



Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly  
 St Aidan's Church of England High School)  
 (A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended

31 August 2015

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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Members      Bishop of Knaresborough the Right Reverend James Bell  
Mr Richard Noake Director of Education of the Diocesan Board of Education  
The Reverend Matthew Evans as The Incumbent of Christ Church, High Harrogate  
Mr David Fisher representing the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter's, High Harrogate  
Mrs Jane Boyd representing The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, High Harrogate  
Reverend Nigel Sinclair as appointee of the Diocesan Board of Education  
Ms Claire Kelley as the Chair of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust Board of Directors

Directors      Ms Claire Kelley (Chair)  
Mr John Bushell  
Mrs Sheina Demain (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr David Fisher  
Can. Anthony Shepherd (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mrs Pam Young (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mrs Penelope Robinson (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mrs Christine Rose (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr John Garnett (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr John Wood  
Mrs Joanne Wicks (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr Jonathan Birch (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mrs Jane Boyd (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Miss Megan Chanter (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr Matthew Park (resigned 28 February 2015)  
Mr Terence Harrison (appointed 17 June 2015)  
Mr Philip Titchmarsh (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Mr Martin Wicks (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Mr Steven Scarisbrick (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Mr Seth King (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Mr Andrew Symonds (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Dr Jill Adam (appointed 1 March 2015)  
Mr David Sanderson (appointed 1 March 2015, resigned 17 June 2015)

Company Secretary      Mr Christopher Burt

Senior Management Team      St. Aidans Church of England High School

Mr John Wood	Headteacher
Mrs Gillian Soper	Deputy Headteacher
Mr Christopher Burt	Deputy Headteacher and Director of Finance
Mr Martyn Beer	Deputy Headteacher
Mr Christopher Kidman	Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Head
Mr Mark Pallant	Head of Department
Mr Christopher Ives	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Kate Douglas	Assistant Headteacher
Mr David Holdsworth	Director of Teacher Training
Mrs Ruth McQuire	Senior Teacher

Senior Management Team      Richard Taylor Primary School

Mr Andrew Symonds	Headteacher
Mrs Emma Criswell	Deputy Headteacher

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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**Company Name** Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust

**Principal and Registered Office** St. Aidan's Church of England High School  
Oatlands Drive  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG2 8JR

**Company Registration Number** 07663935 (England and Wales)

**Independent Auditor** RSM UK Audit LLP (formerly Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP)  
2 Whitehall Quay  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS1 4HG

**Bankers** Lloyds Bank PLC  
2 Pavement  
York YO1 9LB

**Solicitors** Ward Hadaway  
1A Tower Square  
Wellington Street  
Leeds  
LS1 4DL

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates one primary and one secondary academy in Harrogate. Its academies have a combined pupil roll of 2,222 in the school census on 1 October 2015.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Constitution

The Academy Trust is a Company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Company was incorporated on 9 June 2011. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust and company was previously known as St. Aidan's Church of England High School. On 14 March 2014 the company changed its name to St. Aidan's Church of England Schools Trust, and then on 5 August 2015 the company changed its name to Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust. The trustees of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

Details of the Directors 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.

Directors' indemnity provisions are detailed in note 12 of the financial statements.

#### Directors' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

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

As clearly set out in the Articles of Association, the members may appoint a minimum of 5 Directors. The members shall ensure that the total number of Directors (including the Executive Principal and the Principal Directors) who are employees of the Academy Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.

Directors are to include the following:

- One Director to be appointed by The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John and St Luke, Bilton, Harrogate;
- One Director to be appointed by Richard Taylor's Educational Foundation (charity number 529568);

The Executive Principal;

- The Principal of St. Aidan's Church of England High School of Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8JR (where the same is not also the Executive Principal);
- The Principal of Richard Taylor Church of England Primary School of Bilton Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 3DT (where the same is not also the Executive Principal); and
- Parent Directors if appointed under Articles 53-56 in the event that no provision is made for parent representatives on Local Governing Bodies under Article. The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Director appointed under Article 58.

