Devon  
TQ2 7FF

Date: *13 December 2017*

## United Schools Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of United Schools Trust (continued)

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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

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

#### Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 19], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy'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 Academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

## **United Schools Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to United Schools Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 October 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by United Schools Trust during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of the United Schools Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the United Schools Trust funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 May 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2016, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by 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:

- Inspection and review of documentation providing evidence of governance procedures;
- Evaluation of the system of internal controls for authorisation and approval;
- Performing substantive tests on relevant transactions.

## United Schools Trust

### Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to United Schools Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

#### 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 year from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*PKF Francis Clark*

Sharon Austen  
PKF Francis Clark, Chartered Accountants

Sigma House  
Oak View Close  
Edginswell Park  
Torquay  
Devon  
TQ2 7FF

Date: *13 December 2017*

## United Schools Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>General<br>Funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>Fixed Asset<br>Funds<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 |
|--|------|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                       |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| Donations and capital grants                             | 2    | -                              | -                                       | 93  | 93                     |
| <i>Charitable activities:</i>                            |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations   | 3    | -                              | 258                                     | -   | 258                    |
| Other trading activities                                 | 4    | 1                              | 4                                       | -   | 5                      |
| <b>Total</b>   |      | <b>1</b>                       | <b>262</b>                              | <b>93</b>                                   | <b>356</b>             |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                   |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| <i>Charitable activities:</i>                            |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| Academy trust educational operations                     | 6    | -                              | 190                                     | 9   | 199                    |
| Net income   |      | 1                              | 72                                      | 84  | 157                    |
| Transfers between funds                                  |      | -                              | (20)                                    | 20  | -                      |
| <b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>                 |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension schemes | 20   | -                              | 1                                       | -   | 1                      |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                             |      | <b>1</b>                       | <b>53</b>                               | <b>104</b>                                  | <b>158</b>             |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                           |      |                                |   |   |                        |
| Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2016          |      | -                              | 125                                     | 583   | 708                    |
| Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2017            |      | <u>1</u>                       | <u>178</u>                              | <u>687</u>                                  | <u>866</u>             |

## United Schools Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2016 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

|   | Note | Restricted<br>General<br>Funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>Fixed Asset<br>Funds<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|---|------|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>              |      |   |   |                        |
| Donations and capital grants                    | 2    | -                                       | 583   | 583                    |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                          |      |   |   |                        |
| <i>Charitable activities:</i>                   |      |   |   |                        |
| Academy trust educational operations            | 6    | 67                                      | -   | 67                     |
| Net (expenditure)/income                        |      | (67)                                    | 583   | 516                    |
| Net movement in (deficit)/funds                 |      | (67)                                    | 583   | 516                    |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                  |      |   |   |                        |
| Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2015 |      | 192                                     | -   | 192                    |
| Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2016   |      | 125                                     | 583   | 708                    |

# United Schools Trust

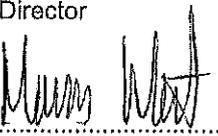
(Registration number: 09255130)  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2017**

|  | Note | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |      |               |               |
| Intangible assets                              | 10   | 3             | -             |
| Tangible assets                                | 11   | 274           | 242           |
|  |      | <u>277</u>    | <u>242</u>    |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |      |               |               |
| Debtors  | 12   | 420           | 403           |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |      | 204           | 68            |
|  |      | <u>624</u>    | <u>471</u>    |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 13   | (28)          | (5)           |
| Net current assets                             |      | <u>596</u>    | <u>466</u>    |
| Total assets less current liabilities          |      | <u>873</u>    | <u>708</u>    |
| Net assets excluding pension liability         |      | 873           | 708           |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability       | 20   | (7)           | -             |
| Net assets                                     |      | <u>866</u>    | <u>708</u>    |
| <b>Funds of the Academy:</b>                   |      |               |               |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                        |      |               |               |
| Restricted general fund                        |      | 185           | 125           |
| Restricted fixed asset fund                    |      | 687           | 583           |
| Restricted pension fund                        |      | (7)           | -             |
|  |      | <u>865</u>    | <u>708</u>    |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>                      |      |               |               |
| Unrestricted general fund                      |      | 1             | -             |
| Total funds                                    |      | <u>866</u>    | <u>708</u>    |

The financial statements on pages 25 to 45 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~10/12/17~~ and signed on their behalf by:

7.12.17

  
 .....  
 Dr P Fitch  
 Director

  
 .....  
 Mr M West  
 Director

## United Schools Trust

### Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

|   | Note | 2017<br>£ 000     | 2016<br>£ 000    |
|---|------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>         |      |                   |                  |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | 16   | 87                | (75)             |
| Cash flows from investing activities                | 17   | <u>49</u>         | <u>28</u>        |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year     |      | 136               | (47)             |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September            |      | <u>68</u>         | <u>115</u>       |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August              | 18   | <u><u>204</u></u> | <u><u>68</u></u> |

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Statement of accounting policies

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

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust 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 FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

United Schools Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### Going concern

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

#### 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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

The trust is benefiting from the ESFA's Free School Building Programme for the construction of Kingsteignton Primary School. The funding for the programme is not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement from costs being incurred, and the development occurring on a site where the trust controls (through lease) the site where the development is occurring. The expenditure is capitalised in assets under construction until the project is complete.

