

# Financial Statements United Learning Trust

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**For the year ended 31 August 2015**

**Registered number: 04439859**

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# Reference and Administrative Details of the Academy Trust, its Members, Trustees, Directors and Advisers

For the year ended 31 August 2015

## **Members**

The United Church Schools Trust  
Mr K Poyser

## **Trustees and Directors**

Dame Y Bevan  
Mr J Coles  
Mrs A Crowe  
Mr M George  
Sir M Graydon (resigned 21 May 2015)  
Sir A Greener  
Mr R Greenhalgh (appointed 25 March 2015)  
Mr D Robinson  
Mr N Robson, Chairman

## **Company registered number**

04439859

## **Principal and registered office**

Fairline House  
Nene Valley Business Park  
Oundle  
Peterborough  
PE8 4HN

## **Company secretary**

Mr S Whiffen (appointed 12 February 2015)  
Mr A C D Holmes (resigned 16 January 2015)

## **Chief executive officer**

Mr J Coles

## **Senior management team (as at 1 September 2015)**

Mr J Coles, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms A Bush, Head of Strategy and Performance  
Mrs L Johnston, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr G Harvey-Browne, Director of Estates  
Mrs M Coalter, Director of People  
Dame S Coates, Director of Secondary Academies (South)  
Mr D Lee, Primary Director  
Mr D Norrish, Group Director of Technology  
Mrs T Ruddle, Primary director  
Mrs J Woods, Director of Secondary Academies (North)

# Reference and Administrative Details of the Academy Trust, its Members, Trustees, Directors and Advisers

For the year ended 31 August 2015

## Administrative details (continued)

### **Independent auditor**

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
300 Pavilion Drive  
Northampton Business Park  
Northampton  
NN4 7YE

### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC  
Birmingham

### **Solicitors**

Hewitsons LLP  
Elgin House  
Billing Road  
Northampton  
NN1 5AU

Stone King LLP  
30 Station Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 2RE

# Directors' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2015

The Directors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of United Learning Trust (the Charitable Company) for the year ended 31 August 2015. The Directors confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the Academy Trust comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Academy Trust's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005.

## Structure, governance and management

### Constitution

The Charitable Company is a Charitable Company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 May 2002. The Charitable Company is an exempt charity.

The principal object of the Charitable Company is to provide for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining and developing schools offering a broad curriculum with a strong emphasis on, but in no way limited to, either one, or a combination of the specialisms specified in the Relevant Funding Agreements, in all cases to include religious instruction in the doctrine and duties of Christianity, principally the same as are taught by the Church of England but also sensitive to the teachings, attitudes and practices of other Christian Communion and Denominations.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has adopted a scheme of governance approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The scheme of governance specifies, amongst other things, the criteria for admitting students to the academies, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum with an emphasis on a particular subject and its practical applications.

### 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.

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

The management of the Charitable Company is the responsibility of the Directors who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Directors hold office for three years. They may, if reappointed, remain in office for up to three further consecutive periods of three years after which any Director can be re-appointed on an annual basis. Directors are appointed by the sponsor, United Church Schools Trust.

The training and induction provided for new Directors is dependent upon their existing experience. Where necessary, induction will provide training on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. All new Directors are given tours of the Charitable Company's academies and the chance to meet with staff and students. Directors are provided with copies of the policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents needed to undertake their role as a Director.

### Risk management

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the Charitable Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charitable Company, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are

## Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2015

in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

### **Subsidiary companies**

The Charitable Company owns 100% of the issued ordinary shares of ULT Projects Limited, ULT Trading Limited and Regis Community Arena Limited, companies incorporated in England. Further details about these companies are given in Note 18 to the financial statements.

### **Connected organisations**

United Church Schools Trust and United Church Schools Foundation Limited are within the same Charitable Group as the Charitable Company and are assisting the Charitable Company to achieve its objectives of providing education within the academy programme.

### **Public benefit**

The Directors confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the Charitable Company's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year.

## Strategic report

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

The Charitable Company manages the operation of a group of academies to provide education for students of different abilities from nursery to age 19.

In setting the objectives, and planning the activities, the Directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

### **About United Learning**

The overall aim of the Charitable Group is to promote excellent education, providing strong schools which enable all young people to make a success of their lives. The roots of our charity can be traced back over 130 years, and we have founded and developed a large number of schools, focusing on the most important social and educational challenges of the day. Our strength lies in our unique collaboration between state and independent schools, in our national reach and in our continued determination to learn, improve and achieve excellence.

As of 31 August 2015, United Learning – the trading name of the Charitable Group – comprises 13 independent schools, 41 state sector academies and a small Central Office function that serves our schools.

### **Improved Academic Performance**

Over the course of the year, academic performance improved across the Group; despite a national dip in performance at GCSE, our academies' average rose 4 percentage points.

## Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2015

### **Academies**

At A Level:

- 68.9% of entries were awarded A\*-C
- The overall pass rate was 97.2%

At GCSE:

- 49.8% of students achieved five or more A\*-C grades including English and maths
- 71% of students made at least expected progress in English
- 62% of students made at least expected progress in maths

There were some notable improvements and successes at Nova Hreod Academy, Swindon Academy, Kettering Buccleuch Academy, Walthamstow Academy, Richard Rose Central Academy and Richard Rose Morton Academy.

Nine of our academies received full Ofsted inspections during the academic year. Five received Good outcomes – Accrington Academy, Glenmoor Academy, Stockport Academy, Winton Academy and Wye School. Of the remaining four, two were removed from Special Measures during their inspection including Richard Rose Central Academy which joined the Group in September 2014.

### **Improving Primary School Performance**

Four out of the five of our primary academies receiving full Ofsted inspections during the academic year were judged to be Good – Abbey Hey Primary Academy, Grange Primary Academy, Hanwell Fields Community School and The Victory Primary School.

### **Closing the Gap**

Amongst Free School Meals pupils at our primary academies, the percentage achieving a Level 4 in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 was 75% in August 2015, an increase of 11 percentage points compared with 2014. For the primary group as a whole, there is no longer a difference at Key Stage 2 on attainment and progress measures between those on Free School Meals and those not.

At secondary level, the number of Free School Meals students gaining five or more A\*-C GCSEs (including English and maths) improved to 40% from 37% in one year. This is in line with the improvement amongst students generally in the Group.

### **Powerful Knowledge**

During the course of the year we developed and began to implement a United Learning Curriculum in English and maths extending from Year 1 to Year 9. This highly rigorous academic curriculum builds on the new national curriculum to ensure all children in our schools learn the English and maths that they need to be successful at school and in life.

We conducted the pilot of our United Classroom initiative offering GCSE Astronomy to Year 9 and 10 students from Lambeth Academy and Surbiton High School, successfully providing them with access to a highly academic subject that they would not otherwise be able to study.

### **Education with Character**

Our pupil experience offer continued to expand this year to meet our Pupil Charter. This sets out the entitlement of every young person in the Group to excellent enrichment opportunities. During the year, over 12,700 pupils took part in some form of Group-wide pupil experience designed to challenge and engage them and introduce them to new opportunities. Activities included an extensive range of group-wide sporting and musical activities