

Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly:  
Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust)  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited  
(Formerly: Bedfordshire East  
Multi-Academy Trust)**

Registered number: 07546141

**Directors report and financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 August 2016**

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
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**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST, ITS  
DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**Members**

Peter Little (appointed 24 November 2015)  
David Shelvey (appointed 24 November 2015)  
Caroline Devereaux (appointed 24 November 2015)

**Directors**

Carrie Traill, Co-opted Director (appointed 1 January 2016)  
Peter Little, Member, Director and Chair (appointed 6 October 2015)<sup>1</sup>  
Clare Morris, Academy Director and Chair\* (resigned 24 November 2015)  
Lesley Cave, Parent Director (resigned 23 September 2015)  
Robert Robson, Member, Staff Director and Executive Principal (resigned 24  
November 2015)<sup>1</sup>  
David Shelvey, Co-opted Director<sup>1</sup>  
Lyn Rouse, Staff Director and Principal (resigned 24 November 2015)  
Derek Archer, Staff Director and Principal (resigned 24 November 2015)  
Paul Walker, Co-opted Director (appointed 2 September 2015)<sup>1</sup>  
Lorraine MacDonald, Member Director (appointed 2 September 2015)  
Julie Hollings, Co-opted Director (appointed 23 October 2015)  
Alan Lee, Member Director (appointed 26 April 2016)<sup>1</sup>  
Catherine Piotrowski, Co-opted Director (appointed 14 October 2016)  
Ilona Bond, Co-opted Director (appointed 18 October 2016)

<sup>1</sup> Member of the Finance and Audit Committee

**Company registered number**

07546141

**Company name**

Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited ("BEST")

**Principal and registered office**

BEST House, Shefford Road, Clifton, Bedfordshire, SG17 5QS

**Senior management team**

Robert Robson, Executive Principal (Strategy, Innovation and Finance)  
Alex Prior, Principal  
Lyn Rouse, Principal  
Derek Archer, Principal  
Nick Martin, Vice Principal (Student Learning, Progress and Intervention)  
Julian Axford, Vice Principal (9-13 Learning and Curriculum)  
David Goode, Assistant Principal (Staff Development)  
Ian Butler, Assistant Principal (Data, Assessment and Exams)  
Steve Fox, Assistant Principal (Children and Family Services)  
Ian Kite, Assistant Principal (Head of Projects, Resources, Operations and Capital -  
CEO Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Limited)

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST, ITS  
DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS**  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016***

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**Advisers (continued)**

**Independent auditor**

Mazars LLP, The Pinnacle, 160 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1FF

**Bankers**

National Westminster Bank Plc, 152 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1LT

Lloyds Bank Plc, Queens Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RF

Nationwide Building Society, PO Box 3, 5-11 St. Georges Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM99 1AS

**Solicitors**

DWF LLP, 1 Scott Place, 2 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AA

# **BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY: BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST) (A company limited by guarantee)**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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The Directors (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report, together with the audited financial statements of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust) ("BEST") ("the Multi Academy Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2016.

The Directors confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Multi Academy Trust comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Multi Academy Trust's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2015.

The Multi-Academy Trust also trades under the name BEST and comprises Samuel Whitbread Academy (SWA), Robert Bloomfield Academy (RBA), Etonbury Academy (ETA), Gothic Mede Academy (GMA), Gravenhurst Academy (GHA) and Langford Village Academy (LVA).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **a. Objectives and aims**

The object of BEST is to advance education for the public benefit in the United Kingdom. Establishing, maintaining, managing and developing academies achieve this. Our academies offer high quality education. They collaborate and compete with each other to continually raise standards and best serve the wider community.

#### Commitment

We will hold ourselves accountable to these statements and ensure we communicate the vision and manifesto to our community.

#### **b. Catchment and enrolment**

The catchment of BEST remains the same, geographically located between the A1 and A6 to the east and west and bounded by Letchworth and Bedford to the south and north. No new academies have joined the trust. However, Etonbury Academy has retained its 9th year students, having changed from a middle to a 9 to 16 school and has grown to over 700 pupils. This catchment will continue to increase to take Etonbury to 1260 pupils. Gravenhurst has seen a growth in numbers and pressure on places remains high across the trust. The other academies maintained their roll. We anticipate the planned housing developments will come forward and the demand for pupil places will result in new nurseries and schools in the BEST catchment at all phases over the next 3 years.

#### **c. Public benefits**

The key public benefit delivered by BEST is the provision of exceptional education for our students and their families. Currently, Ofsted grades two of our six academies 'outstanding': our intention is that they all are by 2021. Targets to be in the top 20% nationally for student outcomes have been set for all academies.

Each of our academies is a unique learning community. They collaborate and compete with each other to continually improve student outcomes and enable all to be the best they can be. Together, our academies offer a clear, considered and coherent educational age 4-19 community-based pathway.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**Achievements and performance**

**a. Review of activities and key performance indicators**

Ofsted grades GA and RBA as outstanding. RBA have been graded as such on three consecutive occasions. EA, GMA and SWA are graded good, whilst LA gained a good on their monitoring visit.

Results

Gravenhurst Academy's end of year assessments show that Reception has remained in line within the local authority average of 68% GLD. End of KS1 is also in line with the local authority average for reading and writing but slightly higher for maths. End of Year 4 results are well above the local authority average with 100% pupils achieving ARE or above in reading, writing and maths.

Langford Village Academy's end of year assessments also show that Reception results continued with the steady trend of improvement and are in line with the local authority average of 68% GLD. End of KS1 results are also in line with the local authority average for reading, writing and maths. End of Year 4 results are in line with the local authority average for reading and maths.

In the first year of the new national curriculum assessments at KS2, Robert Bloomfield Academy performed significantly above national averages in attainment across reading, writing and maths. In the light of pupils having only studied the four year curriculum for eighteen months we aim to build on these achievements in the coming year. Results from nationally benchmarked GL tests continue to show that attainment and progress across the four years at RBA is outstanding.