#### *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 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.

#### *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 financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is 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.

#### **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 allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### *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.

#### **Intangible fixed assets**

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible 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:

| <b>Asset class</b> | <b>Amortisation method and rate</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Software           | 20% straight line                   |

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Computer equipment      | 33% straight line |
| Furniture and equipment | 25% straight line |

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

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

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Leased assets**

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

#### **Financial Instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. 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.

#### **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.

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### Pension benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in the notes to the financial statements, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

#### 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 the 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 Education Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

#### Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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.

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2017. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

### 2 Donations and capital grants

|                | Restricted<br>fixed asset<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|----------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Capital grants | 93  | 93                     | 583                    |

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

|  | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>             |                              |                        |                        |
| General Annual Grant (GAG)                 | 208                          | 208                    | -                      |
| PE and Sports                              | 1                            | 1                      | -                      |
| Pupil Premium                              | 1                            | 1                      | -                      |
| Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) | 6                            | 6                      | -                      |
|  | 216                          | 216                    | -                      |
| <b>Other government grants</b>             |                              |                        |                        |
| DCC Growth Funding                         | 42                           | 42                     | -                      |
| Total grants                               | 258                          | 258                    | -                      |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 4 Other trading activities

|                              | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| School shop sales            | 1                              | -                            | 1                      | -                      |
| Recharges and reimbursements | -                              | 4                            | 4                      | -                      |
|                              | <u>1</u>                       | <u>4</u>                     | <u>5</u>               | <u>-</u>               |

#### 5 Expenditure

|   | Staff costs<br>£ 000 | Non Pay Expenditure |                      | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|   |                      | Premises<br>£ 000   | Other costs<br>£ 000 |                        |                        |
| <b>Academy's<br/>educational<br/>operations</b> |                      |                     |                      |                        |                        |
| Direct costs                                    | 108                  | -                   | 11                   | 119                    | 1                      |
| Allocated support<br>costs                      | 23                   | 12                  | 45                   | 80                     | 66                     |
|   | <u>131</u>           | <u>12</u>           | <u>56</u>            | <u>199</u>             | <u>67</u>              |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 5 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

|                                 | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Fees payable to auditor - audit | 5             | 3             |

#### 6 Charitable activities

|  | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Direct costs - educational operations  | 119                    | 1                      |
| Support costs - educational operations | 80                     | 66                     |
|  | <u>199</u>             | <u>67</u>              |

|                                  | Educational<br>operations<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2017<br>£ 000 | Total<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Analysis of support costs</b> |                                    |                        |                        |
| Support staff costs              | 23                                 | 23                     | -                      |
| Depreciation                     | 9                                  | 9                      | -                      |
| Technology costs                 | -                                  | -                      | 3                      |
| Premises costs                   | 3                                  | 3                      | -                      |
| Other support costs              | 32                                 | 32                     | 17                     |
| Governance costs                 | 13                                 | 13                     | 46                     |
| Total support costs              | <u>80</u>                          | <u>80</u>              | <u>66</u>              |

#### 7 Staff

##### Staff costs

|  | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Staff costs during the year were:</b> |               |               |
| Wages and salaries                       | 105           | -             |
| Social security costs                    | 10            | -             |
| Pension costs                            | 24            | -             |
|  | <u>139</u>    | <u>-</u>      |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 7 Staff (continued)

##### Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

|                              | 2017<br>No | 2016<br>No |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Charitable Activities</b> |            |            |
| Teachers                     | 1          | -          |
| Administration and support   | 1          | -          |
| Management                   | 1          | -          |
|                              | <u>3</u>   | <u>-</u>   |

##### Staff numbers

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the year expressed as average headcount was as follows:

|                              | 2017<br>No | 2016<br>No |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Charitable Activities</b> |            |            |
| Teachers                     | 1          | -          |
| Administration and support   | 3          | -          |
| Management                   | 1          | -          |
|                              | <u>5</u>   | <u>-</u>   |

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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £63,192 (2016: £Nil).

