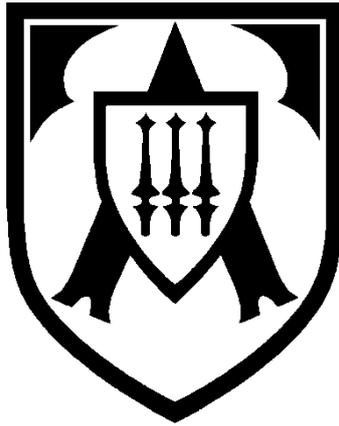


Company number 07517121 (England and Wales)



Amherst School (Academy) Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2016

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

CONTENTS

Item	Page
Reference and Administration details	1
Trustees' report	3
Governance Statement	21
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	26
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	27
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	28
Independent Auditors Report on Regularity	30
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	32
Balance Sheet	33
Cash Flow statement	34
Notes to the Financial Statements, incorporating: Statements of Accounting Policies Other notes to the Financial Statements	35

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Company Registration Number	07517121 (England and Wales)	
Members of the Company, all of whom are Trustees	David Hale* Andrew Reid* Sylvia Penzer Vivienne Rose* Christopher Thornton Edmund Walker*	(Chair) (Head Teacher and Accounting Officer) <i>(resigned 27 March 2016)</i> <i>(Vice-Chair until 5 July 2016)</i>
Elected Staff Trustees	Stuart Hancock Patricia Jones Jane Parish*	Assistant Head Teacher Business Manager
Elected Parent Trustees	Sebastien Coquelin Jennifer Diprose* Emily Grier* Joanna Mais Carolyn Swain	<i>(elected Vice-Chair 5 July 2016)</i> <i>(elected 16 July 2016)</i>
Member Appointed Trustees	Susan Arnold Matthew Hebden* Philippa Porter Sarah Shilling Rinske Tate	<i>(also staff)</i> <i>(resigned 6 November 2015)</i>

* Members of the Finance and Buildings Committee

Company Secretary and Clerk to the Trustees	Katherine Baillache
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Senior Management Team:

Headteacher	Andrew Reid
Assistant Headteacher	Patricia Jones
School Business Manager	Jane Parish
Year Group Leaders	Stephanie Apps Kathryn Barratt Stuart Hancock Judith Wheeler

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal and Registered Office	Witches Lane Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2AX
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 80 High Street Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1LR
Independent Auditor	Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited North House 198 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BE
Solicitors	Brachers LLP Sommerfield House 59 London Road Maidstone Kent ME16 8JH

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 7 to 11 serving a catchment area in Sevenoaks, Kent. It has pupil capacity of 384 and had a roll of 384 in the school census on 6 October 2016.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of Amherst School (Academy) Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Amherst School.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted 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

There are no third party indemnity provisions to disclose.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

All trustees are Directors of the Company and vice versa.

The members of the Company are listed in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1. All members of the Company are also trustees. The members are entitled to nominate and appoint one or more trustees.

Subject to Articles 48-49 and 63, the Company shall have the following trustees:

- up to 20 trustees, appointed by the Members under Article 50; Currently five trustees in this category in addition to the five Members

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

- | | |
|---|---|
| • any elected Staff Trustees, if appointed under Article 50A; | Currently three elected Staff Trustees |
| • any Academy Trustees, if appointed under Article 51 or Article 52; | Currently no trustees in this category |
| • the Headteacher | The Headteacher is currently a Member in any case |
| • a minimum of two elected Parent Trustees appointed under Articles 53-56; | Currently four elected Parent Trustees |
| • any Additional Trustees, if appointed under Article 61, 61A or 67A; | Currently no trustees in this category |
| • any Further Trustees, if appointed under Article 62 or Article 67A; | Currently no trustees in this category |
| • Additional Trustees, if appointed by the Secretary of State in accordance with the terms of any of the Relevant Funding Agreements following the provision of a notice by the Company to terminate that Relevant Funding Agreement. | Currently no trustees in this category |

Every trustee, including all Members except the Headteacher, is nominated or elected to a trustee post or vacancy and has a designated four year term in office.

In the event that there is more than one candidate nominated for a vacant elected Staff or Parent Trustee post, an election is held and the successful candidate is the person to receive the most votes. At the end of a trustee's term, if eligible, they may stand for re-election and, if re-elected, to sit for a further term, as appropriate.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

A Link Trustee is appointed to co-ordinate attendance at trustee training sessions. Trustees are provided with details of the Kent Governors CPD Online website operated by Kent County Council. They are also encouraged to attend the Induction and on-going training courses that are provided by Kent County Council.

