

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2016

Company Registration No: 8593820

(England and Wales)

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Information	3
Governors' Report	5
Governance Statement	17
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	19
Statement of Governor's Responsibilities	20
Independent Auditor's Report	21
Independent Reporting Accountants Report on Regularity	23
Statement of Financial Activities	25
Balance Sheet	26
Cash Flow Statement	27
Notes to the Financial Statements	28
Statement of Accounting Policies	28

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governors/Trustees:

Mr Harjinder K Badhan

Mr Tim Morton

Mr Aro Ononeme

Mr Aubrey Hadley

Category

Community

Community (Appointed 29/09/15)

Parent

Community

Governors:

Mr A Hollyhead

Mr J Farmer

Mrs A Foster

Mr C Goode

Ms K Russell

Rev Steve Walters

Ms K Valerie-Hillman

Ms J Wakeham-Webb

Principal & Accounting Officer

Staff

Staff

Local Authority

Parent (Appointed 18/07/2016)

Parent (Appointed 18/07/2016)

Parent (Resigned 31/08/2016)

Parent (Resigned 31/08/2016)

Company Secretary:

Mr A Hollyhead

Senior Leadership Team:

- Vice Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Finance Director
- SENCo

Mr J Farmer

Mr M Goodwin

Mrs A Foster

Mr J Farmer

Registered Office:

Gospel Oak Road
Tipton
DY4 0DS

Company Registration Number:

8593820

Independent Auditors:

Wright & Co
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditors
The Squires
5 Walsall Street
Wednesbury
WS10 9BZ

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Bankers:

**Lloyds Bank
63 High Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1PY**

Insurance Brokers:

Arthur J Gallagher

Solicitors:

**Irwin Mitchell LLP (Conversion)
Riverside East
2 Millsands
SHEFFIELD
S3 8DT**

**BrowneJacobson (Legal support)
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BU**

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

The Trustees present their final 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.

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.

Members of the Governing Body act as the directors for the charitable activities of Ocker Hill Academy Trust. Four of the Governors (directors) are also Trustees of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Governors who served throughout the period are included in the Reference and Administrative Details.

The full Governing Body meets at least once a term. The work of the governing body is delegated to sub committees that are formerly constituted with terms of the reference namely:

- Curriculum Committee
- Finance Committee (including the work of an Audit Committee)
- Staffing Committee
- Health and Safety Committee

The sub committees meet at least termly and the Chairs of these committees report back to the full governing body meetings.

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 of and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Governors' Indemnities

The Academy Trust purchases indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Governors which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of negligence, default or breach of Trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust; provided that any insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Governors knew to be a breach of Trust or a breach of duty or which was committed by the Governors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of Trust or a breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of the unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Governors in their capacity as directors of the Academy Trust.

Principal Activities

Ocker Hill Academy, a non-selective Academy, provides education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 7 and 11. Our pupils are drawn from the local area in accordance with our published admission criteria.

The Academy Trust's Principal's 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 an Academy offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Method of Recruitment and Appointment of election of Governors

The Governing Body comprises three categories of governor, as set out in the Articles of Association and the Funding Agreement. The method of recruitment is:

Community (up to 4) – Appointed by the Governing Body. The Governing Body will seek to appoint a person, who lives or works in the community served by the Academy, who is committed to the success of the Academy.

Parent (minimum of 4) – Nominated and elected by the parents and carers of the pupils on roll.

Staff (Up to 2) – Nominated and elected by the staff employed by the Academy. One representative from Teaching Staff; one representative from Support Staff.

The Principal is an ex-officio governor.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Governors

Many of the current Governors of Ocker Hill Academy have considerable experience. A mentoring system is well established to support the induction and training of newly appointed and elected Governors.

The Academy purchases an independent governor support service to complement the in house induction and training programme. All newly appointed and elected Governors are invited to observe the working of all sub-committees before deciding which committee they could best serve.

Governors are kept up to date with their legislative obligations and good practice through the independent governor support service and by the Clerk to the Governing Body.

Organisational Structure

The Governing Body is responsible for all major decisions about the Academy.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting all policies covering Personnel, Health & Safety, Curriculum and Financial aspects of the work of the Academy. The Governing Body monitors the work of the Academy. It receives regular reports from the Senior Leadership Team, including budget and other data updates.