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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With the exception of Co-opted and Ex-Officio Directors, all other Directors are appointed for a four year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of director, any director may be re-appointed or re-elected.

### Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors

All Directors are given the opportunity to attend training sessions. Each year all Directors and Governors of the Local Governing Bodies attend the annual Academy Trust's training evening, which provides updates on relevant issues, changes in legislation and the opportunity to network.

### Organisational Structure

The Academy Trust includes St. Aidan's Church of England High School (converted 1 August 2011) and Richard Taylor Church of England Primary School (joined 1 March 2015).

The Academy Trust supports both its academies through an experienced board of directors who are responsible for identifying and establishing strategies and policies and for ensuring that these are implemented throughout the organisation. The Board normally meets quarterly.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Directors: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to appoint the Executive Principal and Clerk to the Directors, to approve the Annual Budget.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Church or Community character of schools is upheld and works with the Local Governing Body (LGB) to ensure that this is achieved.

All Directors and Governors give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid in the year in respect of the Governor's duties.

The Executive Principal is the Accounting Officer.

### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay Policies are approved annually by each academy's LGB. Senior Staff salaries are set by the Finance Committee of each academy in line with the pay policy and approved by the LGB.

The Executive Principal's salary is approved by the Directors.

### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

St. Aidan's and Richard Taylor are Church of England academies. Neither academy is sponsored.

St. Aidan's Church of England High School operates its Sixth Form in association with St. John Fisher Catholic High School. The St. Aidan's Church of England High School and St John Fisher Catholic High School Associated Sixth Form is a highly integrated collaboration between the two schools that has been in existence since its creation in 1973. The St. Aidan's Church of England High School and St. John Fisher Catholic High School sites are close together and teaching is shared between the schools. The Governing Bodies of the two schools appoint Governors to attend regular associated Governors' meetings and there are weekly meetings of representatives of the Senior Leadership Teams at both schools.

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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### Objectives and Activities

#### Objects and Aims

Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust has entered into a funding agreement with the Department of Education, which provides a framework in which the Academy Trust must operate. The principal activity of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit, education in the local area, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. For its Church academies, Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust provides education in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

#### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

All Saints CE Primary School and St. Peters CE Primary School have received Academy orders and intended to join Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust by 31 August 2015. Complex legal matters relating to land and buildings have delayed the conversions to 2016. The following primary schools are undergoing consultation to consider joining the Trust; Pannal Community Primary School, North Rigton CE Primary School and Oatlands Infant School.

A group made up of the Headteachers from the Academy Trust and the above schools meet fortnightly to agree strategic direction and provide support. An annual training day is planned for January 2016 for staff across these schools to provide an opportunity for reflection, networking and mission setting.

The Trust's key objectives are:

- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all its students;
- to improve effectiveness by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to ensure that every child attending enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended; and
- to support each academy in retaining its unique identity and achieving its mission whilst assuring compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook, and statutory and curriculum requirements.

#### Public Benefit

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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### Strategic Report

#### Achievements and Performance

##### 1) St. Aidan's Church of England High School

Full GCSE and A Level results are on the school website [www.staidans.co.uk](http://www.staidans.co.uk).

The highlights are as follows:

#### GCSE results 2015

- 64% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate performance measure, gaining A\*- C across English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language (this places St. Aidan's in the top 10 non-selective mixed state schools in the country based on 2014 national data and as the top school in the North of England)
- 83% of students gained at least 5 A\*- C grades including English and Mathematics
- 45% of the grades achieved by students in Year 11 were at A\*- A

#### A level results 2015

- 57.3% of all A Level results were at grades A\*- B
- 12 students secured a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University
- 12 students secured a place to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science
- 100% of students who applied to university obtained places 80% at their first choice institution

##### 2) Richard Taylor CE Primary School

#### Key Stage Two SAT results 2015

These tables show the percentage of year six pupils achieving each level compared to national end of key stage teacher assessment levels and test results.

The shaded sections of the tables represent 2013 national teacher assessment and test result data.

Figures represent percentages at each level.

#### 2015 Teacher Assessment Results

	w	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maths	0	0	0	5	95	70	5
Maths	1	1	3	15	85	34	1
Writing	0	0	0	10	90	50	0
Writing	0	1	1	17	83	36	0
Reading	0	0	0	2	95	51	0
English	1	1	3	7	93	32	2
Science	0	0	0	0	95	66	0
Science	1	0	2	12	88	35	0

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

### 2015 Test Results

	w	1	2	3	4	5	6	Not entered	absent
Maths	0	0	0	0	100	68	5	0	0
Maths	0	1	1	14	86	41	6		
Reading	0	0	0	5	95	63	0	0	0
Reading	0	1	1	13	87	44	0		
GPS	0	0	0	5	95	50	5	0	0
GPS	0	1	1	24	76	50	4		
Read/Write/Maths	0	0	0	10	90	44	0	0	0
Read/Write/Maths		2	2	20	80	24	0		

The average points score for the year six cohorts was 31.3 compared to a North Yorkshire figure of 28.6 and a national 2013 figure of 28.3.

### Notes

W represents children who are working towards level one, but have not yet achieved the required standard. Children are sometimes not entered for the test if they are teacher assessed to be working below level three.

### 2015 Key Stage One National Results

This table shows the percentage of eligible children achieving each level at the end of key stage 1 in 2015.

RESULTS OF KS1 TEACHER ASSESSMENT 2015				
		Percentage of pupils at each level and above		
		Less than 2B	Level 2B+	Level 3+
Reading	National	11	79	29
Reading	School	8	92	35
Writing	National	33	67	15
Writing	School	13	87	17
Mathematics	National	22	78	23
Mathematics	School	13	87	30

### Key Performance Indicators

Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) has had a successful third financial year.

GAG funding £9,273,260 (2014 - £9,112,786)

SEN High Need/Low incidence £404,720 (2014 - £373,074)

Staffing costs (excluding catering staff) represented as percentage of GAG funding were 88% (2014 - 80%)

### Going Concern

After making appropriate enquires, the board of Directors 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 statement. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.



# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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### Financial Review

The Academy Trust's income is derived in the main from the Department of Education (DfE) and the Local Authority (LA) in the form of recurrent and capital grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE and the LA during the year ended 31 August 2015 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Net movement in funds were £1,499,873 (2014 - £1,211,565), with net assets at 31 August 2015 of £17,171,460 (2014 - £15,671,587).

Parents of new students were invited to join the academies' Gift Aid Schemes. The Directors continue to look to the scheme as an additional means of funding for improvement of the school's facilities and ask parents to donate a suggested minimum amount of £72, which can be gift aided where applicable. There is no obligation to join the scheme and all donations are entirely voluntary and confidential. The amount raised through the scheme, including the tax reclaimed on the gift aided donations was £56,218 (2014 - £56,897).

### Reserves Policy

For the reasons outlined above the Directors feel that it is prudent to accumulate a free reserve of at least £825,000. This covers the current monthly maximum payroll cost (approximately £725,000) with an additional contingency sum of approximately £100,000.

The unrestricted reserves of £2,271,417 (2014 - £1,298,511) are freely available for general purposes. These will be allocated in line with the strategic objectives of the Academy.

The restricted funds of £14,900,043 (2014 - £14,373,076) include the year end pension liability of £3,316,000 (2014 - £2,227,000). It is the opinion of the Directors that the pension liability will not fall due for payment in the foreseeable future.

Whilst Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) holds reserves of £17,171,460 (2014 - £15,671,587) an income stream will continue to be required in order to enable the Academy Trust to function.

