

Registration number: 10428979

# Exeter Learning Academy Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Thompson Jenner LLP  
Statutory Auditor  
1 Colleton Crescent  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4DG

# **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

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## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Members</b>	Mr A Burrows Mr R Edwardson Mrs A Boyce
<b>Trustees (Directors)</b>	Mrs D Buckingham Mr B Cole (appointed 4 January 2021) Mr B Cook Ms S Curtis, (Chair of Trustees) Mr I Robinson (appointed 4 January 2021 and resigned 19 April 2021) Ms R Shaw, (Accounting Officer and Chief Executive Officer) Mr S Thornhill (resigned 5 July 2021) Mr P Walker Mr D Wells (appointed 4 January 2021) Ms A Whittaker
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Ms R Shaw, Chief Executive Officer Mrs D Buckingham, Director of Teaching & Learning Ms P Woodbridge, Chief Financial Officer
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	St Thomas Primary School Union Street Exeter Devon EX2 9BB
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	10428979
<b>Auditors</b>	Thompson Jenner LLP Statutory Auditor 1 Colleton Crescent Exeter Devon EX2 4DG
<b>Solicitors</b>	Tozers Broadwalk House Southernhay West Exeter Devon EX1 1UA

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period September 2020 to 31st August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates four primary academies in the South West England. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1295 and had a roll of 1209 in the school census on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Constitution**

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Exeter Learning Academy Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Exeter Learning Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

##### **Members' Liability**

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

##### **Trustees' Indemnities**

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased by the Academy Trust, from the Risk Protection Arrangement, to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

##### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

On incorporation, the first Trustees of the newly formed Academy were appointed for a term of four years from the date of incorporation.

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 12 Trustees, appointed under Article 50; and
- a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-[56]/[56B] in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established under Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to Article 101A.

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

Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of those policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

Induction is tailored to the needs of individual Trustees. We also buy in to Babcock LDP Governors' Support Services.

#### **Organisational Structure**

Exeter Learning Academy Trust follows the organisational structure laid down in the Articles of Association that were registered with Companies House on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The Academy governance structure consists of three levels: Members, Trustees and Local Governing Boards, alongside an operational level of Executive/Senior Leaders. The Members have ultimate control over the Academy Trust, with the ability to appoint Trustees and the right to amend the Academy Trust's Articles of Association. The Members meet annually to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Trustees establish an overall framework for the Academy Trust and are responsible for setting the direction, holding Trust leaders to account and ensuring financial probity. As Trustees of a charitable company, they also ensure that the Academy Trust complies with charity and company law requirements. The Trustees meet at least four times a year.

The Trust Board has established an overall framework for the governance of the Academy through the Resources and Finance Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Education, Inclusion and Safeguarding Committee. The Board has established the terms of reference of each of these committees and monitors their performance by receipt of their minutes and regular written reports for ratification where necessary under the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

In addition, committees are formed on an ad hoc basis where required to cover other matters such as Exclusions.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, and to appoint the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, approving the Trust Improvement Plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Trust using budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

Local Governing Boards are a core layer in providing effective governance at a local level, working directly with the schools and reporting back to the Trustees through the Chairs' Forum. They promote high standards, inclusion and educational achievement and they have devolved responsibilities outlined in the Trust's scheme of delegation.

The Members and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Finance Officer, who, with each school's Headteacher, make up the Senior Leadership team (SLT) of the Trust.

The SLT controls the Trust at an executive operational level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. Headteachers are responsible for the appointment of all staff except Headteachers who are appointed by the Trust Board.

The Multi Academy Trust comprises four primary schools:

- Alphington Primary School
- Bowhill Primary School
- Ide Primary School
- St Thomas Primary School

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

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

The Pay Policy sets out the remuneration of the key staff. A Remuneration Committee is part of the Finance and Resources Committee and each school also has its own Remuneration Committee. Teachers' Pay and Conditions standards are used as well as job evaluation and performance appraisal outcomes against targets.

#### Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Faculty Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, Exeter Learning Academy Trust can confirm the following in respect to Schedule 2 of the Regulations

##### Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
	1.0

##### Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	1.0
1% to 50%	Nil
51% to 99%	Nil
100%	Nil

##### Percentage of pay bill spend on facility time

Total cost of facility time	Nil
Total pay bill	Nil
Percentage of the total pay bill spend on facility time	Nil

##### Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	Nil
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#### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust is not aware of any ongoing related parties or other connected charities or organisations.

#### Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust engages with their employees using a range of methods, including:

- Consulting with employees via staff surveys
- Providing updates to all staff members, via school bulletins, CEO newsletters
- Regular meetings between the Chairs of the Local Governing Boards and the Trust Board
- Consulting with employees on matters such as: risk assessments, workload
- Using Microsoft teams as a platform to share resources and communicate across schools

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **Engagement with suppliers, customers and others.**

Whilst we have the security of knowing that our school funding from the ESFA remained secure across the year, other school income was affected by the pandemic. Our nursery provision, wrap around care and lettings were all affected but was still small in comparison to the issues being felt by those in the private and commercial sector.

As a public sector institution, with budgets already accounted for across the year, we continued to support our suppliers and other commercial partners, following the government advice and guidance. We ensured we paid suppliers in a timely manner and continued to honour commitments even if they couldn't be fully delivered as it was important to help sustain the companies that would be needed once the country reopened.

Our schools supported their communities by remaining open during school holidays for key worker and vulnerable children. Free school meal vouchers continued to be provided with additional food parcels during the Christmas and Easter breaks. Two of our schools also hosted the "Holiday and Food" initiative which provided activities and a hot meal for children.

