

Company Registration No. 08151859 (England and Wales)

# **MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Reference and administrative details	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Governance statement	9 - 14
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	15
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	16
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	17 - 19
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	20 - 21
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	22
Balance sheet	23
Statement of cash flows	24
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	25 - 43

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# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

Mrs G Ward  
Mrs D Robertson  
Mrs P Hartley

### Trustees

Mrs D Robertson  
Mr M Warwick (Chair)  
Mrs K McCarter (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)  
Ms P Hartley (Vice Chair)  
Mrs H Brady  
Mrs L Pannett  
Mrs J Mills (Appointed 13 October 2020)  
Mrs L Horton (Appointed 13 October 2020)  
Mrs L Hackett (Appointed 13 October 2020)  
Ms G Ward (Resigned 13 October 2020)  
Mr R Sheldon (Resigned 13 October 2020)  
Ms S L Allbutt (Resigned 13 October 2020)

### Senior management team

- Headteacher & Accounting Officer	Mrs K McCarter
- Deputy Headteacher	Mr I Cooper
- Assistant Headteacher	Mrs V Cadwallader
- Business Manager	Mrs P Mason

### Company registration number

08151859 (England and Wales)

### Registered office

Norbreck Road  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
FY5 1PD

### Independent auditor

MHA Moore and Smalley  
Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Norbreck Primary Academy was incorporated on 20 July 2012 and within 2 months Norbreck Academy Trust converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010. Norbreck Primary Academy officially changed its name and status on 6th March 2018 to Mulberry Multi Academy Trust. The trust has converted from single academy status to multi academy status. As of the 31st August 2021, Norbreck Primary Academy remains the only academy within the trust.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4 to 11 serving a catchment area in Blackpool. It has a pupil capacity of 630 and had a roll of 614 in the school census in January 2021 – a significant increase from the previous year.

#### **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 charitable company is known as Mulberry Multi Academy Trust.

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

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim.

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

There are nine trustees on the board of trustees at Norbreck and for Trustee appointments, skills audits may be undertaken as required, to identify gaps and to ensure the board of trustees have a breadth of experience/skills in their membership.

The selection methods are as follows :

Trustees (5) – These are appointed by the Members. Members would be invited to seek suitably qualified persons with the necessary skills. The board of trustees would then be asked to confirm their acceptance of the nominee.

Staff Trustees (2) and Parent Trustees (2) are elected in accordance with adopted procedures. These reflect the procedures stated in the Articles of Association.

Associate Members may be appointed to enrich the board of trustees and are selected in the same way as Community Trustees.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All new Trustees will be given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

#### Organisational structure

The structure of the Academy consists of two levels: the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company) and the Senior Leadership Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Managers are the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher, the Assistant Headteacher and the Business Manager. The Headteacher, who is the accounting officer, controls the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them and is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment boards for posts in the Management Team always contain a Trustee.

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

Following appraisal, suggested recommendations for pay and remuneration for key management personnel are raised with governors by the Headteacher. Any decisions by the governing body are then recorded accordingly. For the leadership spine pay range, we work outside the ISR groupings as agreed by the governing body.

#### Trade union facility time

Due to considerable cost and a lack of perceived benefit, the Trust do not purchase trade union facilities time.

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

Due to the pandemic it was very difficult to continue with partnerships and externally led programmes.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objects and aims

The Academy's main aim is encompassed in its mission statement which is :

"Whatever we do, we do it well"

The main objects of the Academy are summarised below :

- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of teaching, learning and care;
- To raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- To maintain close partnerships with the local community; and
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The academy's principal activity is specifically restricted to the following:

To advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The main objectives for 2020-21 were to make continuous improvements in English, Maths, Science and ICT as well as involving all in the provision of SEND. Due to the pandemic, there were no national tests in either summer 2020 or summer 2021 and it is therefore not possible to rank the school against others.

The last inspection of the school occurred in October 2019. The school received a two-day inspection by Ofsted. The whole process and the end results were extremely favourable and the school received a grading of Good in all areas.

"Pupils love coming to school. They enjoy the wide range of exciting activities that staff provide for them. They are proud of their many musical and sporting achievements. Senior leaders, including trustees, make sure that pupils flourish academically and personally during their time at Norbreck. They have high expectations for behaviour and for what they want pupils to know and remember. Staff and pupils live up to the school motto, 'Whatever we do, we do it well.'

The established links between local nurseries and high schools were cancelled due to the pandemic and it was increasingly difficult to promote and market the school as we could not allow visitors. It was not possible to hold our annual Open Evening in October 2020. Consequently interest in the academy was not as high as usual and only 79 children were awarded places for September 2020.

Due to the pandemic extra-curricular clubs were not able to run due to the need to keep children in bubbles. There were no sporting or musical competitions for children to enter.