The responsible Officer reports to the Governing Body. The Governing Body approves the Statutory Accounts. The levels of authorisation of budget spent are detailed in the Scheme of Delegation reviewed by the governing body.

The day to day management of the Academy is delegated by the Governing Body to the Principal who is supported by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises; Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Principal, Finance Director and SENCO.

Following the Performance Management process of all staff the initial Academy Development Plan is drawn up by the Principal working with the Senior Leadership Team. The draft plan is reviewed by sub-committees before being approved by the full governing body. Sub-committees review the progress of the plan as part of their regular work.

As a junior Academy, a high percentage of the Academy's expenditure relates to staffing. The Staffing Structure is determined by the governing body working with the Principal.

The Academy Development Plan and the staffing structure then influence the Academy budget. The Principal is the Accounting Officer and responsible for the day to day management of the Academy.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key staff management personnel

The arrangements are set out in the Academy Pay Policy and is reviewed annually. Performance towards any remuneration as set in the Pay Policy is measured by the criteria set out in the Appraisal Policy, which is also reviewed annually. Both policies are compliant with employment legislation with includes Teachers' Pay and Conditions.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

All information regarding related parties is disclosed annually by completion of the 'Declaration of Business and other Interests' form. Also, all services that are potentially provided through companies disclosed are comprehensively checked to ensure they are provided at cost.

Risk Management

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the operational areas of the site and facilities and of teaching and the finances. The Governors have implemented a system to assess risks that the Academy faces, especially in the operational areas which includes teaching and health and safety and in relation to the control of finance. The Governors have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial records in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Ocker Hill Academy. There are no sponsors.

Ocker Hill Academy has continued to maintain a good working relationship with Ocker Hill Infant School, to further the principal activities of the Academy. Some operational policies and procedures are agreed jointly with the Headteacher and Governing Body of Ocker Hill Infant School.

The Academy works with many school/Academy networks within the Sandwell Local Authority (School to School clusters) to further the principle activities of the Academy.

Objectives and Activities

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of Ocker Hill Academy to provide education and care for pupils of different abilities between the age of 7 and 11.

In accordance with the Articles of Association the Charitable Company has adopted a Funding Agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things –

- That the Academy has a curriculum satisfying the requirements of Section 78 of EA 2002 (balanced and broadly based curriculum);
- That it provides education for pupils of different abilities;
- And that it provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the Academy is situated.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Objects and Aims

The Aims of the Academy during the year ended 31st August 2016 are summarised below –

The Mission Statement of Ocker Hill Academy is:

- We enjoy learning
- We always welcome new and exciting experiences
- We know that learning is life long
- We aim to equip ourselves with skills that help us to grow as citizens in our local and world community.

We are a team. We aim high! We celebrate our own successes and congratulate others on theirs.

'Aim High Aim Higher'

Our Values

Ocker Hill Academy is committed to provide for the area of Tipton, Sandwell a centre of quality education:

- A centre with active links across the whole community.
 - A vibrant learning centre for the whole community.
 - An environment which is valued, supported and encouraged by ALL, fostering mutual respect
- This will be achieved through a close working partnership between ourselves, pupils, parents, wider community and the Local Education Authority.

All Governors, teachers, ancillary staff, support staff and parents who work in the school, are committed to the following values of:

- **Excellence** in education.
- Recognising the contribution of **everyone**.
- Promoting the extensive education of **each** child
- To ensure equal opportunities for **all**.

In order to deliver these values, Ocker Hill Academy has focused on five goals:

- To make the children's education relevant, purposeful, broad and balanced.
- To maintain a safe, caring environment.
- To aim for high levels of parental satisfaction for the service provided.
- To use human resources efficiently.
- To use financial resources efficiently.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

In addition to improving the levels of attainment and progress across the core subjects, for all children, the Academy's Self Evaluation identified specific Academy Development focuses for this year which included –

- Secure the expectations of presentation and handwriting as whole school;
- Development of Formative Assessment Grids for Reading, Writing and Numeracy which allow staff to plan accurately for the skills development of all children in the core subjects;
- Development of a new skills 'tracker' which allows all groups of children to be monitored regarding progress and achievement;
- The development of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and applied skills, in English and across other curriculum areas;
- To evaluate existing resources in mathematics, then develop, trial and disseminate new resources as needed to improve the teaching of mathematical language and reasoning;
- Science was further developed through consistent feedback helping to move children on in their learning. Also, ensure science teaching uses new curriculum to promote full coverage and progression; and
- To continue to develop our very good practices in personalised, formative assessment, through whole Academy self-evaluation and target setting.

