

**Settlebeck School Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 August 2019**

Company Registration Number: 07693715 (England & Wales)

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

**Registered Charity Name** Settlebeck School Academy Trust

**Company Registration Number** 07693715 (England & Wales)

**Principal and Registered Office**  
Long Lane  
Sedbergh  
Cumbria  
LA10 5AL

	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Resignation Date</b>
<b>Members</b>		
* Myles Ripley		
Michael Atkinson		
David Hunt		
<b>Trustees / Directors</b>		
* Myles Ripley		
Michael Atkinson		10/09/2019
Patricia Tunna		14/01/2019
Jessica Oxley		
* Steve Wetton		
* Sarah Campbell		
Catharine Driver	22/11/2018	
Sarah Evans		
Caroline Taylor		30/08/2019
Matt Towe	22/11/2018	
* Laura Reeves	19/03/2019	
Elizabeth Morgan	18/09/2019	

\* Current members of the Finance, Property & Audit Committee

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

**Company Secretary**

Karen Little

**Senior Leadership Team:**

Headteacher

Sarah Campbell

Deputy Headteacher

Paul Beach

Assistant Headteacher

Sally Ingham

**Independent Auditor**

Saint & Co Chartered Accountants  
The Old Police Station  
Church Street  
Ambleside  
Cumbria  
LA22 0BT

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC  
Kendal, Highgate Branch  
9 Highgate  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 4DF

**Solicitors**

Burnetts  
6 Victoria Place  
Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA1 1ES

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2019. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Settlebeck school is a mixed, converter academy school for pupils aged 11 to 16, serving a catchment area in Sedbergh and the surrounding area. It has a pupil capacity of 220 and had a roll of 199 in the school census on 03 October 2019

#### **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 Settlebeck School Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Settlebeck School 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.

##### Trustee's Indemnities

The academy trust has purchased indemnity insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising in connection with academy business.

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

The trustees are appointed under the terms of the academy trust's articles of association as follows:

- The members may appoint up to 6 trustees
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected or appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no Local Governing Bodies are established under Article 100a or if no provision is made for at least 2 Parent Local Governors on each established Local Governing Body pursuant to Article 101A.
- Up to 1 LA trustee
- The total number of Trustees including the Accounting Officer if they so choose to act as Trustee under Article 57 who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.
- Providing that the Accounting Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Accounting Officer as a Trustee.
- Any trustee elected by the Secretary of State for Education.
- The Trustees may appoint up to 3 Co-opted Trustees.

##### Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (continued)

New trustees are recruited on the basis of the skills and competencies required to address gaps highlighted in regular skills audits of the existing board of trustees.

The term of office for all trustees, except the Accounting Officer, is four years. The Accounting Officer's term of office runs parallel with his contract of employment. The trustees who were in office at 31st August 2019 who served throughout the period, except where shown, are listed on page 1.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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

The training and induction provided for new Trustees is specifically tailored to the needs of the individual and their existing experience. Settlebeck School Academy Trust recognises that new trustees do not necessarily have a background in education and/or a thorough understanding of the school. To ensure they receive the necessary support to undertake their duties, the induction process is tailored to the needs of the individual and includes;

- A preliminary informal meeting with the Chair of Governors to ensure they understand their general responsibilities and time commitment.
- An induction meeting with the Chair of Governors which includes a tour of the school.
- Regular training on developments in Governance issues.
- Annual training related to each of the trustee's specific needs.

#### Organisational Structure

The trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the trust in accordance with the provisions set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The trustees are accountable for the performance of Settlebeck School Academy Trust and as such must;

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Hold the Academy Headteacher to account for the educational performance of its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Oversee the financial performance of the academy and ensure that monies are well spent and within agreed spending levels.

#### Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trust board holds responsibility for setting the pay and remuneration of the academy's key management personnel in accordance with the Pay Policy for Teachers based on the format of the DFE's model policy and the NJC terms and conditions for support staff. Pay progression is based on an annual cycle running from the 1st September to 31st August and is determined by the achievement of pre-determined performance objectives. Responsibility for the appraisal process has been delegated to the Headteacher's Pay Review Committee, supported by an officer from South Lakes Federation, and the Pay and Personnel Committee (both sub committees of the Trust Board).

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1% - 50%	1
51% - 99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£750
Total pay bill	£1,298,260
% of total pay bill spent on facility time	0.058%

Paid trade union activities

There was no paid union activity during the period

### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Settlebeck School supports the rationale that there is strength in partnerships and is a member of the South Lakes Federation to bring rigour, challenge and a greater capacity for improvement. The collaborative federation is made up of nine secondary schools, Kendal College and a special school within the South Lakes area, providing an opportunity for curriculum enrichment, access for students to vocational courses and support for gifted and talented students. A series of 'thresholds for performance' or benchmarks for attainment and progress of students are set within the federation and support for improvement provided where necessary.

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### Objects and Aims

The main objects of the academy trust are:

- to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by establishing, maintaining, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life.

#### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Settlebeck School is a friendly, vibrant and fiercely ambitious school, where every student is treated as an individual. We are committed to making the difference for all our young people. We aim to ensure all our students are fully equipped with the skills and values to enable them to lead fulfilling adult lives and careers. We do this by focussing on their entitlement to the highest quality education which develops a love of learning.

Academic standards are our priority and we believe that exceptional results are a product of not only high quality teaching, but also of the excellent care and support we offer all our students.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

#### Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

The 'family feel' of our small academy offers security and a supportive environment where learning can be tailored to the individual needs of our inclusive intake. This is achieved through:

- An authentic relationship between staff and students which is friendly, structured and shows each individual they are valued.
- Having a relentless focus on learning across the school.
- Offering a curriculum suitable to the needs of our students.

The main objectives for the academy during the year ending 31st August 2019 are summarised below:

- To continue our relentless focus on improving standards and outcomes for all our young people.
- To ensure every student receives the high quality teaching they are entitled to.
- To develop data systems across the school to improve the tracking of student progress, intervening quickly when learning has stalled.
- To improve attendance of students attending the school.
- Evaluate and review the KS3 and KS4 curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of all our learners and enables them to develop a deep knowledge base.
- To have a structured monitoring, evaluation and review process to monitor and challenge effectiveness of all aspects of academy life.
- Further the develop outstanding teaching practice within the school with a focus on increasing challenging and improving extended writing skills.
- Continue to seek ways of reducing demand on the school budget by careful analysis of the potential for all cost centres to make savings and implementing best value and value for money strategies.
- To continue to develop close working relationships with the local community, industry and commerce.
- Continue to develop our practice through collaboration with other schools within the South Lakes Federation.

#### Public Benefit

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

### **Strategic Report**

#### **Achievements and Performance**

Settlebeck School is in its eighth year in operation, changing to academy status in 2011. Based on the January Census the total number of students on roll was 184. Student numbers have rising to 199 in September 2019.

In January 2018, Settlebeck school was judged to be a good school by Ofsted.

As anticipated, in 2019 GCSE outcomes were below the usual levels for the school. However, the spot Progress 8 score of -0.16 places the school in the national average of the school comparison site with confidence intervals comfortably moving into the positive (+0.24). Prior Attainment on entry was significantly lower than national and the comparison site ranks Settlebeck 7th out of 55 schools with a similar KS2 PA profile. (2019 unvalidated data). Girls make particularly noteworthy progress in all areas measured by P8 where progress is positive.



# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

#### Key Financial Performance Indicators

##### **Settlebeck School**

##### Staffing costs as a % of total income (excluding capital income)

	2019	2018	2017
Teaching staff	60.4%	65.1%	65.8%
Support staff	14.2%	16.9%	14.4%
Total	74.6%	82.0%	80.2%

##### Teaching Staff

	2019	2018	2017
Pupils on roll	197	185	171
Full time equivalents teachers	16	16	16
Pupil teacher ratio	12.3	11.6	10.7

##### 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 adopts the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

##### **Financial Review**

Settlebeck School Academy Trust's financial statements are for the year ended 31 August 2019.

The majority of the academy's income is obtained from the Educational and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2019 and the related expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Under Financial Reporting Standard 102, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided to support staff, to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the academy. It should be noted that this does not present the academy with any current liquidity problem. The employer contributions are currently being assessed and it is expected that they will increase to bring a reduction in this pension deficit in future, although this may not be achieved until stock market investment values start to recover.

During the period ended 31 August 2019, total general expenditure of £1,674,280 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The general income was £61,193 more than expenditure for the year.

At 31 August 2019 the net book value of fixed assets was £1,502,830 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### **Financial Review (Continued)**

#### Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held takes into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of the reserves. The trustees will keep the level of reserves under review.

The general unrestricted fund balance at the year end was £39,799 (2018: £29,661). The trustees believe that this level of reserves is required to support the running of the school during the demographic dip.

The GAG fund balance at the year end was £112,328 (2018: £51,838).

#### Funds in Deficit

The trustees note that certain restricted funds are in deficit which have been disclosed in the funds note supporting the financial statements.

#### Principal Funding Sources

The main sources of income for the year were: The ESFA and the local authority.

#### Investment Policy

The financial position is constantly reviewed and monitored by the Finance & Buildings Committee together with the Head Teacher. The main source of funding is from the GAG provided by the EFA and the majority of the expenditure has been on supporting the pupils of Settlebeck School through providing good teachers and equipment to help them in their studies. Settlebeck School aims to keep reserves as high as possible to secure the future of the academy and ensure pupils receive a good education in a small and friendly school. The academy does not have any spare funds to invest, but may look further in the future if surplus funds are available.

#### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

Financial risks and uncertainties are magnified by the size of our small Academy where a change in roll of only a few pupils can make a large change to the balance sheet especially if those pupils carry extra costs or grants. Government grants and policies often change at quite short notice, and this can affect budgeting considerably eg the GAG and pupil premium. Currently changes in the funding formula have been proposed but the outcome is not yet clear and may influence rural schools adversely. The new formula has been postponed to 2018. In general a falling population within the Academy's catchment also requires a significant input to marketing to maintain our school roll.

#### Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

A budget for the period was agreed prior to the beginning of the accounting period. Management accounts were presented at each quarterly Finance, Property & Audit Committee trustee meeting and income and expenditure monitored against budget. All the academy's financial policies, systems and controls are disclosed in the academy's Financial Regulations Manual.

#### Risk Management

The governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy, and its finances. The governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more details in the statement on internal control.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Fundraising

The academy does not engage with professional fundraisers to undertake any fundraising activities on its behalf. The academy from time to time carries out minor level fundraising activities to raise funds for the academy whereby students seek voluntary donations from parents and the local community.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

- Continue to develop quality first teaching at both key stages with a strong focus stretch and challenge and developing extended writing skills.
- Continue our focus on improving attendance, particularly for girls and those with SEND (target 97%). Develop and implement new attendance strategy.
- Develop leadership capacity in the school through engagement with nationally recognised qualifications to enhance training, responsibility and accountability.
- To continue to address areas of weakness identified in the Ofsted reports and by the South Lakes Federation Peer review process including the performance of students in receipt of Pupil Premium and those with SEND.
- Improve data tracking throughout the school.
- Ensure that those students with SEND have access to appropriate nationally recognised qualifications and receive the high quality education they are entitled to.
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the KS3 curriculum with a focus on ensuring that learning is sequenced and builds a deep knowledge base.
- Continue to develop pedagogy through the sharing of good practice and staff CPD.
- Further develop behaviour and rewards systems within the school and ensure all staff are suitable trained in positive behaviour management techniques.
- Develop careers education in the school with a focus on the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Evaluate PSHE provision, ensuring it meets the requirements of statutory frameworks.