In the summer of 2015, under the old SATs testing regime, the Etonbury Academy scored the highest in its history – well above national averages in almost all areas. Under the new testing regime, which saw chaotic and patchy results regionally and nationally, the school scored 49% combined. We performed solidly in writing, SPAG and Reading, but underperformed in Maths. Etonbury Academy is focused on reaching the top 20th Percentile in SATs performance, and thus has already commenced working on a pioneering new initiative with our four lower feeder schools and CBEDs to appoint an outstanding KS2 leader to work across the five schools and join the four years split Key Stage 2 into one continuous process through complete data transparency and challenge and accountability across all the schools and teaching teams. Further, we have switched over to Target Tracker for this year – fully aligned with all four lower schools – to ensure seamless and transparent data transmission and tracking throughout the four year journey.

Finally, Etonbury Academy has now partnered with Tennyson Road Primary in Luton, who achieved a 100% pass rate in SATs for summer 2016. Their key teachers and leaders will be coaching and mentoring our staff this year, and we will be replicating the process and systems they use for SATs success. Further, we are investing in the same resources and materials and ensuring that Etonbury staff have all the tools and support they need to drive standards at KS2.

Samuel Whitbread Academy achieved its highest ever results at GCSE with 64% achieving A\*-C (in English and Maths), which represents an 11% increase on last year. We expect this to be significantly above the national average. The performance in English was strong this year for both attainment and progress with 85% A\*-C, the priority remains levels of progress and attainment in Maths – particularly Girls. At KS5 we also achieved our best ever results at A2, BTEC and AS with a three year ALPS progress score of a 4, which is described as Very Good.

BEST, through its outstanding academy RBA, has teaching school – CBTSP – status. It leads a large strategic partnership of 138 schools. The teaching school is a major force improving standards and training future teachers and leaders.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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Numbers

Gravenhurst Academy has seen a rise in pupil numbers during the past year and this continues. With a PAN of 15 we are close to achieving this number in all year groups except Year 2. Currently we have 12 pupils in reception but one place we have to keep open due to parents exercising their right to keep their child at preschool.

Year 1 we have 16 pupils, Year 3 - 12 pupils and Year 4 - 13 pupils. Overall total 62 pupils. Langford Village Academy remains steady with an overall pupil number of 160. Our largest cohort is reception with 37 pupils, 32 pupils in Year 1, 30 pupils in Year 2, 31 pupils in Year 3 and 30 pupils in Year 4. It is hoped that with the amount of housing development within the village this will help our numbers to rise to our PAN of 45.

Robert Bloomfield Academy continues to be oversubscribed, despite raising its PAN to 240 from 210. For the 16 – 17 Academic Year we had 253 applications, this is in the context of having a significantly reduced number of pupils for this year only, in our catchment schools (194). Projection for 17 – 18 of catchment pupils is 249. Etonbury Academy remains over-subscribed and over pan. Demand for the school, due to increased number of students in catchment, and the high profile in the local and wider community of the expansion programme and improved standards has led to a yr5 intake of 185 students (against a PAN of 150) in September 2016. The school is therefore operating a six form of entry process, with 31 students per form group.

Samuel Whitbread Academy had 410 first preferences in Year 9 and a further 10 second preference making an intake of 420 from a PAN of 434. This was higher than anticipated as we expected the entries to drop this year when Etonbury retained their Year 9 students, who would normally have moved up to SWA. The shortfall in numbers was made up by recruiting 30 students from Sandy, 45 from Alban and 32 from Etonbury - who chose to change schools in Y9 and come to SWA. We expect the intake to fall next year to approximately 350 as a greater number of students to remain at Etonbury and as Sandy Upper School attract a greater proportion of its catchment students. In the Sixth Form a total of 200 students joined Y12, which with the 171 students in Y13 - makes a total of 371. The current Year 11 is considerably larger than last year (440) so we expect to recruit over 250 students into Year 12 in 2017/18.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**Financial review**

**a. Going concern**

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

**b. Financial and risk management objectives and policies**

The majority of the Trusts funding is via GAG from the Education Funding Authority and other Government grants administered via the EFA and/or Local Authority. This is supplemented via third party lettings of the Academy premises. All expenditure supports the Trusts key objective of delivery quality education to our students and community.

The Trust complies with the principles of financial control as outlined in the academies guidance published by the DfE, and as required in our funding agreement. Our Financial Procedures, Delegation of Financial Responsibilities and Value for Money Statement provide detailed information on the Academies' accounting procedures, financial controls and systems and principles which conform to the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management.

The Board of Directors is accountable for the way in which the resources of the constituent Academies are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Directors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services.

The Academies prepare both medium-term and short-term financial plans. The medium-term financial plan is prepared as part of the development planning process. The development plan indicates how the Academies' educational and other objectives are going to be achieved within the expected level of resources. The development plan provides the framework for the annual budget. The budget is a detailed statement of the expected resources available to the Academies and the planned use of those resources for the following year.

The Accounting Officer is responsible for reviewing the Financial Procedures on an annual basis and for recommending it to the Directors for approval. In general the overall position of each school's budget will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Finance Manager who will produce reports and written commentary for the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. The reports will detail actual income and expenditure against budget for the Finance Committee and Audit Committee.

**c. Principle risks and uncertainties**

As required under the Companies Act 2006, the governing body has reviewed the principal risks and uncertainties facing the academy trust, and these have been identified in the Risk Asset Register which is reviewed termly by the Finance and Audit Committee.



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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**d. Reserves and investment policy**

The Trust will retain a common reserve fund to mitigate any financial risk and to ensure the stability of the Trust as a whole and of our constituent Academies. The BEST Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring that our reserve fund is maintained sufficiently.

Spending requests (from constituent academies) must be considered by Finance Committee in line with the following stated priorities, and any subsequent recommendation must be minuted and made to the Board of Directors who holds the final decision to proceed:

- a. to fund any unavoidable in year operating deficit within our constituent academies;
- b. for specific long-term maintenance needs to the existing buildings and facilities;
- c. for any new facilities or infrastructure to meet student requirements; and
- d. to support learning to ensure standards are improved and maintained.

It has been agreed that an appropriate target reserves balance should equate to 1/12th of our total annual turnover. For the year ended 31 August 2016, this equates to an overall revenue reserve 'target' of £1.67m (2015 - £1.57m). Our current total funds as at 31 August 2016 amounts to £44.80m (2015 - £41.18m) including general and restricted revenue funds of £1.12m (2015 - £0.97m).

