

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020



**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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VENTURERS TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	M Bothamley (appointed 1 September 2019) C Curling K Finn (appointed 1 September 2019) A Morris (appointed 1 September 2019) J Squires
Trustees	G Bragg, Chair S Allpress (resigned 12 February 2020) R Ancell (resigned 21 May 2020) R Bailey (appointed 13 July 2020) G Camm L Collins (appointed 19 September 2019) J Cornish C Duckworth R Holmes (appointed 19 September 2019) D Jennings (resigned 4 September 2019) J Laycock (resigned 12 February 2020) D Powell (appointed 19 September 2019) S Purdy (appointed 13 July 2020) L Robinson, Vice Chair (resigned 13 July 2020) D Sands (resigned 11 March 2020) C Skellett J Watson
Company registered number	06511936
Company name	Venturers Trust
Principal and registered office	Gatehouse Avenue Bristol England BS13 9AJ
Accounting Officer	D Watson

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

**Senior management
team**

D Watson, CEO and Accounting Officer (from 01/01/2020)
T Phillis, Director of Operations
L Prewett, Principal
K Craig, Principal
S Woodburn, Vice-Principal
K Jenkins, Acting Principal
V Starkie, Vice-Principal
S Williams, CFO
S Flanagan, Principal
S Williamson, Principal and Accounting Officer (to 31/12/19), Executive Lead
E Tovey, Principal
K McCullagh, Principal
J Molesworth, Principal
T Williams, Executive Lead

Independent auditors

Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Solicitors

Stone King LLP
13 Queen Square
Bath
BA1 2HJ

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Venturers Trust operates one secondary academy, five primary academies, one all through school and one special school in Bristol. When it is operating at its full potential capacity in all its academies it will have a pupil capacity of 4,766 (excluding nursery). At the census point in January 2020 it had 3,594 pupils (excluding nursery).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, established on 21 February 2008, as amended by special resolutions with effect from September 2012 and September 2017, are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Venturers Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 to 2.

Members' liability

Each member of the Charitable Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases 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.

Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

Trade union facility time

Four employees spent 1%-50% of time on trade union activities. The total pay bill of the Trust is £20,486k. The total time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours 0%.

Trustees

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Articles of Association determines that there shall be a minimum of 10 Directors and, unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, a maximum of 14. The Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 9 Trustees who are appointed by the Society of Merchant Venturers, Sponsor of Venturers Trust
- up to 3 Trustees who are appointed by the University of Bristol, Sponsor of Venturers Trust
- up to 3 Co-opted Trustees who are appointed by the Trustee Board
- in the event that no Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are established, a minimum of 2 parent governors.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed in the same manner in which he/she was originally appointed.

When appointing new Trustees, the Sponsors give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees receive an induction into the workings of the Trust by the Chair of the Trust Board and Governance Lead and receive a handbook on their roles and responsibilities from the Trust Governance Lead. A Governor Training Programme is accessible to all Trustees. Ad-hoc training is provided as required.

Organisational Structure

The Trust Board is legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Trust. All committees operate under specific terms of reference, which receive certain delegated functions from the Trust Board. The work of implementing most of the financial policies is carried out by the Finance Committee, which meets two weeks before each meeting of the Trust Board. The other principal committees meet at least three times a year, at two to five week intervals prior to the Trust Board.

The Trust's commitment to corporate governance is examined through the Audit & Governance Committee. This sub committee meets at least three times a year and operates under its own terms of reference. The Committee reports to the Full Board three times a year.

The strategic direction of the Trust is set by the Board of Trustees who approve the plans and budgets presented by the executive team. They also measure performance against these strategic plans and make decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The executive team is led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Following the death in service of our CEO in February 2019, the Trust conducted a recruitment process. In July 2019, we announced that David Watson OBE would be appointed as our new CEO. He joined us in January 2020, also taking up the role of Accounting Officer. He has made a few changes to the Leadership Team (VTLT), which now comprises the Executive Lead Primary and Specialist Academies, Executive Principal (Secondaries), the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Operations.

The Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

All staff, including senior staff, are subject to the pay and appraisal policies, which outline the process for reviewing and setting pay. The Chief Executive Officer shall be paid on a salary determined by the Trust Board with related provisions for enhancement based on the outcome of an annual performance review. This will also apply to other members of the Venturers Trust Leadership Team and Principals by agreement. The Chief Executive Officer's review will be carried out by the Chair of the Trust and the Chair of the Board HR and Pay Committee. The Chief Executive Officer will review the performance of VTLT. Principals' appraisals will be carried out by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the relevant LGB.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

Venturers Trust is jointly sponsored by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the University of Bristol and the Trustees consider that Venturers Trust is controlled by the Society of Merchant Venturers as it nominates the majority of the Trustees. Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Trust Board

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Trust Board may have an interest and these are disclosed in note 28 to these Financial Statements. The Board is aware of the Academies Financial Handbook regarding related party transactions.

Engagement with employees

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- Directly contacting them to provide them with information that affects their day-to-day work within the Trust
- Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union officials
- Promoting the use of the Intranet, which provides a wealth of Trust wide information, including policies and procedures
- Having a staff representative on the Local Governing Body of each academy
- Providing regular updates to all staff members, via termly updates and newsletters

Engagement with suppliers and others in a business relationship with the Trust

The Trust recognises the importance of strong relationships with suppliers and other key stakeholders to the success of the Trust in achieving its aims. It fosters good working models and seeks to maintain a robust, purposeful and constructive dialogue with all businesses and individuals.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The objects of the Trust, as stated in the Articles of Association dated 21 February 2008 (as amended by special resolutions with effect from 1 September 2012) are 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 schools ("the academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust aims to meet the following objectives:

- To improve the quality of teaching and learning within the Trust as a whole
- To improve the quality of leadership and management
- To develop attitudes, aspirations and ensure the safety of pupils
- To improve reading, writing and mathematics for all students
- To narrow the gap in achievement for pupil premium pupils
- To establish a school improvement team drawing upon staff from within the Trust
- To develop partnership activities to enrich the learning of students in the Trust
- To work in collaboration with colleagues and external partners to develop a strong programme of training for staff from Initial Teacher Training to Senior Leadership training
- To develop the central team service capacity of the Trust to manage the smooth onward progress of the Trust
- To achieve maximum progress for pupils and highest attainment at external testing points

This Trust continues to work towards achieving these objectives. During this academic year, the three schools within the Trust which had 'Inadequate' Ofsted ratings were inspected and each achieved a rating of 'Requires Improvement'. We continue to work hard to make further academic improvements across all of our schools. Since his appointment, David Watson has had a particular focus on the improvement of educational outcomes for children.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Public Benefit

The Trustees 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 Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

During this academic year, the disruption caused by the Covid19 pandemic has forced the academies in Venturers Trust to change their operations to provide twin streams of remote and live learning. In our academies, staff took particular care to implement additional measures to monitor and protect the safeguarding of our children. All national exams were cancelled. A level and GCSE grades were awarded on the basis of teacher assessment. SSAT tests did not take place, so we are unable to share outcomes for our primary schools.