During this period the Trust also worked closely with Exeter City Football Club, Exeter City Community Trust, Exeter City Future and Devon County Council to secure additional funding to provide food for some of the most vulnerable families in the city. Exeter Learning Academy Trust liaised with 30 schools across the City to identify need and then helped to organise and deliver 40,000 items of food and household items to 500 families. This was a huge undertaking which was kindly supported by Greendale Business Park, Tesco, Exeter School and members of our staff who donated their free time to package the food for delivery.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The principal object and activity of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom. At Exeter Learning Academy Trust, we do this by aiming to get the best for and from each child. We offer a broad curriculum for children and have a strong emphasis on inclusion to ensure children reach their full academic, creative and physical potential. We have a strong set of social and moral values that help our children to appreciate their roles as citizens in society.

**Our vision:** Creating our Future Together

**Our Values:** Loyalty Equality Aspiration Resilience Nurture

**Our Rationale:** To build on and strengthen existing relationships between schools by making a commitment to school-to-school support and ensuring a more effective self-improvement structure in order to meet our aims.

**Our Aims:** Working together to ensure aspirational outcomes for all learners in the Trust by:

- Maximising achievement
- Collaborating to share best practice
- Challenging and supporting each other
- Being forward thinking and outward looking
- Creating opportunities to improve the quality of provision
- Equipping learners to reason and think creatively

We are keen to continue to grow the Trust and work in partnership with other schools. We will promote our school ethos and support mechanisms to other schools, Trusts and organisations across the city.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

The Trust Board is accountable, through its executive officers, for the capacity, standards, outcomes (especially vulnerable children) and safeguarding in each member school. The Trust firmly believes a model for school effectiveness is one that builds capacity and creates self-improving schools.

Our Trust strategy aims to promote these features by:

- Good and outstanding schools supporting others and growing capacity for school improvement.
- Schools supporting each other in collaborative partnerships – using strengths across schools.
- Building internal school improvement capacity and resilience.
- Demanding high standards of teaching to ensure all pupils make good progress and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds achieve age related expectations.
- Taking swift, decisive action where school performance and provision needs to be improved.

#### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The Trust's main strategy is to create and promote a happy and enriching learning environment by working in partnership with parents and the community that will inspire children to achieve high standards. The Trust hopes that by celebrating the children's achievements, helping them fulfil their potential, respecting their differences and encouraging kindness, consideration and respect for each other and their environment, we will foster self-esteem and provide a sound foundation for their future life. The Trust will offer a broad and balanced curriculum and a large range of extra-curricular activities.

Our strategic objectives for the next 3 years flow from our ethos of creating a future together and are detailed below:

#### **1. Success through Learning**

We want our children to have the best possible opportunities available to them as they enter the adult world. The EYFS and primary curriculum create a foundation for learning that enables children to become literate, numerate and develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the world around them. For this to happen, we need to have strong teaching that enables children, whatever their background, to achieve and we will focus on the following:

- Engaging and Aspirational Curriculum
- Outstanding outcomes for our children
- Staff who are experts in their field
- Healthy and Happy People

#### **2. Excellent Leadership at all Levels**

We believe that every member of staff within ELAT needs to develop leadership skills to enable them to fulfil their roles. Leadership skills enable staff to think creatively, challenge and support each other and communicate effectively with others. We want to ensure that staff who wish to develop their careers further into middle and senior leadership roles are given the opportunity to do so. We will achieve this by creating:

- Outstanding School Leadership
- A Leadership Development Programme
- Strong and effective governance



## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **3. Building Capacity**

We recognise that we need a strong organisation in order to best support our aims. Research has shown that an important factor in education is ensuring that the right people with the right skills are able to fulfil their roles. Headteachers are experts in teaching and learning, the area that will have the biggest impact on children's outcomes, yet all too often find themselves engaged in tasks that have little to do with developing their staff's expertise. We want to be able to ensure our Headteachers are free to concentrate on school improvement and the quality of education by providing support services that run efficiently. We will achieve this by ensuring we have:

- Excellent Central Services
- Value for Money
- An Outward looking organisation

#### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy aims to advance, for the public benefit, education in Exeter and the surrounding areas. In particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by estimating, maintaining, managing and developing schools, offering a broad curriculum for all.

#### **Strategic Report**

##### **Achievements and Performance**

All schools were delighted to welcome the children back to school in September following a very unsettled period of lockdown and school closures. Children returned to the 'bubble' system where classes and year groups had to work separately from each other and there was an ever-present threat of closure if a positive Covid19 case was identified. Despite this, the schools were happy and productive learning environments and, during the Autumn Term, children made strong progress with their learning and schools were confident that they would help their pupils get back on track following the disruption of the previous year. Teachers and support staff were diligent and focused their efforts fully on their pupils, despite their own personal lives continuing to be impacted by the pandemic.

School leaders were continuing to move their schools forward by working on their priorities for development and a Trust wide strategy to improve reading was proving impactful with more children reading at age related expectations.

We were therefore very frustrated, like the rest of the country, when schools were forced to close their doors once again at the beginning of January due to rising Covid19 cases. Our staff and families quickly moved back to online learning and teachers recorded daily inputs to lessons and story sessions whilst also teaching the children who, under government regulations, were permitted to be back in school. Many classes had close to 50% of children in school with the remainder accessing learning from home and the schools became more creative at using online platforms to deliver interventions and support home learning. When children returned after this period of closure the differences in their experiences was more apparent, as was the impact on their wellbeing.