From the date of appointment, new trustees participate in meetings of the board of trustees. They may be invited to participate as part of the various sub-committee meetings that will depend on their areas of interest, expertise, time available and committee requirements. Trustees are encouraged to attend the school outside of committee meetings to meet staff and to become familiar with the school.

Organisational Structure

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and is also the Academy's Accounting Officer.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

The board of trustees of Amherst School is responsible for three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent.

The board of trustees sets general policies and has formed the following committees:

- Finance and Buildings Committee
- Teaching and Learning Committee
- Staff and Pupil Welfare Committee
- Pay and Performance Committee

Finance and Buildings Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Finance and Buildings Committee are as follows:

General

- Annually approve the Amherst School (Academy) Trust Finance Policy which includes:
 - Recommended levels of delegation;
 - Ensuring adequate levels of buildings/personal liability insurance;
 - Making decisions in respect of service agreements and insurance;
 - Setting the levels of virement; and
 - Setting the levels of Tender and Purchasing limits.
- In consultation with the Headteacher, as the academy's accounting officer, oversee the preparation of the Academy's indicative funding, notified annually by the Department of Education and to assess its implications for the Academy.
- Set the financial limits of the power of the Headteacher to commit expenditure or vire between budget heads without prior reference to the Committee. (Refer to The Amherst School (Academy) Trust Finance Policy).
- Monitor actual income and expenditure and where necessary agree corrective action with the Headteacher.
- Receive reports / recommendations / requests from other Committees for additional funding and respond appropriately.
- Keep in-school financial procedures under review.
- Monitor all tender / contract or other such arrangements as they apply to the school and set a financial limit above which the Committee is involved in any tendering process including external funding.
- Where necessary, overview the school's preparation / submission of direct bids for special scheme funding.
- Be responsible, in conjunction with the Headteacher and Business Manager, for ensuring attainment of Academies Financial Management and Governance Evaluation within the appropriate timescale. Once attained ensure it is maintained and given due consideration when taking decisions.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

- Monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis and the appointment of Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited, the external auditor, to provide the Governing Body with an independent, ongoing, oversight of the Academy's financial affairs and assurance that:
 - Financial Responsibilities of the Governing Body are being properly discharged;
 - Resources are managed in an efficient, economical and effective manner; and
 - Sound systems of financial control are being maintained.
- Ensure that financial considerations are being fully taken into account when reaching decisions.
- Review the committee's terms of reference annually.

Budget / annual accounts

- In partnership with the Headteacher and giving regard to the School's Improvement Plan and OFSTED Action Plan, evaluate and recommend the annual budget for approval by the board of trustees (Full Governing Board - FGB).
- Maintain an up to date balanced three year plan.
- Review financial monitoring and report significant variances to the FGB.
- Benchmark school financial performance and report to the FGB.
- Evaluate proposed expenditure following recommendations from the Headteacher and present these to the FGB.
- Receive auditors' reports and recommend to the FGB action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
- Prepare the financial statements to form part of the annual report of the governing body to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act and Charity Commission requirements (Annex 5A4).
- Be responsible for ensuring that the school's Voluntary Fund is audited by a suitably qualified auditor and that the audit certificate is recorded in the Finance Committee minutes which the Chair subsequently signs and the audit certificate is retained with the accounts.
- Recommend to the Full Governing Body at the Annual General Meeting the appointment or reappointment of the auditors of the Academy.

Premises

- Maintain school buildings through a properly funded maintenance plan.
- Review progress of all significant projects currently underway within the school.
- Ensure that adequate levels of buildings insurance and personal liability cover are in place.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

Health and Safety

Monitor the daily activities of the site in order to be satisfied that the school Health and Safety procedures are adequate and to make recommendations accordingly.

- Approve maintenance expenditure, other than minor routine issues, in accordance with the Governors' tenant responsibilities and in consultation with the Headteacher.
- Undertake an annual review of the school's Health and Safety Policy.
- Support the Headteacher in taking any actions as may be necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of staff, children and visitors alike on the school site.
- Be concerned with and review:
 - General state of repair and security of buildings, fixtures and fittings;
 - Measures for improving energy efficiency;
 - Service agreements and insurances;
 - Security of persons using or visiting the site;
 - Electrical services and appliances;
 - Gas services and appliances;
 - Sanitary conditions;
 - Safe movement and practices by staff and pupils on the site;
 - Supervision and general safety of pupils;
 - Fire procedures;
 - Bomb procedures;
 - Medicines and first aid;
 - Other emergency procedures; and
 - Conditions survey produced by Property Services identifying Landlord and Tenant responsibilities.

