

## Section 172 Statement

Our trust board has 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 our trust's success for the benefit of its charitable purpose and obligations, and to have regard to the long-term effect of our decisions on the trust and its stakeholders. This statement addresses the ways in which we carry out this responsibility.

### Promoting our trust's success

At Dixons, we live our mission and values every day. We are committed to making a difference where it matters most. Our 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. Our academies serve areas with high levels of students eligible for free school meals and with special educational needs and disabilities and are 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 our trust, maximising 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 our 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, text or emails to ensure that they are constantly aware of the activities of our trust. We organise parent-teacher meetings and listen to parents' concerns to improve the service we provide. Our local academy boards focus on parent and student voice and feed this local intelligence to our trust board to help drive change.

### Our employees

Our trustees recognise that employees are fundamental and key to delivering the strategic plan of our trust. The success of our trust depends on attracting, retaining and motivating its talent. We help to engage with our employees by setting remuneration at a competitive rate compared to national rates and providing a rigorous professional growth process, including regular coaching. All staff also have access to an employee assistance programme (EAP). 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, 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 our trust for any changes on their supplier accounts, which are actioned promptly to avoid any delay in payment. During the financial year, our trust remained committed to prompt payment terms to ensure fair payment practices.

### Our regulatory funding partners

Our 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. We comply with all the financial and non-financial requirements of our donors and sponsors and submitted timely reports and returns. Our accounting officer and trust leaders have ensured that our trust adheres to all regulatory and legal requirements in delivering educational service and activities.

### Our planet

Our trust board is committed to reducing our carbon footprint through our carbon reduction plan (CRP). The baseline carbon assessment includes a clear breakdown of emission categories, in line with requirements under the UK Government's Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) legislation. The CRP provides a measurable carbon reduction target aligned with UK best practice, reported annually including a target emissions reduction trajectory and indication of performance against target. Climate action plans are designed in collaboration with stakeholders and include areas such as energy usage, waste management and supply chain management.

### Public benefit

Our 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 our trust and have complied with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. Our trust is keen to emphasise the public benefit provided by our trust, which can be seen by the activities, and performance outlined within the trustees' report.

**January 2026**