

ACCOUNTING POLICY

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Approved By	Hamwic Education Trust Board of Directors
Approval Date	4 October 2017
Policy Review Date	September 2018

ACCOUNTING POLICY

This document sets out the basis under which the Trust will prepare financial statements.

For the purpose of this document, all references to the Trust refers to Hamwic Education Trust, Hamwic Trust and all associated multi-academy trusts & academies.

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, will be prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their account in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by EFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Hamwic Education Trust meets the definition of a public entity under FRS 102.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Department for Education (DfE).

Going concern

The trustees will assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees will make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income

All incoming resources will be recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants receivable

Grants will be included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis. The income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period will be shown in the relevant fund on balance sheet. When income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition will be deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income will be accrued.

General Annual Grant (GAG) will be recognised in full in the SOFA in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period will be deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants will be recognised when there is entitlement and will not be deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant will be reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the Trust which amounts to a donation will be recognised in the SOFA in the period in which it is receivable, where there are no performance-related conditions, where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations will be recognised on a receivable basis, where there are no performance-related conditions, where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, will be recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale will be included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sales less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it will be recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock will be charged against 'Income from trading activities' and the proceeds will be recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they will not be recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income will be recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it will be measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliability, in which case the cost of the item to the donor will be used. The gain will be recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount will be included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Trust's accounting policy.

Expenditure

Expenditure will be recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure will be classified by activity. The costs of each activity will be made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity will be allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity will be apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs will be allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds

This will include all expenditure incurred by the Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and will include costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

These will be costs incurred on the Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended will be inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £3,000 or more will be capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they will be included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants will be credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the SOFA and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets will be charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the SOFA. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets will be charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation will be provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Freehold property – 50 years
- Motor vehicles – 5 years
- Fixtures and fittings – 5 years
- Computer equipment – 5 years

Assets in the course of construction will be included at cost. Depreciation on these assets will not be charged until they are brought into use.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset will be carried out if events or changed in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts will be recognised as impairments. Impairment losses will be recognised in the SOFA.

Liabilities

Liabilities will be recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities will be recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions

Provisions will be recognised when the Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions will be measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision will be based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount will be recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased assets

Rentals under operating leases will be charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Taxation

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust will be provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the SOFA and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and the interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligation. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses will be recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectation of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the LGPS defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2017. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

Conversion to an academy trust

As a multi-academy trust, new schools join the Trust from time to time.

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involves the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £Nil consideration and will be accounted for under the acquisition accounting method.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion will be valued at their fair value, being a reasonable estimate of the current market value that the trustees would expect to pay in an open market for an equivalent item. The amounts will be recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in the SOFA and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.