

Company Registration Number: 08395421 (England & Wales)

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**CONTENTS**

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	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Directors' report	3 - 11
Governance statement	12 - 15
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	16
Statement of Directors' responsibilities	17
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	18 - 20
Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity	21 - 22
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	23
Balance sheet	24
Statement of cash flows	25
Notes to the financial statements	26 - 48

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE TRUST, ITS MEMBERS / TRUSTEES AND  
ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2017**

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<b>Members</b>	V-L Clarke G Garfoot S Bond (appointed 18 October 2016)
<b>Trustees</b>	V-L Clarke, Chair C Jackson R Ashmore J Dunderdale (resigned 25 March 2017) B Roberts (appointed 18 October 2016) K Elvidge (appointed 18 October 2016) P Richmond (appointed 18 October 2016) C Kirk (appointed 18 October 2016) S Jennings (appointed 18 October 2016, resigned 18 October 2017) S Wilson, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer G Garfoot (resigned 17 November 2016) S Bond (resigned 17 November 2016)
<b>Company registered number</b>	08395421
<b>Company name</b>	Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	White's Wood Academy Whites Wood Lane Gainsborough Lincolnshire DN21 1TJ
<b>Company Secretary</b>	R Ward
<b>Executive Leadership team</b>	S Wilson, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer H Wells, Deputy Head of Schools C Fitzpatrick, Head of School (White's Wood Academy) A Willis, Inclusion Leader/SENDCo R Ward, Executive Business Manager

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE TRUST, ITS DIRECTORS AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**Advisers (continued)**

**Independent auditor**      Streets Audit LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
Tower House  
Lucy Tower Street  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN1 1XW

**Bankers**                      Lloyds Bank plc  
202 High Street  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN5 7AP

**Solicitors**                    Langleys Solicitors  
Olympic House  
995 Doddington Road  
Lincoln  
LN6 3SE

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Tall Oaks Academy Trust operates 3 primary academies within Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 540 and a roll of 504 in the school census in January 2017.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Constitution**

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

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

### **Members' Liability**

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

### **Trustees' Indemnities**

The Academy Trust has granted an indemnity to one or more of its Trustees against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in the Companies Act 2006. Such qualifying third party indemnity provision has a limit of £5,000,000.

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

Trustees are selected for specialist knowledge and proven capability to cover the full spectrum of needs of an educational establishment, which is a Charitable Company.

The recruitment and appointment or election of the Trust is the responsibility of Trustees through election by post.

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

Induction is carried out in the first instance by the Chair of Trustees through informal and formal interviews alongside the Accounting Officer, Executive Business Manager and senior members of the Trust team to provide new Trustees with a clear and transparent understanding of the workings of the Trust and their responsibilities.

All Trustees undertake initial and continued training to develop skills and expertise in all areas of induction through a Governance Training and Development programme delivered by the Trust and outside agencies engaged by the Trust.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees normally meet up to five times per academic year to consider the Executive Headteacher's Report, Accounting Officer's Report, Attendance, Exclusions and Racial Incidents, Inclusion, review Trust Policies and to monitor Standards.

The Trustees have devolved certain of its activities to sub-committees for the day to day control of some of the Academy Trust's operations, details of which are listed below.

- Performance Management Committee. The Committee's purpose is to meet with the Trust's External Adviser to review the Executive Headteacher's performance targets for the previous year and to agree and set new targets annually and to monitor such targets throughout the academic year.
- Pupil Discipline Committee. The Committee's purpose is to consider the exclusion of pupils across the Trust in the event of an appeal or permanent exclusion.

In addition, Local Governing Bodies (LGB) are in place at all Trust site's. LGBs are responsible for monitoring Attendance and Behaviour, Standards and Outcomes, Teaching and Learning and Admissions.

The role of the Executive Headteacher is to "shape and improve the educational provision" across the Trust through raising pupil attainment, leading and motivating others and to manage the organisational and educational change necessary to achieve and sustain success. To achieve this, the Executive Headteacher is supported by Heads of School at White's Wood Academy and Mercer's Wood Academy, the Inclusion Leader and Executive Business Manager.

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

Senior leaders' pay and remuneration is determined on the following:

- Pupil numbers on roll and individual school group.
- Key responsibilities and accountability, monitored through key performance indicators and impact on pupil outcomes. Pay progression where appropriate is reliant on successful achievement of these KPIs.
- Individual schools' needs and challenges.
- Skills, experiences and expertise of individual leaders.

### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trustees are not aware of any connected or related party that would require disclosure.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Objects and Aims**

The principal activity of the Academy Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association and Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State is the operation of Tall Oaks Academy Trust, which is a Trust comprising Castle Wood Academy, Mercer's Wood Academy and White's Wood Academy to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 4 years and 11 years.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

The main objectives of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2017 are summarised below:

**Pupil Outcomes and Standards linked to quality of teaching and learning:**

- To further improve standards of attainment in Mathematics with a particular focus on problem solving and mastery in maths.
- To improve standards and pupil outcomes at KS2 in Reading with particular reference to comprehension skills.
- To further improve standards in grammar, spelling and punctuation across the primary phase.
- To impact on progress for children with SEND so that all children are making at least 'expected' progress each year.

**To develop leadership at all levels across the Trust**

- To develop the role of maths and English Subject leaders to impact on the quality of teaching and learning.
- To develop the roles of Assistant Heads of School.
- To develop the expertise and experience of the Heads of School.
- To develop the Executive Head's expertise and experience at running and leading a Multi Academy Trust.

**To reduce the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions across the Trust**

- To review the behaviour policy across the 3 schools in the Trust.
- To work actively with the LA behaviour support services.
- To develop pastoral support plans for our most 'at risk' pupils.

**To improve overall attendance across the Trust to ensure every school is at least at 96+%**

- To develop the role of the Attendance and Healthcare Officer further to impact on attendance at Mercer's Wood Academy and Castle Wood Academy more positively.
- To address persistent absenteeism rates across the Trust.

The strategies for achieving these objectives was to use a rigorous cycle of monitoring, evaluation and review to identify key areas.

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees have reviewed the objectives and activities of the Trust as detailed above and are satisfied that they are for the public benefit as detailed in the Charity Commission guidance note on this subject.

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

## Strategic Report

### Achievements and Performance

#### Key Performance Indicators

Area	Specific Indicator	Academy 1 CWA	Academy 2 MWA	Academy 3 WWA
NOR (Number on roll)		87	196	220
% PP (Pupil Premium)		23.4%	62%	45.3%
Amount PP £		£11,880	£158,400	£146,520
% SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)		8%	20%	23%
No. EHCP (Education Health Care Plans)		1	0	1
% EAL (English Additional Language)		11.6%	2.53%	7.6%
No. LAC (Looked After Children)		0	0	1
Projected No. on roll for 3 years	2017 - 2018	120	201	215
	2018 - 2019	150	201	215
	2019 - 2020	180	210	225
PAN (Pupil Admission Number)		30	30	60
Ofsted category		-	1	1
SEF judgement (Self Evaluation Form)		1/2	2	2
Attendance	% overall	94.67% 95.34 (without P/T timtables)	94.28%	95.53%
	% PA (Persistent Absenteeism)	14.9%	14.2%	14%
	No. CME (Child Missing Education)	0	0	2
	No. FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notices)	3 (2PA, 1 Hol)	2 (PA)	7 (4 Hols, 3 PA)
	No. Court Proceedings	0 Awaiting outcome re payment	1 Legal report submitted for review to prosecute	1 Court date 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Curriculum	Contact Ratio	0.79	0.86	0.89
	Pupil/Teacher Ratio	22.16	16.07	21.19
	Staffing costs as a % of total income (excl. Central Services)	60.83%	79.93%	71.39%

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

Safeguarding	No. TAC (Team Around the Child)	0	1	7
	No. CIN (Child in Need)	3	17	6
	No. CP (Child Protection)	1	0	1
Behaviour	No. FTEEx (Fixed Term Exclusions)	0	29 for 11 children 7 children no longer at school	2
	No. PEx (Permanent Exclusions)	0	3	0
	No. Racist Incidents	0	0	3
Teaching and Learning	% teachers – 1 (Outstanding)	66%	38%	31%
	% teachers – 2 (Good)	100%	92%	100%
	% teachers – 3 (Requires Improvement)	0%	8%	0%
	% teachers – 4 (Inadequate)	0%	0	0%
Workforce (August 2016 – July 2017)	Staff sickness absence: No of working days in total No of periods of staff absence Absence Reasons (days lost) Sickness Viral infection Personal Stress  Work-place stress	96 15 31.5 8.5 10/ 1 employee 0	145.5 31 26.5 16.5 5/ 1 employee 0	277 40 24 25 125.5/ 1 employee 0
	Number of staff on Stage 1 Absence Management	0	2	5
	Number of staff on Stage 2 Absence Management	0	0	0
	Total staff headcount	13	38	33
	Total Teaching FTE	3.88	12.32	10.52