Throughout the period of the restricted opening for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, each of the academies welcomed students and pupils into a safe environment. Teachers and other staff worked during holidays and half terms to provide the necessary facilities.

In addition, those who provide support services from our central team have had to change processes and procedures to play their part in making the new ways of working possible. We would particularly like to recognise the IT team's work to change the IT operating model to promote remote working and to make our IT infrastructure more resilient and the Estates team's work to make the academy environment Covid secure. However, all central team staff have supported the academies in many different ways, as well as changing to working from home.

We would like to thank all of our staff, students and pupils for the flexibility and resilience that they have shown during this very difficult period. We have been very impressed by the hard work of so many to protect the safety and learning of our young people.

Colston's Girls' School ("CGS")

CGS remains an outstanding school. The Acting Principal was appointed to the substantive Principal post early in 2020. The school continues to hold a strong ambition to continue to improve what is on offer for all students at CGS.

The school continues to be very popular with significant over subscription for places in Year 7.

Results in both years 11 and 13 were provided by centre assessed grades in 2020. Following a number of years of hard work and an extremely challenging final few months, the students received well-deserved and hard-earned grades. These were in line with the excellent results that our students normally achieve. A level students have moved on to a range of high quality providers. CGS remains in the top ten of state schools whose students progress to Oxbridge.

Merchants' Academy

Ofsted inspected the all-through school in February 2020, taking the school out of special measures, judging it as requiring improvement. Personal development was judged to be good. The significant support and new leadership that was put in place continues to drive academy improvement, with teaching and learning now effective, but continuing to improve. Behaviour for learning, and strong systems and structures have been put in place. Rebuilding for the primary phase is due for completion in early 2021.

Results in both years 11 and 13 were provided by centre assessed grades in 2020. Following a number of years of hard work and an extremely challenging final few months, the students received well-deserved and hard-earned grades. These continued the improving trend in Merchants' Academy's students' performance. We were extremely pleased with the excellent destinations our students have achieved for further education, apprenticeships and employment.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Bannerman Road Community Academy

Bannerman Road Community Academy is an inclusive inner-city Bristol school, with 375 pupils on roll. Located within one of the most deprived areas of the city, where 74% of the school population do not have English as their first language and BAME is 87%, the school has a large majority of pupils coming from 13 of the 17 ethnic groups and an above average proportion of children classed as disadvantaged. The school follows the Bristol based curriculum 'Curious City', ensuring students learn from a wide range of experiences through Lines of Enquiry.

Barton Hill Academy

Barton Hill Academy is a large inner-city primary school with around 430 pupils, including 60 in the nursery, and approx. 70 staff. It serves a community where 74% pupils have English as an additional language, with just over half of the population being 'disadvantaged'. The school was judged as Inadequate by Ofsted in September 2017. In February 2020, Ofsted completed a section 5 re-inspection of the school, concluding that the school was no longer inadequate, but still requires improvement. Behaviour and attitudes, and personal development were both judged as good. Student outcomes have strengthened as teaching and learning have improved. The school has a strong relationship with the parents and the wider community.

Fairlawn

Fairlawn is a growing primary school and currently has 216 children on roll. It achieved a Good Ofsted rating on its first inspection in April 2018. The school plans to work closely with families and others in the community and to use the local environment as a focus for its curriculum. The school also follows the Bristol based curriculum 'Curious City'. Fairlawn's ethos for holistic development of its children is even more relevant in current times. Parents and teachers have built an enthusiastic volunteer Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who work closely with the school and wider community to organise a range of fundraising events each year.

The Dolphin School

The Dolphin School continues to be a 'Good' school within the Trust. The school continues to build on its successes with the Bristol based curriculum 'Curious City' and is proud to be an integral part of the 'One Bristol Partnership' sharing resources and best practice with colleagues across the City. The school has 357 pupils on roll. Due to its location, pupils of all ages benefit from weekly outdoor learning experiences. Over the last year, they have concentrated on how children learn, focusing on the implementation of a targeted metacognition programme, ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to develop lifelong skills.

The Kingfisher School

Ofsted inspected the school in September 2019, taking the school out of special measures and judging it as requiring improvement. The school also follows the Bristol based curriculum 'Curious City'. Behaviour and attitude was judged as good, reflecting significant focus on systems and structures. Teaching and learning has improved significantly. The surplus classroom capacity now accommodates pupils from Venturers' Academy, giving staff and students opportunities to teach and learn alongside each other.

Venturers' Academy

Venturers' Academy is an all age specialist school providing an outstanding, personalised and challenging education for children with a primary diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). The school also follows the Bristol based curriculum 'Curious City', adapting its contents to form the specialist 'Curiosity Curriculum'. Venturers' Academy seeks to provide an educational setting where students aspire to, and attain, the highest levels of achievement both academically and socially, where each and every student thrives and where everything's possible. There is increasing pressure on specialist places and the school has expanded into a second site, co-located with the Kingfisher School.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the 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. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies (note 1.2).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Venturers Trust

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2020, the Trust received total income of £26,593,882 and incurred total expenditure of £28,368,269 and net losses on investments of £102,669. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £1,877,056.

At 31 August 2020 the net book value of tangible fixed assets was £65,101,592 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Reduced spending during the pandemic lockdown has resulted in the improved financial position for the year to 31 August 2020. This allowed some vital ICT investments to be undertaken to support the organisation's remote learning and working models.

There are anticipated real term reductions in net income in the next 5 years due to increased pension rates, the agreed public sector pay settlement, reduction in post 16 funding, revisions to high needs funding and inflationary pressure in respect of maintenance of capital buildings. In addition, there are uncertainties surrounding the National Funding Formula (NFF) and impact nationally and locally. Schools and the Trust have carried out medium and long term financial planning to mitigate the reductions in funding as far as we are able, and have submitted 3 year financial projections to the ESFA as required by the Academies Financial Handbook.

Venturers Trust Endowment Fund

Venturers Trust Endowment Fund (Endowment Fund) was established as an unincorporated charitable trust (charity number 1127105). Under the terms of the Deed of Gift dated 31 August 2008 the permanent element of the Colston's Girls' School Endowment Fund Trust Deed totalling £1 million cannot be spent unless approved by The Charity Commission. Additionally, £109,624 of the amount transferred in from Merchants' Academy Endowment Fund is a permanent endowment and may only be spent on such terms for the replacement of the amount spent as the Charity Commission may approve in advance.

The Trust aims to distribute its income in accordance with the criteria as stated in its objectives.

The Endowment Fund is governed by a sub-committee of the Trust Board and the Trust is the sole trustee of the fund; as such the Trustees consider the Endowment Fund to be under the control of the Trust and have consolidated its results. The Endowment Fund is shown in the statement of financial activities as a restricted endowment fund.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of revenue reserves should be approximately 5% of total unrestricted and restricted funding (c. £1,290,000). The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Total reserves of the Trust, excluding the pension scheme liability, amount to £70,657,063. Of this, £68,871,823 is invested in fixed assets or represents non GAG restricted funds and endowment funds. The remaining £1,719,269 (representing £1,269,372 unrestricted funds less £65,971 subsidiary fixed assets and £515,868 restricted GAG finance) is the balance that the Trustees monitor in accordance with the Board's reserves policy.

These levels of reserves are being held to deal with short term deficits expected over the next two to three years plus the Trust's plans for capital projects. Work continues to be made to make savings in all possible areas, find alternative sources of income and look for grant support for essential building repairs and new building projects.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Investment Policy

Trustees are committed to managing all funds under their control in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk to support the on-going education and advancement of pupils at the Trust schools and to ensure that it has sufficient resources to meet its current and future activities effectively. The Trustees delegate the day to day management of the school's bank accounts and deposit accounts to the Chief Finance Officer. On a daily basis this is achieved by automatic transfer of surplus funds to overnight deposit.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

In the light of Corporate Governance guidance contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2019, the Trustees have identified the major risks to which the Trust is exposed.

At the end of 2019/20 academic year, the areas with the highest residual risk scores which are the focus of the highest management input are:

- The principal uncertainty currently facing the Trust is the impact of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The Trustees and executive team continue to monitor the pandemic, including UK Government advice, and acknowledge that the Trust faces a prolonged period of uncertainty. Our key priority continues to be the educational provision for all our students and we are working to minimise the impact of the pandemic to the goal of our students succeeding, whilst taking precautions to keep staff and students safe.
- Financial Impact of pupil numbers
- Reduced funding leading to a deficit budget and/or lack of investment funding, for example in IT and Estates development and maintenance, leading to an increased risk of IT failure or Health and Safety incidents
- Specific concerns about any potential reduction in the funding of the Teachers' Pension
- Trust capacity during the Trust's development, particularly in the Central Team
- Academy Improvement across the Trust, given that we currently have half of our schools in a category of 'requires improvement'.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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The Trust has adopted the following statement of risk appetite to provide a point of reference for strategic decision making:

- The Trust has a strategic vision to provide an excellent education, which enables all individuals to broaden their horizons, set them new challenges, achieve their ambitions, and lead fulfilling lives.
- The Trust therefore has an appetite for risk, properly assessed in developing innovative teaching and curricula opportunities.
- However, as a charity, and a body in receipt of public funds, the Trust is generally risk-averse in aspects of its business.
- In particular, it is risk averse in matters of institutional sustainability, governance, financial control, legal compliance and health and safety.
- It is also risk averse in matters which might undermine its reputation as a body committed to excellence or jeopardise compliance with its other values or delivery of the best student experience possible under prevailing circumstances.

Risk Management Arrangements

The aim of the risk management process is to work to minimise risks to the achievement of the Trust's strategic aims. It is not possible to eliminate risk but a risk based approach can ensure that risks are effectively managed and actions are prioritised according to how they impact on the Trust aims.

Risk Registers

The Trust is in the process of transferring to a new risk management framework, following the arrival of a new CEO. However, currently, the Trust and School risk registers categorises risks in the following ways.

- Financial Risks — financial control, risks, expenditure, treasury and pensions. They are monitored by school/Governing Body/Trust Board
- Operational Risk areas — management & information and human resources split into sub categories. These are monitored by the Trust core service and communicated to the Trust Board and individual schools as appropriate
- Strategic reputational risks — stakeholder, reputational, strategic, financial, charitable, plus public profile risks. These are monitored by the CEO, Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) and the Board of Trustees.

For each risk, the register identifies its likely causes and consequences; it indicates both the impact and the likelihood; it identifies the risk owner - the executive responsible for managing the risk - and the controls in place to mitigate the risk; and, finally, it records what other mitigating steps might be required to manage the risk in both the short and longer term.

At a local level, the Principals are responsible for ensuring that risk management is embedded in existing management processes including:

- Identifying, assessing, and responding to key risks
- Ensuring that key risks are reported at Team meetings and that emerging risks are discussed and recorded
- That responsibility for each specific risk is allocated to an individual
- That actions are identified, documented in the team Self Evaluation Form and implemented
- That an individual is appointed to manage the risk management process within the school
- That an annual review of risk is undertaken as part of the annual planning exercise
- That risk is assessed as part of every new project appraisal.

Fundraising

The Trust carries out a limited amount of fundraising, mindful of the communities within which it operates. In the circumstances when fundraising is undertaken, systems and controls are in place to separate and protect funds. The trust is mindful of its responsibilities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and legal rules, and ensures all activities are agreed and monitored at Senior Leadership Team level in compliance with relevant legal rules. Recognised standards are applied to ensure that fundraising is open,

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honest and respectful, protecting the public from undue pressure to donate. Complaints are handled and monitored through the Trust's complaints procedure.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Venturers Trust is pleased to report its current UK based annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019.

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those within the UK only for all assets that come under an operational control boundary. This includes all 8 schools controlled during the reporting period along with minibuses and personal vehicles used for business mileage ("grey fleet").

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1 September to 31 August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2020 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The electricity and gas data were all compiled from invoice records. Mileage claims were used to calculate energy use and emissions associated with grey fleet; and total cost figures were used for scope 1 transport using an average £/litre throughout the reporting year. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are mandatory according to the 2018 Regulations, then divided into the combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), purchased electricity (scope 2) and in-direct emissions that occur as a consequence of company activities (scope 3).

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2019/20
Mandatory energy:	
Gas	3,122,945
Purchased electricity from the grid	1,994,394
Transport fuel	46,209
Total mandatory energy	5,163,548

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Intensity ratio

The primary intensity ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e (mandatory emissions) per pupil, which is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability. Pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2019 Census.

A secondary intensity ratio based on floor area (Gross Internal Area) is also provided to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2019/20
Mandatory emissions:	
<u>Scope 1</u>	
Natural gas	574.2
Transport - Company owned vehicles (mini-buses)	8.0
<u>Scope 2</u>	
Purchased electricity (location-based)	465.0
<u>Scope 3</u>	
Transport - Business travel in employee owned vehicles	3.2
Total gross mandatory emissions	1,050.4
<u>Intensity ratios (mandatory emissions only)</u>	
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.278
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.029

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

It is worth noting that energy consumption is expected to be below typical this year due to the reduced occupancy across all sites following COVID-19 restrictions from 23rd March 2020. Despite this temporary reduction in energy use, the Trust is committed to reducing longer term emissions and this year has seen the implementation of energy efficiency measures. Throughout this reporting year the Trust has conducted a thorough review of the control settings of all the heating, hot water and air conditioning systems across the whole estate. The settings have all been optimised on both the timing and temperatures to ensure energy is consumed in the most efficient manner. In addition to this, the normal servicing of the heating plant is regularly undertaken. All of these actions are sensible low cost measures that are implemented before any investments in energy efficient technology which the Trust will consider in the future to further reduce emissions.

Plans for Future Periods

Over the next academic year, the Trust will work:

- To develop to provide outstanding education and improve the outcomes of its pupils in all schools across all phases
- To raise standards of achievement, narrowing the gap in achievement for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and improve progression
- To continue to manage the financial stability and sustainability of the Trust
- To streamline and improve the processes of the centralised functions
- To secure the infrastructure across the Trust, ensuring that IT and Estates are developed and maintained to a high standard
- To oversee the successful start and completion of capital projects within the schools, including the new build for Merchants' Academy primary and Venturers' Academy

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

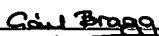
Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on _____ and signed on its behalf by:


Gail Bragg (Dec 18, 2020 12:51 GMT)

Gail Bragg
Chair of Trustees, Venturers Trust

Dec 18, 2020

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Venturers Trust 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.

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer/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 Venturers Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Bragg, Chair	5	5
L Robinson	4	5
R Ancell	2	2
C Skellett	5	5
G Camm	5	5
L Collins	5	5
J Cornish	5	5
C Duckworth	5	5
R Holmes	5	5
D Sands	1	2
J Watson	4	5

During this year, the Board embedded the revised set of Board sub-committees, including Education Standards, Finance, Estates and Property, HR and Pay, and Audit. Each sub-committee has a mixture of Trustee and non-Trustee members, with the exception of the Local Governing Bodies for each school which are entirely independent. Each has a Terms of Reference document and reports to each Board meeting.

The Board is confident that it has maintained effective oversight of the funds within the Trust by the Finance Committee's oversight, by the Chair of the Trust Board meeting with the CEO monthly to review the accounts, by conducting a robust annual budget setting process and by reviewing the accounts at the Board meetings.

In this year, the Board conducted ad-hoc meetings when necessary to action specific items, such as the new CEO recruitment and on-boarding. They held a strategy awayday in February to consider the new CEO's strategic intent.

Specialist executive papers are presented to each Board. Across the year, the quality of papers and the data within them has improved significantly. The Trust is continuing to further improve the papers, particularly for the Education Standards Committee, under the leadership of David Watson, CEO.

The Board intends to formally review its effectiveness in 2020/2021.

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise and assist the Board in respect of the Trust finances and all matters associated with income and expenditure.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
John Watson	5	5
Trevor Smallwood	5	5
Stuart Smith	5	5
Melanie Casey	4	5
Fiona Westwood	5	5
Peter McIlwraith	4	5

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

GOVERNANCE (CONTINUED)

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise and assist the Board in respect of the entire assurance and control environment of the institution.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Richard Holmes	4	4
John Watson	4	4
Peter McIlwraith	3	4
Richard Wynn-Jones	3	4

The HR, Staffing & Pay Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise and assist the Board in respect of determining all HR and pay matters in accordance with the Appraisal, Pay and other relevant policies

The Educational Standards Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise and assist the Board in respect of assisting and making recommendations to the Board; to have oversight of the curriculum and of all matters associated with teaching and learning, including reviewing the Trust's schools' comparative academic performance.

The Estates and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise and assist the Board in respect of all matters relating to the maintenance and development of the premises and grounds, including Health and Safety

The Endowment & Fundraising Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to oversee the administration, including banking arrangements of the Endowment and Fundraising funds, their investment and disbursement, and the raising of new funds for agreed projects

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the 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 Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Robust financial governance and budget management. This year, the senior leaders within the Trust have been rigorous in implementing tight management controls over the spend at all levels in the Trust, ensuring that the best Value for Money has been achieved.
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government. In 2019/20 a SRMA report was commissioned for the Trust by the ESFA. This provided comparison data and Key Performance Indicators from other similar schools, enabling the Trust to focus on meeting improved outcomes whilst focusing on tighter financial management.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress. During this year, the Trust designed and implemented a revised school improvement strategy, for example appointing key internal specialists and rationalising the use of external parties between schools.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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 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 Venturers Trust for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The Trust'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 Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes Committee 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 (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Bishop Fleming LLP as internal auditor. Bishop Fleming completed additional checks during the year 2020, with scope of the work and the work programme agreed before the new FRC ethical standards and AFH 2020 came into force. Advantage was therefore taken of the transitional arrangements to complete the assignment. For 2021 the Trust will look to engage a new partner to undertake this work.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included testing on a number of key control processes across the following areas:

- Payroll
- Income and debtors
- Period end controls
- Purchases and procurement
- Compliance
- Reporting

On a quarterly basis the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Audit Committee/Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The internal auditor completed their schedule of work, additionally reviewing the operation of Merchants' Academy Services Limited. Management has taken on board all identified recommendations from the reports,

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

the majority have been actioned or it has been confirmed that the risk exposure was reduced during the pandemic and these items will be reviewed during 2020/21.


REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system 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
- The work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee and Finance Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


Gail Bragg (Dec 18, 2020 12:51 GMT)

Gail Bragg
Chair of Trustees

Date: Dec 18, 2020

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Venturers Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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 Trustees and ESFA.

David Watson

David Watson (Dec 18, 2020 11:38 GMT)

D Watson

Accounting Officer

Date:

Dec 18, 2020

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the charitable company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

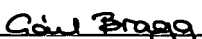
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in their conduct and operation the Group and the charitable company apply financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the group's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:


Gail Bragg (Dec 18, 2020 12:51 GMT)

G Bragg
Chair of Trustees

Date: **Dec 18, 2020**

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
VENTURERS TRUST**

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Venturers Trust (the 'parent Trust') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Trust Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Group's or the parent Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
VENTURERS TRUST (CONTINUED)**

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. Other information includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report, and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the parent Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent Trust has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent Trust financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
VENTURERS TRUST (CONTINUED)**

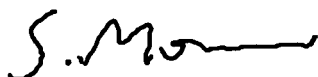
AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Morrison FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bishop Fleming LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

10 Temple Back

Bristol

BS1 6FL

Date:

15/12/20

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO VENTURERS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 29 May 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Venturers Trust during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Venturers Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Venturers Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Venturers Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF VENTURERS TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Venturers Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 March 2013 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

APPROACH

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Trust's income and expenditure.

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the Trust complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the trustees to assess the internal controls throughout the year.

