

Company Registration No. 08753719 (England and Wales)

**NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' STRATEGIC REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL**  
**STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

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# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Trustees

P Chandler (Chair)  
P Farrow (Accounting officer)  
N Kimber  
D Stacey  
A Youd

### Members

P Chandler  
A Webber  
S Charman  
M Jones  
C Lloyd

### Senior leadership team

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| P Farrow   | - Executive Headteacher |
| C Browne   | - Head of School        |
| L Ashley   | - Head of School        |
| R Williams | - Headteacher           |
| E Palmer   | - Deputy Headteacher    |
| K Panayi   | - Acting Deputy Head    |
| S Baggs    | - Assistant Headteacher |
| D Bennett  | - Assistant Headteacher |

### Company secretary

S Dossetter

### Company registration number

08753719 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Worsley Bridge Primary School  
Brackley Road  
Beckenham  
BR3 1RF

### Academies operated

Nexus Educational Schools Trust  
Farnborough Primary School  
Worsley Bridge Primary School

### Location

Bromley  
Farnborough  
Beckenham

### Headteacher

P Farrow  
P Farrow  
R Williams

### Independent auditor

Wilkins Kennedy LLP  
Greytown House  
221-227 High Street  
Orpington  
BR6 ONZ

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc  
6-8 Market Square  
Bromley  
Kent  
BR1 1NA

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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Natwest  
41 High Street  
Beckenham  
Kent  
BR3 1DA

### **Solicitors**

Stone King LLP  
13 Queen Square  
Bath  
BA1 2HJ

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and independent auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates two academies servicing catchment areas in the Farnborough and Crofton Ward and Beckenham Ward. Both Schools are 4-11 mainstream Primary Schools with a combined capacity of 900 and has a role of approximately 680 pupils in the census October 2016

Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) through the affiliation with Farnborough Primary school was a member of Academy Learning Collaborative (ALC) and has worked in partnership with seven ALC Academy schools through this financial year. The Directors of seven ALC schools stepped down from the ALC Umbrella Trust in March 2017 but continued to work together with NEST on the process of transferring to NEST in autumn 2017. Directors of the ALC agreed that the company would be wound up at the end of the financial year.

In July 2017 six academy schools having completed due diligence, resolved to transfer to NEST on 1 November 2017, increasing pupil numbers to over 2500. Over the next three years Nexus Education Schools Trust MAT plans to grow further, adding a second hub of primary schools. A combination of continued growth in its existing schools and the incorporation of new member schools will see projected total pupil numbers in the Trust rise steadily from the current 680 to over 3,000 in 2018 and over 4,500 by 2020.

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

##### Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 08753719) and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. The Trust Directors act as the Trustees for the charitable activities of Nexus Education Schools Trust (N.E.S.T) and are also Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Farnborough Primary School was incorporated on 29 October 2013 and obtained Academy status from 1 December 2013.

The Academy Trust changed its name from Farnborough Primary School to Nexus Educational Schools Trust effective from 17 November 2015.

Worsley Bridge Primary School converted to an academy and joined the Nexus Educational Schools Trust on the 1 January 2016.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Principal activities

The principal activity of the Academy is to advance for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom. In particular, but without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a School offering a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 -11. The schools operated by the Trust include Farnborough Primary School in Farnborough and Worsley Bridge Primary School in Beckenham.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

The trustees are appointed under the terms of the Academy's Articles of Association and are subject to retirement after four years but are eligible for reappointment at the meeting at which they retire. New appointments are made through an advertisement, application and interview process which seeks the skills required for the implementation of the strategic plan for member schools.

### Members

The Members of the Academy Trust shall comprise:

- the signatories to the Memorandum to the extent their membership has not terminated in accordance with these Articles; provided that at any time the minimum number of Members shall not be less than three.
- any person appointed under Article 15A, that the Members agree through the passing of a special resolution to appoint such additional Members as they think fit.
- An employee of the Academy Trust cannot be a Member of the Academy Trust

### Trustees

The Members may appoint up to 7 Trustees (Directors), subject to Article 50.

Under the terms of the Articles in place throughout the year, NEST multi academy trust shall have the following trustees:

- up to 7 trustees, subject to Articles 48 and 49 and appointed under Article 50 to include individuals with relevant skills which may include (without limitation), finance, HR and school improvement
- The number of trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum
- a Chief Executive Officer /Executive Head Teacher. The total number of Trustees including those under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees
- a minimum of two Parent Local Committee Members appointed under Articles 53 – 58.

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

Future Trustees shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Trustee to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

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

During the period under review the Trustees held 8 board meetings. The training and induction provided for new Trustees and Local committee members will depend on their existing experience. Each new trustee and Local Committee member receives induction training through the Bromley Governor training package. All are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees or Local Committee members.

### Organisational structure

The Trust has an organisational structure to enable its efficient running, which includes a separate Local Committee for each school. The trust is held to account by its members. The management structure through devolved responsibility enables the efficient running, involvement of decision making at all levels and the successful implementation of the trusts and school strategic priorities.

The Trust board is responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual strategic plan and budget, monitoring of the trusts school's performance, financial expenditure and impact through benchmarking. The Committees of the Trust Board monitor the effectiveness of individual schools in upholding the objectives, policies and procedures of the Trust.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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#### Organisational structure (continued)

The Board has four committees

1. Education Strategy and Standards
2. Remuneration and Nomination
3. Audit and Risk
4. Finance and Resources

#### Education Strategy and Standards Committee

The prime function of the committee is to monitor the performance of schools against local and national data, to ensure high standards of achievement and progress of all pupils. The committee evaluates the impact of the trust using bench mark data and overall effectiveness, to support and develop a strategic plan for schools. The overall strategy for schools covers the quality of provision, age range, curriculum, assessment, and staffing and community access. The committee's remit is to insure our schools are safe, purposeful and equitable for all.

The committee review the progress of pupil groups within schools, including those with Special Educational Needs, those on free school meals, looked after pupils, young carers and the more able and vulnerable pupils. In 2016 -17 standards of achievement and progress for all groups of pupils were strong against national and local comparators. The monitoring of provision also highlighted the breadth of provision and the focus of the whole child.

#### Remuneration and Nomination committee

The committee review the recommendations of the STPC for teacher pay and local pay agreements and recommend, based on central team advice annual percentage increases for agreement by the Board. The committee are part of the procedure for recruiting new trustees and additional members to the Local Committees.

The Audit and Risk Committee and Finance and Resources Committee's purpose is explained within the Governance report.

The term of office for any Trustee or Local Committee member shall be four years, this time limit shall not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Trustees may be re-appointed if re-elected.

The Local Committee representation for each school is recommended to consist of the Headteacher; up to two staff members, up to three community members and two parent members; all of whom have been elected or appointed by the school community. The Local Committee may also have any Co-opted member appointed to support the strategic priorities of the school or the trust and where appropriate Trust board nominees.

Future Local Committee members shall be appointed or elected. Where it is not possible for a Local Committee Member to be appointed or elected, due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established or it requires support, then the Trust board will oversee the appointment and management of the Local Committee.

#### School level

The structure consists of four levels: Local Committee, Senior Leadership Team, Phase Leaders and Middle Leaders. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Local Committee members are responsible for setting general policy, agreeing a draft budget ratified by the trust board, adopting an annual School Development Plan, monitoring the Academy, using key objective budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### Organisational structure

#### School level (continued)

The Senior Leadership Team are the Headteacher, Phase Leaders and Deputy Headteacher. These leaders control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the board and Local committee and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for senior leader posts contain at least one local committee member. Some spending control is devolved to Middle Leaders, with limits above which the Headteacher must countersign. The Trust board monitors, evaluates, and supports the work of the local committee and management teams within each school.

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

Pay and remuneration for all staff employed by the Trust is reviewed annually. The Trust follows the guidance from the School teachers pay and conditions document and any relevant body when reviewing salary. All senior leadership remuneration is in line with the ISR unit rating for the individual school. Where leaders are working across two schools in an executive role, the combined unit of the schools will be used to formulate an ISR rating for the executive role. Where recruitment and retention of leaders is problematic or set skills are required then the board may enhance the ISR point by up to 25% in line with the recommendations of the STPCD.