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

Outcomes for Children and Young People 2017

		CWA 2016 outcome	CWA 2017 outcome	MWA 2016 outcome	MWA 2017 outcome	WWA 2016 outcome	WWA 2017 outcome	National for 2017
ELG%		73%	73%	57%	62% +5			71%
Phonics	Year 1%		83%	87%	77% -10			81%
	Year 2 %			90%	87% -3			
KS1	R EXP %			67%	77% +10			76%
	R GD %			30%	27% -3			25%
	W EXP %			63%	70% +7			68%
	W GD %			7%	0% -7			15%
	M EXP %			63%	87% +24			75%
	M GD%			10%	0% -10			20.5%
	Comb EXP %			57%	67% +10			64%
	Comb GD %			7%	0% -7			11%
KS2	R EXP %			35%	50% +15	52%	58% +6	71%
	R GD %			0%	15 % +15	11%	7% -4	24%
	R Progress			-1.8 (-4.2 to 0.6)	-1.8 (-4.5 to 0.9)	-3.3 (-5.1 to -1.5)	-5.1 (-6.8 to -3.4)	Floor -5
	W EXP %			73%	80% +7	76%	79% +3	76%
	W GD %			4%	30% +26	9%	27% +18	18%
	W Progress			+3.2 (0.8 to 5.6)	+2.5 (-0.2 to 5.2)	-0.4 (-2.2 to +1.4)	-0.6 (-2.3 to 1.1)	Floor -7
	M EXP %			38%	60 % +22	59%	69% +10	75%
	M GD %			0%	15 % +15	4%	17% +13	22.5%
	M Progress			-1.9 (-3.9 to 0.1)	-0.4 (-2.9 to 2.1)	-2 (-3.6 to 0.4)	-2.5 (-4.0 to -1.0)	Floor -5
	SPAG EXP %			54%	55 % +1	70%	69% -1	77%
	SPAG GD%			0%	15 % +15	15%	23% +8	31%
	Comb EXP %			19%	45% +26	41%	50% +9	61%
	Comb GD %			0%	5 % +5	2%	4% +2	9%

Please note that both MWA and WWA are applying for marking reviews, which may alter individual subject %. Combined % will not be affected.

**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 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.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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## **Financial Review**

The majority of the Trust's income is obtained from the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) in the form of the General Annual Grant, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the period reported on and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

This year the Trust has made significant investment in teaching schemes. This was in response to the DfE guidance "Reducing Teacher Workload" but also in our drive to improving teaching and learning of Reading and SPAG. We have bought at all Trust Sites The Bug Club Scheme for guided reading, Wordsmith Scheme to support the planning of English units and a grammar and spelling based scheme. Both Reading and Spelling are on our School Development Plan for academic year 2017-18.

The Trust continues to invest in succession planning for the future by investing in high quality specialists and outstanding leadership to ensure high quality provision for all children. The Trust remains committed to working with and supporting other schools.

It should be noted that, whilst the pension funds according to the balance sheet are in deficit, the extent of the deficit is exceeded by other restricted funds and although the Trustees have agreed to make provision against the possible crystallisation of the liability, the Secretary of State in July 2013 guaranteed that in the event of an academy closure outstanding government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the DfE.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust seeks to maintain its commitment to delivering high quality education at the best value for money within the funding available from the ESFA and other sources.

The budget for 2017-18 was discussed and approved by a meeting of the Board of Directors on 18 June 2017. The budget was balanced to zero.

The amount of total funds at 31 August 2017 was £5,690,000 (2016: £2,257,000), of which £6,270,000 (2016: £2,872,000) can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets. The balance on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus the balance on unrestricted funds at 31 August 2017 is a net surplus of £165,000 (2016: £231,000).

The amount of total of free reserves (total unrestricted funds) at 31 August 2017 was £50,000 (2016: £68,000). This approximates to one months aggregated expenditure, which is considered an appropriate level of free reserves by the Trustees, in the current economic climate.

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. They are committed to maintaining a reserve which is at least sufficient to allow the Trust to cope with any projected deficits for the next two financial years if possible, whilst in a way which is consistent with the Trust being run to meet all aspects of this service. The Trustees are also mindful of the potential financial uncertainty and turbulence which could be result from the Government's introduction of a National Funding Formula, which is now planned for 2019.

### **Investment Policy**

Should the level of free cash reserves held by the Academy Trust exceed that which is necessary to service its ongoing working capital needs the Trustees, with reference to the short and longer-term forecasts will consider investment of any excess funds over an appropriate period to maximise the return of any such surplus funds whilst ensuring that risk is avoided insofar as is possible.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees continue to monitor the risk and uncertainties within the Academy Trust and have maintained the Risk Register which was presented to the full Board of Trustees on 9 May 2017.