Risk Management

- Review the academy's Key Risk Register at least on a termly basis; Identify, assess and report to the Governing Body, as necessary, any risks that may impact the academy, and include in the Key Risk Register.
- Receive information from other committees with regard the identification of risks that may affect the academy, for inclusion in the Key Risk Register.
- Report back to the Full Governing Body on any areas for development included within the School Improvement Plan that are unlikely to be achieved, identifying the impact and associated costs of the delay.

Extended Schools

- Review school lettings and review the lettings policy every three years.

Other

- Review provision of Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.
- Explore other avenues of fundraising and otherwise marketing the school as necessary or appropriate.

The Finance and Buildings Committee has been chaired during this period by Steve Platt who resigned as a trustee on 7 July 2016. Vivienne Rose has been appointed as the new chair of the Finance and Buildings Committee.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

Teaching and Learning Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Teaching and Learning Committee are as follows:

General

- To review and update the statutory information on the school's website.
- To identify and report risks within the committee's responsibilities, for inclusion in the academy's Key Risk Register.

Curriculum

- To consider the National Curriculum and school curriculum policies.
- To monitor delivery of the National Curriculum across Key Stage 2.
- To review the curriculum aims of the school and make recommendations.
- To decide whether sex education is to be provided and, if so, to produce a written policy on Relationships and Sex education.
- To allow parents to withdraw pupils from sex education that goes beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To inform the DfE of pupils for whom exceptions and modifications to the National Curriculum have been made.

Monitoring

- To monitor the quality of teaching, learning and the delivery of the curriculum in all classes.
- To monitor and analyse the progress of Pupil Premium children and the effective use of funding.
- To monitor and evaluate the effective use of PE funding.
- To monitor progress towards relevant School Improvement Plan priorities.
- To monitor and analyse pupil progress data for all year groups twice a year.
- To ensure that Year Group Governor visits are in accordance with the Guidelines for Governors. The focus and structure can be agreed between the Headteacher and Governors so that the visit is as informative, constructive and as useful as possible.

Information to parents

- To inform parents of the school's curriculum in the prospectus and on the website.
- To agree a Home School Agreement.

The Teaching and Learning Committee was chaired by Sylvia Penzer until 27 March 2016 and is now chaired by Carolyn Swain.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

Staff and Pupil Welfare Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Staff and Pupil Welfare Committee are as follows:

General

- To monitor pupil and staff attendance.
- To organise pupil, parent and staff questionnaires and evaluate their results.
- To appoint governors responsible for SEND, safeguarding and e-safety.
- To monitor progress towards relevant School Improvement Plan priorities.
- To appoint a governor responsible to liaise with PSHE coordinator and staff responsible for school council.
- To monitor transition arrangements between Riverhead and Amherst Schools.
- To identify and report risks within the committee's responsibilities, for inclusion in the academy's Key Risk Register.
- To review staff well being.
- To support pupil health and well being.
- To review committee terms of reference annually.

Safeguarding

- To be responsible for all aspects of safeguarding within school.
- To be responsible for all aspects of e-safety within school.
- Chair or Vice Chair to review Single Central Record annually.
- To be responsible for the staff induction manual and acceptable use policy.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

- To have responsibility for monitoring SEND provision in all year groups.
- To monitor and analyse the progress of all SEND pupils.

Community

- To develop and evaluate parent and community links with the school.
- To proactively seek opportunities to promote positive links between Riverhead and Amherst Schools.

Collective Worship

- To be responsible for the provision of collective worship.

The Staff and Pupil Welfare Committee is chaired by Philippa Porter.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Pay and Performance Committee

The Pay and Performance Committee comprises the Headteacher, Chair of Trustees, Vice Chair of Trustees and the chairs of both the Finance and Buildings Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee. The Headteacher is excluded from discussions on the subject of his own remuneration.

The Pay and Performance Committee meets annually to set the remuneration of the Headteacher and has delegated powers to do this on behalf of the board of trustees.

The Terms of Reference of the Pay and Performance Committee are:

- To ensure the achievement of all the pay policy objectives and principles in a fair, reasonable and equitable manner.
- To undertake an annual pay review for all staff and reach decisions through the application of the criteria set out in this policy following full consideration of any recommendation made by a performance management reviewer.
- To ensure all members of staff are informed of the outcome of the annual pay review in writing within ten working days of the decision being made.
- To observe all statutory and contractual obligations.
- To recommend to the Governing Body changes to the policy and to consult with staff and recognised unions on those proposed changes.
- To seek advice from Schools' Personnel Service where appropriate.
- To maintain an accurate written record of all meetings and, having due regard to confidentiality, to report its decisions to the Governing Body.
- To recommend to the Finance and Buildings Committee the annual budget for pay and to ensure that sources of external funding for pay are accessed to maximum effect.
- To report any risk identified with the committee's responsibilities, for inclusion in the academy's Key Risk Register.