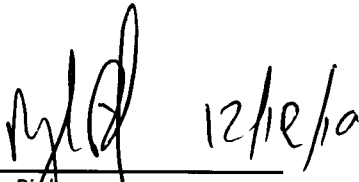
### **Auditor**

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Saint & Co Chartered Accountants were formally reappointed at the Multi Academy Trust's AGM held on 12 December 2019.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Myles Ripley  
Chair of Trustees

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Settlebeck School Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve 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 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 the Settlebeck School Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education.

The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 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
Myles Ripley	4	4
Michael Atkinson	4	4
Sarah Campbell	4	4
Patricia Tunna	1	2
Jessica Oxley	3	4
Steve Wetton	4	4
Laura Reeves	1	2
Caroline Taylor	1	4
Sarah Evans	4	4
Catharine Driver	3	4
Matt Towe	4	4

### Governance Review

Changes in the membership of the board of trustees occurred during 2018/19 financial year. The last skills audit was presented to the board of trustees on 12.09.2018. All new governors complete a skills audit prior to appointment

The Board usually meets at the end of each term, but with an additional meeting at the beginning of the Autumn Term to deal with the formalities required each year (e.g. appointments to committees). The Board has established committees. These are Pay and Personnel Committee, Policies Committee, Progress and Curriculum Committee, Partnership Committee and Finance and Buildings Committee. Each committee normally meets once a term and consists of five governors appointed by the Board. Each committee has delegated authority to deal with matters within its Terms of Reference, but the Board has the opportunity to review and comment on those decisions.

The board meets on a regular basis to support the life and work of the school, taking information from the subcommittees who have clearly defined delegated powers, and reviewing the work undertaken by them on the board's behalf. As well as complying with their defined role, governors have acted effectively both corporately and individually to monitor, challenge and support the school.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The Finance and Buildings Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is to monitor the finances of the academy and deal with general site issues. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Myles Ripley	3	3
Sarah Campbell	3	3
Patricia Tunna	1	1
Steve Wetton	3	3
Laura Reeves	1	1

### Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Regularly reviewing the staffing structure
- Collaboration with the South Lakes Federation and the Cumbrian Association of System Leaders
- Using a number of approved suppliers in order to obtain the best price
- Obtaining several quotations for utility contracts and comparing contract lengths in order to secure the best deals.

### The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Settlebeck School Academy Trust for the period 01 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### Capacity to Handle Risk

The trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The trustees are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 01 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trustees.

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- Regular reviews by the Finance, Property and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed Saint and Co the external auditor, to perform additional checks.

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

- testing of payroll systems;
- testing of purchases systems;
- testing of bank reconciliations

On a termly basis, the 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.

The board of trustees confirm that the external auditor has delivered their schedule of works as planned and any recommendations have been considered.

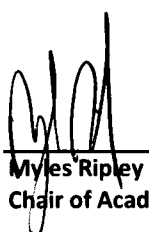
### Review of Effectiveness

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 12 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

  
12/12/19  
Myles Ripley  
Chair of Academy Trustees

  
Sarah Campbell  
Accounting Officer

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

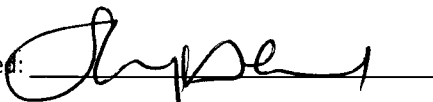
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

As accounting officer of Settlebeck School Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all 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 2018.

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.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



**Sarah Campbell**  
**(Accounting Officer)**

12 Dec 19 ..... Date

# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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

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


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- 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 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Myles Ripley  
Chair of Academy Trustees



# SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SETTLEBECK SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Settlebeck School Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015 and Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019.

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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 trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company'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.

### Other information

The trustees 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. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Report of the Directors and Strategic Report and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the 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.