The Trust will endeavour to invest its reserve funds wisely and with a low-risk philosophy to ensure funds not immediately required attract a healthy interest return. This will be done for via longer-term high interest accounts. The return on any such investments will be reported annually to the Board.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

The Multi-Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, registered in England and Wales.

The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Multi-Academy Trust.

The Directors of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purpose of company law.

The Charitable Company is known as "BEST".

Details of the Directors who served during the year are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

**b. Members' liability**

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

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**c. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees**

The number of trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

Subject to Articles 48-49, 50AA, 53 and 57, the Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees:

- a. up to 2 Directors, appointed under Article 50, and;
- b. a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established under Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to Article 101A.

The Company may also have any Co-opted Trustee appointed under Article 58.

The term of office for any Director shall be 4 years. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director, any Director may be re-appointed or re-elected.

**d. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend on their existing experience.

Where necessary induction will include training on educational, legal and financial matters. All new Directors will be given the opportunity of a tour of the Academies, have the chance to meet with staff and students and provided with copies of key documents, such as policies, procedures, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they need to undertake their role as Directors. As there is expected to be only a small number of new Directors a year, induction will be carried out informally and will be tailored specifically to the individual. We subscribe to the Central Bedfordshire Council Learning Service giving all BEST Directors and Governors access to extensive face to face and on line training.

**e. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

The Board of Directors are volunteers and receive no remuneration for their services to the Trust. Responsibility for setting the pay and remuneration of the academy's Chief Executive Officer rests with the Directors who have determined that the post shall be paid on a seven point scale. The Board monitors the Chief Executive Officer's performance via the Trust Appraisal process and the setting of robust targets. Progression along the pay scale is performance related and not automatic.

The Board have delegated the performance management of all other key personnel to the Chief Executive Officer. The Trust performance management process is applied by the Chief Executive officer to all key personnel within the Trust and performance targets are set for both teaching and support staff. Salary scales and pay progression are determined in accordance with the National schemes. The Chief Executive Officer applies the trust's performance management process to the Principals using the same principles.

The Directors and Members are committed to complying with the nationally negotiated agreements for both teaching and support staff pay and conditions of employment to all academy staff.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**f. Organisation structure**

BEST's governance structure exists on three levels: the Members, the Board of Directors (the 'Board') and the Local Governing Bodies (LGBs). The work of these is augmented by a series of focused sub-committees. Roles and responsibilities are clearly described in our scheme of delegation (see 'Governance, Scheme of Delegation and Operational Structure', Appendix 1, referred to as 'Scheme'). This is under constant review, in the light of changing legislation, educational thinking and community feedback. It is improved annually to ensure effective and efficient governance.

Governor appointments, at all levels, are based on skill sets and potential to add value. The Board for instance, includes education, finance, safeguarding, communications and human resource specialists. A comprehensive audit of governor skill sets takes place annually. Through BEST's teaching school – Central Bedfordshire Teaching School Partnership (CBTSP) - a comprehensive governor-training programme is delivered to swiftly address any temporary shortfalls.

Each individual academy possesses a Principal (and leadership team) and a LGB. Delegated responsibility is clearly described in the Scheme. The BEST's CEO, Dr Alan Lee, writes the Scheme. It is the result of consultation with and robust challenge from the academy Principals and LGBs. The Board thoroughly interrogates updates, prior to approval of the Scheme.

A central, integrated team of professionals support the work of the BEST academies. Finance is not delegated and is a central function; other centralised services include human resources, estates management, procurement, IT and aspects of our communications strategy.

Due to the large remit of the Responsible Officer the Directors have decided to appoint our External Auditors to carry out this role.

These arrangements can provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a timely period.

**g. Connected organisations, including related party relationships**

BEST works in close collaboration with Bedfordshire East Schools Trust (BEST Ltd). BEST Ltd is the freeholder of BEST lands, buildings and assets. BEST Ltd's aim is 'to advance education and community cohesion.' BEST Ltd is a co-operative trust and foundation which enables all schools and academies in the Samuel Whitbread Academy catchment to work together across 6 development strands: Raising Achievement for All, Developing a 0-19 Curriculum and 0-19 Children and Family Services as well as all through Training, Community Cohesion and providing an all through Finance, Resources and ICT Infrastructure.

**h. Employment policies**

The Multi-Academy Trust continues to encourage the participation of its employees in the business in which they work. Established communication and consultation procedures exist which aim to ensure that employees are informed about, and involved in, matters which are of interest and concern to them.

BEST is an equal opportunities employer and its policies for the recruitment, training, career development and promotion of employees are based on the relevant merits and abilities of the individuals concerned. The policies also allow disabled persons to compete on an equal basis. Any existing employee who becomes disabled is given the training required to ensure that, wherever possible, continuity of employment can be maintained.

BEST also promotes all aspects of health and safety in the interest of its employees.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**Plans for future periods**

**a. Future developments**

As local demographics grow there is increasing pressure on pupil places in the communities that the Trust serves. Last year we completed an expansion and age range change in one of our academies and the trust intends to move to a system based on nursery, lower and extended secondary provision with Post 16. There will be further investment in 0-4 Nursery and Early Years and Foundation Education. The Trust aspires to provide an additional extended secondary school in the area to meet the growth in local basic need and has submitted a Free School bid to do so.

The expansion and age range change at Etonbury Academy will complete in the coming year to provide an extended secondary school for the towns and villages in the Arlesey, Stotfold and Fairfield area. There are plans for a major refurbishment at Gothic Mede Academy. All academies will benefit from the continued programme of maintenance and refurbishment.

Any decision to expand our current portfolio will be considered only after a robust Due Diligence exercise to ascertain the merit of each application. – and what the inclusion of further Academies will add to our overall strategic goals and objectives.

**Post balance sheet events**

In September 2016 the Trust changed its name from Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust Ltd. to Bedfordshire Schools Trust Ltd. Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Ltd. (including Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Nurseries Ltd and Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Trading Ltd.) became a subsidiary of the Trust by resolution in July 2016.