Membership of the Pay Committee will exclude anyone who could benefit financially, directly or indirectly, from such membership or any of the decisions of the committee.

The Academy will always ensure that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Trustees will be able to undertake separate roles as members of either the Pay Committee or an Appeal Panel.

The Pay and Performance Committee is chaired by Ed Walker.

Trustee Meetings

A board of trustees meeting is held once per seasonal term (three times per year). The Finance and Buildings Committee, the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Staff and Pupil Welfare Committee each meet at least once per seasonal term. The Pay and Performance Committee meets annually with additional ad hoc meetings as required.

If necessary, additional meetings of the board of trustees or any committees may be called by the Headteacher or Chair of Trustees, or Chair of the Committee, with appropriate notice and consents.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The salaries of the Headteacher and other members of the Senior Management Team are set in accordance with the school's current Pay and Reward policy.

The Headteacher's Performance Management took place on 7 December 2015 and was conducted by two Governors (including the Vice Chair) in conjunction with an external adviser as agreed. This Appraisal of the Headteacher resulted in a Review and Planning Statement which included evidence from Making Figures Speak for Themselves, Raise Online, The School Improvement Plan, school tracking data along with Headteacher self-evaluation. The meeting reviewed objectives for the academic year 2014/15 and also set clear objectives for the following year 2015/16. A Salary Review was completed along with objective setting for 2015/16. The Headteacher's salary is set in line with the national Teachers' Pay Leadership Scale (Fringe) and in line with the school's Individual School Rating (ISR), and is effective 1 September each year. The next Headteacher's Performance Review meeting is due in December 2016.

The Assistant Headteacher's Performance Management takes place in October each year and is conducted by the Headteacher. It examines the previous year's targets and objectives for the coming year, together with classroom observations. Pay falls within a 5-point band which is determined by the school's ISR and is set in line with the national Teachers' Pay Leadership Scale (Fringe) and is effective 1 September each year.

The Performance Management for other teaching staff who are members of the Senior Management Team, takes place in October and is conducted by the Headteacher. It examines the previous year's targets and objectives for the coming year, together with classroom observations. Pay is set in accordance with the national Main Pay Scale (Fringe) and Upper Pay Scale (Fringe) and is effective 1 September each year.

The Business Manager's Performance Management takes place in March each year and is conducted by the Headteacher. It examines the previous year's targets and objectives for the coming year. Pay is set in accordance with the Kent Scheme pay scales, together with percentage increments which are determined by Kent County Council, in line with performance ratings. Remuneration is effective 1 April each year.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, from time to time transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of the board of trustees has an interest.

Each trustee is required to declare their business interests to ensure no conflict of interest. This is recorded by the Clerk and updates are requested at each meeting of the board of trustees.

All transactions between the school and an organisation in which a trustee has disclosed a business interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Academy's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

Related party transactions are disclosed in Note 8 and Note 19 to the Financial Statements on pages 42 and 49 respectively.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object of the Amherst School (Academy) Trust is to provide education for pupils between the ages of 7 and 11 by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Academy and offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

Amherst School aims to improve the academic achievement of its students at all levels while ensuring that students are well prepared for their transition to secondary school.

Amherst's purpose is to inspire every pupil to:

- Be their best;
- Develop individual talents and passions;
- Explore, innovate, enjoy and excel inside and outside the classroom;
- Make a positive contribution for themselves, family, friends, school, community and the wider world; and
- Be healthy and stay safe.

Amherst is a caring, nurturing environment to enable every pupil to develop into a rounded, confident individual, well prepared for secondary education and beyond. We foster excellent relationships with Riverhead Infants' School (our feeder school) and local secondary schools.

Amherst is an environment where children are able to fulfil their potential in all areas. All members of the school are given clear guidelines on what is right and what is wrong, and what is and what is not acceptable behaviour.

Children are able to regard the school as a place where there is a caring atmosphere and where they are safe. Should they have anxieties over work, relationships with peers or other concerns, they should feel that they are able to approach a member of staff to express their concerns.

At Amherst, we have six values and six simple school rules attached to each value:

Trust	We act responsibly and honestly to earn the trust of each other at Amherst
Kindness	We treat everybody and everything with care and respect at Amherst
Determination	We work hard to do our best even when things are difficult
Politeness	We are well-mannered and courteous towards everyone at Amherst
Fairness	We treat everyone as our equal(s) at Amherst School
Co-operation	We all work together to include each other as a team at Amherst

Assemblies and class discussions are themed where appropriate to teach and reinforce our values and rules. Good behaviour receives positive reinforcement through House Points, verbal praise, Headteacher Awards and Star of the Week (celebrated in Friday's Achievement Assembly).