The most significant risks identified at the current time are:

- That the Trust will not be able to grow at its own pace and will be required to join a larger Trust.
- Failure to understand the current performance and the ongoing improvement needed at all schools within the Trust, leading to a fall in standards.
- Failure to ensure that the Governors/Trustees possess the skills and experience to hold the Executive Team to account.
- Introduction of the National Funding Formula.

### Plans for Future Periods

From detailed data analysis of all 3 sites across the Trust the following key objectives have been set for the academic period 2017–18.

Priority	Area	Detail
1	TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT TO IMPACT ON PUPIL OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To improve Spelling teaching across the school.</li><li>2. To improve the teaching and learning of reading comprehension particularly across KS2.</li><li>3. To improve the impact of assessment for learning and assessment of learning.</li></ol>
2	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To develop the impact of subject leadership across the school with particular reference to English (Reading and Spelling), Maths and Science.</li><li>2. To develop the impact of the newly appointed AHOS (Assistant Head of School) to impact on teaching, learning and pupil outcomes.</li><li>3. To develop the experience and expertise of the newly appointed HOS (Head of School).</li><li>4. To develop the role of the local governing bodies.</li></ol>

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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3	BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To increase % attendance to at least 96%.</li><li>2. To reduce further the number of permanent exclusions and significantly reduce the number of fixed term exclusions.</li></ol>
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### **Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

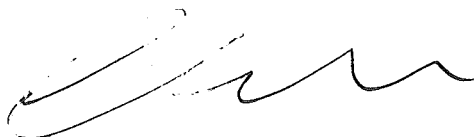
There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

### **Auditor**

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2017 and signed on the board's behalf by:



**V-L Clarke**  
**Chair of Trustees**

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive 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 Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd 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.

Reasonable steps have been taken for the prevention and detection of fraud, irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The Academy Trust complies with relevant laws and regulations.
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Academy Trust or for publication is reliable and transparent.
- The Academy Trust is operating efficiently and effectively.

**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 7 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
V-L Clarke, Chair	6	7
C Jackson	7	7
R Ashmore	3	7
J Dunderdale	5	5
B Roberts	2	4
K Elvidge	3	4
P Richmond	1	4
C Kirk	3	4
S Jennings	2	4
S Wilson, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer	7	7
G Garfoot	1	3
S Bond	1	3

The composition of the Trust's Governance Structure and Scheme of Delegation underwent a review during November 2016 under the guidance of an NLG appointed by the Trust. The Trust now has three layers of Governance:

- **Members :** The Trust currently has 3 Members. As the Trust grows this will increase to at least 5. One Member, Mr Clarke is also a Trustee and acts as the link between the governance layers, providing assurance to Members.
- **Trustees:** The Trust appointed 5 new Trustees who bring a wealth of skills and expertise to the Board of Trustees.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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- Local Governing Bodies: A Local Governing Body was set up for Castle Wood Academy in addition to the existing White's Wood Academy Local Governing Body and Mercer's Wood Academy Local Governing Body. The Board of Trustees has delegated specific responsibilities to the Local Governing Bodies. The Chair of each Local Governing Body is also a Trustee, acting as a link between the governance layers and providing assurance to Trustees.

The annual review of governance evidenced that the Board of Trustees:

- was confident in its vision for the Academy Trust and how this vision could be achieved.
- held Academy Trust leaders to account for improving outcomes for all pupils.
- had a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

The Trust has gone through a period of significant Leadership change in the last 12 months which in itself has proved challenging for Trustees. In October 2016 Trustees appointed a new Executive Headteacher, and then respective Heads of School at White's Wood Academy and Mercer's Wood Academy. Assistant Heads of School were subsequently appointed at each school. Further recruitment will take place during the Autumn 2017 term for Heads of School for Castle Wood Academy and Mercer's Wood Academy as the previously appointed Head of School at Mercer's Wood Academy had to leave for personal reasons.

It is the Trustees' intention to proactively source additional governance training sessions through internal and external training. Trustees will become more skilled, focussed and effective through such training. Any future Trustees will be recruited based on skills and experience of the individual and needs of the Board.

## **REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY**

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- **Improved procurement procedures**

The Academy Trust has developed its procurement procedures to ensure the best value is achieved at all times. This is done through economies of scale and use of Framework Orders wherever possible.

- **Review of Suppliers and Services**

The Academy Trust has continued to routinely audit all suppliers and services to ensure value for money is achieved. This has included a review of suppliers and contracted services across the Trust, procuring Trust contracts as opposed to individual academy contracts.

- **Review of Staffing arrangements**

The Trust has invested in new Schemes of Works to reduce staffing costs across the Trust. The Trust's Central Services Team has been streamlined in preparation for Trust Growth.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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**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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd for the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 Trust's significant risks, that has been in place for the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

The 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 Accounting Officer of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Audit Lincolnshire as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems.
- testing of purchase systems.
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations.
- testing of recruitment procedures.
- testing of governance reporting processes.

On a quarterly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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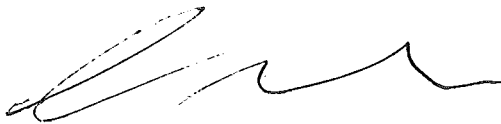
**REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

As Accounting Officer, the Executive 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 internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the 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 Board of Trustees 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 12 December 2017 and signed on their behalf, by:



**V-L Clarke**  
Chair of Trustees



**S Wilson**  
Accounting Officer

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As Accounting Officer of Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

I confirm that I and the academy trust 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 2016.

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



**S Wilson**  
**Accounting Officer**

Date: 12 December 2017

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Directors 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 Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



**V-L Clarke**  
**Chair of Trustees**

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**

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**OPINION**

We have audited the financial statements of Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2017 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, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

**BASIS OF OPINION**

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

**CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**

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**OTHER INFORMATION**

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' report, incorporating the Strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION**

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

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable 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, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TALL  
OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**

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**AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). The description forms part of our Auditor's report.



Robert Anderson (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

**Streets Audit LLP**

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

Tower House  
Lucy Tower Street  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN1 1XW  
14 December 2017

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TALL OAKS  
ACADEMY TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 September 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd during the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER  
AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 20 February 2013, and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2016, 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 2016 to 2017. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 2016 to 2017 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- A review of the academy's systems and controls and confirmation of the operation and effectiveness during the year;
- A review of expenditure to confirm the appropriateness and value of money; and
- A review of connected party arrangements, transactions and balances.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

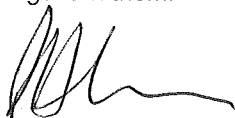
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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TALL OAKS  
ACADEMY TRUST LTD AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY (continued)**

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**CONCLUSION**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Robert Anderson

**Streets Audit LLP**

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

Tower House  
Lucy Tower Street  
Lincoln  
Lincolnshire  
LN1 1XW

14 December 2017

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

		Unrestricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2016 £000
	Note					
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
Donations & capital grants:						
Transfer of property from the local authority	2	-	-	3,475	3,475	-
Other donations and capital grants	2	6	-	15	21	14
Charitable activities	3	84	2,585	-	2,669	2,671
Other trading activities	4	13	-	-	13	17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>6,178</b>	<b>2,702</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
Charitable activities		121	2,753	103	2,977	2,847
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	5	<b>121</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>2,847</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>						
Transfers between Funds	15	(18)	(168)	3,387	3,201	(145)
		-	(11)	11	-	-
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>						
		(18)	(179)	3,398	3,201	(145)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	232	-	232	(330)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(18)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3,398</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>(475)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		68	(683)	2,872	2,257	2,732
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>(630)</b>	<b>6,270</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>2,257</b>

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08395421

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017**

	Note	£000	2017 £000	£000	2016 £000
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	12		6,270		2,872
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	13	89		145	
Cash at bank and in hand		211		292	
		<u>300</u>		<u>437</u>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> amounts falling due within one year	14	(135)		(206)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			165		231
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			6,435		3,103
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21		(745)		(846)
<b>NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES</b>			<u>5,690</u>		<u>2,257</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY</b>					
Restricted income funds:					
Restricted income funds	15	115		163	
Restricted fixed asset funds	15	6,270		2,872	
Restricted income funds excluding pension liability		6,385		3,035	
Pension reserve		(745)		(846)	
Total restricted income funds			5,640		2,189
Unrestricted income funds	15		50		68
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>5,690</u>		<u>2,257</u>

The financial statements on pages 23 to 48 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue, on 12 December 2017 and are signed on their behalf, by:

  
V-L Clarke  
Chair of Trustees

  
S Wilson  
Executive Headteacher & Accounting Officer

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

	Note	2017 £000	2016 £000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	17	(70)	91
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(26)	(64)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA		15	13
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(11)	(51)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		(81)	40
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		292	252
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	18	211	292

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

**1.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements

**1.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

Expenditure on charitable activities are costs incurred on the Trust's educational operations, including support costs and those costs relating to the governance of the Trust appointed to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	No depreciation
Fixtures and fittings	-	4 years straight line
Computer equipment	-	3 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	-	10 years straight line

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

Long-term Leasehold Properties are not depreciated on the grounds of immateriality. Properties are subject to regular maintenance and repair such that in the directors opinion the residual value is not materially different from the value in the financial statements and have a long useful economic life. The directors consider the need for impairment at each period end.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.6 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**1.7 Financial instruments**

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

*Financial assets* - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

*Financial liabilities* - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised costs as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instruments.