**Disclosure of information to auditor**

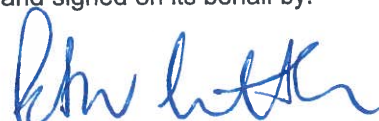
Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- that Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

**Auditor**

The auditor, Mazars LLP, were appointed in the year and has indicated its willingness to continue in office. The Designated Directors will propose a motion re-appointing the auditor at a meeting of the Directors.

This report was approved by order of the Board of Directors as the company directors, on 7 December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Little  
Chair of Directors

# **BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY: BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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### **Scope of responsibility**

As directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### **Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' report and in the Statement of Directors' responsibilities. The Board of Directors has formally met 10 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Directors was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Carrie Traill, Co-opted Director	4	4
Peter Little, Member, Director and Chair	5	8
Clare Morris, Academy Director and Chair*	3	4
Lesley Cave, Parent Director	1	1
Robert Robson, Member, Staff Director and Executive Principal	3	4
David Shelvey, Co-opted Director	8	8
Lyn Rouse, Staff Director and Principal*	4	4
Derek Archer, Staff Director and Principal*	4	4
Paul Walker, Co-opted Director	6	8
Lorraine MacDonald, Member Director	8	8
Julie Hollings, Co-opted Director*	6	6
Dr Alan Lee, Staff Director*	4	4
Catherine Piotrowski, Co-opted Director	0	0
Ilona Bond, Co-opted Director	0	0

\*Peter Little was appointed Chair on 6 October 2015.

\*Clare Morris was appointed as acting Chair on 1 June 2015 and resigned on 24 November 2015.

\*Robert Robson resigned 24 November 2015.

\*Lyn Rouse resigned 24 November 2015.

\*Derek Archer resigned 24 November 2015.

\*Julie Hollings appointed 23 October 2015.

\*Carrie Trail appointed 1 January 2016.

\*Dr. Alan Lee appointed 11 April 2016

Please refer to page 1 for the full BEST Directors listing.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Directors. Its purpose is to lead the development of strategic plans and provide leadership on financial issues (refer to TORs for specific responsibilities).

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Robert Robson*	0	2
Peter Little	4	4
David Shelvey	4	4
Paul Walker*	2	2
Dr. Alan Lee*	2	2

\* Robert Robson resigned 24 November 2015

\* Paul Walker appointed 1 September 2016

\* Dr. Alan Lee appointed 11 April 2016

**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 Multi-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 Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) for the year 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Directors has reviewed the key risks to which the Multi-Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Directors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Multi-Academy Trust's significant risks, that has been in place for the year 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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**The risk and control framework**

The Multi-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 Directors;
- regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Directors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Directors have appointed Mazars LLP, the external auditor, to perform additional checks.

The auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Multi-Academy Trust's financial systems. On an annual basis, the auditor reports to the Board of Directors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities.

**Review of effectiveness**

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

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

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

**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Multi-Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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**a) Improving educational outcomes**

BEST expects its schools to provide an outstanding education, as judged by Ofsted. Moreover, it expects student outcome to be in the top 20% nationally, as judged by any attainment or progress measure.

Improvement was delivered in 2015-16. Outcomes in both key stage 5 and 4 rose; the rise was particularly strong in key stage 4, with the combined English and Mathematics figure rising by 11 percentage points. Outcomes at key stage 1 and 2.

**b) Targeted Improvement**

Staffing structures are reviewed each year and recruitment is focused on providing quality teaching and leadership in all areas of the curriculum. Since April, our new Chief Executive Officer has been putting in place a School Improvement Team that will monitor and support the schools across the trust. In addition, mentors are provided where necessary and we have signed up to Challenge Partners to continually improve practices. Training and professional development is very important and we use our Teaching School to support by providing courses required at all levels of the trust, including directors and governors, to ensure our skills base is sound.

**c) Pupil Premium**

Each academy carefully monitors Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact on improving attainment for students on Free School Meals and Looked After Children. At Key Stage 4, each student who is entitled to receive Pupil Premium has a set amount dedicated to overcoming the barriers they face in life which they can spend in consultation with their form tutor.

**d) Financial governance and oversight**

The Trust's system of financial control is based on procedures and systems to ensure adequate controls are in place through setting targets, regular management information, delegation of authority and segregation of duties, clearly defined purchasing guidelines and identification and management of risks.

The Board of Directors approve the annual budget forecast of the academy trust and review admissions numbers/forecast and budgets on an annual basis ensuring that we have future financial stability.

The Finance and Audit Committee meets termly to review the budget monitoring reports, the internal compliance reports and the external auditors' management report and take action on any recommendations made by them. The Accounting Officer has regular meetings with the Finance Manager who monitors the finance teams in each academy on an ongoing basis.

**e) Benchmarking**

The Trust benchmarks itself against other multi academy trusts of similar size, student numbers, staff numbers and costs whenever it can access the relevant information. We meet and share best practice with academies outside of the Trust in our community. Membership of education and finance forums provide an opportunity for comparison and discussion.



**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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**f) Economies of scale**

Resources are finite and increasingly austere. The Trust considers Value for Money in all decisions that are made. Staff that are in leadership and management roles or have advanced skills are deployed across the academies within the Trust in order to provide cost efficiencies. Support staff functions are combined and tasks shared to achieve maximum savings.

Following appraisal of strategies implemented to date the Trust is looking at how it can achieve further economies of scale within the staffing budget without impacting on the quality of education it provides.

The Trust continually drives the streamlining of finance and administration systems. We review services, subscriptions and licences common to all our academies and endeavours to negotiate a single central solution at a reduced overall cost where beneficial. We look for opportunities to enter into sharing services with other schools, for example the School Sports Co-ordinator providing a service to lower schools outside of the Trust.

To ensure better purchasing and fitness for purpose the Trust has procedures that specify processes that take into account best value in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. The procedures identify value limits for items that can be purchased directly, that need three quotes, and that require competitive tendering.

We ensure purchasing processes are consistent across all the academies within the Trust. We have segregation of duties and defined levels of delegated powers with respect to all purchases. Long term contracts are regularly reviewed and compared against other providers, in order to achieve the best price without compromising quality.

This year we achieved economies of scale by introducing MAT functionality upgrades to our budgeting software and our School Fund Software reducing annual costs. We also combined our teachers under a single reference number with Teachers' Pensions reducing our audit costs.