We also use a Buddy System which includes each Year 6 child paired with a Year 3 child. This system helps promote the Year 6 children as role models and provides them with additional opportunities to practise the school values and rules.

Aspects which contribute towards a good atmosphere at Amherst include:

- mutual respect for adults, children, the school and the property of others;

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

- the requirement to wear school uniform as laid down in the School Prospectus;
- presentation of work;
- quality of display;
- general tidiness of the classroom and school generally;
- code of behaviour in assembly;
- code of behaviour at lunchtime;
- staff dress code; and
- commitment of staff and children to extra-curricular activities.

Objective, Strategies and Activities

Amherst recognises that every child is a unique individual and provides group and individualised teaching to encourage all pupils to fulfil their academic potential. Pupils are also given opportunities beyond the curriculum in creative arts, sport, hobbies, drama and music to allow them to experience success and to discover their passions and strengths.

Amherst recognises that children are the future and that it is vital that we assist them to develop life skills to play their part in caring for people, our communities and the planet. Beyond the school gates, Amherst strives to create opportunities for pupils to work with local and global charities and causes, involving them in a variety of activities. Pupils are also encouraged to join external clubs and organisations to further their participation and development in specific talents and passions e.g. sport, music, drama.

Amherst aims to fulfil this vision by:

- Hiring, developing and retaining exceptional teachers and school leaders;
- Preserving and building on its Ofsted Overall Effectiveness grading via continuous improvement in target areas:
 - Pupil attainment and progress;
 - Quality of teaching;
 - Quality of leadership and management; and
 - Behaviour and safety of pupils.
- Leveraging the benefits of academy status while conducting business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness;
- Providing support to and receiving support from other schools in the Sevenoaks Schools' Partnership;
- Ensuring that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- Improving the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review while complying with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- Providing best value for money for the funds expended; and
- Maintaining close links with local community groups and businesses.

Amherst School has developed collaborative activities with other district schools (The Sevenoaks Schools' Partnership). Using the wealth of talent within its own staff, Amherst offers experience and career development opportunities in relation to areas including creative curriculum, sport skills, and support for Special Educational Needs.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Public Benefit Statement

In planning the Academy's activities, the trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Amherst is in its fourth year of operation as an Academy and continues to achieve the numbers of students as forecast prior to conversion to Academy status. Total students as at 31 August 2016 numbered 384 and the Academy has a full complement in all year groups. The Academy remains oversubscribed with a waiting list.

Key performance indicators

As funding is based on pupil numbers, a key performance indicator is that the Academy is consistently oversubscribed, with a waiting list. Additionally, the Academy uses a number of financial key performance indicators to monitor the financial success of the Trust. The Academy monitors its operating working capital which at 31 August 2016 equated to 1.83% of its total income. Staff costs equated to 80.2% of total income which is within the 60-85% range that the EFA is currently working towards.

Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted inspected Amherst on 26 and 27 February 2015. The inspection was a positive, enjoyable and constructive experience and the Headteacher and trustees are pleased with the Overall Effectiveness grading of Good. While Amherst's previous inspection was Outstanding, Ofsted's inspection framework has changed in the interim. Under the current framework, Amherst would have been graded Good at the previous inspection in 2009. At this point in time, Good with Outstanding features matches the trustees' own self-assessment.

The full set of grades is as follows:

Leadership & Management	Outstanding
Behaviour & Safety of Pupils	Outstanding
Quality of Teaching	Good
Achievement of Pupils	Good
Overall Effectiveness	Good

The detailed final report acknowledges the many strengths of Amherst while providing clarity on how we can improve further.

We are delighted that Ofsted sees that the Behaviour & Safety of Pupils is Outstanding and that our children's excellent attitudes to learning and care for each other are explicitly commended.

Ofsted recognises that all teaching is Good or better with many lessons observed found to be Outstanding. The trustees appreciate the amazing drive and skills of Amherst's team of teachers and teaching assistants, all dedicated to enabling the children to learn and excel. The Headteacher monitors the standard of teaching throughout the school by a series of classroom observations and performance management, to ensure that teaching is consistently good or outstanding.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

We are also very proud of the outstanding Amherst curriculum which the Lead Inspector described as “stunning” during the closing meeting.

Leadership & Management is also graded Outstanding and Mr Reid has inspired improvements both in teaching and in assessing the progress of every pupil throughout their time at Amherst.

Amherst is very fortunate to have recruited such a talented Headteacher as Mr Reid to lead the school and his passion, energy and commitment are shared by the staff and governors.

We value highly our Assistant Headteacher, Miss Jones, whose exceptional commitment and support throughout the many changes that have occurred since 2013 have helped to preserve the overall ethos of Amherst.