The schools provided strong nurture support as well as supporting the children to adapt back into the routine of school life. The Trust experienced a few bubble closures over the Summer Term, but overall, attendance remained strong and schools focussed their efforts on ensuring they covered gaps in learning.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pupils across the country did not have statutory assessment in EYFS, Phonics, KS1 and KS2 for the second year and therefore there is no statutory performance data that can be reported for 2021. However, teacher assessments at the end of the year in reading, writing and maths showed that we had slightly higher % of pupils achieving age related expectations than the previous 2 years. This is encouraging considering the many interruptions to learning that children experienced.

We have made the following achievements against our strategic priorities this year:

#### 1. Success through learning

- a. **Engaging and Aspirational Curriculum** – The schools have had to reconsider their curriculum offer due to the impact of the pandemic. All schools have developed a curriculum that best meets the needs and priorities of their children. There has been investment in schemes of work and resources for reading, writing and maths that support teachers with the delivery of these subjects.
- b. **Excellent outcomes for our children** – A priority this year has been to increase the number of pupils reading at age related expectations with a strong focus on children who have a noticeable gap in their reading age and chronological age. We have seen good progress this year, despite the challenges of school closure and the strategies schools have adopted are having positive impact.
- c. **Staff who are experts in their field** – Staff need to have exposure to regular and high-quality professional development. The priority this year has been to introduce coaching across all the schools as a means of improving the quality of teaching and learning. We have also developed a teaching and learning strategy that will be used across all schools to support coaching conversations.
- d. **Healthy and Happy People** – We recognise how challenging the last 2 years have been on both our children and staff. We have surveyed staff over the year about workload and wellbeing and have already taken some actions around assessment and appraisal to reduce this burden. The impact of Covid19 on our pupils has yet to be fully realised but schools have ensured that they have strong PSHE curriculums in place, along with support staff who are skilled in providing additional nurture support. This will continue to be a priority for the Trust next year.

#### 2. Excellent Leadership at all levels

- e. **Outstanding school leadership** – School Leaders have faced unprecedented challenges over the last 12 months, often feeling as though they were holding the health of their communities within their hands. Our school leaders have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their decision making and providing care and support to their staff, pupils and families. The school leaders within ELAT have continued to meet at least weekly over the year, sharing good practice, working together on Trust priorities and constructing a school improvement strategy that will take us into the next academic year.
- f. **Strong and effective governance** – A new governance structure was implemented this year which ensured there were clear lines of responsibility and accountability. All our Local Governors and Trustees continued with their schedule of meetings and found new ways of working effectively through online meetings. The Trust also ensured that a member of the executive team attended most meetings providing a strong link between the board and LGBs.

#### 3. Building Capacity

- a. **Excellent central services** – A significant piece of work this year was creating a central services team. Historically, each school within the Trust had their own business manager who was responsible for finance, HR, health and safety and premises. We were keen to: develop greater consistency in these areas; streamline processes and ensure we had staff with expertise to advise school leaders. The Trust now has the following roles: HR Manager, Estates and Compliance Manager, Trust Clerk, 3 Finance Officers and an external Data Protection Officer. The team have started to put Trust wide systems in place that will develop further into the next academic year.
- b. **Outward looking** – The Trust has worked with other schools and organisations throughout the year to provide support for our most vulnerable families. Schools have also engaged with the teaching school and learning hubs. The CEO has been the chair of Devon School Leadership Services, chaired regular meetings with Exeter primary school leaders and is a Trustee for another Devon MAT. All these relationships enable schools to share their expertise more widely, benefitting more children across Devon.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

- c. **Growth** – The Trustees have discussed growth during a planning day in the Summer Term and have also had informal discussions with schools over the year to help inform their overall growth strategy.

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

The impact of our improvement strategy has been measured by the following KPIs:

- There is evidence that improvement work has had an impact for young people educated within the MAT and attainment and progress was showing a rising trend.
- There is a clear accountability framework for the performance of the Trust that all staff understand, including what happens when key staff under-perform (annual staff surveys are in place to confirm understanding)
- There is a quality assurance system in place to improve consistency and performance.
- Trust-wide school improvement strategies recognise the different interventions needed at each stage of their improvement journey.
- There is school-to-school support, focused on the needs of individual academies.
- There is evidence of skilled management of Trust Risk indicators.
- Our academies can accurately self-evaluate and have a culture of continuous improvement and high aspirations
- High-quality CPD of staff means our academies attract and retain the very best. Cluster groups have been set up to share information across the academies and to develop skills and expertise and recommend staff across schools.
- All academies are financially solvent, have reserves and submit five-year financial plans.

#### **Going Concern**

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

#### **Financial Review**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which 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 useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's Financial Procedures.

During the year ended 31st August 2021, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed assets funds and pensions reserves) of £6,126,017 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources of £6,206,136. The excess of income over expenditure for the year excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pensions reserves was £80,119.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 24 to the financial statements.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Financial Procedures which lay out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Head Teacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending.

#### **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 take into consideration the future plans of the Academy, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The policy of the Trustees is to maintain a level of reserves that will be adequate to provide a stable basis for the continuing activity of the Multi Academy Trust having in mind such factors as fluctuations in anticipated pupil numbers, whilst ensuring that excessive funds are not accumulated. This is assessed over a five-year budget period. Limited fluctuations due to pupil numbers are expected and the policy is to maintain end of year reserves of a maximum of six weeks operating costs which is £706,848. Reserves are necessary to support school building improvements, ELAT schools have been unsuccessful in securing any CIF bids to date. In the next five years some schools have planned deficits which will be funded from the reserves.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Multi Academy Trust is paying higher employer's pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employer's pension contributions will be met from the Multi Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Multi Academy Trust.