**g) Maximising income generation**

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate additional revenue. Government grants and initiatives are scrutinised for positive outcomes. This year we are improving our marketing to help publicise our strengths and the good things we are doing more widely.

The premises are let to community sports/music/dance groups and clubs. The Trust works very closely with the local community and we have managed to raise income for some projects by successfully bidding to local charities for additional funding.

Operational cash is held in a high interest current account. Reserves have been invested in higher interest instant access and 95 day access accounts. We continually look at investment opportunities to maximise the potential of these cash reserves.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 7 December 2016 and signed on their behalf, by:

**Peter Little**  
**Chair of Trustees**

**Alan Lee**  
**Accounting Officer**

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As Accounting Officer of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2015.

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 2015.

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 EFA.



Alan Lee  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 7 December 2016

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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The Directors (who act as governors of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited ("BEST") and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Directors 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 Directors are required to:

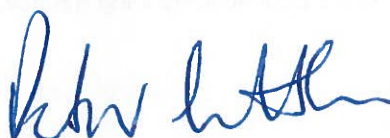
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies' Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

The Directors 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 Directors 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 EFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Directors 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 Directors on 7 December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Little  
Chair of Directors

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE  
MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**

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We have audited the financial statements of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2016 which comprise the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)).

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITOR**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors (who are also the directors of the charitable Multi-Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors. This report is made solely to the Directors as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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 Trust and the members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate).

**OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2016 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE  
MEMBERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**

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**OPINION ON OTHER MATTER PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' report, incorporating the Strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION**

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 Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



Stephen Brown (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

**Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

The Pinnacle  
160 Midsummer Boulevard  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1FF

Date: 16 December 2016

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO  
BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY: BEDFORDSHIRE EAST  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST) AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 November 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) during the year 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 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 Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) and the EFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) and the EFA 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 Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) and the EFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING  
AUDITOR**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust)'s funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 February 2011, and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2015, 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 2015 to 2016. 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 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

23/11/16 # 001/16/0001/01

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO  
BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY: BEDFORDSHIRE EAST  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST) AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY (continued)**

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**APPROACH**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the EFA. 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.

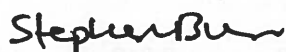
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Multi-Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

A summary of the work we have undertaken is as follows:

- Planned our assurance procedures including identifying key risks;
- Carried out sample testing on controls;
- Carried out substantive testing including analytical review; and
- Concluded on procedures carried out.

**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 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Stephen Brown (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

**Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

The Pinnacle  
160 Midsummer Boulevard  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1FF

Date: 16 December 2016

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
Voluntary income	3	567	-	1,597	2,164	649
Activities for generating funds	4	759	-	-	759	831
Investment income	5	26	-	-	26	21
Incoming resources from charitable activities	6	-	18,466	4,181	22,647	22,030
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,352</b>	<b>18,466</b>	<b>5,778</b>	<b>25,596</b>	<b>23,531</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
Charitable activities		1,163	17,671	448	19,282	19,414
Costs of generating voluntary income		633	-	-	633	506
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	7	<b>1,796</b>	<b>17,671</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>19,920</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>						
Transfers between Funds	21	(444)	795 (347)	5,330 347	5,681 -	3,611 -
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES</b>						
		(444)	448	5,677	5,681	3,611
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	(2,062)	-	(2,062)	(195)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS, AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>						
		(444)	(1,614)	5,677	3,619	3,416
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,220	(1,697)	41,660	41,183	37,767
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>776</b>	<b>(3,311)</b>	<b>47,337</b>	<b>44,802</b>	<b>41,183</b>

The notes on pages 25 to 50 form part of these financial statements.



**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**

Registered number: 07546141

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016**

	Note	£000	2016 £000	£000	2015 £000
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	16		47,611		40,155
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	17	987		1,154	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,310		5,248	
		<u>4,297</u>		<u>6,402</u>	
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>(2,446)</u>		<u>(2,914)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			1,851		3,488
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>49,462</u>		<u>43,643</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	19		<u>(303)</u>		<u>(310)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES</b>			49,159		43,333
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		<u>(4,357)</u>		<u>(2,150)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES</b>			<u>44,802</u>		<u>41,183</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY</b>					
Restricted funds:					
Restricted funds	21	1,046		453	
Restricted fixed asset funds	21	47,337		41,660	
		<u>48,383</u>		<u>42,113</u>	
Restricted funds excluding pension liability					
Pension reserve		<u>(4,357)</u>		<u>(2,150)</u>	
Total restricted funds			44,026		39,963
Unrestricted funds	21		<u>776</u>		<u>1,220</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>44,802</u>		<u>41,183</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue, on 7 December 2016 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Peter Little  
Chair of Directors



The notes on pages 25 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)  
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

	Note	2016 £000	2015 £000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	4,371	5,295
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		26	18
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(6,245)	(4,318)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(6,219)</b>	<b>(4,300)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Finance lease interest		(10)	(14)
Finance lease payments		(80)	(55)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(90)</b>	<b>(69)</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(1,938)</b>	<b>926</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		5,248	4,322
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>5,248</b>

The notes on pages 25 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by EFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The academy is incorporated in England and registered in Bedfordshire.

The functional and presentational currency of the academy trust is Pound Sterling.  
The financial statements are presented to the nearest round thousand.

**First time adoption of FRS 102**

These financial statements are the first financial statements of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Charities SORP 2015 (SORP 2015). The financial statements of Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (Formerly: Bedfordshire East Multi-Academy Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2015 were prepared in accordance with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice ('UK GAAP') and SORP 2005.

Some of the FRS 102 recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements and accounting policy choices differ from previous UK GAAP. Consequently, the Directors have amended certain accounting policies to comply with FRS 102 and SORP 2015.

Reconciliations to previous UK GAAP for the comparative figures are included in note 31.

**1.2 Fund accounting**

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Multi-Academy Trust at the discretion of the Directors.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Directors for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Department for Education 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 and include grants from the Department for Education.

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the Multi-Academy Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Sponsorship income provided to the Multi-Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**1.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs 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.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.5 Going concern**

The Directors 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 Multi-Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements..