Public Benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Ocker Hill Junior converted to Academy status as an Ofsted graded 'Outstanding' school in September 2013. Following an inspection in February 2013, Ofsted validated the confidence shown by the Department for Education in supporting the conversion.

Attainment and progress at the end of Key Stage 2 is above national levels.

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016**

This year the Key Stage 2 results were again very high and the Academy demonstrated good skills of target setting the prediction – we are proud that we know our children well and this contextual understanding helps us to plan for their very individual needs.

End of Key Stage 2 Results for 2016

Reading

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 108.8
National Average Scaled Score: 103
Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 98%
National @ Age Expected Level: 66%

SPaG

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 106.7
National Average Scaled Score: 104
Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 95%
National @ Age Expected Level: 72%

Maths

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 107.0
National Average Scaled Score: 103
Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 100%
National @ Age Expected Level: 70%

Writing

Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 88%
National @ Age Expected Level: 74%
Reading, Writing and Mathematics National 53%
Reading, Writing and Mathematics OHA 88%
National Floor Target 65%

PROGRESS SCORE – KS2

Provisional distribution of progress scores

Reading	5.80	(4.6+ Top 5%)
Writing	3.76	(1.9 to 4.3 Next 20%)
Maths	3.59	(1.6 to 4.2 Next 20%)

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016**

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Academy –

- Implements a whole Academy approach to self-evaluation;
- Follows well established and clear assessment policy and procedures, whilst continuing to develop formative assessment processes;
- Develops staff accountability for the progress of all children;
- Senior and Middle Leadership Teams monitor progress of all children rigorously and regularly;
- Continually tracks individual progress of all children;
- Tracks progress of identified vulnerable groups;
- Consistently evaluates trends and is proactive in meeting needs;
- Plans thoroughly to meet all individual needs;
- Assessment informs planning at all times;
- Individual, group class and whole Academy targets are set that are challenging and aspiration;
- Appropriate interventions, including Individual Education Plans, are set for children with Special Educational Needs, English as an Additional Language and Gifted and Talented
- Works closely with other appropriate agencies; and
- Is committed to Continued Professional Development of all staff through a well-established Performance Management Process.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Going Concern

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

Key Financial Performance Indicators

Pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have been consistent around the admissions number of 250 full time for a number of years. The Academy has waiting lists for some year groups.

Staffing Ratio

The main costs incurred by the Academy are staffing costs. In line with other schools/academies in the Key Stage 2 sector staffing costs are

Total staffing costs per pupil	£4,127
Unrestricted, direct staffing costs per pupil	£3,496

Total staffing costs as a proportion of the total income of the Academy is **79%**.

The Academy greatly benefits from having a committed and talented teaching and support staff. On its journey towards recognition of an 'Outstanding' Ofsted grading, the Academy has advanced further through the growth and development of the Leadership Team. The Academy continues to place value on the investment in and mentoring of staff.

Financial Review

The main sources of income for the Academy are grants from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31st August 2016 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Academy also receives grants for the fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice. 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2005), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31st August 2016, total expenditure of **£1,368,490** was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension liability adjustment) was **(£55,474)**.

At 31st August 2016 the net book value of fixed assets was **£1,260,045** and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Accounting Officer of Ocker Hill Academy is responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. They are aware of the guide of the Academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that the value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

Set out below is how the Accounting Officer has ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016**

1. Raising student attainment

Ocker Hill Academy was judged by Ofsted in February 2013 to be 'Outstanding'. This was in line with the Academy's Self Evaluation. Key Stage 2 SAT results for 2016 demonstrate a consistent trend of high attainment and progress against national standards.