#### **Investment Policy**

All funds surplus to immediate requirements may be invested in accordance with the Trust's Investment Policy Statement. The MAT does not currently hold any investments. The policy will be determined as need arises.

Due to the nature of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short-term requirements. The Trustees may authorise the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts or invest in individual fixed income securities such as Certificates of Deposit, U.K Treasury Bonds, and other similar instruments with an average duration of less than one year to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any investment shall therefore be with providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and Business Manager in accordance with the Trust's Investment Policy Statement.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Comprehensive risk analysis is undertaken at the Trust Audit and Risk Committee meetings and recommendations for improvements made to the Trust Executive Board.

The main risks identified in the June 2021 Risk Register are:

1. Receive less income than budgeted due to reduced national funding
2. Receive less income than expected due to falling pupil numbers
3. Overall performance decreasing
4. Schools not improving significantly after targeted school improvement support
5. Increasing staff absence
6. Facilities and equipment in need of repair/replacement and insufficient funds to cover

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **Fundraising**

The Trust undertakes fundraising on an ad-hoc basis by Trust employees. The Trust has not engaged the services of professional fundraisers during 2020/21. The Trust has also not worked with commercial participators or professional fundraisers as the level of fundraising during 2020/21 was minimal.

Any fundraising would confirm to recognised standards and be monitored.

Any complaints regarding fundraising would be dealt with by the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Plans for Future Periods**

The current plans for the future include:

- Building a robust infrastructure including the permanent appoint of key staff.
- Refining and developing trust wide systems to enable effective school improvement.
- Developing the breadth of skills of the trustees and ensuring the accountability structures have a positive impact.
- Raising standards and achieving good attainment and progress in all the academies.
- Developing the MAT so that systems are more sustainable and key roles can be developed.

#### **Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Governing Body on 8th December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Suzannah Curtis  
Trustee

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Governance Statement

#### Scope of Responsibility

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Exeter Learning Academy 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. The board of Trustees has formally met six times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

TRUSTEE NAME	Attended	Out of a possible
Suzannah Curtis (Chair)	6	6
Amanda Whittaker (Vice Chair)	6	6
Debbie Buckingham	3	6
Brian Cook	6	6
Paul Walker	4	6
Rachel Shaw	6	6
Barry Cole (appointed 4 January 2021)	4	4
Dominic Wells (appointed 4 January 2021)	4	4
Ian Robinson (appointed 4 January 2021 and resigned 19 April 2021)	1	1
Stephen Thornhill (resigned 5 July 2021)	0	5

The **Finance and Resources Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met regularly to consider the matters within its remit, including financial management, HR management and management of the relevant trust policies.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

TRUSTEE NAME	Attended	Out of a possible
Suzannah Curtis (Chair)	4	4
Brian Cook	4	4
Dominic Wells (appointed 4 January 2021)	3	3
Debbie Buckingham	1	1
Rachel Shaw as CEO	4	4
Pauline Woodbridge as CFO	4	4

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Governance Statement (continued)

The **Audit and Risk Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met regularly to consider the matters within its remit, including external audit, internal scrutiny and risk assurance and management of the relevant trust policies.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

TRUSTEE NAME	Attended	Out of a possible
Amanda Whittaker (Chair)	3	3
Brian Cook	3	3
Ian Robinson (appointed 4 January 2021 and resigned 19 April 2021)	1	1
Debbie Buckingham	2	3
Rachel Shaw as CEO	3	3
Pauline Woodbridge as CFO	3	3

The **Education, Inclusion and Safeguarding Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee met regularly to consider the matters within its remit, including ensuring the trust is compliant in aspects pertaining to education, inclusion and safeguarding across the trust, supporting the strategic development of education across the trust and management of relevant trust policies.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

TRUSTEE NAME	Attended	Out of a possible
Debbie Buckingham (Chair)	3	3
Brian Cook	3	3
Barry Cole (appointed 4 January 2021)	2	2
Rachel Shaw as CEO	3	3
Ann Boyce (LGB Rep)	3	3

The Academy Trust recognises the need to review the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees on an annual basis. The Board has developed a director skills matrix and carried out a self-evaluation in 2021. An external review of governance was started in the summer term 2021 by Ambition Institute and will continue in 2021/22.

#### Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Strengthening financial oversight and governance to ensure costs are adequately controlled including the use of robust internal controls.
- The provision of centralised services to the 4 schools, thereby benefitting from economies of scale across the Academy Trust.

A further review of internal procedures in order to optimise the efficient use of resources is planned for 2021/22.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Governance Statement (continued)**

#### **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. 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 Exeter Learning Academy Trust for the period 1st September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1st September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 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

An Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

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

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



**Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

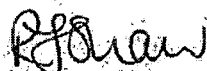
**Governance Statement (continued)**

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

Approved by order of the members of the Governing Body on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms S Curtis  
Trustee



Ms R Shaw  
Accounting officer  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As Accounting Officer of Exeter Learning Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Governing Body and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

I confirm that I and the academy trust Governing Body 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 2020.

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 Governing Body and ESFA.