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

All assets costing more than £2,000 are capitalised.

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

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	Over the period of the lease
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33% straight line
Asset under the course of construction	-	No depreciation

**1.7 Leasing and hire purchase**

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the Multi-Academy Trust. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

**1.8 Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.9 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Multi-Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**1.10 Taxation**

The Multi-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 Multi-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.

**1.11 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount repaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.12 Cash at Bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**1.13 Liabilities and provisions**

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 Multi-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 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.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.14 Financial instruments**

The Multi-Academy Trust only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade payables or receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration, expected to be paid or received. However if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an outright short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the Multi-Academy Trust would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the balance sheet date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.15 Pension**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Multi-Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the Multi-Academy Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Multi-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 note 26, 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 incorporating income and expenditure account 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.



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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.16 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.

**Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:**

The Multi-Academy Trust 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 26, 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 2013 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2016. 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.

**Critical areas of judgement:**

**Depreciation of fixed assets**

Depreciation rates have been set by management, based on the estimate useful life of the assets, using prior experience and long term planning.

**Donated assets**

Donated assets are valued by qualified experts from the EFA, and the value of donated assets in the financial statements reflect their calculations.

**2. GENERAL ANNUAL GRANT (GAG)**

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the Multi-Academy Trust was subject to limits at 31 August 2016 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next. An amount equal to 12% of GAG could be carried forward, of which up to 2% could be used for general recurrent purposes, with any balance being available for premises/capital purposes.

The Multi-Academy Trust has not exceeded these limits during the year ended 31 August 2016.

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**3. VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
Donations	6	-	1,597	1,603	12
School fund income	561	-	-	561	637
	<u>567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,597</u>	<u>2,164</u>	<u>649</u>

The donated capital asset, Arlesey Nursery, was brought from Central Bedfordshire into GMA. The £1,596k was the insurance value as per Central Bedfordshire's property portfolio at the time of transfer into the Trust. The directors feel the amount is realistic in comparison with the valuation of the other BEST nursery.

In 2015, of the total income from donations and legacies, £NIL was to unrestricted funds and £649k was to restricted funds.

**4. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING INCOME**

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
Hire of facilities	21	-	21	32
Other income	334	-	334	303
Staff recharges	20	-	20	93
Catering income	384	-	384	403
	<u>759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>759</u>	<u>831</u>

In 2015, of the total fundraising income, £831k was to unrestricted funds and £NIL was to restricted funds.

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
Bank interest received	26	-	26	18
Pension finance income	-	-	-	3
	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>

In 2015, of the total investment income, £21k was to unrestricted funds and £NIL was to restricted funds.

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**6. FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
<b>DfE/EFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual grants	-	16,587	16,587	15,723
Other Dfe/EFA grants	-	404	404	444
Local authority grants	-	448	448	519
Educational consultancy services	-	530	530	448
Capital grants	-	4,678	4,678	4,896
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,647</u>	<u>22,647</u>	<u>22,030</u>

In 2015, of the total income from charitable activities, £NIL was to unrestricted funds and £22,030k was to restricted funds.

**7. EXPENDITURE**

	Staff costs 2016 £000	Other costs 2016 £000	Total 2016 £000	Total 2015 £000
<b>Funding for the Academies:</b>				
Direct costs	12,298	1,525	13,823	13,748
Support costs	1,864	3,330	5,194	5,392
Other incoming resources: Support costs	-	237	237	275
	<u>14,162</u>	<u>5,092</u>	<u>19,254</u>	<u>19,415</u>

**8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS**

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Support staff costs	1,798	1,672
Catering costs	237	275
Premises costs	2,346	2,436
Other support costs	1,022	1,247
Governance costs	30	37
	<u>5,433</u>	<u>5,667</u>

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**9. NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(RESOURCES EXPENDED)**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	394	391
- held under finance leases	54	36
Operating lease rentals:		
- PFI agreement	807	855
- other operating leases	95	48
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**10. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Fees payable to the Multi-Academy Trust's auditor and its associates for the audit of the Multi-Academy Trust's annual accounts	17	17
Fees payable to the Multi-Academy Trust's auditor and its associates in respect of:		
Comparison study audit	-	6
All other non-audit services not included above	12	12
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**11. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Wages and salaries	11,240	11,383
Social security costs	881	784
Other pension costs (Note 26)	1,955	1,762
	<u>14,076</u>	<u>13,929</u>
Supply teacher costs	86	86
	<u>14,162</u>	<u>14,015</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling:

2016 - statutory £40,810, non-statutory £1,574

2015 - statutory £2,703, non-statutory £NIL

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

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teaching staff	225	229
Non-teaching staff	173	156
	<u>398</u>	<u>385</u>

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

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	5	5
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	4	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	0	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	0	1
In the band £110,000 - £120,000	1	0

Ten (2015 - nine) of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2016, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £101k (2015 - £90k).

The key management personnel of the multi-academy trust comprise the Directors 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 £819k (2015 - £787k).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**12. CENTRAL SERVICES**

The Multi-Academy Trust provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- School improvement support
- Capital resources and operations support
- HR and payroll
- Finance
- IT
- Head office rental
- Head office admin costs
- Pension reporting

There is a central team that provides these functions across the whole Trust removing the need for duplicating roles and tasks in each academy and therefore providing economies of scale. The school improvement support is additional this year and provides internal and external specialists as required.

In 2015 the Trust charged on a proportionment basis using pupil sizes per academy, however, in this year it determined the charge by applying a flat rate of 5%.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Samuel Whitbread Academy	399
Robert Bloomfield Academy	181
Etonbury Academy	119
Gothic Mede Academy	54
Langford Village Academy	31
Gravenhurst Academy	14
	<hr/>
	798
	<hr/> <hr/>

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**13. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 10 Directors (2015 - 9) in respect of defined contribution pension schemes.

The highest paid Director received remuneration of £114,000 (2015 - £110,000).