#### Public benefit

The Academy's articles of association state that it will provide educational facilities and services to students of all ages and the wider community for the public benefit. The Academy Trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

#### **Strategic report**

##### **Achievements and performance**

The academy has faced an unprecedented challenge in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic that has significantly affected the day-to-day operations of the Trust over the last 18 months now spanning two academic years. This in itself, has presented many unique challenges that have been systematically overcome with detailed strategic planning and organisation.

Due to the world-wide pandemic, the school was closed by the Government from 23rd March 20 until 1st June 20 and then again from January 2021 until March 8th 2021 except for Key Worker children. National exams and tests at all levels and for all age groups were cancelled for two years so there are no results for the Academy and no statistical analysis.

Although the academy was not operating as normal, we remained open for all periods of lockdown for the children of key workers. The second lockdown saw a greater amount of key worker children attend with over 100 children on the register.

Despite lock-down, all teaching staff worked at school from January 2021 to March 2021 to support the increased amount of key worker children on site whilst continuing to provide daily education for the children in their class still at home using a virtual platform.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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In addition, there continued to be regular contact with the families of our vulnerable children or those children with Education Health Care Plans, who declined in-school provision feeling that they could care for their children at home. All staff and children returned to school full time from March 8th 2021. Throughout the pandemic the school maintained its reputation and parents were extremely appreciative for the on-line learning and facilities that were available to them.

Online learning was implemented via the Tapestry and Seesaw App. Teachers set the work for children and the system allowed for a dialogue so that staff could give help and advice to those children and parents who needed support for home education.

Regarding overall management of the academy, all staff kept in touch regularly via email keeping up to date with pupil numbers during lockdown, school news, DfE bulletins and updated information, as well as help and guidance for their own wellbeing.

From a financial perspective, the academy has coped incredibly well despite the increase in costs of certain resources to ensure the safety, cleanliness and overall hygiene of our site. The site has always been fit for purpose and remains as such.

Blackpool Council have continued to fund vouchers to support families entitled to free school meals during school holiday periods. Families are entitled to £15 per child per holiday week. Vouchers are sourced from Wonde Evouchers.com and are distributed to families via email. The school purchases and distributes the vouchers and then invoices Blackpool Council for the full amount. The vouchers can be spent at selected shops only. Several families that have contacted school to express their gratitude.

Fundraising for the Trust is undertaken by the PTFA. Unfortunately, the pandemic has taken quite a toll in this area and was not able to raise the normal income from previous years such as the Sponsored Spell and Fayres. The only income was from the sale of book bags.

Overall, the Trust has coped admirably from a financial perspective during the pandemic and has continually provided all that children need, just when they need it. There has been no detrimental effect on cashflow and the level of reserves remains unaffected.

From a staffing perspective, this year has undoubtedly been a challenge. However, staff have faced all problems with eagerness, energy and tenacity and all obstacles have been overcome. Staff have remained positive throughout and have adapted to the changes required during lockdown and partial opening. Since returning in September, the Trust's staff have embraced their many new roles in school and curriculum delivery remains of the highest standard.

The Academy monitors all level of performance to ensure that results and work is on-going to maintain and increase the results. Staff are challenged and held to account through appraisal and children are monitored and receive additional support where necessary to ensure that they achieve.

The Academy is committed to observing the importance of performance indicators to ensure that it continues to strive for both educational and financial excellence.

In its last Ofsted inspection in October 2019, Ofsted assessed the Academy as "Good". The academy is also monitored through the completion and submission to the ESFA of

- The academy accounts return
- The budget outturn
- The budget forecast
- The financial management and governance self-assessment

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Going concern

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

#### **Financial review**

There were no events which has a significant financial effect during the period. The Covid-19 pandemic did not have a material financial impact on the Trust.

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The academy's total incoming resources during the period were £2,840,264 (2020: £2,551,517).

Total funding received for the academy's educational operations in the period was £2,828,994 (2020: £2,536,698) and further details are provided in Note 4 to the accounts.

Total outgoing resources for the period were £2,843,063 (2020: £2,667,608), this related to the direct provision of educational operations. The excess of expenditure over income was £2,799 (2020: £116,091)

At the period end the academy's total reserves were £3,330,784 (2020: £3,360,583), including unrestricted funds of £94,000 (2020: £94,000) and restricted funds of £3,236,784 (2020: £3,266,583). Restricted funds include fixed assets of £4,486,556 (2020: £4,495,127), less the LGPS pensions scheme deficit of £1,549,000 (2020: £1,401,000). The remaining balances on restricted funds relate to funding received in the period which is due to be spent in 2021/22 in accordance with the terms of funding. Further detail is provided in Note 16.

At 31 August 2021 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the school.

On conversion in 2012 the School inherited a deficit of £480,000 in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which many of the non-teaching staff belong to. This deficit had increased to £1,549,000 by 31 August 2021, mainly due to the changes in actuarial assumptions regarding future returns on investments and the present value of future liabilities. The level of any deficit payments will be reviewed following the next actuarial valuation and any changes in the required level of payment will be included in the School's annual budget from the date they take effect. The School does not have an obligation to settle this future liability immediately and there are no indications that it will crystallise in the foreseeable future.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

#### Factors likely to affect future financial performance

The roll recorded on the census as at October 2020 was 601, increasing from 594 the previous year. As a result, the GAG figure per pupil will increase in future. Pupil premium will be reduced due to a change in the availability of certain benefits.



# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Academy's financial objectives are :

- Applying at all times, best value principles in all purchases
- Monitoring and evaluating the value for money of all staff
- To prevent areas of wastage

The objectives were achieved in the period ending 31 August 2021.

#### Reserves policy

The total funds held at the end of the accounting period are £3,330,784. The FRS102 actuarial valuation shows a pension deficit of £1,549,000.

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be approximately 6-8%.

Reserves are required to-

- Ensure sustainability of the school in the event of reductions in funding, reductions in pupil numbers or unexpected increases in expenditure.
- Fund capital projects and the replacement of equipment
- Enable the Trust to respond to opportunities and implement the longer term strategic plan.

The Trust reviews the level of reserves throughout the year as part of management reporting.

#### Restricted GAG reserves:

The Governors have considered the level of GAG reserves which they believe will provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between the spending and receipt of grants and unexpected or planned future revenue and capital costs.

At 31 August 2021 the school held GAG reserves of £299,228 which represents 8% of the GAG income for the year which is in line with the reserves policy. This will be retained to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

#### Unrestricted reserves:

In addition to the GAG reserve, which can only be utilised for the restricted purposes set out in the Funding Agreement, the school holds unrestricted free reserves, which provide additional working capital and are not committed or designated. Reserves levels have been agreed to enable Norbreck Primary Academy to maintain a level which ensures that the core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.

At 31 August 2021 the level of unrestricted reserves held was £94,000.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle.

#### Investment policy

The academy aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the academy aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no tangible risk of the loss of these cash funds.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. There is also uncertainty regarding the extent to which teachers' pay increases and increases to the TPS contribution rates will be funded, and for how long.

Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

### **Fundraising**

The academy does not engage in fundraising directly but liaises closely with the PTFA in varying fundraising activities.

### **Plans for future periods**

In the next few years the Governing Body will:

- Set annual targets for improving pupil achievement
- Review the Academy Improvement Plan on an annual basis
- Discuss and review their "Value for Money" statement at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee
- Always consider best value

Obtain advice from our retained architect regarding any large scale refurbishment of the premises.

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

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

### **Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that MHA Moore and Smalley be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 14/12/2021..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Mr M Warwick**  
**Chair**

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Mulberry Multi 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.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that Norbreck Academy Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. The Trust is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclosed with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Academy and enable us to ensure the financial statements, comply with the Companies Act. The Trust acknowledges responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Academy and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that :

- The Academy is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- The proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy on for publication is reliable
- The Academy complies with relevant laws and regulations
- The Academy'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 Governors 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

In addition, the governors have considered the guidance for directors of public listed companies contained within the Turnbull Report. They believe although it is not mandatory for the Academy it should, as a publicly funded body, adopt these guidelines as best practice. Accordingly they have set policies on internal controls which cover the following :

- the type of risks of the Academy faces;
- the level of risks which they regard as acceptable;
- the likelihood of the risks materialising;
- the Academy's ability to reduce the incidence and impact on the Academy's operations of risks that do materialise;
- the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefits obtained;
- clarified the responsibility of the Management team to implement the governors' policies and to identify and evaluate risks for the governors' consideration;
- explained to employees that they have a responsibility for internal control as part of their accountability for achieving objectives;
- embedded the control system in the Academy's operations so that it becomes part of the culture of the Academy;
- Developed systems to respond quickly to evolving risks arising from factors within the Academy and to changes in the external environment ; and
- Included procedures for reporting failings immediately to appropriate levels of management and the governors together with details of corrective action being undertaken.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs D Robertson	5	5
Mr M Warwick (Chair)	5	5
Mrs K McCarter (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)	5	5
Ms P Hartley (Vice Chair)	4	5
Mrs H Brady	5	5
Mrs L Pannett	4	5
Mrs J Mills (Appointed 13 October 2020)	4	4
Mrs L Horton (Appointed 13 October 2020)	3	4
Mrs L Hackett (Appointed 13 October 2020)	3	4
Ms G Ward (Resigned 13 October 2020)	0	0
Mr R Sheldon (Resigned 13 October 2020)	0	0
Ms S L Allbutt (Resigned 13 October 2020)	0	0

The Board undertakes an annual review of progress against the strategic priorities and its own effectiveness comprising an assessment of its performance against aims and objectives. The Board receives timely data in advance of its meetings to enable it to scrutinise and assess the performance of the Trust. These reports have been adapted to reflect the requirements of the Directors in terms of reporting on standards and the financial position.

The Board of Directors have established a sub-committee of the Trust Board known as the Audit and Finance Committee. The Directors recognise the overriding principles of the Academies Financial Handbook and that the Committee should be established in such a way as to fulfil the Trust's responsibility to ensure financial scrutiny and probity. The Committee provides a process for independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks. The Audit and Finance Committee has formally met 3 times during the year.

The management accounts prepared on a monthly basis during the year ended 31 August 2021 were not fully compliant with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020. The information provided included a comparison of actual income and expenditure to date with budgets together with an explanation of variances and a forecast outturn for the year. However the following pages were not present and the format of the accounts to be compliant with the Academies Financial Handbook will be reviewed from January 2022:

- Balance sheet,
- Cashflow statement,
- Cashflow forecast; and
- Consideration of KPI's.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs D Robertson	3	3
Mr M Warwick (Chair)	2	3
Mrs K McCarter (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)	3	3
Ms P Hartley (Vice Chair)	3	3
Mrs L Pannett	2	3

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# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### **Review of value for money**

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

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and report to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

Norbreck Primary Academy is committed and accountable to ensure that the academy's resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner to meet the objectives and prioritise identified in our Academy Improvement Plan. This will lead to continuous improvement in the academy's performance and secure the best possible outcome for pupils at Norbreck Primary Academy.

#### **What is Best Value?**

We will apply the four principles of best value:

- **Challenge** – to regularly review the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.
- **Compare** – comparing the academy's pupil performances and financial performance with other schools.
- **Consult** – consulting the views of parents and pupils about the services the academy provides.
- **Compete** – ensuring that goods and services are purchased in the most economic, efficient and effective manner, meet the needs of our academy.

#### Our Academy's Approach

The Governors and academy managers will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the academy.
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- the use of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.

Governors, and the academy managers will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools data provided by the Local Authority and the Government eg. financial benchmarking, RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure.
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and performance management of all staff.
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of costs, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup.
- consult parents and pupils on quality/suitability of the service we provide i.e. annual parental/pupil questionnaires, pupil reports, regular pupil council meetings, assigned Local Authority school improvement and Ofsted.

This will apply in particular to staffing, use of premises, use of resources, quality of teaching and learning, purchasing, pupils' welfare and health and safety.

Governors and academy managers will not waste time and resources on investigating areas where few improvements could be made, minor cost savings achieved or tenders sought for minor supplies and services. The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs and this can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

#### Staffing

The accounting officer will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Use of premises

Governors and academy managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching & learning and for the welfare of staff, pupils and visitors. We also generate income through the hire of academy facilities to the benefit of the children and local community.

#### Use of Resources

Governors and academy managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources, which support the highest quality of teaching and learning.

#### Teaching

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- an enriched and creative curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, EYFS and the needs of pupils.
- Teaching which builds on previous learning and has the highest expectations of all children's individual achievements.

#### Learning

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress of 85%.

#### Purchasing

Governors and academy managers will assess need, and obtain goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- Competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £1,000)
- Procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose, quality of workmanship and delivery)
- Procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

We have saved considerably by reviewing several contracts including: swimming, catering, finance, property, personnel, and energy provision. This has resulted in significant savings to the academy whilst achieving greater efficiency.

#### Pupils' Welfare

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a happy and supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation. We have continually maintained our environment with regular decoration, replacement of furniture and continued increase of provisions for children, including significant ICT investment.

#### Health & Safety

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of the school environment and equipment in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

#### Benchmarking

An annual exercise is now undertaken by the school to ensure best value by benchmarking income and expenditure.

#### Collaboration

The trust has undertaken to work collaboratively with four other Blackpool academies to reduce personnel contract costs by sharing administrative tasks.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers e.g. classroom practice.
2. Termly target setting/review meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning, with regular reporting
5. Analysis of school pupil performance data e.g. SAT's results, results against all schools
6. Analysis of DFE pupil performance data e.g. RAISE
7. Ofsted Inspection reports
8. Governors' full termly meetings
9. Governors' annual audit
10. Governor's annual development plan meeting/review of governance.

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Mulberry Multi Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

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

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

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

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to adopt an internal scrutiny function. The trustees have appointed Sheryl Cardwell, Shard Business Services, as Internal Scrutineer ('IS'). The IS's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems.

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

- basic testing on systems and controls in place
- testing of payroll system
- testing of purchase system

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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The internal scrutineer has delivered their schedule of work as planned, providing termly reporting to the Governors' Finance & Audit Committee with no material control issues arising. An annual report has also been prepared for the ESFA.

#### Review of effectiveness

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

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

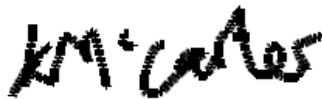
The Members have advised the Accounting Officer of the implications and results of their review of the system of internal control. A plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

14/12/2021

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



**Mr M Warwick**  
Chair



**Mrs K McCarter**  
Headteacher and Accounting Officer



# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

As noted in the Governance Statement, the management accounts prepared on a monthly basis during the year ended 31 August 2021 were not fully compliant with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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



**Mrs K McCarter**  
**Accounting Officer**

14/12/2021

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# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Mulberry Multi Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on <sup>14/12/2021</sup> ..... and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr M Warwick**  
Chair

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Mulberry Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes Reference and Administrative details, Trustees Report incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors Report, the Governance Statement, the Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance and the Trustees Responsibility Statement. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the 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 accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

- Enquiries with management, including governors, about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

Because of the field in which the client operates, we identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health & Safety; compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook; safeguarding and child protection; employment law; data protection and compliance with the UK Companies Act.

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

### **Use of our report**

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



**Christine Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of MHA Moore and Smalley**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

14/12/2021  
.....

# **MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 October 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 Mulberry Multi 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 Mulberry Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Mulberry Multi Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Mulberry Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of Mulberry Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Mulberry Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 4 September 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, 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 period 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 an evaluation of the control environment of the School together with enquiry, analytical review, substantive testing of transactions and consideration of governance issues.

## MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 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.

As explained in more detail in the Board's governance statement and the Accounting Officers statement on regularity, the management accounts prepared on a monthly basis during the year ended 31 August 2021 were not fully compliant with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

*MHA Moore and Smalley*

#### Reporting Accountant MHA Moore and Smalley

Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

14/12/2021  
.....

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	10,795	10,795	11,269
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	5,384	2,823,610	-	2,828,994	2,536,698
Other trading activities	5	475	-	-	475	2,814
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	736
<b>Total</b>		<u>5,859</u>	<u>2,823,610</u>	<u>10,795</u>	<u>2,840,264</u>	<u>2,551,517</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	5,859	2,772,002	65,202	2,843,063	2,667,608
<b>Total</b>	7	<u>5,859</u>	<u>2,772,002</u>	<u>65,202</u>	<u>2,843,063</u>	<u>2,667,608</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		-	51,608	(54,407)	(2,799)	(116,091)
Transfers between funds	16	-	(45,836)	45,836	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(27,000)	-	(27,000)	(65,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		-	(21,228)	(8,571)	(29,799)	(181,091)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		94,000	(1,228,544)	4,495,127	3,360,583	3,541,674
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>94,000</u>	<u>(1,249,772)</u>	<u>4,486,556</u>	<u>3,330,784</u>	<u>3,360,583</u>



# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

		2021		2020	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		4,486,556		4,495,127
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	57,913		80,232	
Cash at bank and in hand		529,428		423,734	
		<u>587,341</u>		<u>503,966</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(194,113)		(237,510)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			393,228		266,456
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			<u>4,879,784</u>		<u>4,761,583</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	18	(1,549,000)		(1,401,000)	
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>3,330,784</u>		<u>3,360,583</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	16				
- Fixed asset funds			4,486,556		4,495,127
- Restricted income funds			299,228		172,456
- Pension reserve			(1,549,000)		(1,401,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>3,236,784</u>		<u>3,266,583</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	16		94,000		94,000
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>3,330,784</u>		<u>3,360,583</u>

The accounts on pages 22 to 43 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 14/12/2021.....  
and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr M Warwick  
Chair

Company Number 08151859

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	19		151,530		148,542
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-		736	
Capital grants from DfE Group		10,795		10,660	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(56,631)		(71,447)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(45,836)		(60,051)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			105,694		88,491
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			423,734		335,243
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>			<u>529,428</u>		<u>423,734</u>

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

Mulberry Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

##### 1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts. The trustees have considered the impact of the Government response to Covid-19 on the activity of the Academy Trust in terms of both increased costs of compliance with guidelines and catch up in learning and also reduced income and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

##### 1.3 Income

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

###### Grants

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

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

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

###### Sponsorship income

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

#### Donated fixed assets

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

### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

#### Expenditure on raising funds

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

#### Charitable activities

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

Land and buildings	125 years (50 years for L&B improvements)
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	4 to 10 years

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

##### 1.6 Liabilities

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

##### 1.7 Leased assets

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

##### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

###### Financial assets

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

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

###### Financial liabilities

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

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.9 Taxation

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

#### 1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

#### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(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.

#### **Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability**

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2013 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. 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.

#### **Useful economic life of tangible fixed assets**

The useful economic life of tangible fixed assets is judged at the point of purchase. As standard, the useful economic life applied is based on the depreciation policy stated above.

#### **Impairment of fixed assets**

At each balance sheet date, management undertake an assessment of the carrying value of tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that the value has been impaired. Where necessary, impairment is recorded as an impairment loss.

#### Critical areas of judgement

#### **Classification and valuation of long leasehold land and buildings**

The academy's long leasehold land and buildings are held under a 125 year lease and are wholly used in the course of the academy's business and are held within the academy.

At the date of transition, the long leasehold land and buildings were measured at their fair value at 1 November 2011, which upon transition, has been interpreted as deemed cost. Subsequent purchases of land and buildings are initially measured at cost.

### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Capital grants	-	10,795	10,795	10,660
Other donations	-	-	-	609
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,795</u>	<u>10,795</u>	<u>11,269</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £10,795 (2020: £11,269) of which £- was restricted (2020: £609) and £10,795 was restricted fixed assets (2020: £10,660).

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,253,750	2,253,750	2,070,482
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
UIFSM	-	105,733	105,733	-
Pupil premium	-	164,655	164,655	-
Others	-	138,535	138,535	396,561
	-	2,662,673	2,662,673	2,467,043
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	72,499	72,499	40,367
Special educational projects	-	-	-	6,000
	-	72,499	72,499	46,367
<b>Exceptional government funding</b>				
Coronavirus exceptional support	-	48,800	48,800	-
Other incoming resources	5,384	39,638	45,022	23,288
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>5,384</b>	<b>2,823,610</b>	<b>2,828,994</b>	<b>2,536,698</b>

The income from funding for educational operations was £2,828,994 (2020: £2,536,698) of which £5,384 was unrestricted (2020: £-) and £2,823,610 was restricted (2020: £2,536,698).

Coronavirus exceptional funding related to ESFA catch-up premium, which was fully expensed in the year.

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hire of facilities	-	-	-	2,073
Other income	475	-	475	741
	475	-	475	2,814

The income from other trading activities was £475 (2020: £2,814) of which £475 was unrestricted (2020: £2,814).



# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Short term deposits	-	-	-	736

The income from funding for investment income was £- (2020: £736) of which £- was unrestricted (2020: £736).

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,889,984	19,818	178,395	2,088,197	1,951,961
- Allocated support costs	390,849	202,078	161,939	754,866	715,647
	<u>2,280,833</u>	<u>221,896</u>	<u>340,334</u>	<u>2,843,063</u>	<u>2,667,608</u>

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7,475	7,265
- Other services	3,430	3,335
Operating lease rentals	12,132	12,349
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	65,202	49,945
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	24,000	20,000

### 8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	475	2,087,722	2,088,197	1,951,961
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	5,384	749,482	754,866	715,647
	<u>5,859</u>	<u>2,837,204</u>	<u>2,843,063</u>	<u>2,667,608</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £2,843,063 (2020: £2,667,608) of which £5,859 was unrestricted (2020: £3,550), £2,772,002 was restricted (2020: £2,614,113) and £65,202 was restricted fixed assets (2020: £49,945).

2021 £	2020 £
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# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 8 Charitable activities (Continued)

#### Analysis of support costs

Support staff costs	390,849	408,715
Depreciation	45,384	46,597
Premises costs	141,688	112,918
Legal costs	991	891
Other support costs	158,013	134,385
Governance costs	17,941	12,141
	<u>754,866</u>	<u>715,647</u>

### 9 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,635,516	1,597,574
Social security costs	142,410	139,438
Pension costs	467,619	470,677
	<u>2,245,545</u>	<u>2,207,689</u>
Staff costs - employees		
Agency staff costs	35,288	6,012
	<u>2,280,833</u>	<u>2,213,701</u>

#### Staff numbers

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

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Teachers	25	25
Administration and support	44	44
Management	4	4
	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 9 Staff

(Continued)

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	22	22
Administration and support	24	24
Management	4	4
	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The above employee participated in the Teacher's Pension Scheme. During the year, pension contributions for this employee amounted to £20,883 (2020: £20,324).

#### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £332,689 (2020: £333,237).

### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

K McCarter (Headteacher):

Remuneration £85,001 - £90,000 (2020: £85,001 - £90,000)

Employer's pension contributions £20,001 - £25,000 (2020: £20,001 - £25,000)

H Brady (Staff Governor):

Remuneration £35,001 - £40,000 (2020: £35,001 - £40,000)

Employer's pension contributions £5,001 - £10,000 (2020: £5,001 - £10,000)

During the year, £nil expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to the Governors (2020: £nil).

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim, the cost of this insurance is not separately identifiable and included within the total insurance cost.

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2020	4,785,258	198,079	86,861	5,070,198
Additions	-	56,631	-	56,631
At 31 August 2021	4,785,258	254,710	86,861	5,126,829
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2020	325,423	171,078	78,570	575,071
Charge for the year	42,732	19,818	2,652	65,202
At 31 August 2021	368,155	190,896	81,222	640,273
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2021	4,417,103	63,814	5,639	4,486,556
At 31 August 2020	4,459,835	27,001	8,291	4,495,127

### 13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
VAT recoverable	4,538	6,187
Prepayments and accrued income	53,375	74,045
	57,913	80,232

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	30,057	69,251
Other taxation and social security	34,089	-
Other creditors	40,839	73,070
Accruals and deferred income	89,128	95,189
	194,113	237,510

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

#### 15 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	54,853	64,224
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	64,224	69,349
Released from previous years	(64,224)	(69,349)
Resources deferred in the year	54,853	64,224
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2021</b>	<b>54,853</b>	<b>64,224</b>

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance in relation to the Universal Free School Meals grant and PGL trip income.

#### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	172,456	2,253,750	(2,081,142)	(45,836)	299,228
UIFSM	-	105,733	(105,733)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	164,655	(164,655)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	138,535	(138,535)	-	-
Other government grants	-	121,299	(121,299)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	39,638	(39,638)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,401,000)	-	(121,000)	(27,000)	(1,549,000)
	(1,228,544)	2,823,610	(2,772,002)	(72,836)	(1,249,772)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	4,127,330	-	(35,316)	-	4,092,014
DfE group capital grants	-	10,795	-	(10,795)	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	367,797	-	(29,886)	56,631	394,542
	4,495,127	10,795	(65,202)	45,836	4,486,556
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>3,266,583</b>	<b>2,834,405</b>	<b>(2,837,204)</b>	<b>(27,000)</b>	<b>3,236,784</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	94,000	5,859	(5,859)	-	94,000
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>3,360,583</b>	<b>2,840,264</b>	<b>(2,843,063)</b>	<b>(27,000)</b>	<b>3,330,784</b>

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 16 Funds

(Continued)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running expenses of the trust and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Other DfE/EFA grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Other government grants include Pupil Premium funding and grants received in respect of the nurseries and Children's Centre.

Other restricted funds include contributions received for school trips and non public donations.

The pension reserve represents the value of the trust's share of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme. The value of the deficit inherited on conversion was £480,000.

Restricted fixed asset funds include assets funded from capital grants and out of the GAG. Depreciation is to be charged against this fund each year.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 16 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	147,767	2,070,482	(1,985,006)	(60,787)	172,456
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	396,561	(396,561)	-	-
Other government grants	23,282	46,367	(69,649)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	23,897	(23,897)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,197,000)	-	(139,000)	(65,000)	(1,401,000)
	<u>(1,025,951)</u>	<u>2,537,307</u>	<u>(2,614,113)</u>	<u>(125,787)</u>	<u>(1,228,544)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Transfer on conversion	4,162,646	-	(35,316)	-	4,127,330
DfE group capital grants	12,486	10,660	-	(23,146)	-
Capital expenditure from GAG	298,493	-	(14,629)	83,933	367,797
	<u>4,473,625</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>(49,945)</u>	<u>60,787</u>	<u>4,495,127</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>3,447,674</u>	<u>2,547,967</u>	<u>(2,664,058)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>3,266,583</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>94,000</u>	<u>3,550</u>	<u>(3,550)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,000</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>3,541,674</u>	<u>2,551,517</u>	<u>(2,667,608)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>3,360,583</u>

### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,486,556	4,486,556
Current assets	94,000	493,341	-	587,341
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(194,113)	-	(194,113)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,549,000)	-	(1,549,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>94,000</u>	<u>(1,249,772)</u>	<u>4,486,556</u>	<u>3,330,784</u>

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,495,127	4,495,127
Current assets	94,000	409,966	-	503,966
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(237,510)	-	(237,510)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,401,000)	-	(1,401,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>94,000</b>	<b>(1,228,544)</b>	<b>4,495,127</b>	<b>3,360,583</b>

### 18 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 Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £40,839 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020: £39,424 and are included within creditors).

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### 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.



# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £253,667 (2020: £251,722).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

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

<b>Total contributions made</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Employer's contributions	118,000	99,000
Employees' contributions	30,000	29,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	148,000	128,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2	3.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.8	2.5
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.8
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7	2.4
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# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.4	22.3
- Females	25.1	25.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.9	23.8
- Females	26.9	26.8

Sensitivity analysis:	Central £000	Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. discount rate £000	Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. inflation £000	Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. pay growth £000	Sensitivity 4 1 yr increase in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	3,188	3,123	3,255	3,193	3,289
Assets	(1,639)	(1,639)	(1,639)	(1,639)	(1,639)
Deficit	1,549	1,484	1,616	1,554	1,650
Projected service cost for next year	235	229	242	235	243
Projected net interest cost for next year	25	26	26	25	27

#### The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2021 Fair value £	2020 Fair value £
Equities	828,000	607,000
Other bonds	87,000	92,000
Cash	34,000	24,000
Property	164,000	181,000
Other assets	526,000	427,000
Total market value of assets	1,639,000	1,331,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £194,000 (2020: £(38,000)).

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

<b>18 Pension and similar obligations</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
<b>Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	212,000	198,000
Past service cost	-	17,000
Interest income	(25,000)	(25,000)
Interest cost	49,000	45,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	(3,000)	(3,000)
Administration expenses	3,000	3,000
	<u>236,000</u>	<u>235,000</u>
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>235,000</b>
	<u><u>236,000</u></u>	<u><u>235,000</u></u>
<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2020	2,732,000	2,551,000
Current service cost	212,000	198,000
Interest cost	49,000	45,000
Employee contributions	30,000	29,000
Actuarial loss	196,000	2,000
Benefits paid	(31,000)	(110,000)
Past service cost	-	17,000
	<u>3,188,000</u>	<u>2,732,000</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u><u>3,188,000</u></u>	<u><u>2,732,000</u></u>
<b>Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 September 2020	1,331,000	1,354,000
Interest income	25,000	25,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	169,000	(63,000)
Employer contributions	118,000	99,000
Employee contributions	30,000	29,000
Benefits paid	(31,000)	(110,000)
Administrative expenses	(3,000)	(3,000)
	<u>1,639,000</u>	<u>1,331,000</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u><u>1,639,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,331,000</u></u>

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

### 19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(2,799)	(116,091)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(10,795)	(10,660)
Investment income receivable	-	(736)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	97,000	119,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	24,000	20,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	65,202	49,945
Decrease in debtors	22,319	6,481
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(43,397)	80,603
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>151,530</u>	<u>148,542</u>

### 20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2021 £
Cash	<u>423,734</u>	<u>105,694</u>	<u>529,428</u>

### 21 Long-term commitments, including 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	13,364	12,297
Amounts due in two and five years	5,495	12,479
	<u>18,859</u>	<u>24,776</u>

### 22 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

# MULBERRY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### **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 or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

# Mulberry Multi Academy Trust

Norbreck Road, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 1PD • Tel: (01253) 897801  
Email: [admin@mulberrymat.co.uk](mailto:admin@mulberrymat.co.uk)



MHA Moore and Smalley  
Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

Dear Sirs

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your audit of the academy trust's financial statements and, as relevant, your assurance engagement on regularity for the year ended 31 August 2021. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

## General

- 1 We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees as set out in the terms of your engagement letter, under the Companies Act 2006 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
- 2 All the transactions undertaken by the academy trust have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.
- 3 All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and regularity assurance engagement. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the academy trust, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and trustee meetings and correspondence with the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education and the Charity Commission.
- 4 The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- 5 We approve the adjustments made to the draft statutory accounts as set out in your audit findings report.
- 6 The effects of uncorrected misstatements (as set out in your audit findings report) are immaterial both individually and in total.

## Internal control and fraud

- 7 We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control systems to prevent and detect fraud and error and which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. We have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.
- 8 We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 9 We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

### **Assets and liabilities**

- 10 The academy trust has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the academy trust's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
- 11 All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.
- 12 We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and where relevant the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

### **Accounting estimates**

- 13 Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 14 We acknowledge that the academy has had 2 valuations of the carrying value of the land and building, from independent, suitably qualified valuers, and that since the valuations are within a range of 1%, it is appropriate to use any value within that range, on a consistent basis.

### **Loans and arrangements**

- 15 The academy trust has not granted any advances or credits to or made guarantees on behalf of directors other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

### **Legal claims**

- 16 We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for, and disclosed in, the financial statements.

### **Law and regulations**

- 17 We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

### **Related parties**

- 18 Related party relationships and transactions comply with the academy trust's financial regulations, relevant requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook and have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with the requirements and guidance set out in the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

### **Subsequent events**

- 19 All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

### **Going concern**

- 20 We believe that the academy's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the academy's needs. We also confirm our plans for future action required to enable the academy to continue as a going concern are feasible. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the academy's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

**Grants and donations**

- 21 Grants made by the Department of Education and Education and Skills Funding Agency have been applied for the purposes intended and the Accounting Officer has ensured regular and proper use and value for money of monies received from government.
- 22 All other grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware.

We confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant other information needed by you in connection with preparing your reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity of which you are unaware.

Each trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit/other information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully



.....  
Director



.....  
Director

On behalf of the board of directors

Date ..14/12/2021.....



# Mulberry Multi Academy Trust

Norbreck Road, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 1PD • Tel: (01253) 897801  
Email: admin@mulberrymat.co.uk



MHA Moore and Smalley  
Richard House  
9 Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

Dear Sirs

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as I consider necessary in connection with your assurance report on regularity to Mulberry Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate and are sufficient to satisfy me that I can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of my knowledge and belief.

## General

- 1 I have fulfilled my responsibilities as accounting officer under the requirements of the funding agreement between Mulberry Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education dated 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.
- 2 I acknowledge my personal responsibility to Parliament for the regularity and propriety of the public finances for which I am answerable; for the keeping of proper accounts; for effective internal controls; for prudent and economical administration; for the avoidance of waste and extravagance; for achieving value for money; and for the efficient and effective use of all the resources in my charge.
- 3 I acknowledge my responsibility to notify the governing body and the ESFA of any instances of material irregularity or impropriety, or non-compliance with the terms of the academy trust's funding agreement and have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 in performing this duty.
- 4 Any instances of material irregularity, impropriety, or non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the governing body and the ESFA.
- 5 Significant matters of which you should be aware have been brought to your attention including any instances of irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the academy trust's authorising framework.
- 6 Full and free access has been granted to the all records, correspondence, information and explanations that you have considered necessary to enable you to perform your work.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.M. Carter", is written over a dotted line.

Accounting Officer

Date..14/12/2021.....