### Investment Policy

The Academy Trust manages its cash by reviewing the short term and medium term requirements for funds. Surplus funds are invested in very low risk short and long term deposit accounts with our main bankers (Lloyds), giving an acceptable rate of return, while exposing the Academy Trust to minimal risk for the period of time the funds are to be invested.

The Academy Trust does not have an Endowment Fund.

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The main risks to the Academy Trust can be summarised as follows:

- Changes in Government legislation, particularly with regard to ESG and introduction of national funding rates for primaries, secondaries and or Sixth Form funding;
- Potential falling pupil roll, particularly in the Sixth Form at St. Aidan's. The school is constantly monitoring the decisions from the DfE with regard to the future of Sixth Form funding, which now decreases per student head, year on year. The fall in funding could impact on the future level of reserves being carried forward; and
- Delays in grant funding.

Other risks include extreme emergencies such as urgent maintenance issues and teacher ill health, pension liabilities or redundancies due to drop in income and falling pupil numbers.

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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The opinion of the Academy Trust is that the above constitutes medium risk and a level of reserves is maintained given the uncertain level of future Government funding.

### Plans for Future Periods

The over-arching priority for the Academy Trust in terms of future progress is to keep the education of its pupils and their well-being as its primary function. The Trust aims to raise achievement in all of the key stages of education delivered and to provide a model of leadership excellence for the local area and surrounding villages.

The Academy Trust plans to expand in the forthcoming year to include the five primary schools who are currently part of the Headteachers Group.

The Academy Trust continues to be particularly sensitive to meeting the needs of sub-groups of students in need of additional learning support, including; children with Education and Health Care Plans, looked after children, children being supported by Social Services and children from low income families.

The Academy Trust continues to provide bursaries from the Pupil Support Fund and Richard Taylor Educational Trust to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by family circumstances from participation in school trips.

### Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

No funds are being held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

### Employee involvement

The Academy Trust encourages the involvement of its employees in its management through regular meetings of the worker/director councils which have responsibility for the dissemination of information of particular concern to employees (including financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the Academy Trust) and for receiving their views on important matters of policy.

### Disabled persons

The Academy Trust will employ disabled persons when they appear to be suitable for a particular vacancy and every effort is made to ensure that they are given full and fair consideration when such vacancies arise. There is a training scheme in operation so that employees who have been injured or disabled in the course of their employment can, where possible, continue in employment with the Academy Trust. During employment the Academy Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advancement opportunities are available to enable them to reach their full potential.

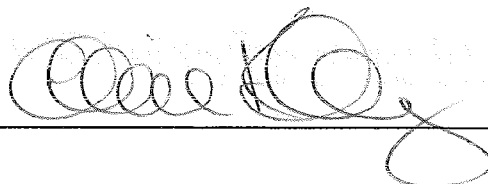
### Auditor

Insofar as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware. The Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish the auditor is aware of that information.

RSM UK Audit LLP (formerly Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP) has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

The Directors' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Directors as the company Directors, on 2.12.15 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Ms Claire Kelley  
Chair of Directors



2.12.15

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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### Scope of Responsibility

As Directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) 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 Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Principal, 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 Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. Prior to formation of the Multi Academy Trust 1 March 2015, the Local Governing Body of St. Aidan's had formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Local Governing Body was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms Claire Kelley (Chair)	3	3
Mr John Bushell	3	3
Mrs Sheina Demain	3	3
Mr David Fisher	2	3
Can. Anthony Shepherd	0	2
Revd. Matthew Evans	1	1
Mrs Pam Young	3	3
Mrs Penelope Robinson	2	2
Ms Megan Chanter	3	3
Mr Matthew Park	3	3
Mrs Christine Rose	3	3
Mr John Garnett	1	3
Mr John Wood	3	3
Mrs Joanne Wicks	1	3
Mr Jonathan Birch	2	3
Mrs Jane Boyd	3	3
Dr Jai Prakash Narain	2	3
Also attended:		
Mrs Gillian Soper	3	3
Mr Christopher Burt	3	3
Mr Martyn Beer	3	3
Mr Richard Noake	2	3

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Board of Directors has formally met twice in the period. Attendance during the period at meetings is as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms Claire Kelley (Chair)	2	2
Mr John Bushell *	2	2
Mr David Fisher *	1	2
Mr John Wood *	2	2
Mr Terence Harrison (appointed 17 June 2015)	1	1
Mr Philip Titchmarsh	2	2
Mr Martin Wicks	2	2
Mr Steven Scarisbrick	2	2
Mr Seth King	2	2
Mr Andrew Symonds	2	2
Dr Jill Adam	2	2
Mr David Sanderson (resigned 1 June 2015)	1	1

### Also attended

Mrs Sarah Bonson	1	1
Mr Chris Burt	2	2
Mrs Julia Collins	1	1
Mrs Clare Dowson	1	1
Mrs Louise Newport	1	1

\*Denotes member of the Audit committee

### Governance reviews

The Audit committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Directors and consists of Governors from the Local Governing Bodies. The Chief Financial Officer and Finance Manager also attend the meetings. Its main purpose is to help promote the highest standards of propriety in the use of public funds and encourage proper accountability for the use of those funds. Its purpose is also to review the effectiveness of the Academy Trust's internal control system to ensure that the aims, objectives and key performance targets of the organisation are achieved in the most economic, effective and environmentally sensitive manner.

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr John Bushell (Chair)	3	4
Mr David Fisher	3	4
Mr Jonathan Birch	4	4
Mr John Wood	2	4
Mr John Garnett	3	4
Mrs Sarah Bonson	1	2

### Also attended

Mr Chris Burt	4	4
Mrs Clare Dowson	4	4

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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### Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer the chief executive 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 Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Reduced total costs per head
- Optimised income generation
- Increased income through lettings to outside organisations

### 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 Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) for the year ended 31 August 2015 up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of Directors 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 board of Directors is 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 year ending 31 August 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Directors.

### The Risk and Control Framework

Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School)'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 Governing Body;
- regular reviews by the FGP and Audit Committees 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 guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Directors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and Veritau Ltd provides an internal audit service managed by Ian Morton. The role of internal audit includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems on a regular basis. The internal audit report informs the Directors on the operation and effectiveness of the systems of internal control.

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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### Review of Effectiveness

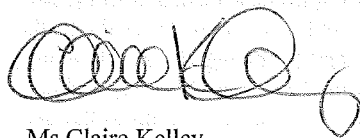
As Accounting Officer, the Executive Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the systems of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the senior leaders 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 implication of the result of their review of the system of internal control and a plan to address weaknesses should any arise and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

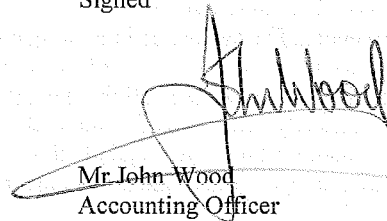
Approved by order of the Board of Directors on 2/12/15 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed



Ms Claire Kelley  
Chair of Directors

Signed



Mr John Wood  
Accounting Officer

# Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St Aidan's Church of England High School)

## STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

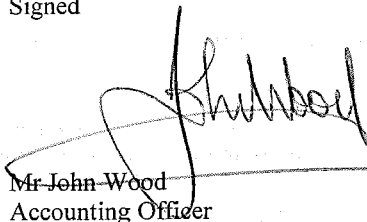
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As Accounting Officer of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust (formerly St. Aidan's Church of England High School) I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Directors and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Directors are able to identify any irregular or improper use of 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.

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 Directors and EFA.

Signed



Mr John Wood  
Accounting Officer

Date: 2/12/15