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

		<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Robert Robson	Remuneration	110-115	110-115
	Pension contributions paid	15-20	10-15
Adrian Rogers	Remuneration	Resigned in 2015	85-90
			10-15
Alan Lee	Remuneration	55-60	
	Pension contributions paid	5-10	Appointed in 2016
Lyn Rouse	Remuneration	55-60	55-60
	Pension contributions paid	5-10	5-10
Derek Archer	Remuneration	65-70	55-60
	Pension contributions paid	10-15	5-10

During the year, Directors received reimbursement of expenses of £433 (2015 - £30).

**14. DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000k on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2016 was £2k (2015 - £2k).

**15. PENSION FINANCE INCOME / (COST)**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Expected return on pension scheme assets	187	232
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(268)	(229)
	<u>(81)</u>	<u>3</u>

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**16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Asset under the course of const'n £000	Fixtures and fittings £000	Computer equipment £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 September 2015	36,420	4,555	114	218	13	41,320
Additions	1,638	6,246	11	9	-	7,904
Transfer between classes	2,494	(2,665)	116	55	-	-
At 31 August 2016	40,552	8,136	241	282	13	49,224
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2015	903	-	89	172	1	1,165
Charge for the year	355	-	33	57	3	448
At 31 August 2016	1,258	-	122	229	4	1,613
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2016	39,294	8,136	119	53	9	47,611
At 31 August 2015	35,517	4,555	25	46	12	40,155

The net book value of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts, included above, are as follows:

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Long-term leasehold property (solar panels)	332	350
Motor vehicles	10	12
	342	362

**17. DEBTORS**

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Trade debtors	52	245
Other debtors	712	740
Prepayments and accrued income	223	169
	987	1,154



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**18. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net obligations under finance leases	7	18
Trade creditors	1,120	1,653
Other taxation and social security	271	233
Other creditors	242	218
Accruals and deferred income	806	792
	<u>2,446</u>	<u>2,914</u>

Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Included within accruals and deferred income is deferred income of £633k (2015 - 726k).

**19. CREDITORS:  
Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net obligations under finance leases	<u>303</u>	<u>310</u>

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Repayable by instalments	<u>100</u>	<u>142</u>

Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts, included above, are payable as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Between one and five years	203	167
After five years	100	142
	<u>303</u>	<u>309</u>

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**20. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	3,310	5,248
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	864	985
	<u>4,174</u>	<u>6,233</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>1,845</u>	<u>2,265</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise of cash and cash equivalents.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise of trade debtors, other debtors and accrued income.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of net obligations under finance leases, trade creditors, other creditors and accruals.

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**21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Brought Forward £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Carried Forward £000
<b>Designated funds</b>						
RBA School Fund	210	370	(413)	-	-	167
ETA School Fund	66	150	(181)	-	-	35
GMA School Fund	12	19	(18)	-	-	13
GHA School Fund	-	7	(7)	-	-	-
LVA School Fund	6	15	(14)	-	-	7
	<u>294</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>(633)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222</u>
<b>General funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	926	791	(1,163)	-	-	554
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>1,220</u>	<u>1,352</u>	<u>(1,796)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>776</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	43	17,494	(16,620)	(347)	-	570
School Condition Allowance	169	497	(453)	-	-	213
Teaching School	241	475	(453)	-	-	263
Pension reserve	(2,150)	-	(145)	-	(2,062)	(4,357)
	<u>(1,697)</u>	<u>18,466</u>	<u>(17,671)</u>	<u>(347)</u>	<u>(2,062)</u>	<u>(3,311)</u>

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**Restricted fixed asset funds**

	<b>Brought Forward £000</b>	<b>Income £000</b>	<b>Expenditure £000</b>	<b>Transfers in/out £000</b>	<b>Gains/ (Losses) £000</b>	<b>Carried Forward £000</b>
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds - all funds	40,155	1,596	(448)	6,308	-	47,611
Transforming Education - Phase 1	1,505	4,089	-	(5,859)	-	(265)
Transforming Education - Phase 2	-	75	-	(81)	-	(6)
Transforming Education - Free School	-	18	-	(21)	-	(3)
	<u>41,660</u>	<u>5,778</u>	<u>(448)</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,337</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>39,963</u>	<u>24,244</u>	<u>(18,119)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,062)</u>	<u>44,026</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>41,183</u></u>	<u><u>25,596</u></u>	<u><u>(19,915)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,062)</u></u>	<u><u>44,802</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

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

Designated Funds

The schools maintain separate School Funds to manage income and expenditure for school trips and other activities. The SWA school fund is an incorporated charity and is therefore not shown in the financial statements of BEST.

General Fund

This represents income and expenditure relating to activities undertaken by the Academies as part of their charitable aims. The Academies can use these funds for any purpose.

Restricted Funds

The Academies received a number of grants during the year for the purpose of providing educational services to their pupils. These funds included grants from the EFA for the General Annual Grant (GAG), Pupil Premium and Special Educational Needs grants from the Local Authority. These grants have been used for staff costs, educational resources and general costs incurred in the running of the Academies.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi-Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2016.

During the year ended 31 August 2015, BEST prepared a budget with an in-year deficit, supported by reserves, as approved by the EFA. A transfer from unrestricted reserves to GAG was made in respect of deficits held by individual academies at the year end.

The transfer of £347k from GAG to restricted fixed asset funds is to cover the fixed asset additions for all the academies. A significant portion, £285k, of the transfer relates to the construction of RBA's reception and library which was funded from revenue.

The School Condition Allowance (previously know as the Academy Capital Maintenance Fund or Condition Improvement Fund), the RBA Teaching School and Pension reserve are shown separately to GAG.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Fixed Asset Funds are reflective of the net book value of tangible fixed assets held by BEST.

The Transforming Education Fund is funding received from the EFA to expand the capacity of RBA and ETA. During the year ended 31 August 2016, a transfer of £5,859 (2015 - £3,712k) was made in respect of the capital project work held as an asset under the course of construction, which has been transferred to Long-term leasehold property as the buildings come into use.