#### 8 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Dr P Fitch (Principal - United Schools Trust):

Remuneration: £55,000 - £60,000 (2016 - £Nil)

Employer's pension contributions: £5,000 - £10,000 (2016 - £Nil)

Mr M Harding (CEO - United Schools Federation):

Remuneration: £0 - £5,000 (2016 - £Nil)

Employer's pension contributions: £Nil (2016 - £Nil)

No remuneration or expenses have been paid to any directors in the period.

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 21.

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 9 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 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.

#### 10 Intangible fixed assets

|                       | Software<br>£ 000 | Total<br>£ 000 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |                   |                |
| Additions             | 4                 | 4              |
| At 31 August 2017     | 4                 | 4              |
| <b>Amortisation</b>   |                   |                |
| Charge for the year   | 1                 | 1              |
| At 31 August 2017     | 1                 | 1              |
| <b>Net book value</b> |                   |                |
| At 31 August 2017     | 3                 | 3              |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 11 Tangible fixed assets

|                       | Furniture<br>and<br>equipment<br>£ 000 | Computer<br>equipment<br>£ 000 | Assets<br>under<br>construction<br>£ 000 | Total<br>£ 000 |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |  |                                |  |                |
| At 1 September 2016   | -                                      | -                              | 242                                      | 242            |
| Additions             | 4                                      | 34                             | 2  | 40             |
| At 31 August 2017     | 4                                      | 34                             | 244                                      | 282            |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |  |                                |  |                |
| Charge for the year   | 1                                      | 7                              | -  | 8              |
| At 31 August 2017     | 1                                      | 7                              | -  | 8              |
| <b>Net book value</b> |  |                                |  |                |
| At 31 August 2017     | 3                                      | 27                             | 244                                      | 274            |
| At 31 August 2016     | -                                      | -                              | 242                                      | 242            |

#### 12 Debtors

|                                | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Accrued grant and other income | 414           | 351           |
| VAT recoverable                | 6             | 52            |
|                                | <u>420</u>    | <u>403</u>    |

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

|                                    | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors                    | 3             | 2             |
| Other taxation and social security | 4             | -             |
| Accruals                           | 17            | 3             |
| Deferred income                    | 4             | -             |
|                                    | <u>28</u>     | <u>5</u>      |

#### Deferred income

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Resources deferred in the period | <u>4</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------|

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding income in advance in relation to UIFSM funding for the academic year 2017/18 of £4,000.

#### 14 Funds

|                                      | Balance at<br>1<br>September<br>2016<br>£ 000 | Incoming<br>resources<br>£ 000 | Resources<br>expended<br>£ 000 | Gains,<br>losses<br>and<br>transfers<br>£ 000 | Balance at<br>31 August<br>2017<br>£ 000 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Restricted general funds</b>      |   |                                |                                |   |  |
| Start up Grant                       | 125   | -                              | -                              | (10)  | 115                                      |
| General Annual Grant                 | -   | 208                            | (170)                          | (11)  | 27                                       |
| Pupil Premium                        | -   | 1                              | (1)                            | -   | -  |
| Recharges and<br>reimbursements      | -   | 4                              | (4)                            | -   | -  |
| DCC Growth Funding                   | -   | 42                             | -                              | -   | 42                                       |
| PE and Sports                        | -   | 1                              | -                              | -   | 1  |
| UIFSM                                | -   | 6                              | (7)                            | 1   | -  |
|                                      | <u>125</u>                                    | <u>262</u>                     | <u>(182)</u>                   | <u>(20)</u>                                   | <u>185</u>                               |
| <b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>  |   |                                |                                |   |  |
| ESFA - Free School Building<br>Grant | 583   | -                              | (8)                            | -   | 575                                      |
| Start Up Grant                       | -   | -                              | -                              | 10  | 10                                       |
| Capital expenditure from GAG         | -   | -                              | (1)                            | 10  | 9  |
| ESFA Capital Funding                 | -   | 93                             | -                              | -   | 93                                       |
|                                      | <u>583</u>                                    | <u>93</u>                      | <u>(9)</u>                     | <u>20</u>                                     | <u>687</u>                               |
| <b>Restricted pension funds</b>      |   |                                |                                |   |  |
| Defined Benefit Pension<br>Liability | -   | -                              | (8)                            | 1   | (7)                                      |
|                                      | <u>-</u>                                      | <u>-</u>                       | <u>(8)</u>                     | <u>1</u>                                      | <u>(7)</u>                               |
| Total restricted funds               | 708   | 355                            | (199)                          | 1   | 865                                      |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>            |   |                                |                                |   |  |
| Unrestricted general funds           | -   | 1                              | -                              | -   | 1  |
|                                      | <u>-</u>                                      | <u>1</u>                       | <u>-</u>                       | <u>-</u>                                      | <u>1</u>                                 |
| Total funds                          | <u>708</u>                                    | <u>356</u>                     | <u>(199)</u>                   | <u>1</u>                                      | <u>866</u>                               |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 are represented by:

|                          | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>general<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Restricted<br>fixed asset<br>funds<br>£ 000 | Total funds<br>£ 000 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Intangible fixed assets  | -                              | -                                       | 3   | 3                    |
| Tangible fixed assets    | -                              | -                                       | 274   | 274                  |
| Current assets           | 1                              | 213                                     | 410   | 624                  |
| Current liabilities      | -                              | (28)                                    | -   | (28)                 |
| Pension scheme liability | -                              | (7)                                     | -   | (7)                  |
| Total net assets         | <u>1</u>                       | <u>178</u>                              | <u>687</u>                                  | <u>866</u>           |

#### 16 Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

|  | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Net income   | 157           | 516           |
| Amortisation   | 1             | -             |
| Depreciation   | 8             | -             |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income               | (93)          | (583)         |
| Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable | 8             | -             |
| Increase in debtors  | (17)          | -             |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors                               | <u>23</u>     | <u>(8)</u>    |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities            | <u>87</u>     | <u>(75)</u>   |

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 17 Capital expenditure and financial investment

|   | 2017<br>£ 000 | 2016<br>£ 000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Purchase of intangible fixed assets       | (4)           | -             |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets         | (40)          | (242)         |
| Capital grants from DfE/EFA               | 93            | 270           |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 49            | 28            |

#### 18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

|                                 | At 31 August<br>2017<br>£ 000 | At 31 August<br>2016<br>£ 000 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand        | 204                           | 68                            |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 204                           | 68                            |

#### 19 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 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.

#### 20 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 Barnett Waddingham. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

# United Schools Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

### 20 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £12,546 (2016: £Nil).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), the TPS is a 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 scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £4,000 (2016 - £Nil), of which employer's contributions totalled £3,000 (2016 - £Nil) and employees' contributions totalled £1,000 (2016 - £Nil). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.8% for employers and 5.5%-12.5% 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.

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 20 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

|  | At 31 August<br>2017<br>% |
|--|---------------------------|
| Rate of increase in salaries                       | 4.20                      |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 2.70                      |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities               | <u>2.60</u>               |

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

|                              | At 31 August<br>2017 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Retiring today</b>        |                      |
| Males retiring today         | 23.40                |
| Females retiring today       | 25.50                |
| <b>Retiring in 20 years</b>  |                      |
| Males retiring in 20 years   | 25.70                |
| Females retiring in 20 years | <u>27.90</u>         |

##### Sensitivity analysis

|  | At 31 August<br>2017<br>£000 |
|--|------------------------------|
| Discount rate +0.1%                    | 12                           |
| Discount rate -0.1%                    | 12                           |
| Mortality assumption – 1 year increase | 12                           |
| Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease | 12                           |
| CPI rate +0.1%                         | 12                           |
| CPI rate -0.1%                         | <u>12</u>                    |

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

|                              | At 31 August<br>2017<br>£ 000 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Equities                     | 3                             |
| Gilts                        | 1                             |
| Other                        | <u>1</u>                      |
| Total market value of assets | <u>5</u>                      |

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,000 (2016 - £Nil).

## United Schools Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017 (continued)

#### 20 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

|                                     | 2017<br>£ 000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Current service cost                | 11            |
| Total amount recognised in the SOFA | <u>11</u>     |

##### Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

|                        | 2017<br>£ 000 |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Current service cost   | 11            |
| Employee contributions | 1             |
| At 31 August           | <u>12</u>     |

##### Movements in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

|                        | 2017<br>£ 000 |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Actuarial gain/(loss)  | 1             |
| Employer contributions | 3             |
| Employee contributions | 1             |
| At 31 August           | <u>5</u>      |

#### 21 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust's operations 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 a member of the Board of Trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During the year the Academy Trust entered into the following related party transactions:

##### United Schools Federation

(Majority of United Schools Trust's directors and members are on the governing body of United Schools Federation)

During the year United Schools Federation charged United Schools Trust £8,889 (2016: £36,147) relating to the provision of electricity and free school support. During the year the United Schools Trust invoiced the United Schools Federation £4,000 (2016: £Nil) for school support. At the balance sheet date the amount due from/(to) United Schools Federation was £4,000 (2016: (£1,731)).