The Trust has a robust model of performance management for all its Head Teachers completed by an external reviewer. Recommendation for pay awards by the Local Committee are agreed by the Trust board. The role and performance of the executive Head Teacher, a Key management person within the trust is reviewed and assessed by the Trust board pay committee with advice from an external improvement partner.

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

Both schools have a strong Parents Associations. They are separate charities and work within the local and school community for the benefit of the pupils at the individual school.

Worsley Bridge Primary School appointed on a three month contract a premises consultant related to the Trustee P Farrow for essential upgrade work. The appointment followed Trust policies on procurement, procedures and best value in-line with the guidance from the financial management handbook.

Farnborough Primary school was until March 2017, a member of an Umbrella Trust organisation called the Academy Learning Collaborative (ALC). The Trustees of six ALC schools stepped down in March 2017. The ALC continued as an incorporated company with three schools, whose articles and memorandum are to support the development of the member schools. The six schools agreed to continue the school improvement programme through Nexus Education Schools Trust financed at 1.5% General Annual Grant.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### Objectives and activities

#### Objects and aims

*Children are central to everything we do; we aspire for excellence and opportunity for all*

### Vision

*"Excellence and opportunity for all"*

### Aims

- To create an inclusive culture of learning, where all children will be challenged in their thinking, strive for continuous improvement and be motivated to become lifelong learners.
- To empower our children to become respected citizens to enable them to make valuable contributions locally, globally and to contribute to our children's sustainable future
- To develop a strong network of diverse and inclusive schools with similar values, aspirations and a commitment to enable all learners to succeed
- To drive improvement within the collaborative and deliver excellent outcomes for all learners and leaders
- To minimise the barriers to progress and achievement in the schools and communities in which we work
- To advocate the interests of member schools and their children in local, national and global planning and policy
- To achieve efficiencies in the provision and procurement of goods and services
- To secure funding for educational projects within and beyond the Trust
- To further develop successful educational partnerships beyond the Trust

### Values

The shared vision and values of Nexus Education Schools Trust and all the member Academies underpins the culture and ethos of the Multi Academy Trust.

Nexus Education Schools Trust fully supports the independence and distinguishing characteristics of each of the Academies, it seeks to provide:

- a level of autonomy that is proportionate to the success of the Academy which, together with a focus purely on primary schools, is what gives Nexus its distinctiveness.
- Recognising the value of collaboration and the advantage of a public association, we will provide a voice on national issues affecting the Academy Trust and our academies, helping to communicate the Academy Trust's needs and concerns to those responsible for the funding and regulation of publicly funded schools.
- The Trust is outward looking and will endeavour to adapt with educational changes and societal influences

### Our Trust schools value

- each child's intellectual, physical, aesthetic, spiritual, emotional, moral and social development;
- individual differences and the individual needs of each child;
- our friendships and our sense of community, the involvement of parents/families/carers in the life of the school fostering a positive, supportive home/school relationship;
- equality of opportunity for all;
- truthfulness, honesty, politeness and consideration towards others;
- respect and tolerance of the opinions and beliefs of others;
- commitment and determination to realise dreams and the ability to inspire confidence and courage to achieve success;
- the qualities of patience and sensitivity;
- self-discipline, self-respect, empathy and the capacity to live as an independent, self-motivated person with an awareness of our sociality and the world community.
- our children's inquisitive and imaginative minds, their questions and ideas

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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As an organisation we recognise that each school's communities are different. We value each school's uniqueness and its contribution in ensuring pupils have the best education and experiences. Each school is linked to the success of the organisation. We believe passionately that together we can make a greater difference; providing higher education outcomes and wider opportunities for our pupils and greater prospects for our staff and communities.

Each organisation commits to our **NEST CHOICE** values. It is a reminder that we have made a choice to be a part of the wider organisation of Nexus Education Schools Trust and that we are all obligated to the community as a whole.

Nurture  
Educate  
Succeed  
Transform

Our CHOICE core values are: -

- Collaboration - enables us all to be part of the co-creation, review and development of an effective MAT, empowered through effective leadership.
- Honesty - provides an ethos of openness and fairness; providing challenge, reliability and integrity.
- Opportunity - provides progress and advancement for all.
- Inclusivity - everyone one is respected, valued and safe. Learning engages and develops
- Confidence - to have a go and take risks, to equip us all for challenge, develop independent and assurance
- Enjoyment - innovative, creative and fun. Individuals have a zest and confidence to develop the provision and enhance its outcomes

The trust schools are caring communities with learning at their heart. Nexus Education Schools Trust is a primary school trust for pupils aged 4 to 11. All School staff encourage children to aim high, be honest and work together. Senior leader, Local Committee members and Trustees work with colleagues and other partners to promote high standards and teamwork. There is a sense of purpose, fun and enjoyment in each of the schools which is nurtured and sustained. Leaders work to ensure that we keep the best of what we have while continually striving to improve and build on strong foundations.

Each school enables each child to practise important skills for life such as being responsible, learning to read, write, spell, be numerate, make informed choices and to love learning across a wide curriculum that includes science, art, music, sport, languages and humanities.

The trust strives to enhance facilities, buildings and outdoor spaces to deliver today's modern, demanding and creative curriculum.

The culture and ethos of the Trust schools is one where everyone works hard to ensure that the children are safe, secure, and part of a friendly caring community; where children are happy and excited about coming to school; where we learn, achieve and make progress and to develop knowledge, skills and understanding across a wide curriculum; where pupils thrive, and develop the skills they need for life-long learning.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the Trust during the period ended 31 August 2017 are summarised below:

- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high-quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Academies by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- to maintain close links with our communities
- to conduct the Multi Academy Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) community of schools values diversity and seeks to give everyone an equal chance to learn, work and live, free from the action, or fear, of racism, discrimination, or prejudice. By our actions we will work together to develop the potential of all pupils academically, socially, culturally and psychologically and to establish a community that is just and fair for all people who work at or visit any NEST School.

Nexus Education Schools Trust schools strive to ensure pupils are happy and healthy, enthused by the intellectual, social and physical challenges posed by their experience at School. They develop as independent learners in an age appropriate way, developing how to learn and the role of emotions and dispositions in the learning process, which they draw on to address challenge and difficulty, as well as success.

All trust staff have an opportunity to develop further as self-directed, reflective learners, through working collaboratively with others to enhance their own expertise. Through their passion, teachers and support staff will enthuse and inspire others to explore new ideas.

Parents fulfil their roles as true partners, recognising their role in the pupil - school - parent partnership to ensure that their child realises his/her potential.

Local Committee members will contribute to the life of their school on a wider scale, acting as professional colleagues to support each school in becoming a centre of excellence for their school community.

#### Public benefit

The Trust Board Directors and members confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The aim of the trust is to provide a rich extended curriculum to promote and support the advancement of education and opportunity for all pupils.

The criteria used to admit pupils to the Trust schools; Farnborough Primary School and Worsley Bridge Primary School :-

- Looked after children
- Siblings
- Proximity to the School

In September 2016 the furthest offer made at Farnborough Primary School was 1.08 miles from the School. All places were offered at Worsley Bridge Primary School. All Nexus Education Trust Schools follow the London Borough of Bromley Admission Procedures (see LBB website).

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### Strategic report

#### Achievements and performance

2016/17 has been a successful year for the Trust schools and its partner schools. The Trust has continued to support schools as they move to joining the Trust through the school improvement programme as well as schools outside the Trust. Data and external reviews showing impact on standards, achievement and opportunity for all.

Pupils in both trust schools come from a very wide range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The Trust prides itself on being inclusive. The Trust academies continue to develop and adapt to the new education landscape. During the year the trust has worked in partnership with seven academies in the development, support and diligence programme enabling these schools to join the Trust in 2017 -18. The Trust had been working outside the organisation with schools that require support and intervention through the National Support Schools programme.

The Trust Board uses national, local and school data as Key performance indicators, along with the OFS framework. It monitors the schools against local and national data to ensure high standards of achievement. If a school is externally evaluated and RAG rated termly to monitor the effectiveness of each school against the OFS framework.