Furthermore, we recognise the Year Group Leaders for their excellent and valued contribution.

The trustees are confident that the determination of the entire team at Amherst to continue to improve and achieve excellence in all areas will enable us to rate as outstanding under the current framework. Until the next inspection, Amherst will thrive as the incredible place that we all feel it to be.

Ofsted also recognises the exceptional contributions made by parents in so many areas. They make such a positive difference and we are very grateful.

Student attendance for the period ending 31 August 2016 was 97.6%.

KS2 Results

In May 2016 children in Year 6 sat the Key Stage 2 National Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in English and Mathematics. This year's results are set out below.

The DfE state that it is not possible to compare to previous years as this is the first year to not use levels to assess the children's attainment and progress. The new tests are far more challenging to reflect the demands of the new curriculum. It is pleasing that we are well above national data in all areas of attainment. Evidence also of sustained improvement is that we are above national data in progress for reading and maths. Unfortunately, we are still below the national average for progress in writing. We have made excellent progress in the quality of teaching and learning in writing over the last three years and will continue to have it as a focus on this year's SIP. Despite being advised not to compare against previous years, from a data perspective, there is evidence of improvement regarding progress in writing, it is now only our middle attaining (27 pupils) children's progress that is significantly below national. Higher attaining pupils' (61) progress in writing is not significantly below or above which is an improvement from previous years. Higher attaining pupils' progress in reading and maths is significantly above national data. Historically to be above national data for progress has always been a challenge so evidence this year suggests that we are now having a positive impact on progress as well as attainment.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Subject		School	Kent	National
Reading, Writing & Maths %	Expected Standard	75	58	53
	Higher standard	19	6	1.5
Reading %	Expected Standard+	87	69	66
	High score (110+)	49	21	19
Writing %	Expected Standard+	81	80	67.5
	Greater Depth	23	15	6.1
GPS %	Expected Standard+	94	72	72
	High score (110+)	40	22	23
Maths %	Expected Standard+	84	71	70
	High score (110+)	44	17	17
Reading average Scaled score		108	103	103
GPS average scaled score		108	104	104
Maths average scaled score		108	103	103
Reading progress score (confidence interval in brackets)		1.1 (-0.2 to 2.4)		
Writing progress score (confidence interval in brackets)		-2.6 (-3.9 to -1.3)		
Mathematics progress score (confidence interval in brackets)		0.8 (-0.3 to 1.9)		

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

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, it has adopted the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial performance

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Department for Education via the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the EFA during the year ended 31 August 2016 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The recurrent EFA and Local Authority grant income (including capital grants) for the 12 month period totalled £1,345,958 (2015: £1,422,030). Other recurrent income totalled £213,105 (2015: £344,280) of which £207,442 (2015: £190,941) was unrestricted and comprised principally catering income and contributions towards school trips. Total incoming resources were therefore £1,559,063 (2015: £1,766,310).

Resources expended for the year totalled £1,726,918 (2015: £1,663,325). This figure includes non-cash expenses of £117,661 (2015: £107,098) in depreciation.

After other recognised gains and losses, there was a surplus of net current assets (excluding pension scheme liability) of £28,674 (2015: £142,883) which is made up of £24,888 on the general fund and £3,786 general restricted funds. This total figure is akin to a carried forward surplus in retained earnings.

Total funds were in surplus at 31 August 2016 by £2,210,700 (2015: £2,784,555) which comprises the value of the Academy's fixed asset fund of £3,115,275 (2015: £3,200,337) plus restricted and unrestricted funds totalling £28,674 (2015: £142,883) less the liability in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme of £930,000 (2015: £481,000). Free unrestricted reserves at 31 August 2016 were £24,888 (2015: £46,692).

Policy on reserves

The trustees review the levels of free cash reserves 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 the free cash reserves. The trustees have determined that the appropriate minimum level of free reserves should be equivalent to three months' operational expenditure (excluding staff costs), approximately £24,000 (approximately 2% of the General Annual Grant). The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover extraordinary delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The school's reserves total £28,674 of which £24,888 is unrestricted funds, at 31 August 2016 (2015: £142,883 however this included £69,346 Condition Improvement Grant which was spent by 31 March 2016 as directed). There has been a decrease in the level of reserves this year (but kept above the minimum level) as a result of a required increase in Teaching Assistants and extraordinary buildings maintenance costs. Income is set to increase next year with the receipt of High Needs Funding to support Teaching Assistant costs and the introduction of a Breakfast Club which will increase unrestricted income. Any increased reserves as a result of this additional income will be for the set aside to support expected increased staff pension costs. It is the school's policy to use its funding for the education and staffing for current pupils and not to build reserves without purpose.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Investment Policy

At the present time the academy has no significant cash balance to invest. Free cash reserves are held in an accessible account at Barclays Bank, Sevenoaks.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The board of trustees has delegated to the Headteacher as Accounting Officer the day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that financial controls conform to the requirements of both propriety and good financial management. The Headteacher as Accounting Officer is also responsible for compliance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned in the funding agreement between Amherst School (Academy) Trust and the Secretary of State for Education.

