Company Registration No. 09174628 (England and Wales)

THE STOUR FEDERATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNORS' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

THE STOUR FEDERATION

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THE STOUR FEDERATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governors	Mr S C Gray (Chair of Governors) * Mr D R Atkins (Vice Chairman) * Mrs J M Brown (Appointed 13 August 2014) * Mr N Jennngs (Appointed 11 September 2014) * Mrs J Harris (Appointed 11 September 2014) * Mr M J Dumelow (Appointed 11 September 2014) * Mr I D Fairbourn (Appointed 13 August 2014) Mr C J Saint (Appointed 11 September 2014) * Mrs J Rice (Appointed 13 August 2014) Mr E F Hobday (Appointed 11 September 2014) Rev A Coleby (Appointed 11 September 2014) Mr C Hilton (Head Teacher) (Appointed 11 September 2014) Mrs L Molson (Appointed 11 September 2014) Mrs J Barker * Mr T Wrigley Mrs R Sellars Mrs L Perry Mrs J Wallace Mrs H Ayres Ms A Holland (Appointed 1 March 2015) * Ms A Williams * members of the Resources Committee
Members	
- Chair of Governors	Mr S C Gray
- Vice Chair of Governors	Mr D R Atkins
- Chair of Resources	Mr I D Fairbourn
- Chair of Governors	Mrs J Rice
Senior management team	
- Head of Federation	Mr C Hilton
- Associate Head	Mrs H Ayres
- Associate Head	Mrs J Wallace
Company registration number	09174628 (England and Wales)
Registered office	Station Road Shipston-On-Stour Warwickshire CV36 4BT United Kingdom

Academies operated	**Location**	**Head Of Federation**
Acorns Primary	Long Compton	Mr Christian Hilton
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School	Shipston-On-Stour	Mr Christian Hilton

THE STOUR FEDERATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor	Ellacotts LLP Countrywide House 23 West Bar Banbury Oxfordshire OX16 9SA England
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank plc 22 Bridge Street Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 6AG
Solicitors	Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ellenborough House Welligton Street Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 1YD

THE STOUR FEDERATION

GOVERNORS' REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

The Governors present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Academy Trust (Academy) for the period 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 as a federation of two primary schools located 6 miles apart, these are Shipston Primary School and Acorns Primary School for the catchment areas of Shipston-on-Stour and Long Compton respectively.
Shipston Primary School has a pupil capacity of 420 ages 4-11 year olds and had a roll of 397 in the school census in September 2014. Acorns Primary School has a capacity of 83 ages 3-11 year olds and had a roll of 76 in the school census of September 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy. The Trust was incorporated on 13th August 2014, and converted to academy status on 1 September 2014.

The trustees of The Academy are also directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as The Stour Federation.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the period, except where noted, are included in the Reference and Administration 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.

Governors' indemnities

In accordance with article 5 of the charitable company's Articles of Association third party indemnity provision is in place with the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) with unlimited cover.

Principal Activties

Under Article 4 of the Academy's Articles of Association;
The Stour Federation's object is specifically restricted to advance, for public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Federation, offering a broad based primary curriculum to pupils of different abilities.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Governors

The Head of Federation is an ex officio member of the Governing Body. Up to 18 governors are appointed for a 4 year term with a maximum of 6 parent governors, 2 staff governors, 6 community governors, 2 LA influenced governors and 2 associate governors which are elected to office or appointed.
The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairs of the 3 committees are also Members.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Governors

The Chair of Governors meets with new governors to discuss roles and responsibilities. New Governors are able to attend training courses provided by the Local Authority Governor Services.

Organisational structure

The structure of the Academy consists of three senior levels:

1) The Governing Body
2) The Head of Federation
3) The Senior Leadership Team which consists of the Head of Federation and the Associate Headteachers for each school.

The aim of this management structure is to distribute responsibility and accountability and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels to enable the Federation to nurture the talents of its entire staff to support continual improvement and excellence.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting the Federation's policies, adopting the Learning Improvement Plans (LIPs) and approving the annual budget, monitoring performance against theses plans and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy including its curriculum, the achievement and welfare of the pupils and personnel.

The Head of Federation and Senior Leadership Team control the Federation at an executive level, implementing the policies set by the Governing Body and reporting back to them.

The Governing Body has established four committees. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to the committee and to the Head of Federation (the Accounting Officer). Each committee meets every half term and Terms of Reference for each committee are reviewed and approved by the Governing Body annually.

The committees of the Governing Body are:

- Full Governors
- Resources
- Performance and Standards
- Pupils, Parents and Community

Note: the Governing Body requires the Members to discharge the duties of the Audit Committee. These are detailed in the Full Governors Terms of Reference.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has drawn up a formal risk management process to assess business risks and implement risk management strategies. This has involved identifying the types of risk the Academy faces and prioritising them in terms of their potential operational and financial impact. The internal control systems and the exposure to risks are considered on a regular basis by the management and Trustees.

Connected Organisations Including Related Party Relationships

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust.

Each school has a parent teacher association. There are no staff members or governors of the academy named as trustees of either PTA. All donations received from the PTA are declared through statutory accounts.

The Stour Federation is affiliated to the Gateway Alliance Schools Company, providing continuous professional development for schools in Warwickshire.

Pupils across The Stour Federation have raised funds for local and national charities, including Children in Need, Comic Relief, NSPCC, Rojo Rojo Orphanage in Kenya, Toilet Twinning and providing an AED defibrillator for the village of Long Compton through a sponsored triathlon.

Objectives and aims

Personal Attributes of Pupils/Staff
To foster and develop confident, open and receptive learners who are able to communicate, think creatively and critically and embrace challenge through:

- expectation
- modelling
- the academy's curriculum and other learning opportunities
- approach to teaching and learning
- working in genuine partnership to strengthen schools and their communities

Potential
To encourage each individual to maximise their potential as highly motivated life long learners through:

- recognition of achievement
- building self-confidence
- promoting self discipline
- expectation
- embracing change
- commitment

Learning Environment
To provide a welcoming, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing learning environment, with high expectations of behaviour, effort and achievement through:

- the Multi Academy Trust RESPECT code
- provision for health and safety
- the highest staff expectations of pupils' behaviour
- effective and responsive systems of monitoring individual pupils and staff performance
- stimulating displays
- environmental responsibility

Sense of Place
To enable children to value and develop a sense of community through:

- celebrating our local area
- participating in and leading local events
- opportunities to experience life and cultures both in within the UK and the wider world

Relationships
To develop and promote positive relationships within the academy community, with parents and the wider world through:

- an active involvement in the learning process
- modelling
- expectation
- opportunities to collaborate
- high quality leadership
- effective communication systems

Well Being
To provide high quality social, moral and personal education, appropriate to the needs of the child, allowing each individual to lead a rewarding and happy life through:

- the Academy Trust's curriculum
- programme of collective worship
- school relationships
- opportunities to raise an individuals' self esteem
- links to outside agencies
- self respect and respect for others

Curriculum
To provide a rich curriculum that creates meaningful opportunities for the development of skills and knowledge through

- a high quality innovative curriculum
- a wide variety of approaches to outstanding teaching and learning and a rich, dynamic and purposeful range of learning opportunities
- allowing pupils to make mistakes
- supporting children in taking them to the 'edge of their learning'

Inclusion
To allow pupils to access the school's curriculum and participate in all areas of Academy life through:

- an effective equal opportunities policy
- highly inclusive and supporting learning environment

Objectives, strategies and activities
The main Academy Trust Improvement priorities for 2014-2015 were as follows:

1. Accelerate pupil progress in reading, writing, maths and across the curriculum so that pupils in all year groups are at least meeting end of year expectations.
2. Raise the quality of teaching further so that all teaching is at least good and much outstanding, triangulated with the quality of learning, progress data and work in books across the curriculum.
3. Implement a bespoke curriculum for children at Shipston Primary in line with the statutory expectations for Autumn 2014.