Ms R Shaw, (Accounting Officer and Chief Executive Officer)

8 December 2021

# **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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

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

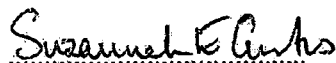
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 8 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms S Curtis  
Trustee

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Exeter Learning Academy Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its results 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

#### **Basis for opinion**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Other information (covers the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report and the Governance Statement)**

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

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.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Exeter Learning Academy Trust (continued)**

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustee's Report been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 18], the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the academy through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Exeter Learning Academy Trust (continued)**

- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the academy, including the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction, the Academies Financial Handbook, the Equality Act and the Data Protection Act in addition to various employment, environmental, fire safety, health and safety and safeguarding legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, reviewing correspondence with regulators, and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the academy's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators, and the academy's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

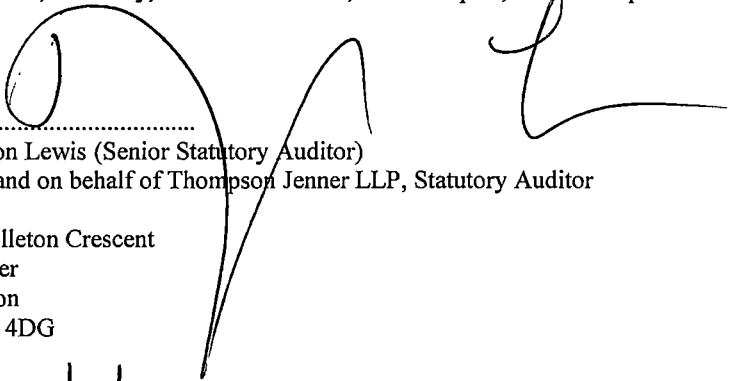
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Exeter Learning Academy Trust (continued)

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy and its Trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
Simon Lewis (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Thompson Jenner LLP, Statutory Auditor

1 Colleton Crescent  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4DG

Date: 14/12/21.....

LLP

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Exeter Learning Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 25 April 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Exeter Learning Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 Exeter Learning Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Exeter Learning Academy Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Exeter Learning Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of the Governing Body's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Governing Body's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 19 December 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2018, 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 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

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



**Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Exeter Learning Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)**

**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



.....  
Simon Lewis

For and on behalf of Thompson Jenner LLP, Chartered Accountants

1 Colleton Crescent  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4DG

Date: 14/12/21.....

# Exeter Learning Academy Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2020/21 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	7,984	8,801	30,228	47,013
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	105,115	5,838,481	-	5,943,596
Other trading activities	4	245,635	-	-	245,635
Investments	5	<u>120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120</u>
Total		358,854	5,847,282	30,228	6,236,364
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>316,295</u>	<u>6,279,722</u>	<u>136,627</u>	<u>6,732,644</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		42,559	(432,440)	(106,399)	(496,280)
Transfers between funds		-	(24,411)	24,411	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	<u>-</u>	<u>(155,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(155,000)</u>
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		42,559	(611,851)	(81,988)	(651,280)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2020		<u>522,071</u>	<u>(3,637,388)</u>	<u>5,758,018</u>	<u>2,642,701</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2021		<u>564,630</u>	<u>(4,249,239)</u>	<u>5,676,030</u>	<u>1,991,421</u>

# Exeter Learning Academy Trust


## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2019/20 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	2	6,419	11,225	36,254	53,898
Other trading activities	4	196,609	-	-	196,609
Investments	5	712	-	-	712
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>97,795</u>	<u>5,550,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,648,791</u>
Total		301,535	5,562,221	36,254	5,900,010
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>304,412</u>	<u>5,949,649</u>	<u>141,460</u>	<u>6,395,521</u>
Net expenditure		(2,877)	(387,428)	(105,206)	(495,511)
Transfers between funds		-	(24,871)	24,871	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	24	<u>-</u>	<u>(156,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(156,000)</u>
Net movement in deficit		(2,877)	(568,299)	(80,335)	(651,511)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2019		<u>524,948</u>	<u>(3,069,089)</u>	<u>5,838,353</u>	<u>3,294,212</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2020		<u>522,071</u>	<u>(3,637,388)</u>	<u>5,758,018</u>	<u>2,642,701</u>

**Exeter Learning Academy Trust**  
**(Registration number: 10428979)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	5,595,139	5,696,371
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	293,864	181,117
Cash at bank and in hand		904,882	937,409
		1,198,746	1,118,526
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(463,464)	(458,196)
Net current assets		735,282	660,330
Total assets less current liabilities		6,330,421	6,356,701
Net assets excluding pension liability		6,330,421	6,356,701
Pension scheme liability	24	(4,339,000)	(3,714,000)
Net assets including pension liability		1,991,421	2,642,701
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund		89,761	76,612
Restricted fixed asset fund		5,676,030	5,758,018
Restricted pension fund		(4,339,000)	(3,714,000)
		1,426,791	2,120,630
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund		564,630	522,071
Total funds		1,991,421	2,642,701

The financial statements on pages 24 to 51 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 8 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

  
 Ms S Curtis  
 Trustee

**Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	(27,480)	36,528
Cash flows from investing activities	20	<u>(5,047)</u>	<u>(25,044)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(32,527)	11,484
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>937,409</u>	<u>925,925</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		<u>904,882</u>	<u>937,409</u>

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021**

#### **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.

##### **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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees have considered the impact of COVID-19 and do not consider it to have a material impact on the balances included within the financial statements.

The trustees have taken both reactive and proactive measures in order to mitigate any risks associated with COVID-19 and there is a robust system of procedures and internal controls in place in order to deal with any associated risks.

##### **Going concern**

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 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.

##### **Income**

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

##### **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is no unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

##### ***Sponsorship income***

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

##### ***Donations***

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

##### ***Other income***

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

##### ***Donated goods, facilities and services***

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

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be 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.

##### ***Donated fixed assets***

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

##### ***Expenditure***

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### ***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.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Charitable activities*

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

##### **Intangible fixed assets**

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Amortisation method and rate</b>
Software and licences	33.33% straight line

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

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 lives, per the table below.