End of Key Stage 2 Results for 2016

Reading

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 108.8

National Average Scaled Score: 103

Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 98%

National @ Age Expected Level: 66%

SPaG

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 106.7

National Average Scaled Score: 104

Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 95%

National @ Age Expected Level: 72%

Maths

Ocker Hill Average Scaled Score: 107.0

National Average Scaled Score: 103

Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 100%

National @ Age Expected Level: 70%

Writing

Ocker Hill @ Age Expected Level: 88%

National @ Age Expected Level: 74%

Reading, Writing and Mathematics National 53%

Reading, Writing and Mathematics OHA 88%

National Floor Target 65%

PROGRESS SCORE – KS2

Reading **5.80**

Writing **3.76**

Maths **3.59**

Provisional distribution of progress scores
(4.6+ Top 5%)

(1.9 to 4.3 Next 20%)

(1.6 to 4.2 Next 20%)

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

The Academy continues to demonstrate good skills of target setting and prediction – we are confident in our assessment strategies and this contextual understanding helps us to plan for children's personal learning journey.

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Academy –

- Implements a whole Academy approach to self-evaluation, with input from all year group stakeholders;
- Follows well established and clear assessment policy and procedures, whilst continuing to develop assessment processes to inform next stage planning(formative assessment);
- Develops whole staff accountability for the personal progress of all children – including teachers and education support staff;
- Monitors the progress of all children rigorously and regularly;
- Continually tracks individual progress of all children and of identified vulnerable groups or individuals;
- Individual, group class and whole Academy targets are set that are challenging and aspirational;
- Appropriate interventions, including Individual Education Plans, are set for SEND children and for children with English as an Additional Language and who are Gifted and Talented
- Works closely with other appropriate agencies and like-minded academies/schools;
- Is committed to Continued Professional Development of all staff through a well-established Performance Management process;

2. Robust Governance and oversight of Academy's finance

The Accounting Officer has the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. They are informed by internal audit work done by Total Finance who under take regular reviews of key financial policies. Reports are produced which detail the Academy's compliance and demonstrate that the Academy has robust systems and financial controls in place. These reports are presented to the Finance Committee. The Academy has appropriate Regularity policies in place.

The full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy remains a "going concern". The Governing Body also receives and approves the Statutory Accounts and the External Auditor's Management Report.

3. Reviewing controls and managing risks

Budget reports are monitored on a regular basis by the Finance Director and the Principal and any necessary remedial action is taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on budget outturn.

The Finance Director reports termly to the Finance Committee, presenting the Financial Summary, a budget monitoring report, which details the financial position of the Academy to date and gives an update on the budget for the year, including significant variances.

4. Maximising income generation

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through fund raising and bidding for grants.

5. Ensuring Value for Money is achieved and resources are used efficiently and effectively

The Senior Leadership Team prepare the budget for Governors approval from the Academy Development Plan annually after evaluating the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years.

The Staffing Structure is reviewed annually and deployed to drive and support curriculum initiatives and Academy improvement. The use of Education Support staff for the curriculum is regularly monitored.

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016

Contracts and services are regularly appraised and renegotiated when appropriate to ensure value for money. The Academy always gets quotations where possible. The list of named suppliers for regular low value work is approved by Governors.

The Academy works closely with our feeder Infant School and other local schools and academies to ensure best value. The Academy always assesses the cost and benefits of various options before making a purchasing decision to ensure best value and the right option for the longer term.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Governors have prepared a Risk Register and agreed a Risk Management strategy. These include the financial risks to the Academy. The register and strategy are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and will be formally reviewed annually.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal financial risk facing the Academy is that funding is dependent upon pupil members. Historically the Academy is almost full but Governors are aware of that, in the long term, it may face falling rolls due to low birth rate. Pupil numbers may also be affected by the reputation of the Academy. Governors do not consider this to be a high risk, as the Academy's numbers were consistent despite its previous 'Satisfactory' Ofsted status.

The Academy's future funding is also dependent upon Government Policy for Education. The impact, on Ocker Hill Academy, of current review of School's Funding, will be assessed accordingly.

The Local Government Pension Scheme, a defined benefit system, is currently in deficit. The on-going contributions require, determined following a recent actuarial valuation, are considered to be manageable and within the Academy's budget.

Reserves Policy

The Governors 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 Academy is holding free reserves at 31st August 2016 of **£138,603**

Restricted Funds comprises:

£230,890 General funds to support the Academy's budget in 2015-16

£513,000 is an actuarial loss on the defined benefit pension scheme

Investment Policy

There is no material investment held by the Academy.

Plans for Future Periods

The Governors of Ocker Hill Academy will continue to bid for CIF money to remove asbestos in the Academy and the refurbishment of the whole Academy.

Governors are committed to support and challenge the Academy in order to maintain the extremely high levels of achievement the pupils currently attain.

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNORS' REPORT
31st August 2016**

The Academy's Self Evaluation has identified specific Academy Development focuses for the academic year 2015/16 which include –

- Further development of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and applied skills, in English (reading and writing) and across other curriculum areas;
- To further develop the effective teaching of a range of maths problems in 'real life' applications.

- To continue to develop our outstanding practices in personalised assessment, through whole Academy self-evaluation and target setting;
- To introduce and implement a planning structure for thematic curriculum with formative assessment approach that supports progression and differentiation and reflects the Academy's learning ethos;
- To increase access to extra-curricular sport through a sports coach, funded by the PE Grant for primary schools/academies.

Funds held as Custodial Trustee on behalf of others

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

Auditors

In so far as the Governors are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's auditors are unaware; and
- The Governors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Governors on 5th December 2016 and signed on their behalf by:

**Mr H K Badhan
Chair of Governors**

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
31ST August 2016**

Scope of Responsibility

As Governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Ocker Hill Academy 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 Governing Body has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform to 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 Ocker Hill Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Governing Body and material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Governors' Report and in the statement of Governors' responsibilities. The **governing body** has formally met twice during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the governing body as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Harjinder K Badhan (Chair)	10	10
Mr A Hollyhead	15	15
Mr J Farmer	14	15
Mrs A Foster	12	12
Mr T Morton	12	13
Mrs J Wakelam-Webb	2	4- Resigned
Mr A Hadley	5	7
Mrs K Hillman	1	6- Resigned
Mr A Ononeme	3	7
Mr C Goode	2	9
Miss K Palmer	0	6
Miss K Russell office	1	1- due to start of term of office
Rev S Walters office	1	1- due to start of term of office

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main governing body. Its purpose is to assist the decision making the governing body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the governing body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.

The Finance Committee undertake the responsibilities of an Audit Committee.

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr H Kumar (Chair)	5	5
Mr A Hollyhead	5	5
Mr J Farmer	5	5
Mrs A Foster	5	5
Mr T Morton	4	5

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)
31ST August 2016

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 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 Ocker Hill Academy for the period 1 September 2015 to 31st August 2016 and up to the date of the approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Governing Body has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Governing Body is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy'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 Governing Body.

The Risk and Control Framework

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 Governing Body;
- Regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase of capital investment) guideline
- 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 not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Governors have appointed Wright & Co, the Charitable Company's external auditor, to perform additional checks;

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 has reported to the governing body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the governing body's financial responsibilities. No material control issues have been brought to the attention of the Trustees arising as a result of the auditor's work.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 5th December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr H K Badhan
Chair of Governors

Mr A Hollyhead
Accounting Officer

**OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer at Ocker Hill Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust governing body and Education Funding Agency (EFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with 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 governing body are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.

Signed

**Mr A Hollyhead
Accounting Officer**

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST
(Company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF GOVERNORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governors (who act as Trustees for charitable activities of Ocker Hill Academy and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency.

Company law requires the Governors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Academy and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the Academy for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Governors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements 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;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Academy will continue in operation.

The Governors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Academy's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Academy 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 Academy and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the Academy 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/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board on 5th December 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Chair

Mr H K Badhan

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF OCKER HILL ACADEMY

We have audited the financial statements of Ocker Hill Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2016 on pages 25 to 50. 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 Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

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 auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 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 charitable company'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 Strategic Report and the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. 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 charitable company'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;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016 issued by the EFA.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF OCKER HILL ACADEMY (continued)

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.

M Atkinson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Wright & Co Partnership Limited
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
5 Walsall Street
Wednesbury
West Midlands
WS10 9BZ
Date:

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ocker Hill Academy Trust and the Education Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter 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 Ocker Hill Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2015 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 Ocker Hill Academy Trust and EFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Ocker Hill Academy Trust and 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 the Ocker Hill Academy Trust and EFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Ocker Hill Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Ocker Hill Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 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 2015 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 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.

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

OCKER HILL ACADEMY TRUST

(Company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ocker Hill Academy Trust and the Education Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Wright and Co Partnership Limited

Dated: