

## 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. We work to improve the future for thousands of children in parts of the north of England where young lives are adversely affected by social and educational disadvantage. We believe that every child, regardless of their background, should be able to fulfil their academic potential and go on to thrive. We focus exclusively on sponsored turnaround academies to address educational failure, and on new free schools to meet growing demand. Our trust will continue to expand, going from almost 14,000 students in 2022 to at least 20,000 by 2026. Strategic decisions are mission-driven and informed by our trust's long-term growth plan, 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 board to help drive change.

### Our employees

Our trustees recognise that employees are fundamental and key to delivering our trust's strategic plan. The success of our trust depends on attracting, retaining and motivating employees. We help to engage with our employees by setting remuneration at the national level and providing rigorous professional coaching and development, and relevant training. Our trust has introduced a health care plan for all staff to have access to free dental, optical, complementary therapies and provide an information service to assist staff with personal or work related problems that may affect their health, wellbeing and performance.

### Our suppliers

Our trust aims 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 direct contact channels to make changes to their supplier accounts, which are actioned promptly to avoid any delay in payment. Our trust remains committed to prompt payment terms and we have introduced an automatic GRN process for invoices below £250 to ensure more swift and 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 chief executive and executive directors 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. We have installed LED lights across our academies and we are 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

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.

**January 2024**