

Section 172 Statement

As the Trust Board at Dixons Academies Trust Ltd, we have a legal responsibility under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 to act in the way we consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the company's success for the benefit of its members as a whole, and to have regard to the long-term effect of our decisions on the company and its stakeholders. This statement addresses the ways in which, as a Trust board, we carry out this responsibility.

Promoting the Trust's success

The Trust is strongly committed to serving areas in the North to transform the life chances of children and their communities through the highest quality teaching. Dixons academies serve areas with high levels of students eligible for Free School Meals and with Special Educational Needs and is continually looking to expand to reach as many children as possible to improve their quality of life. Strategic decisions are based on the long-term objective of growth for the Trust, maximizing the number of children whose life chances can be improved.

Our students and parents

As a Trust, we put our students at the heart of everything we do. That is part of the Trust's culture: the parents of the students in our academies are continuously informed of the progress of their children and the safeguarding measures in place to ensure the safety of their children. We communicate with parents through letters, telephone or emails to ensure that they are constantly aware of the activities of the Trust. We organise parent-teacher meetings and listen to parents' concerns to improve the service we provide.

Our employees

The Trustees recognise that employees are fundamental and key to delivering the strategic plan of the Trust. The success of the Trust depends on attracting, retaining and motivating employees. We help to engage with our employees by setting remuneration at the national level, and rewarding performance with bonuses at a senior level, and providing a rigorous professional development review process and relevant training. The Trust has introduced an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) for all our staff. The EAP is a confidential counselling and information service, which is available 24/7, to assist staff with personal or work related problems that may affect their health, wellbeing and performance.

Our suppliers

As a Trust, we aim to maintain the highest possible standards of integrity in business relationships with suppliers. We rely on our suppliers to deliver learning materials and catering and food supplies to our individual academies on a timely manner, which are key to the service we provide.

We communicate with our suppliers through emails, specifically designed supplier forms and letters to update on any changes on terms and conditions. Our suppliers all have a direct channel of contacting the Trust for any changes on their supplier accounts, which are actioned promptly to avoid any delay in payment. During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Trust has considered carefully the procurement policy notes (PPN02/20 and PPN 04/20) and has made prompt payments to suppliers for the continuity of supply of critical services to avoid any cash flow problems with our suppliers. During the financial year, the Trust remained committed to prompt payment terms to ensure fair payment practices.

Our regulatory funding partners

The Trust Board believes that constant engagement with the ESFA, Local Authorities and other government agencies is vital to our success. We continue to engage with our donors and sponsors through reports, online meetings and publications on our website. During the year, we have complied with all the financial and non-financial requirements of our donors and sponsors and submitted timely reports and returns. Our CEO and Executive Directors have ensured that our Trust adheres to all regulatory and legal requirements in delivering educational service and activities.

Our planet

The Trust Board is committed to reducing our carbon footprint. We are installing LED lights on a rolling basis across our academies and working with an energy consultant to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings where possible. This includes improving the insulation of our buildings and updating heating equipment to more energy efficient plant. We dispose of waste responsibly and recycle materials where possible.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit in determining the activities undertaken by the Trust and have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity

Commission relating to public benefit. The Trust is keen to emphasise the public benefit provided by the Trust, which can be seen by the activities, and performance outlined within the Trustees' report.