#### Farnborough Primary School

The most recent inspection graded the school as Outstanding in all areas. The school is also a National Support School supporting and developing other schools. The Executive Head Teacher has provided intensive leadership support during the year to the sponsor school. The school accepted a bulge class in September 2015 and in 2016 as part of a partnership with the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places and increase outstanding provision. Planning to increase the building to accommodate two forms of entry was refused in July 2017 and the Trust Board are working with the Local Authority to review provision for pupils within the community and the provision of facilities at Farnborough Primary School.

The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is 3% (2016) below the national average, with 9.2% on the Ever 6 FSM. In 2015 -16 there were 18.83% of pupils identified with Special Educational Needs. Pupil attendance and behaviour is outstanding. In 2016 the attendance percentage was 97, placing the school in the top 20% of all schools nationally.

During part of this academic year Farnborough continued to be a member of the Academy Learning Collaborative. NEST has provided a programme of internal and external reviews on the quality of provision, and assessment data.

NEST has supported curriculum developments and has provided an external quality assurance review. Three external reviews were completed evaluating attainment, quality of Teaching and Learning and Leadership. Farnborough was RAG rated green against the OFSTED outcomes judgements.

#### Worsley Bridge Primary School

The school became part of the trust in January 2016 as a sponsored academy, carrying a requires improvement OFSTED grading. The Head Teacher from Farnborough led the school from June 2015 as part of the intensive support prior to the move to the trust.

Results in 2016 and 2017 show the school to have made rapid progress and the recruitment of a new leadership team and staff has provided stability and confidence within the community. NEST external review programme ratified the rapid school improvement journey, the school was rag rated green. The Head Teacher from Farnborough continues to provide support in the capacity of the Executive Head Teacher across both schools.

The school has had intensive upgrades to the building and in July 2016 the £3.5million pound funded project in partnership with the Local Authority providing additional school places was completed. 2016 -17 has seen significant investment to the existing building with upgrades to the lighting, flooring, grounds and school facilities.

**The School is graded Good in all categories and Outstanding in leadership, behaviour and attitudes to learning and Early Years, through our external review programme.**

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is 15.5% (2016) above Bromley LA at 10.2%, this figure has dropped by 5% over the year as an impact of the Universal school meal offer. In 2015 -16 there were 11.4% of pupils identified with Special Educational Needs.

#### **Future Schools**

Robust due diligence was completed throughout 2016 -17 by NEST and its future partner schools. Authorisation by Education Skills Funding Agency, Department of Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner was agreed for a transfer in 2017 - 18. Schools joining the Trust on 1 November are:

- Alexandra Junior School
- Highfield Infants' School
- Highfield Junior School
- Manor Oak Primary School
- Perry Hall Primary School
- Pickhurst Infant Academy

All partner schools bring a wealth of expertise and strength to the organisation. All are graded Good or Outstanding by OFSTED.

#### **Attainment 2017**

Local Committees and the Board use a variety of performance measures to review and monitor schools. The Standard Assessment Test data is just one data set used to compare schools.

Attainment at Key Stage 1 - % at Expected and Greater depth

| School                     | Key Stage 1 Expected |         |       | Key Stage 1 Exceeding Expected |         |       |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------|-------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
|                            | Reading              | Writing | Maths | Reading                        | Writing | Maths |
| Farnborough Primary School | 93.3%                | 87%     | 87%   | 53.3%                          | 40%     | 40%   |
| Worsley Bridge Primary     | 77%                  | 75%     | 77%   | 33.3%                          | 18.8%   | 16.7% |
| Bromley (provisional)      | 79.9%                | 74%     | 79.4% | 31.4%                          | 20.8%   | 26.1% |

Attainment and progress measures at Key Stage 2

| School                     | Key Stage 2 Expected |         |       | Combined | Key Stage 2 Exceeding |         |       |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
|                            | Reading              | Writing | Maths |          | Reading               | Writing | Maths |
| Farnborough Primary School | 89%                  | 86%     | 89%   | 82%      | 32%                   | 32%     | 39%   |
| Progress                   | 2.1                  | -1.1    | 3.2   |          |                       |         |       |
| Worsley Bridge Primary     | 70%                  | 77%     | 70%   | 61%      | 19%                   | 18%     | 23%   |
| Progress                   | -0.4                 | 0.6     | -1.3  |          |                       |         |       |
| National                   | 71%                  | 76%     | 75%   | 61%      | 25%                   | 18%     | 23%   |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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#### Key performance indicators

The trustees consider the following to be the Key performance indicators for the Multi Academy Trust

- Pupil numbers  
The trust considers this to be a leading factor in the viability of extending the services and opportunities within its schools. The trust aims to provide education for 5,000 pupils.
- Financial stability  
The trust aims for expenditure not to exceed income. Schools are delegated the responsibility to match priority to expenditure. A school's budget is ratified by the board. Centralised fund income and expenditure is agreed by Nexus Education Schools Trust and is accountable to its member schools for the provision of agreed services. The level of services is matched to the income and expenditure of the member schools
- Staff costs  
The trust monitors the percentage of income received from the ESFA against staffing costs in the academies.

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the Board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

#### **Financial review**

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Education, Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, some of which are restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2017 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2017, total expenditure of £3,831k (2016: £2,699k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the period (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and transfers to restricted fixed asset funds) was £141k (2016: £514k).

At 31 August 2017 the net book value of fixed assets was £6,846k (2016: £6,895k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The London Borough of Bromley Pension Fund, in which the Academy participates, showed a deficit of £480k (2016:£591k )at 31 August 2017.

#### Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four weeks' expenditure, approximately £254k (2016: £172k).

The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Academy's current level of unrestricted reserves of £382k (2016: £378k) calculated as total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds. The trustees expect the excess of general unrestricted funds to reduce in the coming periods.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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The total of free reserves incorporates an element of continued development work on the Worsley bridge site, to improve the existing old building and enhance the outside facilities and ICT upgrades to mobile and computer infrastructure in both Trust schools. The completion of these works will bring the reserves in line with the Trust policy of four weeks expenditure for each academy within the group.

#### Investment policy and powers

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Academy has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the trustees see fit. The organisation has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses. The banking facilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

#### Financial position

The Academy held fund balances at 31 August 2017 of £7,076k (2016: £6,916k) comprising £6,694k (2016: £6,538k) of restricted funds and £382k (2016: £378k) of unrestricted general funds. Of the restricted funds, £6,846k (2016: £6,895k) is represented by tangible fixed assets and £328k (2016: £234k) of unspent restricted funds.

The pension reserve which is considered part of restricted funds was £480k (2016: £591k) in deficit.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trust Board of Trustees has a risk management policy and a risk register reviewed by the Audit and risk committee. Each academy has a risk register that is monitored by the Local committee on an annual basis. The trust reviews these risks annually. The key areas identified are strategic and reputational, operational, organisational, Compliance and Financial.

#### Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Multi Academy Trust is exposed, in particular, those relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the trust and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems, to assess risks that each school faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors to maintain strict safeguarding protocols and manage risk. Any prospective school joining the trust has a full due diligence review to minimise any future risk to the organisation. Where there is significant financial risk the trust has ensured there is adequate insurance cover. Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST) multi academy trust has an effective system of internal control which is explained in the governance statement.

#### Individual Academy risks

The risks associated with each open academy include fluctuating pupil numbers.

For Worsley Bridge the move to three forms of entry and historical under occupancy is a financial risk. Quality first teaching is a priority of the Trust and the Trustees have supported the appointment of a strong leadership team and new teachers throughout the school to mitigate poor standards and encourage uptake over time. Staff retention has been a priority and early recruitment in 2016 has mitigated the need to employ supply staff and reduce the outgoings on staffing. Retention of high quality staff continues to be a priority for the trust with the implementation of support and training throughout the schools.