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

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

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Buildings	2% straight line
Furniture and Equipment	20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33.33% straight line

##### **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.



## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

##### ***Provisions***

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

##### **Leased assets**

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

##### **Financial Instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15. 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

##### **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.

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Pension benefits**

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

##### **Fund accounting**

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

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

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

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

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

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	30,228	30,228	36,254
Other donations	7,984	8,801	-	16,785	17,644
	<u>7,984</u>	<u>8,801</u>	<u>30,228</u>	<u>47,013</u>	<u>53,898</u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
GAG	-	4,630,223	4,630,223	4,473,687
PE Grant	-	74,450	74,450	74,410
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	206,982	206,982	197,923
Pupil Premium	-	215,470	215,470	213,170
Teachers pension grant	-	186,081	186,081	173,399
Teachers pay grant	-	46,845	46,845	60,406
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	32,402	32,402	23,205
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,392,453</u>	<u>5,392,453</u>	<u>5,216,200</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Special educational needs	-	128,171	128,171	85,334
Early Years Funding	-	195,037	195,037	215,468
Other Local Authority Grant	-	400	400	7,555
	<u>-</u>	<u>323,608</u>	<u>323,608</u>	<u>308,357</u>
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>				
Other income	-	24,990	24,990	18,620
Catering income	105,115	-	105,115	97,795
	<u>105,115</u>	<u>24,990</u>	<u>130,105</u>	<u>116,415</u>
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Catch-up premium	-	97,430	97,430	-
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	-	-	7,819
<b>Total grants</b>	<u>105,115</u>	<u>5,838,481</u>	<u>5,943,596</u>	<u>5,648,791</u>

The academy received £97,430 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £97,430.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
Hire of facilities	4,339	4,339	18,480
Recharges and reimbursements	8,055	8,055	13,546
Other sales	233,241	233,241	164,583
	<u>245,635</u>	<u>245,635</u>	<u>196,609</u>

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
Short term deposits	120	120	712

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2020/21	2019/20
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	Total £	Total £
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	4,374,981	-	437,042	4,812,023	4,708,465
Allocated support costs	995,925	570,083	354,613	1,920,621	1,687,056
	<u>5,370,906</u>	<u>570,083</u>	<u>791,655</u>	<u>6,732,644</u>	<u>6,395,521</u>

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

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Operating lease rentals	4,827	4,480
Depreciation	136,627	137,366
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	-	4,094
Fees payable to auditor - audit	8,450	8,450
- other audit services	<u>3,190</u>	<u>2,460</u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 7 Charitable activities

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Direct costs - educational operations	4,812,023	4,708,465
Support costs - educational operations	<u>1,920,621</u>	<u>1,687,056</u>
	<u><u>6,732,644</u></u>	<u><u>6,395,521</u></u>

	Educational operations £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	995,925	995,925	857,673
Depreciation	136,627	136,627	141,460
Technology costs	18,266	18,266	10,398
Premises costs	433,456	433,456	353,212
Other support costs	323,062	323,062	311,555
Governance costs	<u>13,285</u>	<u>13,285</u>	<u>12,758</u>
Total support costs	<u><u>1,920,621</u></u>	<u><u>1,920,621</u></u>	<u><u>1,687,056</u></u>

#### 8 Staff

##### Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	3,798,893	3,682,150
Social security costs	302,982	297,685
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	<u>1,230,075</u>	<u>1,186,249</u>
	5,331,950	5,166,084
Agency staff costs	<u>38,956</u>	<u>48,667</u>
	<u><u>5,370,906</u></u>	<u><u>5,214,751</u></u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 8 Staff (continued)

##### Staff numbers

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

	2020/21 No	2019/20 No
Teachers	63	65
Administration and support	126	131
Management	9	11
	<u>198</u>	<u>207</u>

##### Higher paid staff

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

	2021 No	2020 No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

##### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employers' national insurance contributions and employers' pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £169,253 (2020: £198,848).

#### 9 Central services

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

- Finance, Legal, and HR

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

The Academy Trust has top sliced income from each school based on de-delegated and ESG funding at each school.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £
Alphington Primary School	98,542
Bowhill Primary School	109,072
Ide Primary School	35,281
St Thomas Primary School	<u>61,508</u>
	<u>304,403</u>



## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **10 Related party transactions - trustees' remuneration and expenses**

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

Ms R Shaw (Accounting Officer):

Remuneration: £75,000 - £80,000 (2020 - £70,000 - £75,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £15,000 - £20,000 (2020 - £15,000 - £20,000)

Mrs D Buckingham (Trustee / Director of Teaching & Learning):

Remuneration: £Nil (2020 - £35,000 - £40,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £Nil (2020 - £Nil)

During the year ended 31 August 2021, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £33 (2020 - £585) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustee (2020 - 2).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 25.

#### **11 Trustees' and officers' insurance**

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy 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.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 12 Intangible fixed assets

	Software £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 September 2020	35,765	35,765
At 31 August 2021	35,765	35,765
<b>Amortisation</b>		
At 1 September 2020	35,765	35,765
At 31 August 2021	35,765	35,765
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 August 2021	-	-
At 31 August 2020	-	-

#### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2020	5,771,898	155,297	88,611	6,015,806
Additions	5,190	14,031	16,174	35,395
At 31 August 2021	5,777,088	169,328	104,785	6,051,201
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2020	174,974	74,609	69,852	319,435
Charge for the year	87,319	33,864	15,444	136,627
At 31 August 2021	262,293	108,473	85,296	456,062
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2021	5,514,795	60,855	19,489	5,595,139
At 31 August 2020	5,596,924	80,688	18,759	5,696,371

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	11,248	5,291
VAT recoverable	131,091	46,917
Prepayments	89,985	82,487
Accrued grant and other income	61,540	46,422
	<u>293,864</u>	<u>181,117</u>

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	51,444	73,444
Other taxation and social security	71,625	66,109
Other creditors	-	819
Accruals	125,464	87,269
Deferred income	125,037	146,060
Pension scheme creditor	89,894	84,495
	<u>463,464</u>	<u>458,196</u>

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	146,060	127,505
Resources deferred in the period	125,037	146,060
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(146,060)</u>	<u>(127,505)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	<u>125,037</u>	<u>146,060</u>

Deferred income in 2021 largely relates to Universal Infant Free School Meal money received in advance.

# Exeter Learning Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
GAG	-	4,630,223	(4,598,895)	(31,328)	-
Teachers pension grant	-	186,081	(186,081)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	46,845	(46,845)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	215,470	(215,470)	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	206,982	(206,982)	-	-
PE Grant	74,250	74,450	(61,301)	-	87,399
Other DfE/ESFA funding	-	32,402	(32,402)	-	-
Covid-19 catch-up premium	-	97,430	(97,430)	-	-
Special educational needs	-	128,172	(128,172)	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	195,037	(195,037)	-	-
Educational Trips	-	12,730	(19,647)	6,917	-
Other LA Funding	-	400	(400)	-	-
Other Restricted Income	2,362	21,061	(21,061)	-	2,362
	<u>76,612</u>	<u>5,847,283</u>	<u>(5,809,723)</u>	<u>(24,411)</u>	<u>89,761</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited Fixed Assets	5,533,140	-	(91,778)	-	5,441,362
GAG Funded Fixed Assets	62,515	-	(19,182)	24,411	67,744
Devolved Formula Capital	135,531	30,228	(16,177)	-	149,582
School Fund (PTFA)	16,830	-	(3,921)	-	12,909
Big Lottery	2,972	-	(2,972)	-	-
Tesco Groundworks	1,030	-	(597)	-	433
Other capital donations	6,000	-	(2,000)	-	4,000
	<u>5,758,018</u>	<u>30,228</u>	<u>(136,627)</u>	<u>24,411</u>	<u>5,676,030</u>
<b>Restricted pension funds</b>					
Pension Liability	<u>(3,714,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(470,000)</u>	<u>(155,000)</u>	<u>(4,339,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	2,120,630	5,877,511	(6,416,350)	(155,000)	1,426,791
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>522,071</u>	<u>358,854</u>	<u>(316,295)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>564,630</u>
Total funds	<u>2,642,701</u>	<u>6,236,365</u>	<u>(6,732,645)</u>	<u>(155,000)</u>	<u>1,991,421</u>

# Exeter Learning Academy Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

### 16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
GAG	25,604	4,473,687	(4,463,708)	(35,583)	-
Teachers pension grant	-	173,399	(173,399)	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	60,406	(60,406)	-	-
Pupil Premium	4,339	213,170	(217,509)	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	197,923	(197,923)	-	-
PE Grant	52,831	74,410	(52,991)	-	74,250
Other DfE/ESFA funding	-	23,205	(23,205)	-	-
Special educational needs	-	85,334	(85,334)	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	215,468	(215,468)	-	-
Educational Trips	-	16,155	(22,702)	6,547	-
Other LA Funding	-	15,374	(15,374)	-	-
Other Restricted Income	137	13,690	(11,465)	-	2,362
Devolved Formula Capital	-	-	(4,165)	4,165	-
	<u>82,911</u>	<u>5,562,221</u>	<u>(5,543,649)</u>	<u>(24,871)</u>	<u>76,612</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited Fixed Assets	5,630,303	-	(97,163)	-	5,533,140
GAG Funded Fixed Assets	50,323	-	(16,844)	29,036	62,515
Devolved Formula Capital	127,405	30,254	(17,963)	(4,165)	135,531
School Fund (PTFA)	14,209	6,000	(3,379)	-	16,830
Big Lottery	6,486	-	(3,514)	-	2,972
Tesco Groundworks	1,627	-	(597)	-	1,030
Other capital donations	8,000	-	(2,000)	-	6,000
	<u>5,838,353</u>	<u>36,254</u>	<u>(141,460)</u>	<u>24,871</u>	<u>5,758,018</u>
<b>Restricted pension funds</b>					
Pension Liability	<u>(3,152,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(406,000)</u>	<u>(156,000)</u>	<u>(3,714,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	2,769,264	5,598,475	(6,091,109)	(156,000)	2,120,630
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>524,948</u>	<u>301,535</u>	<u>(304,412)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>522,071</u>
Total funds	<u>3,294,212</u>	<u>5,900,010</u>	<u>(6,395,521)</u>	<u>(156,000)</u>	<u>2,642,701</u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

##### Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	Total £
Alphington Primary School	281,604
Bowhill Primary School	223,250
Ide Primary School	25,090
St Thomas Primary School	69,296
Central services	<u>55,151</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	654,391
Fixed Assets	5,676,030
Pension Liability	<u>(4,339,000)</u>
Total	<u><u>1,991,421</u></u>

##### *General Annual Grant*

Funds received from the ESFA under the General Annual Grant arrangements for the recurrent expenditure of the Academy as defined in the Funding Agreement.

##### *Pupil Premium*

Pupil premium represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their peers.

##### *PE and Sports Grant*

Funding provided by the ESFA to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of physical education, activity and sports offered.

##### *Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)*

Funding provided by the ESFA to support schools to deliver the legal requirement to offer free school meals to all reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils.

##### *Teachers' Pension Grant:*

Funding provided by the ESFA to support schools with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

##### *Teachers' Pay Grant:*

Funding provided by the ESFA to schools to support teachers' pay awards that came into effect in September 2018 and September 2019.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

##### Other DfE/ESFA Grants:

This is various other DfE/ESFA grants including rates relief.

##### *Coronavirus Catch-up:*

Funding provided by the ESFA to support children and young people to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus (COVID19).

##### *Local Authority - Special Educational Needs (SEN)*

Funding received from the EFSA via the Local Authority to support individual students with a SEN Statement.

##### *Local Authority - Nursery Funding*

Funding provided to support free nursery hours.

##### *Trips and visits*

Funds raised for student trips and visits.

##### *Other Restricted Income*

Other restricted income including donations for specific expenditure.

#### Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Alphington Primary School	1,390,257	105,380	105,276	311,741	1,912,654	1,716,621
Bowhill Primary School	1,616,657	286,065	117,779	197,914	2,218,415	2,178,497
Ide Primary School	527,152	45,332	53,726	130,475	756,685	722,016
St Thomas Primary School	675,852	55,761	48,713	155,511	935,837	943,955
Central services	103,463	564,987	8,502	95,474	772,426	692,973
Academy Trust	<u>4,313,381</u>	<u>1,057,525</u>	<u>333,996</u>	<u>891,115</u>	<u>6,596,017</u>	<u>6,254,062</u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,595,139	5,595,139
Current assets	564,630	553,225	80,891	1,198,746
Current liabilities	-	(463,464)	-	(463,464)
Pension scheme liability	-	(4,339,000)	-	(4,339,000)
Total net assets	<u>564,630</u>	<u>(4,249,239)</u>	<u>5,676,030</u>	<u>1,991,421</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	5,696,371	5,696,371
Current assets	522,071	534,808	61,647	1,118,526
Current liabilities	-	(458,196)	-	(458,196)
Pension scheme liability	-	(3,714,000)	-	(3,714,000)
Total net assets	<u>522,071</u>	<u>(3,637,388)</u>	<u>5,758,018</u>	<u>2,642,701</u>

#### 18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

##### *Operating leases*

At 31 August 2021 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts due within one year	3,183	3,798
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>6,973</u>	<u>5,314</u>
	<u>10,156</u>	<u>9,112</u>



## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

#### 19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net expenditure	(496,280)	(495,511)
Amortisation	-	4,094
Depreciation	136,627	137,366
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(30,228)	(36,254)
Interest receivable	(120)	(712)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	413,000	348,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	57,000	58,000
Decrease in stocks	-	1,297
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(112,747)	7,500
Increase in creditors	5,268	12,748
Net cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	<u>(27,480)</u>	<u>36,528</u>

#### 20 Cash flows from investing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	120	712
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(35,395)	(62,010)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	30,228	36,254
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(5,047)</u>	<u>(25,044)</u>

#### 21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	904,882	937,409
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>904,882</u>	<u>937,409</u>

#### 22 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash	937,409	(32,527)	904,882
Total	<u>937,409</u>	<u>(32,527)</u>	<u>904,882</u>

## **Exeter Learning Academy Trust**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)**

#### **23 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.

#### **24 Pension and similar obligations**

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

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

Contributions amounting to £89,894 (2020 - £84,495) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 and are included within creditors.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

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

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £529,605 (2020: £525,212).  
A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

#### Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £358,000 (2020 - £321,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £280,000 (2020 - £255,000) and employees' contributions totalled £78,000 (2020 - £66,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 per cent to 9.9 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

#### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	3.30
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.30
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.70	1.60
Inflation assumptions (CPI)	2.90	2.30
RPI increases	<u>3.20</u>	<u>3.10</u>

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

	2021	2020
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	22.70	22.90
Females retiring today	24.00	24.10
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	24.00	24.30
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.40</u>	<u>25.50</u>

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

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

##### Sensitivity analysis

	At 31 August 2021 £	At 31 August 2020 £
Discount rate +0.1%	8,244,000	6,675,000
Discount rate -0.1%	8,643,000	6,999,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	8,767,000	7,079,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	8,127,000	6,599,000
CPI rate +0.1%	8,623,000	6,982,000
CPI rate -0.1%	<u>8,264,000</u>	<u>6,692,000</u>

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Equities	2,567,000	1,863,000
Gilts	526,000	110,000
Other bonds	77,000	147,000
Property	328,000	248,000
Cash and other liquid assets	25,000	36,000
Other	<u>579,000</u>	<u>717,000</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>4,102,000</u>	<u>3,121,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £659,000 (2020 - £12,000).

## Exeter Learning Academy Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

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

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Current service cost	691,000	601,000
Interest cost	57,000	58,000
Admin expenses	2,000	2,000
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>750,000</u>	<u>661,000</u>

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
At start of period	6,835,000	5,577,000
Current service cost	691,000	601,000
Interest cost	110,000	109,000
Employee contributions	78,000	66,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	761,000	251,000
Benefits paid	<u>(34,000)</u>	<u>231,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>8,441,000</u>	<u>6,835,000</u>

##### Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
At start of period	3,121,000	2,425,000
Interest income	51,000	49,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	606,000	95,000
Employer contributions	280,000	255,000
Employee contributions	78,000	66,000
Benefits paid	<u>(34,000)</u>	<u>231,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>4,102,000</u>	<u>3,121,000</u>

#### 25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.