The Transforming Education project has been extended from 2014/2015 into 2015/2016 with additional funding from Central Bedfordshire to further expand the capacity of ETA. Last year's project was Phase 1 and is now almost complete. Phase 2 is currently at the planning stage with construction expected to begin in March 2017. In addition the Trust is bidding for a Free School. Although these projects are showing deficits they are not complete and more income is expected.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**21. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE**

Fund balances at 31 August 2016 were allocated as follows:

	<b>Total 2016 £000</b>	<b>Total 2015 £000</b>
Samuel Whitbread Academy	193	74
Robert Bloomfield Academy	356	524
Etonbury Academy	57	69
Gravenhurst Academy	161	108
Gothic Mede Academy	402	333
Langford Village Academy	89	81
Centralised function	301	243
Teaching school	263	241
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	1,822	1,673
Restricted fixed asset fund	47,337	41,660
Pension reserve	(4,357)	(2,150)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<u>44,802</u>	<u>41,183</u>

**ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY COST**

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff costs £000</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £000</b>	<b>Educational supplies £000</b>	<b>Other costs excluding depreciat- ion £000</b>	<b>Total 2016 £000</b>	<b>Total 2015 £000</b>
Samuel Whitbread Academy	5,820	521	696	1,636	8,673	9,025
Robert Bloomfield Academy	2,818	455	538	274	4,085	4,922
Etonbury Academy	1,776	244	58	460	2,538	2,377
Gravenhurst Academy	231	44	4	21	300	302
Gothic Mede Academy	872	203	37	201	1,313	1,241
Langford Village Academy	477	107	11	201	796	894
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>11,994</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>1,344</u>	<u>2,793</u>	<u>17,705</u>	<u>18,761</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**22. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted funds 2016 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2016 £000	Total funds 2015 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	47,609	47,609	40,154
Current assets	776	3,522	-	4,298	6,401
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,173)	(272)	(2,445)	(2,912)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(303)	-	(303)	(310)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,357)	-	(4,357)	(2,150)
	<u>776</u>	<u>(3,311)</u>	<u>47,337</u>	<u>44,802</u>	<u>41,183</u>

**23. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW  
FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	5,681	3,611
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	448	427
Interest received	(26)	(18)
Interest paid	10	14
Donated asset	(1,597)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	167	(627)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(457)	1,825
FRS102 pension adjustment	145	63
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>4,371</u>	<u>5,295</u>

**24. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	2016 £000	2015 £000
Cash in hand	3,310	5,248
Total	<u>3,310</u>	<u>5,248</u>

**BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY:  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**25. GRANT FUNDED CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

At 31 August 2016 the Multi-Academy Trust had capital commitments as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	97	5,171

**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

The Multi-Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teacher's Pension Scheme for England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Bedford Borough Council. Both are Multi-employer defined benefit pension schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2013.

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.

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.



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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

Not less than every four years 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 will be as at March 2016, 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 £585k (2015 - £525)k.

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website ([www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx](http://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx)).

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2016 was £740k (2015 - £651k, of which employers' contributions totalled £585k (2015 - £525k and employees contributions totalled £155k (2015 - £126k. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24% for employers and employees' contributions are banded according to their pay scale.

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

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

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.00 %	3.70 %
Expected return on scheme assets at 31 August	2.00 %	3.70 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.10 %	3.50 %
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.10 %	2.60 %

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

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Retiring today		
Males	22.4	22.4
Females	24.3	24.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.4	24.4
Females	26.8	26.8

The Multi-Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2016 £000</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2015 £000</b>
Equities	4,843	3,142
Debt instruments	629	844
Property	629	516
Cash	188	188
Total market value of assets	<u>6,289</u>	<u>4,690</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £672k (2015 - £-63k).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account are as follows:

	<b>2016 £000</b>	<b>2015 £000</b>
Current service cost	(649)	(591)
Interest on obligation	(268)	(229)
Expected return on scheme assets	187	232
Total	<u>(730)</u>	<u>(588)</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>859</u>	<u>95</u>

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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,840	5,836
Current service cost	649	591
Interest cost	268	229
Contributions by scheme participants	155	126
Actuarial Losses	2,734	58
	<u>10,646</u>	<u>6,840</u>
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u><u>10,646</u></u>	<u><u>6,840</u></u>

Movements in the fair value of the Multi-Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Opening fair value of scheme assets	4,690	3,944
Expected return on assets	187	232
Actuarial gains and (losses)	672	(137)
Contributions by employer	585	525
Contributions by employees	155	126
	<u>6,289</u>	<u>4,690</u>
	<u><u>6,289</u></u>	<u><u>4,690</u></u>

**27. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Land and</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Land and</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>buildings</b>		<b>buildings</b>	
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Within 1 year	807	84	820	89
Between 1 and 5 years	3,227	80	3,279	122
After more than 5 years	11,566	-	12,569	-
	<u>15,600</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>16,668</u>	<u>211</u>
	<u><u>15,600</u></u>	<u><u>164</u></u>	<u><u>16,668</u></u>	<u><u>211</u></u>

# **BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY: BEDFORDSHIRE EAST MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST)**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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### **28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The following related party transactions took place during the year:

During the prior year, John R Ford & Sons Ltd, a company in which the former Chair of Directors Richard Ford was also a Director, was paid a total of £2k by BEST, for the maintenance and upkeep of school vehicles. There were no amounts outstanding at the prior year end.

During the year, Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Limited, an independent charitable company with a number of common Directors/Trustees, charged BEST £17k (2015 - £37k) to cover costs associated with assisting BEST. It also charged £7k (2015 - £5k) for the use of a room at BEST House, and £NIL (2015 - £2k) for the use of staff. There were no amounts outstanding at the year end (2015 - £NIL).

### **29. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

In September 2016 the Trust changed its name from Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust Ltd. to Bedfordshire Schools Trust Ltd. Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Ltd. (including Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Nurseries Ltd and Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Trading Ltd.) became a subsidiary of the Trust by resolution in July 2016.

### **30. MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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

### **31. FIRST TIME ADOPTION OF FRS 102**

It is the first year that the Academy Trust has presented its financial statements under SORP 2015 and FRS 102. The following disclosures are required in the year of transition. The last financial statements prepared under previous UK GAAP were for the year ended 31 August 2015 and the date of transition to FRS 102 and SORP 2015 was therefore 1 September 2014. As a consequence of adopting FRS 102 and SORP 2015, a number of accounting policies have changed to comply with those standards.

The policies applied under the Multi-Academy Trust's previous accounting framework are not materially different to FRS 102 and have not impacted on funds or net income/expenditure.