For Farnborough Primary the prolonged planning process has required remedial measures to be undertaken by the trust to the premises. The long term strategic implications of the planning process are a risk to staff retention and recruitment. The building will require significant updating in 5 -10 years and in the short term the infrastructure will not accommodate new technology adequately. The funding that is presently allocated to the development will be redirected in the future to meet demand for places and would have significant financial repercussions for the trust to resource major development. The lack of additional school places at Farnborough would add to insufficient places and choice within the Local Authority. The financial pressure for a continued one form entry to deliver high quality services with a lower funding is a continued risk. Trustees have tried to mitigate risk by working in partnership with the Local Authority,

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

The main financial risks to which each Academy is exposed, taking account of the mitigations in place, relate the risk of an income shortfall due to the likelihood of further government spending reductions affecting our general grant. A risk also arises, in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme, due to the fact that there is a deficit of £480k (2016: £591k)

The principal risks and uncertainties that Nexus Education Schools Trust faces are mitigated by the risk management process that the Academy Trust has in place.

| Over view of risk                   | Mitigating Actions  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Key person loss/<br>succession risk | <p>Effective recruitment, retention, succession planning and leadership development</p> <p>Suitable staffing structure with the MAT to support growth</p> <p>Pay panel reviews staff salaries regularly to ensure they are competitive.</p> <p>Trustees benchmark CEO and key central staff pay against other MATs to ensure it is competitive.</p> <p>Highly effective CPD ensures high retention rate</p> <p>Talent spotting and development programme across the MAT to provide succession opportunities and carer development.</p>                                  |
| Safeguarding inadequacies           | <p>All staff and committee members trained annually</p> <p>Safeguarding audits of schools internally by schools and Local committees and externally</p> <p>Suitably trained staff to support pupil welfare programmes</p> <p>Suitably qualified staff to monitor and ensure compliance in health and safety across the trust.</p>   |
| Financial                           | <p>Economies of scale through gradual expansion, the centralising of contracts and efficient larger procurement.</p> <p>Balanced budget setting, and in year strong financial monitoring of delegated budgets.</p> <p>Support and training to ensure financial efficiencies and compliance to procedure and protocol</p> <p>Centralised support, training and monitoring of budgets to provide cost effective delivery and efficient use of time.</p> <p>Alternative funding streams through grant bids and additional income generation externally by central team</p> |

#### Plans for future periods

The Academy will continue striving to improve the levels of performance of its pupils in all areas of the school curriculum. It endeavours to provide appropriate resources including staffing that will have significant impact on pupil achievement and attainment.

Both Schools have a very good understanding of their strengths and areas for development based on rigorous analysis of data and monitoring of teaching and learning. The Schools also make good use of external validation to secure its judgement on the quality of provision and subsequent outcomes. The School Development Plans (SDP) have key areas identified for improvement and are based on regular analysis of data which is meticulously analysed by the Executive Headteacher, Head Teachers, Heads of School and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SDP is regularly monitored and amended annually by the SLT and **Local Committee**. It is underpinned by appropriate budget links

School improvement strategies are constantly under review and effectively identify underperforming areas and address them through a combination of rigorous monitoring, good continuing staff development, including coaching and thorough analysis of pupil performance data. The Schools make good provision for personalised learning, support and intervention programmes for individual pupils and the quality of provision for inclusion is very good due to bespoke programmes aimed at raising achievement.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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The drive for excellence is evident in many aspects of School life, but particularly in the strong culture of collaboration, openness and commitment to professional learning. Staff continuing professional development is good; as is, the way that all staff work relentlessly at sharing best practice across the Trust to fulfil each School's moral imperative to improve the quality of learning for all our pupils. Our fundamental approach is improving on our previous best.

November 2017 will see the trust expand to include a further six convertor academies. These schools incorporate a Teaching School and all schools are graded good or outstanding. The combined strength will complement and add capacity to the work of the Trust and its support to partner schools. This growth will provide the Trust with significant expertise and resources enabling it to effectively support its partner schools and continue its work with schools outside the Trust.

The ongoing pressure on school places and the commitment to expand Farnborough Primary after consultation and in partnership with the Local Authority, to a two-form entry is continuing to be debated by the Trust in partnership with the Local Authority. The move to two forms of entry will enable pupils to have the best possible resources to develop a breadth of opportunities both academic and social; as well as enabling staff to further develop their own skills, benefit from collaboration, enable career developed and aid staff retention. Worsley Bridge Primary School continues to grow year on year as it moves to a 3 forms of entry primary school.

Nexus Education School Trust continues to provide efficient and effective resourcing for its schools. It has a long term aim to provide a multi hub structure for over 5,000 pupils, providing its partner schools economies of scale greater collaboration and challenge. NEST will continue to support and work with external agencies, Local Authorities and other Multi Academy Trusts to provide the best possible opportunities and outcomes for all.

### **Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The directors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of trustees, as the company directors, on 08 December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

P Chandler  
**Chair**

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, 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 Nexus Education Schools Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. There was an increase in number of meetings due to the move to Multi Academy Trust Status. The Board of Trust Directors has formally met 8 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of trustees was as follows:

| <b>Trustees</b>               | <b>Meetings attended</b> | <b>Out of possible</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| P Chandler (Chair)            | 8                        | 8                      |
| P Farrow (Accounting officer) | 8                        | 8                      |
| N Kimber                      | 8                        | 8                      |
| D Stacey                      | 8                        | 8                      |
| A Youd                        | 6                        | 8                      |

There have been no changes to the board in 2016-17. Two vacancies have been held to enable partner schools Trustees to apply through the Academy Ambassador Scheme. An annual skills audit assesses the requirements of the Board.

The Board has supported, monitored and reviewed the robust due diligence process for the prospective transferring schools. Workshops and training sessions have been completed to aid understanding, collaboration and development of the Trust. The Board has reviewed its performance termly and the impact. Information and data regarding school's performance is presented to the Board to aid depth of understanding of a school's financial and academic performance.

The Trust has continued to reflect and adapt its Governance structures to provide a strong accountability framework. During 2016 -17 a self- review of governance was conducted at both local and trustee level with amendments for the next financial year with the expansion of the Trust. The Board and its sub committees can be expanded to include appropriately skilled members from Local Committees. Consistency across the Local committees, membership and the scheme of delegation have all been reviewed at Local and trustee level. Template agendas and formats for Local committee meetings has also been designed and applied to provide continuity and effective communication at different levels throughout the trust. The Board agendas mirror those of Local Committee with structured headings which refer to the sub committees of the Board. This is to insure the flow of correct information to the appropriate committee.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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The Board has four sub committees; Education Strategy and Standards, Remuneration and Nomination, Audit and Risk, Finance and Resources. In 2017 -18 wider representation by Local committee members will be included on the committees.

#### Finance and Resources Committee

The committee is responsible for the monitoring of finance, staff and buildings within the trust. This year the focus has been on the financial sustainability of our schools and the growth of the Trust

In 2017-18 the committees of the Trust Board will include members from Local committees, to enable effective communication between the layers and stronger accountability to member schools.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| <b>Trustees</b>               | <b>Meetings attended</b> | <b>Out of possible</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| P Chandler (Chair)            | 6                        | 6                      |
| P Farrow (Accounting officer) | 6                        | 6                      |
| N Kimber                      | 6                        | 6                      |
| D Stacey                      | 6                        | 6                      |
| A Youd                        | 4                        | 6                      |

#### Audit and Risk Committee

The committee reviews the audit reports for each school, monitoring the effectiveness of the scheme of delegation and assessing any risk. The committee reviews risk and potential liabilities, and the policies related to the protocols and procedure within the organisation. Audit and Risk main purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. It reports annually to the board and the accounting officer as part of the Trust's annual reporting requirements. A representative from our internal auditors joins this committee.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

| <b>Trustees</b>               | <b>Meetings attended</b> | <b>Out of possible</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| P Chandler (Chair)            | 6                        | 6                      |
| P Farrow (Accounting officer) | 6                        | 6                      |
| N Kimber                      | 6                        | 6                      |
| D Stacey                      | 6                        | 6                      |
| A Youd                        | 4                        | 6                      |

#### Review of value for money

As accounting officer the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trust Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Improving academic standards across the Trust
- Breadth of opportunities in sport and music through the procurement of additional specialist staff
- Providing school to school support through the provision of a National Leader of Education
- Improving the facilities in the school
- Continuing to develop high calibre staff through continued professional development training.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Nexus Education Schools Trust for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### **Capacity to handle risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

### **The risk and control framework**

The academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint a responsible officer within its Trust, but to have its Auditors Wilkins Kennedy cover this role, by providing additional external checks and balances. The Board have appointed Wilkins Kennedy LLP, to complete the internal audit function. Wilkins Kennedy LLP's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems.