**1.8 Pensions**

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Governments Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 21, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

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

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

**1.9 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

**1.10 Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**1.11 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**1.12 Cash at Bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.13 Taxation**

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

**1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

Tangible fixed assets are recognised at cost or valuation, less accumulated depreciation and any impairments. Depreciation takes place over the estimated useful life, down to the assessed residual value. The carrying amount of the academy's fixed assets is tested as soon as changed conditions show that a need for impairment has arisen.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2017. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2016 £000
Transfer of property from the local authority	-	-	3,475	3,475	-
Donations	6	-	-	6	1
Capital Grants	-	-	15	15	13
Subtotal	6	-	15	21	14
	6	-	3,490	3,496	14
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	

The transfer of property refers to the transfer of the Castle Wood Academy land & buildings from the local authority on a 125-year lease.

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**3. FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2016 £000
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual grant (GAG)	-	2,194	2,194	2,108
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	295	295	362
	-	2,489	2,489	2,470
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Special Educational Needs	-	8	8	7
Local Authority grants	-	88	88	122
	-	96	96	129
<b>Other funding</b>				
Parental contributions and other income	84	-	84	71
	84	-	84	71
	84	2,585	2,669	2,670
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>2,599</i>	<i>2,670</i>	

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted funds 2017 £000	Total 2017 £000	Total 2016 £000
Hire of facilities	13	-	13	16
Consultancy	-	-	-	1
	13	-	13	17
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>17</i>	

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**5. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED BY EXPENDITURE TYPE**

	<b>Staff costs 2017 £000</b>	<b>Premises 2017 £000</b>	<b>Other costs 2017 £000</b>	<b>Total 2017 £000</b>	<i>Total 2016 £000</i>
Direct costs	1,633	-	104	1,737	1,716
Support costs	627	121	492	1,240	1,131
	<u>2,260</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>2,977</u>	<u>2,847</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>2,139</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>2,847</u>	

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Total 2017 £000</b>	<i>Total 2016 £000</i>
<b>DIRECT COSTS - EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>		
Wages and salaries	1,307	1,326
National insurance	117	99
Pension cost	208	202
Pension finance cost	18	18
Educational Supplies	45	36
Staff Development	21	14
Educational Consultancy	21	21
	<u>1,737</u>	<u>1,716</u>
<b>SUPPORT COSTS - EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS</b>		
Wages and salaries	419	367
National insurance	28	18
Pension cost	180	128
Depreciation	103	89
Maintenance of Premises and Equipment	17	24
Rent and Rates	29	46
Insurance	33	53
Light and Heat	30	32
Cleaning	6	4
Water	6	6
Security and Transport	12	13
Other Premises Costs	25	4
Catering	145	145
Other Support Costs	112	127
Auditor's remuneration	9	8
Legal & Professional Fees	86	67
	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,131</u>
	<u><u>2,977</u></u>	<u><u>2,847</u></u>

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

This is stated after charging:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the trust	103	89
Auditor's remuneration - audit	9	8
Auditor's remuneration - other services	3	3
Operating lease rentals	5	5
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**8. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Wages and salaries	1,696	1,590
Social security costs	145	117
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	389	330
	<u>2,230</u>	<u>2,037</u>
Supply teacher costs	30	49
Staff restructuring costs	-	53
	<u>2,260</u>	<u>2,139</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Severance payments	-	53

The severance payments referred to above for 2016 consist of two non-contractual payments. One for £35,000 and a second for £18,168.

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

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Teachers	27	36
Administration and Support	54	54
Management	7	8
	<u>88</u>	<u>98</u>

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

	2017 No.	2016 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	0	1

The above employee participated in the Teacher's Pension Scheme.

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £292,000 (2016 - £321,000).

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

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

	<b>2017</b>	<i>2016</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
S Wilson, Executive Headteacher and Remuneration	<b>60-65</b>	<i>55-60</i>
Accounting Officer Pension contributions paid	<b>10-15</b>	<i>5-10</i>

During the year, no Directors received any benefits in kind (2016 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2017, no Directors received any reimbursement of expenses (2016 - £NIL).