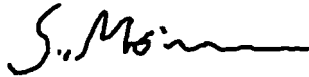
We performed detailed testing based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO VENTURERS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Simon Morrison FCA
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
10 Temple Back
Bristol
BS1 6FL

Date:

19/10/20

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Donations and capital grants	3	89,700	90,781	810,286	1,743	992,510	11,136,329
Charitable activities	4	889,066	24,403,560	-	-	25,292,626	22,558,211
Other trading activities		150,313	-	-	-	150,313	207,889
Investments	6	70,934	-	-	87,499	158,433	185,667
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		1,200,013	24,494,341	810,286	89,242	26,593,882	34,088,096
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising funds		163,471	-	-	5,800	169,271	277,543
Charitable activities		672,603	25,793,258	1,733,137	-	28,198,998	26,969,118
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		836,074	25,793,258	1,733,137	5,800	28,368,269	27,246,661
Net losses on investments		-	-	(102,669)	-	(102,669)	(47,059)
Transfers between funds	18	-	138,568	(2,256,212)	2,117,644	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)		363,939	(1,160,349)	(3,281,732)	2,201,086	(1,877,056)	6,794,376
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(430,000)	-	-	(430,000)	(3,565,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		363,939	(1,590,349)	(3,281,732)	2,201,086	(2,307,056)	3,229,376
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:							
Total funds brought forward		905,433	(9,012,856)	69,364,188	438,354	61,695,119	58,465,743
Net movement in funds		363,939	(1,590,349)	(3,281,732)	2,201,086	(2,307,056)	3,229,376
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,269,372	(10,603,205)	66,082,456	2,639,440	59,388,063	61,695,119

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:06511936

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	65,101,592	66,330,707
Investments	15	2,346,765	2,449,434
		<u>67,448,357</u>	<u>68,780,141</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		103	103
Debtors	16	1,568,492	1,117,449
Cash at bank and in hand		4,215,098	3,118,607
		<u>5,783,693</u>	<u>4,236,159</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,574,987)	(1,807,181)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,208,706</u>	<u>2,428,978</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>70,657,063</u>	<u>71,209,119</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(11,269,000)	(9,514,000)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>59,388,063</u></u>	<u><u>61,695,119</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE TRUST			
Endowment funds	18	2,639,440	438,354
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	66,082,456	69,364,188
Restricted income funds	18	665,795	501,144
		<u>66,748,251</u>	<u>69,865,332</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension liability	18	66,748,251	69,865,332
Pension reserve	18	(11,269,000)	(9,514,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>55,479,251</u>	<u>60,351,332</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>1,269,372</u>	<u>905,433</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>59,388,063</u></u>	<u><u>61,695,119</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 63 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:

Gail Bragg
Gail Bragg (Dec 18, 2020 12:51 GMT)

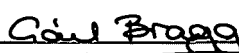
G Bragg
Chair of Trustees

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:06511936**

**TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	65,035,621	66,260,630
Investments	15	1	1
		<u>65,035,622</u>	<u>66,260,631</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	16	1,657,445	1,397,944
Cash at bank and in hand		3,896,609	2,680,725
		<u>5,554,054</u>	<u>4,078,669</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,570,619)	(1,803,179)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,983,435</u>	<u>2,275,490</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>68,019,057</u>	<u>68,536,121</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(11,269,000)	(9,514,000)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>56,750,057</u></u>	<u><u>59,022,121</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE TRUST			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	66,082,456	67,020,623
Restricted income funds	18	665,795	568,411
Pension reserve	18	(11,269,000)	(9,514,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>55,479,251</u>	<u>58,075,034</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>1,270,806</u>	<u>947,087</u>
Total unrestricted income funds	18	<u>1,270,806</u>	<u>947,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>56,750,057</u></u>	<u><u>59,022,121</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 26 to 63 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:


Gail Bragg (Dec 18, 2020 12:51 GMT)

G Bragg
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 30 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	790,078	(278,460)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	21	306,413	(227,701)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		1,096,491	(506,161)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,118,607	3,624,768
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	22, 23	4,215,098	3,118,607

The notes on pages 30 to 63 form part of these financial statements

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been 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 accounts 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 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Trust and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The Trustees 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 make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 INCOME

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

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the Balance Sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

- **Donations**

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

- **Transfer of existing academies into the Group**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Group, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Group. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Group within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets acquired.

1.4 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is 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 benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are 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 are 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 are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.6 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 Part 11, chapter 3 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.

1.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £1,000 or more are 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 are 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 are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	- Straight line over 50 years
Long-term leasehold property	- Straight line over 125 years/the term of the lease
Leasehold improvements	- Straight line over 5 - 50 years
Furniture and equipment	- Straight line over 3 - 10 years

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes 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 are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.9 STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.11 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.12 LIABILITIES

Liabilities are 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 are recognised at the amount that the Group 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.

1.13 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.14 PENSIONS

Retirement benefits to employees of the Group are 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 Group 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. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is 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 multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Group 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 Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and 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 obligations. 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 are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.15 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. 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 judgment:

The Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
DONATIONS						
Transfer on conversion	-	-	-	-	-	10,053,256
Donations	89,700	90,781	-	1,743	182,224	438,159
Capital Grants	-	-	810,286	-	810,286	644,914
	<u>89,700</u>	<u>90,781</u>	<u>810,286</u>	<u>1,743</u>	<u>992,510</u>	<u>11,136,329</u>
Total 2019	<u>71,842</u>	<u>530,528</u>	<u>10,458,813</u>	<u>75,146</u>	<u>11,136,329</u>	

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	18,201,379	18,201,379	17,470,565
Start up Grants	-	-	-	51,674
Other DfE/EFSA grants	-	3,018,096	3,018,096	2,159,477
	-	21,219,475	21,219,475	19,681,716
Other government grants				
High Needs	-	2,949,914	2,949,914	1,811,148
Other government grants	-	234,171	234,171	261,413
	-	3,184,085	3,184,085	2,072,561
Other				
Internal catering income	120,934	-	120,934	142,282
Income for hosting trainee teachers	43,526	-	43,526	43,283
Sales to students	92,233	-	92,233	68,334
Other	62,436	-	62,436	90,738
Nursery income - funded	569,937	-	569,937	459,297
	889,066	24,403,560	25,292,626	22,558,211
Total 2019	803,934	21,754,277	22,558,211	

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Rental income and hire of facilities	12,453	12,453	10,720
Catering income	736	736	882
Breakfast/after school clubs	29,201	29,201	47,432
Other trading income	21,108	21,108	48,347
Sport centre income	86,815	86,815	100,508
	<u>150,313</u>	<u>150,313</u>	<u>207,889</u>
Total 2019	<u>207,889</u>	<u>207,889</u>	

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Rental income	62,495	-	62,495	75,709
Income from listed investments	-	87,499	87,499	98,840
Bank interest receivable	8,439	-	8,439	11,118
	<u>70,934</u>	<u>87,499</u>	<u>158,433</u>	<u>185,667</u>
Total 2019	<u>86,827</u>	<u>98,840</u>	<u>185,667</u>	

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING & TRADING ACTIVITIES:					
Direct costs	71,572	6,217	91,482	169,271	277,543
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	16,793,523	1,433,138	2,157,759	20,384,420	19,048,471
Allocated support costs	3,523,714	1,910,061	1,810,866	7,244,641	7,461,350
NURSERY:					
Direct costs	455,950	28,496	85,491	569,937	459,297
	<u>20,844,759</u>	<u>3,377,912</u>	<u>4,145,598</u>	<u>28,368,269</u>	<u>27,246,661</u>
Total 2019	<u>19,762,567</u>	<u>3,065,851</u>	<u>4,418,243</u>	<u>27,246,661</u>	