In particular the checks carried out in the current period include:

- Testing of control systems
- Testing of control account/ bank reconciliation
- Review of policies and procedures and adherence thereon
- Review of governance and training of Trustees

Wilkins Kennedy LLP reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities. The role is carried out by a separate office at Wilkins Kennedy LLP with no connection to the audit team, this is to ensure the reviews are carried out independently.

The Trustees confirm the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, no material issues arose.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017*

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### **Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the Internal Audit Review;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self assessment process;
- the work of the Senior Leadership Team within the 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 Resources Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of trustees on 08 December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

P Chandler  
**Chair**

P Farrow  
**Accounting officer**

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017*

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

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

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

P Farrow  
**Accounting Officer**

08 December 2017

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the Board of trustees on 08 December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

P Chandler  
**Chair**

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nexus Education Schools Trust for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

### Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

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

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)

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for and on behalf of Wilkins Kennedy LLP

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**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**

Greytown House  
221-227 High Street  
Orpington  
BR6 ONZ

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 29 June 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Nexus Education Schools Trust during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Nexus Education Schools Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated December 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2016, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

### **Approach**

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

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

# **NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST**

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

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### **Conclusion**

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Reporting Accountant**

Wilkins Kennedy LLP  
Greytown House  
221-227 High Street  
Orpington  
BR6 ONZ

Dated: 13 December 2017

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

|   | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£'000 | Restricted funds:<br>General<br>£'000 | Fixed asset<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                          |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| Donations and capital grants                                | 3     | 62                             | 15                                    | 15                   | 92                     | 39                     |
| Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion     |       | -                              | -                                     | -                    | -                      | 3,520                  |
| Charitable activities:                                      |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| - Funding for educational operations                        | 4     | -                              | 3,510                                 | -                    | 3,510                  | 2,864                  |
| Other trading activities                                    | 5     | 198                            | -                                     | -                    | 198                    | 101                    |
| Investments   | 6     | 1                              | -                                     | -                    | 1                      | 1                      |
| <b>Total income and endowments</b>                          |       | <u>261</u>                     | <u>3,525</u>                          | <u>15</u>            | <u>3,801</u>           | <u>6,525</u>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                      |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| Charitable activities:                                      |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| - Educational operations                                    | 8     | <u>131</u>                     | <u>3,514</u>                          | <u>186</u>           | <u>3,831</u>           | <u>2,702</u>           |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                    | 7     | <u>131</u>                     | <u>3,514</u>                          | <u>186</u>           | <u>3,831</u>           | <u>2,702</u>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>                             |       | 130                            | 11                                    | (171)                | (30)                   | 3,823                  |
| Transfers between funds                                     |       | (126)                          | 4                                     | 122                  | -                      | -                      |
| <b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>                    |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes | 19    | <u>-</u>                       | <u>190</u>                            | <u>-</u>             | <u>190</u>             | <u>(258)</u>           |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                                |       | 4                              | 205                                   | (49)                 | 160                    | 3,565                  |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                              |       |                                |                                       |                      |                        |                        |
| Total funds brought forward                                 |       | <u>378</u>                     | <u>(357)</u>                          | <u>6,895</u>         | <u>6,916</u>           | <u>3,351</u>           |
| Total funds carried forward                                 |       | <u>382</u>                     | <u>(152)</u>                          | <u>6,846</u>         | <u>7,076</u>           | <u>6,916</u>           |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

| Comparative year information<br>Year ended 31 August 2016 | Notes | Unrestricted | Restricted funds: |              | Total        |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   |       | Funds        | General           | Fixed asset  | 2016         |
|   |       | £'000        | £'000             | £'000        | £'000        |
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                        |       |              |                   |              |              |
| Donations and capital grants                              | 3     | 39           | -                 | -            | 39           |
| Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion   |       | 302          | (180)             | 3,398        | 3,520        |
| Charitable activities:                                    |       |              |                   |              |              |
| - Funding for educational operations                      | 4     | -            | 2,864             | -            | 2,864        |
| Other trading activities                                  | 5     | 101          | -                 | -            | 101          |
| Investments   | 6     | 1            | -                 | -            | 1            |
| <b>Total income and endowments</b>                        |       | <u>443</u>   | <u>2,684</u>      | <u>3,398</u> | <u>6,525</u> |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                    |       |              |                   |              |              |
| Charitable activities:                                    |       |              |                   |              |              |
| - Educational operations                                  | 8     | 76           | 2,540             | 86           | 2,702        |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                  | 7     | <u>76</u>    | <u>2,540</u>      | <u>86</u>    | <u>2,702</u> |
| <b>Net income</b>   |       | 367          | 144               | 3,312        | 3,823        |
| Transfers between funds                                   |       | (75)         | (100)             | 175          | -            |
| <b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>                  |       |              |                   |              |              |
| Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes       | 19    | -            | (258)             | -            | (258)        |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                              |       | 292          | (214)             | 3,487        | 3,565        |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>                            |       |              |                   |              |              |
| Total funds brought forward                               |       | 86           | (143)             | 3,408        | 3,351        |
| Total funds carried forward                               |       | <u>378</u>   | <u>(357)</u>      | <u>6,895</u> | <u>6,916</u> |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017

|  |       | 2017       |              | 2016       |              |
|--|-------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
|  | Notes | £'000      | £'000        | £'000      | £'000        |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |            |              |            |              |
| Tangible assets                                | 12    |            | 6,846        |            | 6,895        |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |            |              |            |              |
| Debtors  | 13    | 141        |              | 238        |              |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 795        |              | 718        |              |
|  |       | <u>936</u> |              | <u>956</u> |              |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                     |       |            |              |            |              |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 14    | (226)      |              | (344)      |              |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                      |       |            | 710          |            | 612          |
| <b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>  |       |            | 7,556        |            | 7,507        |
| Defined benefit pension liability              | 19    |            | (480)        |            | (591)        |
| <b>Net assets</b>                              |       |            | <u>7,076</u> |            | <u>6,916</u> |
| <b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>             |       |            |              |            |              |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                        | 17    |            |              |            |              |
| - Fixed asset funds                            |       |            | 6,846        |            | 6,895        |
| - Restricted income funds                      |       |            | 328          |            | 234          |
| - Pension reserve                              |       |            | (480)        |            | (591)        |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>                  |       |            | <u>6,694</u> |            | <u>6,538</u> |
| <b>Unrestricted income funds</b>               | 17    |            | 382          |            | 378          |
| <b>Total funds</b>                             |       |            | <u>7,076</u> |            | <u>6,916</u> |

The financial statements set out on pages 27 to 51 were approved by the Board of trustees and authorised for issue on 08 December 2017 and are signed on its behalf by:

P Chandler  
Chair

Company Number 08753719

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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|  |       | 2017    |                   | 2016    |                   |
|--|-------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|
|  | Notes | £'000   | £'000             | £'000   | £'000             |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                        |       |         |                   |         |                   |
| Net cash provided by operating activities                          | 20    |         | 199               |         | 472               |
| Cash funds transferred on conversion                               |       |         | -                 |         | 302               |
|  |       |         | <u>199</u>        |         | <u>774</u>        |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                        |       |         |                   |         |                   |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                     |       | 1       |                   | 1       |                   |
| Capital grants from DfE and EFA                                    |       | 15      |                   | -       |                   |
| Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets                          |       | (137)   |                   | (175)   |                   |
|  |       | <u></u> | (121)             | <u></u> | (174)             |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                        |       |         |                   |         |                   |
| Finance costs  |       | (1)     |                   | -       |                   |
|  |       | <u></u> | (1)               | <u></u> | -                 |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b> |       |         |                   |         |                   |
|  |       |         | 77                |         | 600               |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2016                      |       |         | 718               |         | 118               |
|  |       |         | <u>795</u>        |         | <u>718</u>        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2017</b>                 |       |         | <u><u>795</u></u> |         | <u><u>718</u></u> |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The 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 financial statements 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 2016 to 2017 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

##### 1.2 Going concern

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

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants receivable

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

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

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

###### Donations

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

###### Other income

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

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### Donated goods, facilities and services

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the academy trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the academy trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the statement of financial activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's policies.

#### Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

#### Donated fixed assets

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

### 1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

#### Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets acquired since the Academy was established are included in the accounts at cost. Assets costing less than £1,000 and a group of similar items costing £3,000 are written off in the period of acquisition. All other assets 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. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

The Property has been included at the valuation provided by the ESFA when completing their desktop valuation. The academies have a 125 year lease from the date of conversion for the use of the land and buildings with the local authority.

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

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Land and buildings    | Buildings 2%; Land is not depreciated |
| Computer equipment    | 33.3%                                 |
| Fixtures and fittings | 25%                                   |

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

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leasing commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

##### Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

#### 1.9 Taxation

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

#### 1.10 Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 19, 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 are recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

#### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education Funding Agency and the Department for Education.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2017. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

##### Critical areas of judgement

###### *Useful economic lives of tangible assets*

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note 1.6 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

###### *Bad debts*

Debtors are regularly reviewed for recoverability, any debts which in the opinion of management are not recoverable are provided for as a specific bad debt.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

|                 | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Capital grants  | -                              | 15                           | 15                     | -                      |
| Other donations | 62                             | 15                           | 77                     | 39                     |
|                 | <u>62</u>                      | <u>30</u>                    | <u>92</u>              | <u>39</u>              |
|                 | =====                          | =====                        | =====                  | =====                  |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

|                                | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>       |                                |                              |                        |                        |
| General annual grant (GAG)     | -                              | 2,740                        | 2,740                  | 1,950                  |
| Start up grants                | -                              | -                            | -                      | 70                     |
| Other DfE / ESFA grants        | -                              | 419                          | 419                    | 324                    |
|                                | -                              | 3,159                        | 3,159                  | 2,344                  |
| <b>Other government grants</b> |                                |                              |                        |                        |
| Local authority grants         | -                              | 351                          | 351                    | 520                    |
| <b>Total funding</b>           | -                              | 3,510                        | 3,510                  | 2,864                  |

### 5 Other trading activities

|                    | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 10                             | -                            | 10                     | 7                      |
| Catering income    | 41                             | -                            | 41                     | 38                     |
| Other income       | 147                            | -                            | 147                    | 56                     |
|                    | 198                            | -                            | 198                    | 101                    |

### 6 Investment income

|                     | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Short term deposits | 1                              | -                            | 1                      | 1                      |

### 7 Expenditure

|                                  | Staff<br>costs<br>£'000 | Premises<br>& equipment<br>£'000 | Other<br>costs<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Academy's educational operations |                         |                                  |                         |                        |                        |
| - Direct costs                   | 2,404                   | 92                               | 293                     | 2,789                  | 1,943                  |
| - Allocated support costs        | 364                     | 317                              | 361                     | 1,042                  | 759                    |
|                                  | 2,768                   | 409                              | 654                     | 3,831                  | 2,702                  |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 7 Expenditure (Continued)

| Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:   | 2017<br>£'000     | 2016<br>£'000     |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fees payable to auditor for:                      |                   |                   |
| - Audit   | 12                | 11                |
| - Other services                                  | 13                | 8                 |
| Operating lease rentals                           | 1                 | -                 |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets             | 186               | 86                |
| Bank interest payable                             | 1                 | -                 |
| Net interest on defined benefit pension liability | 11                | 10                |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

#### Central services

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

- cleaning;
- financial services;

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- 4.5% of GAG School Budget Share

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

|                                 | <b>Total<br/>£'000</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Nexus Educational Schools Trust | -                      |
| Farnborough Primary School      | 44                     |
| Worsley Bridge Primary School   | 76                     |
|                                 | <u>          </u>      |
|                                 | 120                    |
|                                 | <u>          </u>      |

### 8 Charitable activities

|  | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Restricted<br>funds<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Direct costs - educational operations  | -                              | 2,789                        | 2,789                  | 1,943                  |
| Support costs - educational operations | 131                            | 911                          | 1,042                  | 759                    |
|  | <u>          </u>              | <u>          </u>            | <u>          </u>      | <u>          </u>      |
|  | 131                            | 3,700                        | 3,831                  | 2,702                  |
|  | <u>          </u>              | <u>          </u>            | <u>          </u>      | <u>          </u>      |

|                                  | 2017<br>£'000 | 2016<br>£'000 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Analysis of support costs</b> |               |               |
| Support staff costs              | 358           | 221           |
| Depreciation and amortisation    | 94            | 11            |
| Technology costs                 | 44            | 52            |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

| <b>8 Charitable activities</b> | <b>(Continued)</b> |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Premises costs                 | 201                | 182        |
| Other support costs            | 310                | 264        |
| Governance costs               | 35                 | 29         |
|                                | <u>1,042</u>       | <u>759</u> |

| <b>9 Staff costs</b>                               | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | <b>£'000</b> | <b>£'000</b> |
| Wages and salaries                                 | 2,096        | 1,417        |
| Social security costs                              | 175          | 104          |
| Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes | 443          | 244          |
|  | <u>2,714</u> | <u>1,765</u> |
| Staff costs  | 2,714        | 1,765        |
| Supply staff costs                                 | 42           | 93           |
| Staff development and other staff costs            | 12           | 10           |
|  | <u>2,768</u> | <u>1,868</u> |

### Staff numbers

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

|                            | <b>2017</b>   | <b>2016</b>   |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                            | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
| Teachers                   | 30            | 31            |
| Administration and support | 65            | 55            |
| Management                 | 8             | 4             |
|                            | <u>103</u>    | <u>90</u>     |

### Higher paid staff

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

|                     | <b>2017</b>   | <b>2016</b>   |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                     | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
| £60,001 - £70,000   | 1             | 1             |
| £110,001 - £115,000 | 1             | -             |
| £140,001 - £150,000 | -             | 1             |
|                     | <u>2</u>      | <u>2</u>      |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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### 9 Staff costs

(Continued)

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer national insurance and pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £536k (2016: £294k).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Exec Headteacher only received remuneration in respect of services she provided undertaking the role of Exec Headteacher under her contract of employment, and not in respect of her services as a trustee.

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

P Farrow (Exec Headteacher):

- Remuneration £110,001 - £115,000 (2016: £105,001-110,000)
- Backdated payrise £nil (2016: £45,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £15,000 - £20,000 (2016: £15,000-£20,000)

During the year training and subscription costs totalling £260 (2016: £nil) were paid by the Trust on behalf of the trustees. No costs were paid this year. Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

### 11 Trustees and officers insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department of Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

|                       | Land and<br>buildings<br>£'000 | Computer<br>equipment<br>£'000 | Fixtures<br>and fittings<br>£'000 | Total<br>£'000  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |                                |                                |                                   |                 |
| At 1 September 2016   | 6,861                          | 34                             | 174                               | 7,069           |
| Additions             | -                              | 48                             | 89                                | 137             |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |
| At 31 August 2017     | 6,861                          | 82                             | 263                               | 7,206           |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |                                |                                |                                   |                 |
| At 1 September 2016   | 155                            | 7                              | 12                                | 174             |
| Charge for the year   | 92                             | 28                             | 66                                | 186             |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |
| At 31 August 2017     | 247                            | 35                             | 78                                | 360             |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |
| <b>Net book value</b> |                                |                                |                                   |                 |
| At 31 August 2017     | 6,614                          | 47                             | 185                               | 6,846           |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |
| At 31 August 2016     | 6,706                          | 27                             | 162                               | 6,895           |
|                       | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                | <u>        </u>                   | <u>        </u> |

Included in land and buildings is land of £2,258,000 (2015: £1,469,000) which is not depreciated.

### 13 Debtors

|                                | 2017<br>£'000   | 2016<br>£'000   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Trade debtors                  | 30              | 72              |
| VAT recoverable                | 25              | 49              |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 86              | 117             |
|                                | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |
|                                | 141             | 238             |
|                                | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |

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

|                                    | 2017<br>£'000   | 2016<br>£'000   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Other taxation and social security | 46              | 43              |
| Other creditors                    | 54              | 45              |
| Accruals and deferred income       | 126             | 256             |
|                                    | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |
|                                    | 226             | 344             |
|                                    | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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| <b>15 Deferred income</b>                | <b>2017</b>     | <b>2016</b>     |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>£'000</b>    | <b>£'000</b>    |
| Deferred income is included within:      |                 |                 |
| Creditors due within one year            | 69              | 65              |
|  | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2016      | 65              | 19              |
| Released from previous years             | (65)            | (19)            |
| Amounts deferred in the year             | 69              | 65              |
|  | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |
| <b>Deferred income at 31 August 2017</b> | <b>69</b>       | <b>65</b>       |
|  | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for universal free school meals.

| <b>16 Financial instruments</b>                 | <b>2017</b>     | <b>2016</b>     |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | <b>£'000</b>    | <b>£'000</b>    |
| <b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>      |                 |                 |
| Debt instruments measured at amortised cost     | 30              | 72              |
|   | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |
| <b>Carrying amount of financial liabilities</b> |                 |                 |
| Measured at amortised cost                      | 111             | 236             |
|   | <u>        </u> | <u>        </u> |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 17 Funds

|                                     | Balance at<br>1 September<br>2016<br>£'000 | Income<br>£'000 | Expenditure<br>£'000 | Gains,<br>losses and<br>transfers<br>£'000 | Balance at<br>31 August<br>2017<br>£'000 |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Restricted general funds</b>     |  |                 |                      |  |  |
| General Annual Grant                | 42   | 2,740           | (2,536)              | 4  | 250                                      |
| Start up grants                     | 17   | -               | (17)                 | -  | -  |
| Other DfE / ESFA grants             | 50   | 419             | (399)                | -  | 70                                       |
| Other government grants             | 125  | 351             | (468)                | -  | 8  |
| Other restricted funds              | -  | 15              | (15)                 | -  | -  |
|                                     | <u>234</u>                                 | <u>3,525</u>    | <u>(3,435)</u>       | <u>4</u>                                   | <u>328</u>                               |
| Funds excluding pensions            | 234  | 3,525           | (3,435)              | 4  | 328                                      |
| Pension reserve                     | (591)                                      | -               | (79)                 | 190  | (480)                                    |
|                                     | <u>(357)</u>                               | <u>3,525</u>    | <u>(3,514)</u>       | <u>194</u>                                 | <u>(152)</u>                             |
| <b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b> |  |                 |                      |  |  |
| DfE / ESFA capital grants           | -  | 15              | (186)                | (15)                                       | (186)                                    |
| General fixed assets                | 6,895                                      | -               | -                    | 137  | 7,032                                    |
|                                     | <u>6,895</u>                               | <u>15</u>       | <u>(186)</u>         | <u>122</u>                                 | <u>6,846</u>                             |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>       | <u>6,538</u>                               | <u>3,540</u>    | <u>(3,700)</u>       | <u>316</u>                                 | <u>6,694</u>                             |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>           |  |                 |                      |  |  |
| General funds                       | 378  | 261             | (131)                | (126)                                      | 382                                      |
|                                     | <u>378</u>                                 | <u>261</u>      | <u>(131)</u>         | <u>(126)</u>                               | <u>382</u>                               |
| <b>Total funds</b>                  | <u>6,916</u>                               | <u>3,801</u>    | <u>(3,831)</u>       | <u>190</u>                                 | <u>7,076</u>                             |

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2017.

Other DFE/ESFA grants: This includes the pupil premium, rates relief, universal free school meals, MAT funding and sports funding grant.

Other government grants: This includes SEN funding, pupil premium High Needs and additional bulge class funding.

Other Restricted funds: This includes income received from the PTS to fund the purchase of I pads.

The transfer of funds relates to the purchase of fixed assets during the period, and the overspend on GAG.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

#### Movements in funds - previous year

|                                       | Balance at<br>1 September<br>2015<br>£'000 | Income<br>£'000     | Expenditure<br>£'000  | Gains,<br>losses and<br>transfers<br>£'000 | Balance at<br>31 August<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Restricted general funds</b>       |  |                     |                       |  |  |
| General Annual Grant                  | -  | 1,950               | (1,808)               | (100)                                      | 42                                       |
| Start up grants                       | -  | 70                  | (53)                  | -  | 17                                       |
| Other DfE / ESFA grants               | -  | 324                 | (274)                 | -  | 50                                       |
| Other government grants               | -  | 520                 | (395)                 | -  | 125                                      |
|                                       | <u>-</u>                                   | <u>2,864</u>        | <u>(2,530)</u>        | <u>(100)</u>                               | <u>234</u>                               |
| Funds excluding pensions              | -  | 2,864               | (2,530)               | (100)                                      | 234                                      |
| Pension reserve                       | (143)                                      | (180)               | (10)                  | (258)                                      | (591)                                    |
|                                       | <u>(143)</u>                               | <u>2,684</u>        | <u>(2,540)</u>        | <u>(358)</u>                               | <u>(357)</u>                             |
|                                       | <u><u>(143)</u></u>                        | <u><u>2,684</u></u> | <u><u>(2,540)</u></u> | <u><u>(358)</u></u>                        | <u><u>(357)</u></u>                      |
| <b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>   |  |                     |                       |  |  |
| Transferred on conversion             | -  | 3,398               | -                     | (3,398)                                    | -  |
| Private sector capital<br>sponsorship | 3,408                                      | -                   | (86)                  | 3,573                                      | 6,895                                    |
|                                       | <u>3,408</u>                               | <u>3,398</u>        | <u>(86)</u>           | <u>175</u>                                 | <u>6,895</u>                             |
|                                       | <u><u>3,408</u></u>                        | <u><u>3,398</u></u> | <u><u>(86)</u></u>    | <u><u>175</u></u>                          | <u><u>6,895</u></u>                      |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>         | <u><u>3,265</u></u>                        | <u><u>6,082</u></u> | <u><u>(2,626)</u></u> | <u><u>(183)</u></u>                        | <u><u>6,538</u></u>                      |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>             |  |                     |                       |  |  |
| General funds                         | 86   | 443                 | (76)                  | (75)                                       | 378                                      |
|                                       | <u>86</u>                                  | <u>443</u>          | <u>(76)</u>           | <u>(75)</u>                                | <u>378</u>                               |
|                                       | <u><u>86</u></u>                           | <u><u>443</u></u>   | <u><u>(76)</u></u>    | <u><u>(75)</u></u>                         | <u><u>378</u></u>                        |
| <b>Total funds</b>                    | <u><u>3,351</u></u>                        | <u><u>6,525</u></u> | <u><u>(2,702)</u></u> | <u><u>(258)</u></u>                        | <u><u>6,916</u></u>                      |

#### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

|  | Total<br>£'000      |
|--|---------------------|
| Nexus Educational Schools Trust                    | 309                 |
| Farnborough Primary School                         | 58                  |
| Worsley Bridge Primary School                      | 343                 |
|  | <u>710</u>          |
| Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve | 710                 |
| Restricted fixed asset fund                        | 6,846               |
| Pension reserve                                    | (480)               |
|  | <u>6,366</u>        |
| Total funds  | <u><u>7,076</u></u> |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

|                                    | Teaching and<br>educational<br>support staff<br>costs<br>£'000 | Other<br>support staff<br>costs<br>£'000 | Educational<br>supplies<br>£'000 | Other costs<br>excluding<br>depreciation<br>£'000 | Total<br>£'000 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Nexus Educational Schools<br>Trust | 58   | 81                                       | 20                               | 111   | 270            |
| Farnborough Primary School         | 969  | 121                                      | 22                               | 300   | 1,412          |
| Worsley Bridge Primary School      | 1,365  | 156                                      | 37                               | 405   | 1,963          |
|                                    | <u>2,392</u>   | <u>358</u>                               | <u>79</u>                        | <u>816</u>  | <u>3,645</u>   |

#### Funds analysis by academy - previous year

Fund balances at 31 August 2016 were allocated as follows:

|  | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|--|------------------------|
| Nexus Educational Schools Trust                    | 108                    |
| Farnborough Primary School                         | 131                    |
| Worsley Bridge Primary School                      | 373                    |
| Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve | <u>612</u>             |
| Restricted fixed asset fund                        | 6,895                  |
| Pension reserve                                    | (591)                  |
| Total funds  | <u>6,916</u>           |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 17 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total cost analysis by academy - previous year

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

|                                    | Teaching and<br>educational<br>support staff<br>costs<br>£'000 | Other<br>support staff<br>costs<br>£'000 | Educational<br>supplies<br>£'000 | Other costs<br>excluding<br>depreciation<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Nexus Educational Schools<br>Trust | -  | -  | -                                | 71  | 71                     |
| Farnborough Primary School         | 870  | 125                                      | 33                               | 328   | 1,356                  |
| Worsley Bridge Primary School      | 766  | 96                                       | 29                               | 288   | 1,179                  |
|                                    | <u>1,636</u>   | <u>221</u>                               | <u>62</u>                        | <u>687</u>  | <u>2,606</u>           |

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£'000 | Restricted funds:<br>General<br>£'000 | Fixed asset<br>£'000 | Total<br>2017<br>£'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Fund balances at 31 August 2017 are<br/>represented by:</b> |                                |                                       |                      |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                              | -                                     | 6,846                | 6,846                  |
| Current assets   | 382                            | 554                                   | -                    | 936                    |
| Creditors falling due within one year                          | -                              | (226)                                 | -                    | (226)                  |
| Defined benefit pension liability                              | -                              | (480)                                 | -                    | (480)                  |
|  | <u>382</u>                     | <u>(152)</u>                          | <u>6,846</u>         | <u>7,076</u>           |

|  | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£'000 | Restricted funds:<br>General<br>£'000 | Fixed asset<br>£'000 | Total<br>2016<br>£'000 |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Fund balances at 31 August 2016 are<br/>represented by:</b> |                                |                                       |                      |                        |
| Tangible fixed assets  | -                              | -                                     | 6,895                | 6,895                  |
| Current assets   | 378                            | 578                                   | -                    | 956                    |
| Creditors falling due within one year                          | -                              | (344)                                 | -                    | (344)                  |
| Defined benefit pension liability                              | -                              | (591)                                 | -                    | (591)                  |
|  | <u>378</u>                     | <u>(357)</u>                          | <u>6,895</u>         | <u>6,916</u>           |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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#### 19 Pensions and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by London Borough of Bromley. Both are defined-benefit 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 2016.

Contributions amounting to £37k (2016: £18k) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2017 and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £181k (2015: £56k).

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

### 19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are % for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

[Additional disclosure should be made where the scheme is in deficit and the entity has entered into an agreement with the trustees to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels, including the number of years over which it is anticipated that the additional contributions will be paid.]

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.

| <b>Total contributions made</b>          | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | <b>£'000</b> | <b>£'000</b> |
| Employer's contributions                 | 140          | 91           |
| Employees' contributions                 | 33           | 21           |
|  | <hr/>        | <hr/>        |
| Total contributions                      | 173          | 112          |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>  | <hr/> <hr/>  |
| <b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>   | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
|  | <b>%</b>     | <b>%</b>     |
| Rate of increases in salaries            | 3.7          | 3.3          |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment | 2.2          | 1.9          |
| Discount rate                            | 2.45         | 2.1          |
| Inflation assumption (CPI)               | 2.2          | 1.8          |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>  | <hr/> <hr/>  |

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

|                      | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2016</b>  |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | <b>Years</b> | <b>Years</b> |
| Retiring today       |              |              |
| - Males              | 23.3         | 23.2         |
| - Females            | 26.0         | 25.6         |
| Retiring in 20 years |              |              |
| - Males              | 25.9         | 25.5         |
| - Females            | 28.3         | 28.5         |
|                      | <hr/> <hr/>  | <hr/> <hr/>  |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

| 19 Pensions and similar obligations                                | (Continued)       |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme</b>       | <b>2017</b>       | <b>2016</b>       |
|  | <b>Fair value</b> | <b>Fair value</b> |
|  | <b>£'000</b>      | <b>£'000</b>      |
| Equities   | 742               | 412               |
| Other bonds  | 136               | 86                |
| Cash   | 14                | 5                 |
| Other assets   | 81                | 50                |
|  | <u>973</u>        | <u>553</u>        |
| Total market value of assets                                       | <u>973</u>        | <u>553</u>        |
| Actual return on scheme assets - gain/(loss)                       | <u>251</u>        | <u>89</u>         |
|  | <u>251</u>        | <u>89</u>         |
| <b>Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities</b> | <b>2017</b>       | <b>2016</b>       |
|  | <b>£'000</b>      | <b>£'000</b>      |
| Current service cost   | 204               | 88                |
| Interest income  | (14)              | (14)              |
| Interest cost  | 25                | 24                |
| Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses      | 4                 | 3                 |
|  | <u>219</u>        | <u>101</u>        |
| Total operating charge   | <u>219</u>        | <u>101</u>        |
|  | <u>219</u>        | <u>101</u>        |
| <b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b> | <b>2017</b>       | <b>2016</b>       |
|  | <b>£'000</b>      | <b>£'000</b>      |
| Obligations at 1 September 2016                                    | 1,144             | 351               |
| Obligations acquired on conversion                                 | -                 | 327               |
| Current service cost   | 204               | 88                |
| Interest cost  | 25                | 24                |
| Employee contributions   | 33                | 21                |
| Actuarial loss   | 47                | 333               |
|  | <u>1,453</u>      | <u>1,144</u>      |
| At 31 August 2017  | <u>1,453</u>      | <u>1,144</u>      |

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

|           |   |                    |              |
|-----------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>19</b> | <b>Pensions and similar obligations</b>   | <b>(Continued)</b> |              |
|           | <b>Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets</b>                | <b>2017</b>        | <b>2016</b>  |
|           |   | <b>£'000</b>       | <b>£'000</b> |
|           | Assets at 1 September 2016  | 553                | 208          |
|           | Assets acquired on conversion   | -                  | 147          |
|           | Interest income   | 14                 | 14           |
|           | Actuarial gain  | 237                | 75           |
|           | Employer contributions  | 140                | 91           |
|           | Employee contributions  | 33                 | 21           |
|           | Effect of non-routine settlements   | (4)                | (3)          |
|           |   | <hr/>              | <hr/>        |
|           | At 31 August 2017   | 973                | 553          |
|           |   | <hr/> <hr/>        | <hr/> <hr/>  |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flows from operating activities</b> | <b>2017</b>        | <b>2016</b>  |
|           |   | <b>£'000</b>       | <b>£'000</b> |
|           | Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period   | (30)               | 3,823        |
|           | Adjusted for:   |                    |              |
|           | Net surplus on conversion to academy  | -                  | (3,520)      |
|           | Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income   | (15)               | -            |
|           | Investment income receivable  | (1)                | (1)          |
|           | Finance costs payable   | 1                  | -            |
|           | Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable                                      | 68                 | -            |
|           | Defined benefit pension net finance cost  | 11                 | 10           |
|           | Depreciation of tangible fixed assets   | 186                | 86           |
|           | Decrease/(increase) in debtors  | 97                 | (181)        |
|           | (Decrease)/increase in creditors  | (118)              | 255          |
|           |   | <hr/>              | <hr/>        |
|           | <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>  | <b>199</b>         | <b>472</b>   |
|           |   | <hr/> <hr/>        | <hr/> <hr/>  |

### 21 Contingent liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Education Funding Agency the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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### 22 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2017 the total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases were as follows:

|                                   | 2017<br>£'000 | 2016<br>£'000 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts due within one year       | 3             | 1             |
| Amounts due in two and five years | 5             | 3             |
|                                   | <u>8</u>      | <u>4</u>      |

### 23 Capital commitments

|   | 2017<br>£'000 | 2016<br>£'000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements | 20            | 23            |
|   | <u>20</u>     | <u>23</u>     |

### 24 Related party transactions

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

N Ide related to P Farrow Director, provided Worsley Bridge Primary school premises consultancy services for building contract amounting to £5,460. The Academy made the purchase at arms-length and ensured the consultancy was charged at cost without influence and Worsley Bridge in entering into the transaction has complied with the Trusts procedures and the requirements of the ESFA Academies Financial handbook

Last year the academy trust incurred support, intervention and procurement costs of £2,230 from the Academy Learning Collaborative.

### 25 Post balance sheet events

After the year end, the following schools joined Nexus Education Schools Trust.

Highfield Infants' School  
Highfield Junior School  
Manor Oak Primary School  
Perry Hall Primary School  
Alexandra Junior School  
Pickhurst Infant School

# NEXUS EDUCATION SCHOOLS TRUST

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017*

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### **26 Members' liability**

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