The Achievement of pupils at the school

- Ensure all Year 6 pupils make at least 2 levels progress in core subjects by the end of Key Stage 2, with similar levels of achievement in non-core subjects
- Ensure all pupils in Year 2 make at least 2 levels of progress at the end of Key Stage 1 in reading, writing and maths, from the start of Year 1 on-entry assessment
- Reception cohort at least meets previous years Good Level of Development (71% in 2013-14)

The Behaviour and Safety of Pupils in School

- The promotion of SMSC through Values Education to support children's learning and well-being. To raise confidence levels in staff in dealing with parents through training
- E-Safety and digital wisdom is at the heart of the new computing curriculum.
- Pupil attitudes and behaviour for learning.

The Quality of Teaching in School

- The consistency, progression and challenge in reading, phonics and writing across all subjects, including presentation and handwriting.
- Beyond Big Maths – embedding key maths skills through real life investigations, problems and questions across the curriculum.
- Teachers accurately assess attainment and track progress in national curriculum subjects using new assessment criteria.

Quality of Leadership in the Management of the School

- The implementation of Curriculum Faculty teams.
- Enhancing SEN provision, assessment and communication under new reforms.
- The schools' use of formative and summative assessment and how this improves teaching and raises achievement.

Activities and performance 2014-2015

EYPS – Pupils awarded expected or exceeding grade

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	60	9	6240	
Good Level of Development	68%	78%	67%	66%
Average Total Assessment Score	37.3	43.3	34.2	34.2

YEAR I PHONICS - Pupils working at or working towards required level

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	53	16	6204	
Working at Required Level	77%	88%	77%	77%
Working Towards Required Level	23%	13%	21%	

KEY STAGE 1 – Pupils achieving

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	51	8	6280	
Average Point Score	16.4	18.6	16.3	16.1

KEY STAGE 2 – Pupils achieving

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	47	7	5744	576701
Average Point Score	29.1	27.9	29.1	28.5
Good Level 4	79%	71%	69%	69%

Academy achievement is only a small part of what we do in the Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust and it was notable that performance has been strong in a variety of sports. Both Shipston and Acorns have competed well against local, district and county opposition, in particular, cross country, athletics, netball, tag rugby and football have seen many honours earned.

In the arts, the schools held annual end of year productions which all the children entered into enthusiastically. The Acorns school choir won the Stratford Schools Christmas Choir for the third year in a row and the Shipston choir took part in the 6000 Young Voices event at the Genting Arena, Birmingham.

In addition to the curriculum on offer at each school, the children have had the opportunity to attend a wide variety of school clubs and a residential visit to Manor Adventure in Wales. Trips included the Imperial War Museum in London, The Ashmolean in Oxford and the first school ever to sleep in the tunnel at the Sealife Centre in Birmingham

Public benefit

The Governing Body have complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit in exercising its powers and duties published by the Charity Commission.

The key aim of the Governing Body is the provision of excellent non-selective primary education through the provision of a broad curriculum, pastoral care and enrichment for the pupils of the Federation. The public benefit of this provision is identifiable in the educational attainment of our pupils as published on our websites annually.

Education at Shipston and Acorns is open to all primary aged pupils in the catchment areas regardless of race, gender, religion, social class or ability.

In accordance with Object 4b of our Articles of Association, the Governing Body actively promotes the use of our facilities for the benefit of our local communities.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Governors has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the Governing Body continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in Accounting Policies note in the financial statements.

Financial review

The majority of the Academy's income was obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the form of the General Academies Grant (GAG), the use of which was restricted to particular purposes.
The grant received from the EFA during the period ended 31 August 2015 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2015, the excess expenditure over income for the year was £4,060,444 including depreciation and the actuarial loss.

At 31 August 2015 the net book value of assets was £4,181,847. The assets were exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Academy's non-teaching staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme and consequently, the Academy balance shows a net position liability of £417,000.

Investment and Reserves Policy

The aim of the policy is to ensure that funds which The Stour Federation does not need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to be reasonably accessible and maximise income without risk.
Our aim is to spend public monies entrusted to us for the direct educational benefit of pupils as soon as is prudent. The Stour Federation does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as a result of good practice as and when circumstances allow.
The purpose of the Investment and Reserves Policy is