**10. CENTRAL SERVICES**

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

- human resources
- financial services
- legal services
- educational support services
- other as arising

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The funding deficit within shared services brought forward and incurred during the year has been eliminated through recharges of costs to the three academies in the Multi Academy Trust. Costs have been split 50% to White's Wood Academy, 30% to Mercer's Wood Academy and 20% to Castle Wood Academy. This is deemed appropriate by the trustees given the additional funding and associated costs received by White's Wood Academy and the size difference between Castle Wood and Mercer's Wood Academies.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2017</b>	<i>2016</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
White's Wood Academy	<b>223</b>	<i>284</i>
Mercer's Wood Academy	<b>134</b>	<i>170</i>
Castle Wood Academy	<b>89</b>	<i>114</i>
	<b>446</b>	<i>568</i>
Total	<b>446</b>	<i>568</i>

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**11. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5 million on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £1,923 (2016 - £1,923).

**12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Fixtures and fittings £000	Computer equipment £000	Property improvement £000	Total £000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2016	2,378	117	58	493	3,046
Additions	-	13	-	13	26
Assets transferred from LA	3,475	-	-	-	3,475
At 31 August 2017	5,853	130	58	506	6,547
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2016	-	38	34	102	174
Charge for the year	-	33	19	51	103
At 31 August 2017	-	71	53	153	277
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2017	5,853	59	5	353	6,270
At 31 August 2016	2,378	79	24	391	2,872

Long-term leasehold properties are held on 125-year leases from Lincolnshire County Council. Mercer's Wood and White's Wood property are valued in line with the ESFA valuation. Castle Wood is held at a value provided by Kier Business Services.

**13. DEBTORS**

	2017 £000	2016 £000
VAT recoverable	7	51
Other debtors	-	4
Prepayments and accrued income	82	90
	89	145

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**14. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2017</b>	<i>2016</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
Trade creditors	36	95
Other taxation and social security	32	43
Other creditors	33	36
Accruals and deferred income	34	32
	<u>135</u>	<u>206</u>
	<u><u>135</u></u>	<u><u>206</u></u>
	<b>2017</b>	<i>2016</i>
	<b>£000</b>	<i>£000</i>
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1 September 2016	21	7
Resources deferred during the year	26	21
Amounts released from previous years	(21)	(7)
	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>
	<u><u>26</u></u>	<u><u>21</u></u>

Income deferred at 31 August 2017 relates to monies received in July 2017 for provision of Universal Infant Free School Meals from September 2017.

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 September 2016 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2017 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted Funds	68	103	(121)	-	-	50
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	74	2,194	(2,163)	(11)	-	94
Other ESFA Restricted Funds	53	295	(327)	-	-	21
Other government restricted funds	36	96	(132)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(846)	-	(131)	-	232	(745)
	(683)	2,585	(2,753)	(11)	232	(630)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Assets transferred on conversion	2,378	3,475	-	-	-	5,853
Assets funded by GAG income	153	-	(34)	11	-	130
Assets funded by DfE capital grants	272	15	(58)	-	-	229
Assets funded by other government grants	69	-	(11)	-	-	58
	2,872	3,490	(103)	11	-	6,270
Total restricted funds	2,189	6,075	(2,856)	-	232	5,640
Total of funds	2,257	6,178	(2,977)	-	232	5,690

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR**

	Balance at 1 September 2015 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2016 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted Funds	122	90	(144)	-	-	68
	122	90	(144)	-	-	68

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**Restricted funds**

General Annual Grant (GAG)	3	2,108	(1,986)	(51)	-	74
Other ESFA Restricted Funds	53	362	(362)	-	-	53
Other government restricted funds	86	129	(179)	-	-	36
Pension reserve	(430)	-	(86)	-	(330)	(846)
	<u>(288)</u>	<u>2,599</u>	<u>(2,613)</u>	<u>(51)</u>	<u>(330)</u>	<u>(683)</u>

**Restricted fixed asset funds**

Assets transferred on conversion	2,378	-	-	-	-	2,378
Assets funded by GAG income	136	-	(34)	51	-	153
Assets funded by DfE capital grants	296	13	(37)	-	-	272
Assets funded by other government grants	87	-	(18)	-	-	69
	<u>2,897</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>(89)</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,872</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>2,609</u>	<u>2,612</u>	<u>(2,702)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(330)</u>	<u>2,189</u>
Total of funds	<u>2,731</u>	<u>2,702</u>	<u>(2,846)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(330)</u>	<u>2,257</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

**Unrestricted funds:**

General funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the objects of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees. These are not currently designated for particular purposes.

**Restricted funds:**

General Annual Grant (GAG) is made up of a number of different funding streams from the ESFA, all of which are to be used to cover the running costs of the Trust.

Other ESFA grants represent funding received for specific projects.