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Education	20,384,420	7,244,641	27,629,061	26,509,821
Nursery	569,937	-	569,937	459,297
	<u>20,954,357</u>	<u>7,244,641</u>	<u>28,198,998</u>	<u>26,969,118</u>
Total 2019	<u>19,507,768</u>	<u>7,461,350</u>	<u>26,969,118</u>	

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Pension finance costs	194,000	140,000
Staff costs	16,993,019	15,486,887
Depreciation	1,433,138	1,221,765
Educational supplies	1,185,769	1,105,547
Examination fees	155,313	168,599
Staff development	252,236	246,575
Other costs	373,235	596,876
Supply teachers	256,793	423,887
Technology costs	44,986	43,333
Educational consultancy	65,868	74,299
	<u>20,954,357</u>	<u>19,507,768</u>

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs	3,485,449	3,629,842
Depreciation	299,999	495,261
Staff development	5,652	7,530
Other costs	55,500	66,796
Supply teachers	38,265	96,117
Recruitment and support	45,194	136,459
Maintenance of premises and equipment	335,476	369,029
Cleaning	378,334	370,470
Rent and rates	367,095	384,268
Energy costs	442,260	379,141
Insurance	81,379	85,326
Security and transport	56,639	68,908
Catering	838,557	572,829
Technology costs	426,113	338,706
Office overheads	148,530	160,678
Legal and professional	166,899	195,589
Bank interest and charges	3,063	2,435
Educational consultancy	32,254	38,945
Governance	37,983	63,021
	7,244,641	7,461,350

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Operating lease rentals	254,366	257,408
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,741,427	1,506,654
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	28,950	37,360
- other services	14,480	24,217

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
Wages and salaries	15,055,687	14,457,591	15,016,394	14,377,329
Social security costs	1,418,814	1,378,153	1,416,344	1,374,164
Pension costs	4,059,274	3,350,806	4,053,141	3,339,872
	20,533,775	19,186,550	20,485,879	19,091,365
Agency staff costs	295,058	520,004	306,538	520,004
Staff restructuring costs	16,265	55,973	10,341	55,973
	20,845,098	19,762,527	20,802,758	19,667,342

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
Redundancy payments	6,665	51,753	741	51,753
Severance payments	-	350	-	350
Other restructuring costs	9,600	3,870	9,600	3,870
	16,265	55,973	10,341	55,973

b. NON-STATUTORY/NON-CONTRACTUAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual redundancy payments totalling £Nil (2019: £40,000).

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

c. STAFF NUMBERS

The average number of persons employed by the Group and the Trust during the year was as follows:

	Group 2020 No.	Group 2019 No.	Trust 2020 No.	Trust 2019 No.
Teachers	261	242	261	242
Educational Support	213	198	213	198
Administration and Clerical	152	148	145	144
Management	14	16	14	16
	640	604	633	600

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	Group 2020 No.	Group 2019 No.	Trust 2020 No.	Trust 2019 No.
Teachers	231	216	231	216
Educational Support	156	143	156	143
Administration and Clerical	98	98	94	95
Management	14	16	14	16
	499	473	495	470

VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

d. HIGHER PAID STAFF

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2020 No.	Group 2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	14	10
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	6	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	2
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	-	1
	=====	=====

e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £1,416,714 (2019 £1,628,585).

**VENTURERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

11. CENTRAL SERVICES

The Group has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Human resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Educational support services
- Property services
- PR and communications

The Group charges for these services on the following basis:

8% of General Annual Grant

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Colston's Girls' School	323,249	335,857
The Dolphin School	110,566	127,783
The Kingfisher School	57,451	54,856
Fairlawn Primary School	71,127	58,852
Bannerman Road Community Academy	123,433	138,827
Barton Hill Academy	166,186	187,598
Merchants' Academy	422,868	503,289
Venturers' Academy	88,000	75,657
TOTAL	1,362,880	1,482,719

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2019 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2019 - £NIL).

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

The Group has opted into the Department of Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees' and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

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14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP

	Freehold property £	Property endowment (leasehold) £	Leasehold property £	Leasehold improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Assets under construction £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION							
At 1 September 2019	113,541	7,547,800	52,151,913	11,090,145	2,396,132	54,928	73,354,459
Additions	-	-	-	334,072	112,212	66,028	512,312
At 31 August 2020	113,541	7,547,800	52,151,913	11,424,217	2,508,344	120,956	73,866,771
DEPRECIATION							
At 1 September 2019	52,756	781,225	2,278,284	2,030,462	1,881,025	-	7,023,752
Charge for the year	3,426	62,047	1,014,691	413,027	248,236	-	1,741,427
At 31 August 2020	56,182	843,272	3,292,975	2,443,489	2,129,261	-	8,765,179
NET BOOK VALUE							
At 31 August 2020	57,359	6,704,528	48,858,938	8,980,728	379,083	120,956	65,101,592
At 31 August 2019	60,785	6,766,575	49,873,629	9,059,683	515,107	54,928	66,330,707

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14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

TRUST

	Property endowment (leasehold) £	Leasehold property £	Leasehold improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Assets under construction £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION						
At 1 September 2019	7,412,534	52,151,913	11,090,145	2,317,069	54,928	73,026,589
Additions	-	-	334,072	108,028	66,028	508,128
At 31 August 2020	7,412,534	52,151,913	11,424,217	2,425,097	120,956	73,534,717
DEPRECIATION						
At 1 September 2019	652,303	2,278,284	2,030,462	1,804,910	-	6,765,959
Charge for the year	59,300	1,014,691	413,027	246,119	-	1,733,137
At 31 August 2020	711,603	3,292,975	2,443,489	2,051,029	-	8,499,096
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31 August 2020	6,700,931	48,858,938	8,980,728	374,068	120,956	65,035,621
At 31 August 2019	6,760,231	49,873,629	9,059,683	512,159	54,928	66,260,630

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Group	Listed investments £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 September 2019	2,449,464
Revaluations	(102,699)
AT 31 AUGUST 2020	2,346,765
NET BOOK VALUE	
AT 31 AUGUST 2020	2,346,765
<i>AT 31 AUGUST 2019</i>	<i>2,449,464</i>
Trust	Investments in subsidiary companies £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 September 2019	1
AT 31 AUGUST 2020	1
NET BOOK VALUE	
AT 31 AUGUST 2020	1
<i>AT 31 AUGUST 2019</i>	<i>1</i>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Trust:

Names	Company/ Charity number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity	Holding	Included in consolidation
Merchants' Academy Services Limited	06707036	Gatehouse Avenue, Bristol, England, BS13 9AJ	Operation of sports facilities	100%	Yes
Venturers Trust Endowment Fund	1127105	The Society of Merchant Venturers, Merchants Hall, The Promenade, Clifton Down, BS8 3NH	Provision of funding to enhance the educational offering to the pupils of Venturers Trust	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income £	Expenditure £	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £	Net assets £
Merchants' Academy Services Limited	86,815	(75,323)	11,492	41
Venturers Trust Endowment Fund	89,242	(164,454)	(75,212)	2,639,440

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

16. DEBTORS

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
Trade debtors	22,825	72,020	22,122	68,212
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	96,126	288,459
Other debtors	236,620	238,465	230,150	234,309
Prepayments and accrued income	1,309,047	806,964	1,309,047	806,964
	1,568,492	1,117,449	1,657,445	1,397,944

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
Trade creditors	944,016	450,646	944,016	449,295
Other taxation and social security	325,051	308,603	325,051	308,603
Other creditors	465,346	532,528	460,978	532,528
Accruals and deferred income	840,574	515,404	840,574	512,753
	2,574,987	1,807,181	2,570,619	1,803,179

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	300,891	290,084	300,891	290,084
Resources deferred during the year	268,609	300,891	268,609	300,891
Amounts released from previous periods	(300,891)	(290,084)	(300,891)	(290,084)
	268,609	300,891	268,609	300,891

At the balance sheet date, the Trust is holding funds received in advance in relation to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM), Rates Relief and trips due to occur in the 2020/21 year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General funds	905,433	1,200,013	(836,074)	-	-	1,269,372
ENDOWMENT FUNDS						
Endowment Fund	438,354	89,242	(5,800)	2,117,644	-	2,639,440
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	365,461	18,201,379	(18,189,540)	138,568	-	515,868
Start up grant	35,987	-	(3,919)	-	-	32,068
Pupil Premium	-	1,830,807	(1,830,807)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,187,289	(1,146,568)	-	-	40,721
Other Local Authority grants	-	3,184,085	(3,184,085)	-	-	-
Donations	-	90,781	(90,781)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	99,696	-	(22,558)	-	-	77,138
Pension reserve	(9,514,000)	-	(1,325,000)	-	(430,000)	(11,269,000)
	<u>(9,012,856)</u>	<u>24,494,341</u>	<u>(25,793,258)</u>	<u>138,568</u>	<u>(430,000)</u>	<u>(10,603,205)</u>
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Transferred on conversion and LA grants	58,155,253	-	(576,791)	-	-	57,578,462
DfE/ESFA capital grants and other restricted funds	2,105,139	810,286	(1,097,046)	(15,316)	-	1,803,063
Property Endowment	6,760,231	-	(59,300)	-	-	6,700,931
Endowment Fund	2,343,565	-	-	(2,240,896)	(102,669)	-
	<u>69,364,188</u>	<u>810,286</u>	<u>(1,733,137)</u>	<u>(2,256,212)</u>	<u>(102,669)</u>	<u>66,082,456</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>60,351,332</u>	<u>25,304,627</u>	<u>(27,526,395)</u>	<u>(2,117,644)</u>	<u>(532,669)</u>	<u>55,479,251</u>

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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
TOTAL FUNDS	61,695,119	26,593,882	(28,368,269)	-	(532,669)	59,388,063

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted Funds

General Annual Grant - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academies, including education and support costs.

Start Up Grant - This represents funding received to meet costs arising during the first few years of a growing school which cannot be supported by the Academy's GAG.

Pupil Premium - Represents funding from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the Academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Other DfE/ESFA grants - Includes Rates Relief, UIFSM, Sports Premium and Year 7 catch up funding which are grants from the ESFA to be spent on specific school expenditure.

Other Local Authority grants - Includes High Needs which is funding received from the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

Donations - This represents charitable donations received for the purpose of creating a training centre to develop the skills of adults who live and work with children and young people with a diagnosis of autism.

Other restricted funds - Includes additional amounts for specific purposes laid down by the provider and to be used in the short term. These funds include:

- Army Cadet Centre used for funding any one-off Cadet Centre items as well as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.
- Merchants' Academy Trust Hall used for community initiatives and events.

Pension reserve - This represents the Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Purchased from GAG, DfE/ESFA grants – These funds are received for direct expenditure on fixed asset projects. The fixed asset fund balance at the year end represents the NBV of assets and any unspent grant amounts.

Devolved formula capital - This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Academy's assets.

Fixed assets transferred on conversion – This represent the buildings and equipment donated to the School from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy

Endowment Fund

During the year, the endowment fund balance held within the fixed asset fund was transferred to the endowment restricted fund so the Endowment Fund is shown separately from other funds.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Colston's Girls' School	382,332	158,403
The Dolphin School	536,617	489,307
The Kingfisher School	(570,153)	(545,651)
Fairlawn Primary School	(21,306)	53,639
Bannerman Road Community Academy	339,604	186,091
Barton Hill Academy	1,439,485	1,431,968
Merchants' Academy	947,640	681,732
Venturers' Academy	242,301	145,391
Total academy funds	3,296,520	2,600,880
Central Services	(1,361,394)	(1,152,649)
Endowment Fund	2,639,440	438,354
Merchants' Academy Services Limited	41	(41,654)
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	4,574,607	1,844,931
Restricted fixed asset fund	66,082,456	69,364,188
Pension reserve	(11,269,000)	(9,514,000)
TOTAL	59,388,063	61,695,119

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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £
The Kingfisher School	(570,153)
Fairlawn Primary School	(21,306)
Central Services	<u>(1,361,394)</u>

The Kingfisher School has been running with low pupil numbers for many years. There has been investment in academy improvement which should improve pupil numbers (over the long term although there is significant over capacity in primary places in the local authority). Shared resources with the co-located satellite site of Venturers' Academy has reduced the overheads of The Kingfisher School and has reduced the in-year deficit for 2019/20 and beyond.

Fairlawn Primary School has been impacted by the significant over capacity of primary places in the local authority. The 2020/21 budget includes mixed-age classes as an initiative to limit the planned deficit. For the future years, the school will benefit through the minimum per pupil funding levels and there are plans to reduce the PAN of the school (subject to consultation).

A deficit brought forward by the former Colston's Girls' School Trust central services was further impacted due to the initial investment in the initial years to establish and develop the Trust. The model of centralised services continues to be under review and some savings have been made on the operations although the decision has been taken to reinvest these in academy improvement and ICT.

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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Colston's Girls' School	3,204,599	321,989	333,064	730,663	4,590,315	4,906,991
The Dolphin School	1,310,056	135,827	136,163	263,327	1,845,373	1,811,305
The Kingfisher School	573,269	121,178	102,095	229,131	1,025,673	1,081,501
Fairlawn Primary School	716,766	95,197	69,874	211,935	1,093,772	896,429
Bannerman Road Community Academy	1,470,212	183,463	114,342	250,381	2,018,398	2,039,988
Barton Hill Academy	1,714,766	200,036	245,393	374,156	2,534,351	2,764,259
Merchants' Academy	4,657,812	636,015	646,069	938,254	6,878,150	7,215,246
Venturers' Academy	2,531,534	115,078	518,366	163,525	3,328,503	2,548,478
Central services	264,724	1,210,583	108,605	376,417	1,960,329	2,092,543
TRUST	16,443,738	3,019,366	2,273,971	3,537,789	25,274,864	25,356,740

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as follows:

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General funds	1,973,377	1,069,984	(2,096,274)	-	-	947,087
Merchants' Academy Services Limited	30,733	100,508	(172,895)	-	-	(41,654)
	<u>2,004,110</u>	<u>1,170,492</u>	<u>(2,269,169)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>905,433</u>
ENDOWMENT FUNDS						
Endowment Fund	<u>367,458</u>	<u>173,986</u>	<u>(103,090)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>438,354</u>
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(301,124)	17,470,565	(16,649,883)	(154,097)	-	365,461
Start up grant	37,015	51,674	(52,702)	-	-	35,987
Pupil Premium	-	1,538,834	(1,538,834)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	860,000	(860,000)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority grants	-	2,072,561	(2,072,561)	-	-	-
Donations	-	291,171	(266,392)	(24,779)	-	-
Devolved formula capital	487,911	-	(325,274)	(162,637)	-	-
Other restricted funds	138,426	-	(38,730)	-	-	99,696
Pension reserve	(4,596,000)	-	(1,353,000)	-	(3,565,000)	(9,514,000)
	<u>(4,233,772)</u>	<u>22,284,805</u>	<u>(23,157,376)</u>	<u>(341,513)</u>	<u>(3,565,000)</u>	<u>(9,012,856)</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Transferred on conversion and LA grants	49,277,045	10,080,256	(1,322,525)	120,477	-	58,155,253
DfE/ESFA capital grants and other restricted funds	1,840,747	378,557	(335,201)	221,036	-	2,105,139
Property Endowment	6,819,531	-	(59,300)	-	-	6,760,231
Endowment Fund	2,390,624	-	-	-	(47,059)	2,343,565
	<u>60,327,947</u>	<u>10,458,813</u>	<u>(1,717,026)</u>	<u>341,513</u>	<u>(47,059)</u>	<u>69,364,188</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>56,094,175</u>	<u>32,743,618</u>	<u>(24,874,402)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,612,059)</u>	<u>60,351,332</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>58,465,743</u>	<u>34,088,096</u>	<u>(27,246,661)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,612,059)</u>	<u>61,695,119</u>

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,971	-	65,035,621	-	65,101,592
Fixed asset investments	-	-	-	2,346,765	2,346,765
Current assets	1,268,951	3,175,232	1,046,835	292,675	5,783,693
Creditors due within one year	(65,550)	(2,509,437)	-	-	(2,574,987)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(11,269,000)	-	-	(11,269,000)
TOTAL	<u>1,269,372</u>	<u>(10,603,205)</u>	<u>66,082,456</u>	<u>2,639,440</u>	<u>59,388,063</u>

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19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Endowment funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	70,077	-	66,260,630	-	66,330,707
Fixed asset investments	-	-	2,449,434	-	2,449,434
Current assets	2,642,537	501,144	654,124	438,354	4,236,159
Creditors due within one year	(1,807,181)	-	-	-	(1,807,181)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(9,514,000)	-	-	(9,514,000)
TOTAL	905,433	(9,012,856)	69,364,188	438,354	61,695,119

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,877,056)	6,794,376
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	1,741,427	1,730,951
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(810,286)	(405,557)
Interest receivable	(8,439)	(11,118)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	1,131,000	1,213,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	194,000	140,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(451,043)	12,517
Increase in creditors	767,806	253,567
(Gain)/loss on investment portfolio	102,669	47,060
Net gain on assets and liabilities from local authority on conversion	-	(10,053,256)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	790,078	(278,460)

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21. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £
Interest receivable	8,439	11,118
Purchase of intangible assets	(512,312)	(644,376)
Capital grants from DfE Group	810,286	405,557
NET CASH PROVIDED BY/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	306,413	(227,701)

22. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £
Cash in hand	4,215,098	3,118,607
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,215,098	3,118,607

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,118,607	1,096,491	4,215,098
	3,118,607	1,096,491	4,215,098

24. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	137,359	-	137,359	-

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

25. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Avon Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI, assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,131,257 (2019 - £1,401,319).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Group has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Group has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £1,203,000 (2019 - £997,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £892,000 (2019 - £719,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 311,000 (2019 - £278,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 10.3% - 18.1% per cent for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2020	2019
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.80%	3.50%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.40%	2.10%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.80%	1.80%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.30%	2.00%

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2020	2019
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	23.2 years	23.7 years
Females	25.3 years	26.2 years
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.7 years	26.3 years
Females	27.3 years	29.0 years

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Equities	5,622,000	6,017,000
Bonds	1,260,000	1,401,000
Property	1,120,000	707,000
Cash	382,000	154,000
Other	4,339,000	4,576,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	12,723,000	12,855,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £561,000 (2019 - £800,000).

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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	(1,998,000)	(1,420,000)
Past service cost	(25,000)	(512,000)
Interest income	241,000	326,000
Interest cost	(404,000)	(443,000)
Administrative expenses	(31,000)	(23,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(2,217,000)	(2,072,000)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	22,369,000	15,805,000
Current service cost	1,998,000	1,420,000
Interest cost	404,000	443,000
Employee contributions	311,000	278,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(928,000)	4,038,000
Benefits paid	(187,000)	(127,000)
Past service cost	(25,000)	(512,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	23,992,000	22,369,000

Changes in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	12,855,000	11,209,000
Interest income	241,000	326,000
Expected return on assets	(1,358,000)	473,000
Employer contributions	892,000	719,000
Employee contributions	311,000	278,000
Benefits paid	(187,000)	(127,000)
Administration expenses	(31,000)	(23,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	12,723,000	12,855,000

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26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2020 the Group and the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Trust 2020 £	Trust 2019 £
Not later than 1 year	239,072	254,366	239,072	254,366
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	821,986	889,136	821,986	889,136
Later than 5 years	812,204	984,125	812,204	984,125
	1,873,262	2,127,627	1,873,262	2,127,627

27. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

The following related party transactions took place in the period of account:

A Trustee of the Trust is a director, and has significant control of, Stage Electrics Partnership. During the period, the Trust made purchases totalling £1,939 (2019: £Nil) from Stage Electrics for theatre maintenance, inspection and repairs. There was a totalling of £Nil (2019: £Nil) outstanding at the year end in relation to these transactions.

The Society of Merchant Venturers is a charity that controls the Trust through its powers to nominate members and Trustees. In the year, purchases totalling £24,803 (2019: £37,092) were made from the Society in relation to educational consultancy, marketing and PR services. £5,250 (2019: £12,000) was outstanding in relation to these purchases at the year end.

Under the terms of the funding agreement for the Trust, the Venturers Trust Endowment Fund was established as an unincorporated charitable trust for the benefit of the Trust. The Trust received grants of £55,985 (2019: £168,837) during the year from the Endowment Fund in accordance with the terms of its declared trusts, and £6,065 (2019: £168,837) was due from the Endowment Fund at the period end.

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29. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Trust receives and distributes 16-19 Bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the period of accounts, the Trust received £27,616 (2019: £20,360) in bursary funds and disbursed £19,790 (2019: £19,688) from the fund. An amount of £22,317 (2019: £14,491) relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to the ESFA is included in other creditors.