




Gosforth Schools' Trust

Annual report for period ended 31st March 2015





This publication was designed by 'The Rebel Team' who are a group of Year 8 pupils from Gosforth Central Middle School and Gosforth East Middle School.

Working together they designed the artwork for the front cover, chose the style, font and size of the publication. They worked with a graphic designer to experience what it is like to take a concept and develop it into a professional publication.



Sanjeevan Kaur Shergill, Georgina Prasadnikova & Isobel Campbell from Gosforth Central Middle School with Andy & Matt from Podium

In their own words

"We are The Rebel Team because we don't stick to the rules!"

The Rebel Team are

***Isobel Campbell
Jonathan Clayton
Georgina Prasadnikova
Sebastian Ritchie
Sanjeevan Kaur Shergill
Abigail Sykes***

We were also supported in the production of this publication by the team at Podium.

Chairman's Foreword

The purpose of Gosforth Schools' Trust is to deepen, extend and build the sustainability of the successful collaborative working that existed across the schools in Gosforth so as to expand educational opportunities for our children; raising their aspirations and to drive up standards across all our schools. Through our work to date we have provided a stronger local voice in response to national changes at the same time we have ensured that we retain the unique identities within our schools.

The Trust was incorporated on the 17th March 2014, formally bringing together nine first schools, and the two middle schools which form part of the Gosforth Pyramid of schools within the local education authority area of Newcastle City Council. We are an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The Trust is controlled by its governing document the Memorandum and Articles of Association operating through

our Board of Directors. I am taking this opportunity to formally thank our Directors, Foundation Governors and the schools Governors all of whom were instrumental in setting up the Trust.

It has been an interesting year and I am pleased that we have achieved all that we set out to achieve in our first year. We have formally and legally set up our Board of Directors who meet at least three times a year to give direction and steer to the work of the Trust. We have produced and implemented our Development Plan which supports the joint working and sharing of best practice across our schools. We appointed a Trust Business Manager who is our Company Secretary, dealing with all of our official and legal obligations as a registered company as well as supporting the delivery of our Development Plan and working with the Board to develop our longer term strategy.

We will continue to face many challenges in the future not least the pressure on school budgets, proposed changes to the curriculum and testing

and the ongoing austerity cuts which places additional pressures on our schools. The work of the Trust and the support from the Board and our Foundation Governors will enable us to meet these challenges in a positive way ensuring that we are delivering the best education for our pupils within Gosforth Schools' Trust.

George Snaith – Chairman

Business Manager's Report

I came into post with the Trust in January 2015 and since then it has been a very varied, busy and interesting year – a true reflection of our Trust and the work we do to support our schools.

The activities related to the formal governance of the Trust were all completed on time and in line with the guidance we received. Our information with Companies House is up to date and our accounts have been approved and are now a public record.

The land and building assets of the schools were legally transferred to the Trust from the local authority giving an asset value of approximately £23m. Our work will continue to manage these assets for our schools.

Through closer collaboration on procurement the schools within the Trust have seen in-year budget savings of over £15,000. Other projects included joint training and curriculum development working groups in

specialist subjects such as STEM and Information Technology. A review of current Service Level Agreements and contracts for supplies of goods and services took place with an aim of achieving economies of scale and cost effectiveness across the schools to allow them to utilise their budgets for the benefit of all the pupils and the local communities our schools support.

Activities have taken place to identify and approach organisations that are able to offer expertise and specialism within a mutually beneficial relationship to maximise the educational opportunities and welfare of our pupils. Partners involved to date include NISSAN, Sage (UK) plc, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumbria University and Newcastle City Council. Other organisations who have been involved with the work of our schools include The Reece Foundation, Ove ARUP, and Fab Lab Sunderland to name but a few. The Trust actively seeks opportunities to establish effective partnerships with organisations from all sectors who share the vision and values of the Trust as we are keen to

work with more local organisations.

The value of networking and partnership working cannot be underestimated. I set up a group of the Business Managers from the other Newcastle based education trusts. We meet on a regular basis to share good practice, expertise and find solutions to the challenges our schools are facing. I also meet regularly with the Trust head teachers and our school administrators; through these groups the work of the Trust is able to support the day to day activities within our schools.

The education sector continues to face many challenges not least the changes in education policy, rising pupil numbers, curriculum and assessment changes, and funding pressures to name but a few. I believe that our recent Review and Strategy Development session will help the Trust to support our schools when they face these challenges and look forward to the next year of work which will undoubtedly be varied, busy and interesting.

Julie McManus – Trust Business Manager

Trust School Council

The pupils representing their schools have met a couple of times this year. We encouraged them to write about what they did and we are pleased to share this with you.



*Contribution from Adam and Keira,
Yr 6 GCMS*

Trust School Council Report

We met up at Regent Farm and discussed our first 2015 meeting.

We went outside and said our names to get to know each other. Then we went inside and discussed some things...

We talked about how often we should meet and what our values are. We came up with the idea of spelling out TRUST and thinking what words to put for the letters. We thought of:

Try hard

Respect others

Understanding others

Share things with others

Trust each other

Afterwards, we thought of making a movie, about our school. We decided that we should show:

- What are school is like
- How we do things
- Sports and activities running in our school.

We all agreed that the next school, the TRUST should meet up at, was GCMS.

Gosforth Central Middle School Visit

As the year 3's, 4's and 5's came over to GCMS, we let them have lunch at our school. We got some year 5's to be buddies to accompany the younger TRUST pupils.

Afterwards, we let them play on the Year 5/6 yard and field. Once they'd had their GCMS experience, it was time to get down to business!

We tried some fun games such as word search of GCMS, a memory game and did a naming game.

Once we had finished that, we discussed our TRUST values from the previous meeting and talked about how us, and the schools, could follow it.

GEMS & Archbishop Runcie mentioned the video and we said that we should put it together before the next meeting.

Finally, we discussed where and when the next meeting the TRUST should go to. It was decided that we would go to Archibald First School.

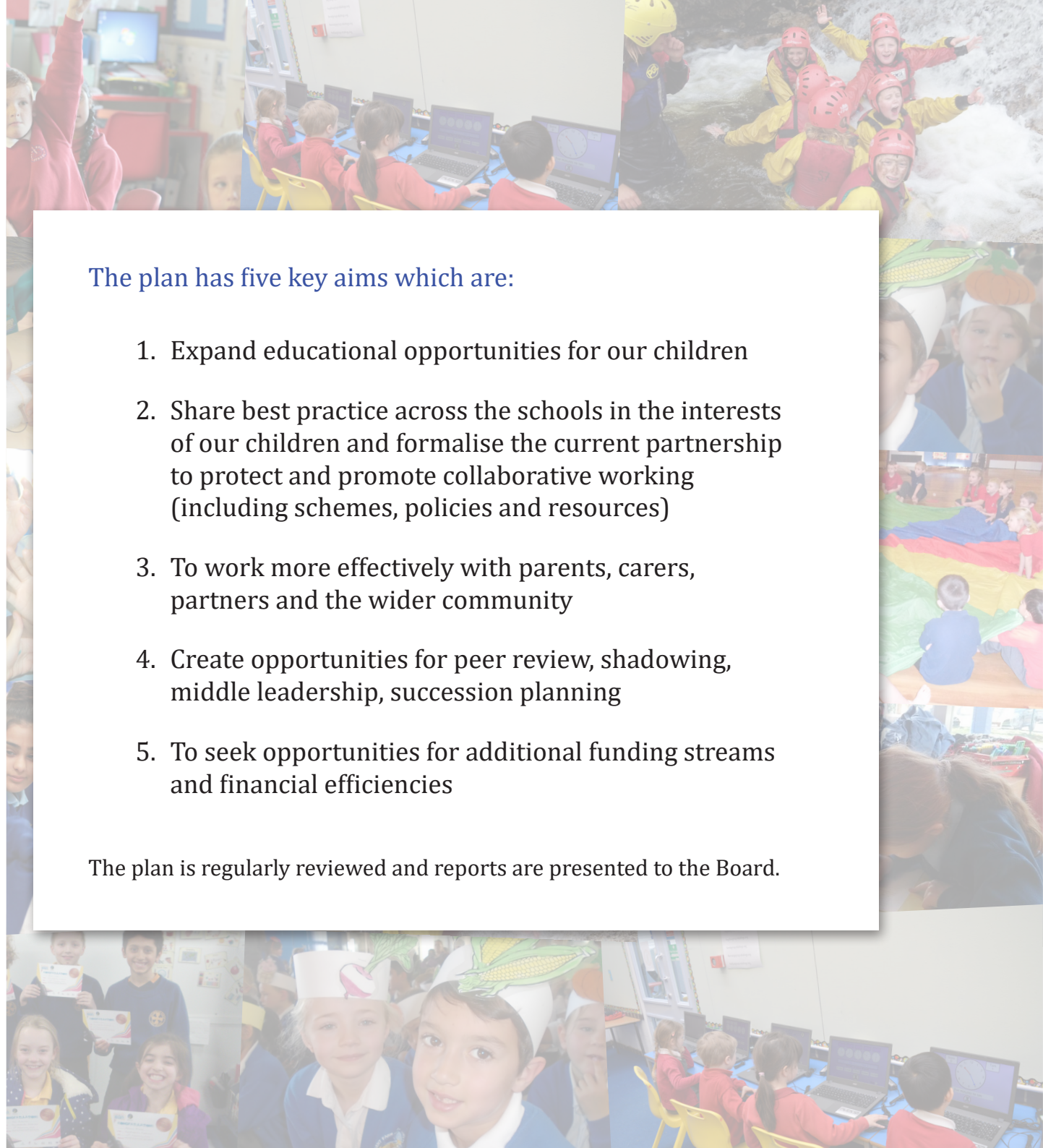
Trust Development Plan

During our first year of operation we worked hard to achieve the outcomes of our Trust Development Plan. A full copy of the plan can be found on our website.

The plan has five key aims which are:

1. Expand educational opportunities for our children
2. Share best practice across the schools in the interests of our children and formalise the current partnership to protect and promote collaborative working (including schemes, policies and resources)
3. To work more effectively with parents, carers, partners and the wider community
4. Create opportunities for peer review, shadowing, middle leadership, succession planning
5. To seek opportunities for additional funding streams and financial efficiencies

The plan is regularly reviewed and reports are presented to the Board.



Here are some of our achievements to date:

- Shared training across all schools in areas such as Assessment without Levels, Admissions and Appeals, Maths and Geography
- Through our PE & Sport Premium funding we were able to employ a PE Specialist across our 1st Schools. We co-ordinated and collaborated on a number of shared sporting events including a football tournament, a cross country event and Games 500.
- We organised the inaugural GST Great Outdoors Challenge
- Through our Family Support activities we delivered the Incredible Years Programme, the Adult Resilience Programme and special ICT classes for Parents.
- Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We worked together to shape appropriate provision and support. We developed joint opportunities for training staff, children and governors and collaborated on the development of attendance support for our pupils and families.
- Music is embedded into all our schools and we have groups of children working together on Gosforth Voices, Gosforth Band and Intermediate Voices. These groups regularly perform at our schools and other local venues.

And finally one of the main areas of collaboration has been the setting up of curriculum and specialist groups and they are:

- Maths
- STEM
- ICT Strategy Group
- Deputy Heads
- PE
- Geography
- SEND
- Admin
- Early Years
- Modern & Foreign Languages



Finance

Statement of Financial Activities for period ended 31st March 2015

	Unrestricted funds 2015
Incoming Resources	
From charitable activities	£ 25,000
Other incoming resources	£ 28,335,536
Total incoming resources	£28,360,536
Resources Expended	
Support costs	£ 368,379
Governance costs	£ 1,680
Total resources expended	£ 370,059
Net income for the year <i>or Net movement in funds</i>	£ 27,990,477
Fund balances <i>as at 17th March 2014</i>	£ 0
Fund balances <i>as at 31st March 2015</i>	£27,990,477

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2015

Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£ 27,981,168
Current Assets	
Cash at bank & in hand	£ 10,989
Creditors <i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>	- £ 1,680
Net current assets	£ 9,309
Total assets less current liabilities	£ 27,990,477
Income Funds	
Unrestricted income funds	£ 9,309
Unrestricted capital funds	£ 27,981,168
Total income funds	£ 27,990,477

The accounts were approved by the Trust Board on 14th December 2015. A copy of the full accounts can be found on our website.

Our Directors

Jane Appleby

Deborah Ashcroft

Jeremy Bell

John Davison

Jo Elliott

Martin Fletcher

Chris Jewitt

Gill McKay

Helen McKenna

Julie Robson

Tim Stout

Deborah Tyler

George Snaith

Gosforth Park First School

Regent Farm First School

Gosforth Central Middle School

Archibald First School

South Gosforth First School

Dinnington First School

Grange First School

Brunton First School

Broadway East First School

Archbishop Runcie CE First School

Gosforth East Middle School

Newcastle City Council

Independent and Chairman of the Board



Gosforth Schools' Trust

Registered Company Number
08942309 (England and Wales)

Find us online

www.gosforthschoolstrust.co.uk
 @GosforthGST

Registered office

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