

**THE SAMWORTH CHURCH ACADEMY
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017**

The governors who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2017. The governors have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The main aims and objectives this year have been:

1. To ensure that the Academy leadership at both Executive and Governor level reviews our structures, systems, ethos and values ensuring that they are providing the best possible platforms and environment for a successful school
2. To ensure that we have the right staff in the right posts delivering the right kind of education, maintaining our desire to educate the whole child not solely the academic child
3. To improve our systematic monitoring and intervention procedures ensuring it includes all key subject areas that will contribute to our progress & performance.
4. To continue to improve the academic performance of our post 16 students.
5. To close the gap between pupil premium students and others across all educational standards.

Public benefit

The Academy has delivered education to its students drawn from the local community whilst sharing its facilities with local community organisations. The Academy governors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Exam Performance

In 2017 the academy performance at Post 16 was pleasing in that A Level students performed in line with expectations (as with last year) and that the performance of our applied subjects was substantially improved to slightly better the performance of the A Levels.

Performance indicators for KS4 at the academy in 2017 are as follows:

Progress 8 score:	0.09 (slightly above average)
Attainment 8 score:	46 points (National average 44 points)
English and Maths GCSE standard pass:	62% (National average 59%)
English and Maths GCSE good pass:	40% (National average 42.2%)
Pupils achieving Ebacc:	7% (National average 21%)

In addition our Pupil Premium students' performance was quite dramatically improved and as such the achievement gap was significantly reduced. Areas for development will now relate to specific subject performance and on ensuring that changes to examination specifications and to the 2018 accountability measures do not impact on our Progress 8 performance.

Scholarships

During this year, one of the academy's current students gained a scholarship to Gordonstoun School through the support of the Endowment Trust Fund. The student ceased to be a student at the academy upon enrolment at Gordonstoun in September 2017.

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STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The Governors have established a reserves policy in line with DfE guidelines. The policy will aim to carry forward sufficient funds to meet the Academy's long term aims and objectives, ensuring that this does not affect its current operational activities.

This year's balance sheet shows assets exceeding liabilities by £24,737,327. This is broken down into three separate reserves in the notes to the accounts, General Reserve, Fixed Asset Reserve and Pension Reserve. The Academy holds reserves totalling £42,673 excluding the Endowment Fund, fixed assets and Pension Fund. The Pension Reserve shows a significant deficit. The Academy, like all other Academies, as part of their funding agreement was obliged to allow all non-teaching employees access to a Local Government Pension Scheme and to take on all liabilities already accrued for staff transferring from the predecessor school. The Department of Education have given the Academy a letter of comfort stating that the Academy would not be asked to make any lump sum payments to cover the deficit and that they would be supportive of a solution which meant that if The Academy ceased to exist the liability would pass back to central government. The Governors of the Academy have relied on this letter of comfort in making future financial plans.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the governing body 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.

The Academy has shown an operating surplus this year resulting from three areas:

1. The deficit on the Fixed Asset Restricted Fund reflects the depreciation charged on fixtures, equipment and long leasehold of the Academy land and buildings.
2. Pension deficit - the Academy operates a final salary scheme for non-teaching staff. This year the current service and interest costs have been offset by an increase in the fair value of the funds asset, however there is still a significant scheme deficit. The Academy has received assurance from the Department of Education that the Academy will not be asked to fund the deficit in any single year.
3. The General Fund shows a small operating deficit in line with the Academy's budget and long term strategy.

Endowment Fund

The sponsors of the Academy, Sir David Samworth and the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, have set up an endowment fund to support the wider work of the Academy. The endowment is held by The Samworth Church Academy Endowment Trust and the assets totalling £2,192,317 (2016: £2,104,352) have been amalgamated within these accounts.

Future plans

The aim of the academy remains to at least sustain but ideally to further improve the outcomes of our students in all years with a particular focus on GCSE and Post 16 examination performance. We are continuing to develop systems for quality assurance and for interventions use this to inform our CPD programme and to develop classroom practice.

The academy also remains committed to providing an all-round education based on Christian Values including student leadership and a wide range of personal development opportunities outside of the classroom in order to establish a provision which ensures our students leave the academy with both qualifications and experiences which will serve them well for the '70 great years' ahead of them.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of The Samworth Church Academy Limited and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the governors who served throughout the year except as noted 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.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is the running of a school offering a broad curriculum, conducted in accordance with the principles of The Church of England.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The number of governors shall not be less than 3 but shall not be subject to any maximum.

Governors are appointed as follows:

The Samworth Family Trust up to 4
The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham up to 4
Parents up to 2
Academy staff 1
Nottinghamshire County Council 1
The principal ex officio
Co-opted up to 2
The Secretary of State

Organisational structure

The Governors adopt the role of non executives of the Academy setting the ethos, vision and values for the Academy they then hold the Principal and his team accountable for the delivery of the agreed strategy which supports their vision.

As well as the full governing body two subgroups have been set up with the purpose of scrutinising particular areas of the Academy's workings and advising the full group on issues arising. These advisory groups are:

- Achievement and Standards
- Finance, Facilities and Personnel

Induction and training of new governors

Any new governors receive a copy of the governors hand book which includes details of their responsibilities and all relevant policies. They are invited to a vision and values course to understand better the ethos of the Academy. Any specific training needs are identified and dealt with. Training needs are assessed on an ongoing basis.

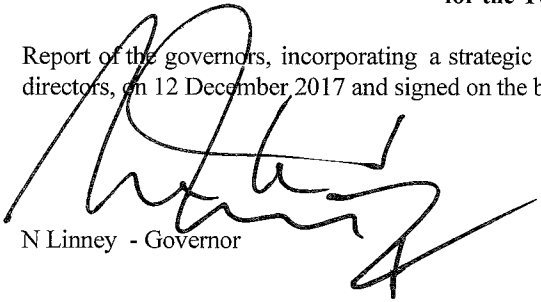
AUDITORS

The auditors, Beeley Hawley & Co. Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

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

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Linney', is written over the text of the signature line.

N Linney - Governor