Other government funds relates to local authority income restricted for a specific purpose, including the start up grant for Castle Wood Academy.

Other funds includes voluntary grant income restricted for a specific purpose.

Pension reserve represents the current deficit balance of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**Restricted Fixed Asset funds:**

The individual balances represent the net book value of fixed assets acquired by the different sources of funding received by the Trust.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2017.

**ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE**

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

	<b>Total 2017 £000</b>	<i>Total 2016 £000</i>
Mercer's Wood Academy	59	37
White's Wood Academy	64	98
Castle Wood Academy	42	96
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	<u>165</u>	<u>231</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	6,270	2,872
Pension reserve	(745)	(846)
Total	<u><u>5,690</u></u>	<u><u>2,257</u></u>

**ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY COST**

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

	<b>Teaching and educational support staff costs £000</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £000</b>	<b>Educational supplies £000</b>	<b>Other costs excluding depreciat- ion £000</b>	<b>Total 2017 £000</b>	<i>Total 2016 £000</i>
Mercer's Wood Academy	633	182	11	178	1,004	893
White's Wood Academy	620	189	9	146	964	984
Castle Wood Academy	242	98	21	100	461	313
Shared Services	137	158	4	146	445	568
	<u><u>1,632</u></u>	<u><u>627</u></u>	<u><u>45</u></u>	<u><u>570</u></u>	<u><u>2,874</u></u>	<u><u>2,758</u></u>

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted funds 2017 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £000	Total funds 2017 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	6,270	6,270
Current assets	50	249	-	299
Creditors due within one year	-	(134)	-	(134)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(745)	-	(745)
	<u>50</u>	<u>(630)</u>	<u>6,270</u>	<u>5,690</u>

**ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2016 £000</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2016 £000</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2016 £000</i>	<i>Total funds 2016 £000</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,872	2,872
Current assets	68	368	-	436
Creditors due within one year	-	(205)	-	(205)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(846)	-	(846)
	<u>68</u>	<u>(683)</u>	<u>2,872</u>	<u>2,257</u>

**17. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	3,201	(145)
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	103	90
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	56	(2)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(71)	75
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(15)	(13)
Value of property transferred from the local authority	(3,475)	-
Pension adjustment	131	86
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>91</u>

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**18. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Cash in hand	211	292
Total	<u>211</u>	<u>292</u>

**19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

In the event of Tall Oaks Academy Trust Ltd ceasing to operate as an Trust, provisions are included in the funding agreement relating to the clawback of assets and monies paid to the Trust.

**20. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

At 31 August 2017 the Trust had capital commitments as follows:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>

**21. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £33,133 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2017 (2016 - £23,089) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

**Introduction**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**21. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay, including a 0.08% employer administration charge (currently 14.1%)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%.

During the previous year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £158,000 (2016 - £194,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website ([www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx](http://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx)).

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £153,000 (2016 - £135,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £118,000 (2016 - £104,000) and employees' contributions totalled £35,000 (2016 - £31,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.9% for employers and 12.5% for employees.

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

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**21. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

Principal actuarial assumptions:

	2017	2016
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.50 %	2.10 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.80 %	3.60 %
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.40 %	2.10 %

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

	2017	2016
Retiring today		
Males	22.1	22.2
Females	24.4	24.4
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.1	24.5
Females	26.6	26.8

	At 31 August 2017 £000	At 31 August 2016 £000
<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>		
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	250	226
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	46	84
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	200	135

The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	Fair value at 31 August 2017 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2016 £000
Equities	744	513
Corporate bonds	114	87
Property	86	66
Cash and other liquid assets	10	-
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>666</b>

**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**21. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account are as follows:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Current service cost	(231)	(136)
Interest cost	(18)	(18)
Total	<u>(249)</u>	<u>(154)</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>136</u>	<u>99</u>

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Opening defined benefit obligation	1,512	856
Current service cost	231	136
Interest cost	34	37
Employee contributions	35	31
Changes in assumptions	(112)	410
Benefits paid	(1)	(1)
Effect of business combinations and disposals	-	43
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>1,699</u>	<u>1,512</u>

Movements in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	666	426
Interest income	16	19
Expected return on assets	120	80
Employer contributions	118	104
Employee contributions	35	31
Benefits paid	(1)	(1)
Effect of business combinations and disposals	-	7
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>954</u>	<u>666</u>

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**TALL OAKS ACADEMY TRUST LTD**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**22. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

At 31 August 2017 the total of the Academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2017 £000	2016 £000
<b>Amounts payable:</b>		
Within 1 year	7	11
Between 1 and 5 years	13	-
Total	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>

**23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No such transactions occurred in the year.

**24. MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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