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Amherst School (Academy) Trust for the reporting period ended 31 August 2016 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The board of trustees reviews and updates the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, at each subcommittee meeting and Full Governing Body meeting. These are recorded on the school's Key Risk Register together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to teaching, the provision of facilities, other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. Systems and policies have been implemented to assess risks that the school faces in operational areas (e.g. teaching, health and safety) and in relation to the control of finance, and these are recorded on the Academy's Key Risk Register which is reviewed and updated on an annual basis or more regularly where required. Procedures are in place for the safeguarding of children e.g. safe recruitment, the vetting of visitors to the school and the supervision of the school grounds. The Academy has ensured it has adequate insurance cover and has procedures in place for business continuity. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls which have been assessed in accordance with the Risk Register in the Academies Accounts Direction and the Financial Management and Governance Evaluation.

The trustees maintain a register of the risks that could detrimentally impact the academy. Key concerns relate to expected increases in employers' pension contributions to both the Teachers' Pension scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme for support staff. The academy deficit relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme has increased during the year ending 31 August 2016 by £449,000 to £930,000. The Department for Education (DfE) has set out details of a guarantee that any outstanding LGPS liabilities on academy closure will be met by the DfE. This means that any deficit owing to the LGPS at that time will be first met by the Academy's available assets and otherwise met by the DfE.

In addition, the condition of the school's windows, doors and fire doors gives cause for concern after one door failed to open during a fire drill and one window fell from its frame when being opened. An application was made for a CIF Grant 2015-16 to replace the windows and doors but was unsuccessful. The application will be re submitted for 2016-17.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Current principal risks summary:

Risk	Risk Management
Further increases in employers' pensions and NI contributions resulting in reduction in available funds for school resources.	Staffing costs and budget carefully reviewed each year to assess impact of salary on costs. Introduction of Breakfast Club in January 2017 to increase revenue income to support reduction in available funds.
Uncertainty relating to the LGPS pension deficit.	The government guarantees that in the event of Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the DfE.
Serious accident or incident caused by windows and doors and fire doors in disrepair.	Condition of windows and doors inspected regularly. Repairs carried out where possible or units 'disabled' and made safe to prevent injury. Re submit application for Condition Improvement Grant 2016-17.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Pupil Outcomes

In line with the overall theme of pupil progress, the School Improvement Plan focuses on the following key areas:

- To embed the 21 Steps Assessment procedures to ensure consistency across all year groups.
- To ensure more able pupils are engaged, motivated and make good progress through Challenge by Choice classroom ethos.
- To ensure middle attaining pupils make expected progress in reading, writing and maths.

Increased Revenue

- To introduce a Breakfast and After School Club in order to generate increased income for the school.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Academy holds no funds 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.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited, are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime in Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Full Board of trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

.....

David Hale
Trustee

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Amherst School (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 its objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Amherst School (Academy) Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met four times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
Susan Arnold	4	4
Sebastien Coquelin	4	4
Jennifer Diprose	3	4
Emily Grier	4	4
David Hale (Chair)	4	4
Stuart Hancock	4	4
Matthew Hebden	4	4
Patricia Jones	4	4
Joanna Mais	2	2
Jane Parish	3	4
Sylvia Penzer	0	2
Philippa Porter	3	4
Vivienne Rose	3	4
Julia Rouhan	1	1
Christopher Thornton	4	4
Sarah Shilling	3	4
Carolyn Swain	4	4
Rinske Tate	0	0
Ed Walker	4	4
Andrew Reid (Headteacher)	4	4

At the Full Governing Body meeting on 5 July 2016, David Hale was re-elected as Chair and Emily Grier elected as Vice Chair, both for a 12-month term. Ed Walker had previously announced his intention to stand down as Vice Chair, but the trustees unanimously agreed to him continuing as trustee for a further 4 years.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Sylvia Penzer on 21 April 2016.

Having already retired from a career teaching Mathematics at secondary schools, Sylvia became a governor at Amherst in 2008 and served until she decided to step away a few weeks before her passing.

Sylvia applied her wide expertise to many roles at Amherst, including chairing the Teaching & Learning sub-committee, subject link governor for Maths and Vice Chair of the Governing Body (2010-2012). She was on the Headteacher appointment committee in 2013 and, throughout her time at Amherst, Sylvia served as governor representative on the interview panel for teacher recruitment.

Sylvia epitomised all that was positive about being a teacher and understanding the mechanics and dynamics of what makes an excellent learning environment. She was very discreet but very friendly and we all miss her wisdom and her smile.

We are very grateful for all that Sylvia gave to Amherst.

The Finance and Buildings Committee is formed of members of the full board of trustees. Its purpose is, in partnership with the Headteacher and giving regard to the School Development Plan and OFSTED Action Plan, to set the annual budget by expenditure headings and approve on behalf of the Full Board of trustees, ensuring that there is an explicit link between expenditure and the raising of standards.

Attendance at meetings of the Finance and Buildings Committee in the year was as follows:

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Meetings attended</u>	<u>Out of a possible</u>
Jennifer Diprose	4	4
Emily Grier	4	4
David Hale	4	4
Matt Hebden	0	4
Vivienne Rose (Chair)	4	4
Jane Parish	4	4
Andrew Reid	3	4
Ed Walker	2	4

Governance Review

The Board of Trustees is mindful of its skills base and the structure of sub-committees and meetings. A skills audit and a separate self-review exercise were carried out during 2015/16. There was one New Trustee appointment in 2015/16 who has expertise in project management and fundraising.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

-
- Hiring, developing and retaining exceptional teachers and school leaders;
 - Building on continuous improvement in target areas:
 - Pupil attainment and progress;
 - Quality of teaching;
 - Quality of leadership and management; and
 - Behaviour and safety of pupils.
 - Leveraging the benefits of academy status while conducting business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness;
 - Ensuring that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
 - Improving the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review while complying with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
 - Maintaining close links with local community groups and businesses;
 - Reviewing the annual budget for the academic year, assessing the implications of funding levels and ensuring that services and contracts have been negotiated to achieve Best Value and are fit for purpose;
 - Regular monitoring of income and expenditure particularly with regard to the School Improvement Plan ensuring there is an explicit link between expenditure and the raising of standards, with specific focus the use of Pupil Premium funding;
 - Developing collaborative activities with other district schools (The Sevenoaks Schools' Partnership). Using the wealth of talent within its own staff, Amherst offers experience and career development opportunities in relation to areas including creative curriculum, sport skills, and support for Special Educational Needs;
 - Exploring additional funding streams. The school plans to open a breakfast and after school club to increase income;
 - Regular review of the School Risk Register and to assess or identify any risks that may impact the academy; and
 - Regular review in order to be satisfied with the school's Health and Safety procedures; reviewing the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

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 Amherst School for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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 2015 to 31 August 2016 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees and the identification of key risks is an item on each committee agenda.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

In particular, it includes:

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited, the external auditor, to perform additional agreed upon procedures. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Systems walkthroughs and substantive sampling to ensure expected controls in place for:
 - DFE and other grant income, lettings income and catering income
 - Payroll systems
 - Purchase and procurement systems
- Review of control accounts and bank reconciliations
- Meeting minute review and financial return review

The auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. The auditor will make two separate one-day visits during each financial year and will report to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge by the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The auditor has visited the school in February 2016 and June 2016 to perform an internal controls evaluation and reported no material control issues.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Review of Effectiveness

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

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

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

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

.....
David Hale
Trustee

.....
Andrew Reid
Accounting Officer

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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

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.

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

.....

Andrew Reid
Accounting Officer

Date:

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

.....
David Hale
Trustee

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

We have audited the financial statements of Amherst School (Academy) Trust for the year ended 31 August 2016 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Annual Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

This report is made solely to the academy trust'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 academy trust'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 academy trust and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on pages 27, the trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the academy trust's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2016 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Annual Accounts Direction 2016/16 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

.....
Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of:
Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Statutory Auditors
North House
198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date:

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 28 January 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as included in the Academies: Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Amherst School (Academy) Trust during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2016 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Amherst School (Academy) Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting auditor

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Amherst School (Academy) Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 February 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2015, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies: Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2016 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies: Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the EFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Gaining an understanding of the framework of authorities relevant to the Academy Trust;
- Enquiry of the Accounting Officer and the Senior Management Team;
- Inspection and review of the latest Financial Management and Governance Evaluation;
- Extension of audit work on income and expenditure on a sample basis to cover regularity; and
- Review of specific areas identified by the EFA as common irregularities.

AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO AMHERST SCHOOL (ACADEMY) TRUST AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Conclusion

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

.....
Amy Healey FCA CTA DChA
Reporting Accountant

For and on behalf of:
Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited
Chartered Accountants
North House
198 High Street
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 1BE

Date: