

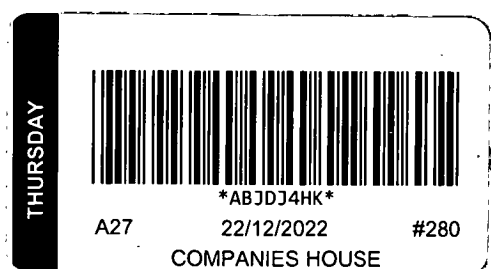
Company Registration Number: 07226557 (England & Wales)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022



STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	D J Blake MBE J Burge K Haisman BEM P Stanbury-Jones R M Smith S Ash
Trustees	C G Hawkins K Haisman, Chair P K Luxon R A Kelly R J Priestley (resigned 1 April 2022) S Goldsmith, Vice Chair R Goodchild (appointed 18 February 2022) H Marsh (appointed 18 February 2022)
Company registered number	07226557
Company name	Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited
Principal and registered office	Cavendish Road Clare Sudbury Suffolk CO10 8PJ
Independent auditors	Larking Gowen LLP Chartered Accountants 1 Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham Ipswich IP6 0NL
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 30 Market Street Sudbury CO10 2EL
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson LLP Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Senior management

R A Kelly - Head Teacher (Stour Valley)
C Bank - Deputy Head (Stour Valley)
K Cullimore - Trust Business Manager
G Stronach - Assistant Head (Stour Valley)
J Nunn - Assistant Head (Stour Valley)
L Stranger - Head Teacher (Clare Primary)
R Davies - Assistant Head (Clare Primary)
M McIvor - Assistant Head (Clare Primary)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust consists of two schools: Stour Valley Community School is a secondary school for pupils age 11-16 with 593 students on roll at the beginning of the year and Clare Community Primary School, with 199 students on roll.

The principal aim of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is to advance, for the public benefit, education in Clare and the surrounding area by establishing, maintaining and operating schools offering a broad curriculum.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration No. 07226557) and is an exempt charity. It is not required to be registered with the Charity Commission but is, however, subject to the Charity Commissioners' regulatory powers which are monitored by the Secretary of State for Education. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

There were no Trustee indemnity provisions during the year or at the date of approval of this report.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

As and when new Trustees are required for appointment, consideration is made as to the skills needed to augment the effectiveness of the Board. The Trustees are appointed under the terms of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's Articles of Association as follows:

- The number of Trustees shall be not less than three
- Up to eight Trustees (excluding staff, parents, LA, ex officio and co-opted)
- A minimum of two Parent Trustees
- The Local Authority (LA) may appoint an LA Trustee
- The Headteacher as CEO Trustee
- Co-opted Trustees

The Trustees have a breadth of skills which are beneficial to the various sub-committees that support the Board of Trustees. The term of office for all Trustees, except the CEO, is four years. The CEO's term of office runs parallel with their contract of employment.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary an induction will provide training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All new Trustees are given a tour of the Academy Trust, and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees and directors of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited. In addition, the Trust buys in external training programmes. A record of attendance at training sessions is maintained by the Administration Team. As there is normally expected to be only a small number of new Trustees each year induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

f. Organisational structure

As specified in the Memorandum of Association, Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is responsible for running Stour Valley Community School and Clare Community Primary School. The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academies, and senior staff appointments. The Trustees are responsible for the monitoring and performance of the Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team on a regular basis. Since January 2018 each of the schools within the Trust has a dedicated Local Governing Body with powers assigned through a Scheme of Delegation.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the Academy Trust are the CEO (also Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School) and CFO plus the two Headteachers, one Deputy Head Teacher and four Assistant Headteachers, two at SVCS and two at CCPS. The Headteacher of Stour Valley Community School is the CEO of the Trust and has line management responsibility for the Headteacher of Clare Primary Community School. These managers control the Academies at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, though appointment Boards for posts in the Senior Leadership Team always contain a Trustee. Spending control is contained within the Senior Leadership Team.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Headteachers' performance management targets are set by the Chair of Trustees, or the CEO where appropriate, and the Chair of the relevant Local Governing Body, and are based in part on the School Development and Improvement Plan with additional personal development targets. The targets are reviewed regularly by the Chair of Trustees/CEO. The Headteachers set performance targets for other members of the SLT. All staff in Stour Valley Educational Trust are employed on the terms of the National Pay and Conditions framework. Performance against targets is reviewed for all SLT members within the timelines set down in the framework and salary increases are awarded accordingly, where appropriate. All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration are approved by the appropriate committee and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

h. Trade Union facility time

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year - 2 (Full-time equivalent employee number - 1.66).

Percentage of time spent on facility time

The schools hosted/participated in six meeting sessions during the course of the year where staff were invited to discuss topics with their union officials and staff representatives – some of these were carried out remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is estimated that the total time spent on union business over the year is between 5-10% during term time. In total this amounts to approximately £4,239 - 8,478 per annum.

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trustees are not aware of any connected organisations or related party transactions during the year other than those disclosed in note 30 to the financial statements. The Trust also receives donated goods and gifts from the Clare Community Primary School's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association which are donated for primary school purposes.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal objective and activity of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is the operation of Stour Valley Community School and Clare Community Primary School to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 5 to 16.

The wider objective of the Academy Trust is to advance for the 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 offering a broad and balanced curriculum or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them or 16 to 19 Academies offering a curriculum appropriate to the needs of its students or schools specially organised to make special educational provisions for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

In addition to being governed by its Articles of Association, Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited entered into a Funding Agreement on 27 May 2011 with the Secretary of State for Education. Clare Community Primary School

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

was transferred to the Trust under a Funding Agreement dated 28 March 2017. The Funding Agreements specify, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the schools, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the broad and balanced curriculum includes English, Mathematics and Science.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

During the year the Trustees met and discussed the vision, mission, and strategic priorities of the Trust. It was agreed to revise the strategic objectives of the Trust in order better to meet the opportunities and challenges of the changing educational landscape. The Trusts' strategies are grouped under the strapline 'Stour Valley Educational Trust, With Community at its Heart'. The revisions are set out below.

Our Vision

Stour Valley Educational Trust will provide a secure, stimulating, and inclusive centre of academic excellence in rural education. Central to our vision is the belief in the uniqueness of every student, and that every young person has gifts to discover and share with others.

Our Mission

Our mission is to open students' minds to their personal potential and enable them to aspire to brighter academic, professional and vocational futures in our community and beyond. This in turn will lead our students to achieve economic independence with national and international employers or with the growing regionally based industries in Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex.

Values

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be Ambitious, Collaborate

Our Strategic Priorities

Sustainability

Sustaining our Trust as a centre of academic excellence in rural education at secondary and primary level is our overarching strategic objective. Academic excellence will be delivered by the schools in our Multi Academy Trust that serve the communities of Clare and surrounding villages, which retain their individual identity and champion the Trust's values, while seeking out and sharing best practice in all aspects of education.

Our sustainability will require our schools to attract consistently high student numbers, to continually manage budgets closely, and to develop new income streams.

Continuous Improvement

To further sustain our Trust, we must be better at everything we do. If we are not continually getting better at everything we do then we are either standing still or going backwards. As custodians of our students' futures, we have a duty to deliver the very best in curriculum and teaching and learning strategies supported by effective processes and strong communications.

Continuous development of our staff and the seeking out of best practice in teaching and learning, pastoral care and the well-being of staff and students, will enable us to challenge the content and delivery of our curriculum to ensure that it meets the current and developing needs of all our students. This will require a defined and measurable cycle of continuous improvement across the Trust and will lead to improving levels of student outcomes.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

Strong governance by Trustees and Governors will be critical to our success: external and self-assessment of our governance will lead to further trustee/governor training and development.

Inspired learners

It is our responsibility to develop our students into curious, enquiring and inspired learners who have a true thirst for knowledge which goes well beyond the confines of national examinations and a broad and balanced curriculum. By opening students minds we can engender a love of learning and self-improvement which will enrich their personal and professional lives. Our curriculum and extra-curricular activities must take every opportunity to challenge our students to become inquisitive and inspired learners.

Community

The schools in our Trust are rooted in their local community. Our schools are themselves communities. Whether looking inward within our schools or outward into local society, it is our duty as custodians of our young people's futures to ensure that they understand the benefits and responsibilities that come with being in a strong and caring community. There are unwritten rules of mutual respect and understanding, of decency and behaviour, and of mutual support and caring. It is our duty to ensure that students engage in a wide range of activities and are equipped with an understanding of community and civic responsibilities so they can take a full part in their communities now and in later life.

Collaboration

We will embrace the opportunities offered by working collaboratively and building partnerships with colleagues in suitable schools, Trusts and other organisations to raise attainment for all young people.

Collaboration will be a vital tool to improve teaching and learning, leadership, the use of data and assessments and to add capacity to our critical school support systems through traded service level agreements.

We will actively seek out partners, ideally those with similar characteristics or ethos to our own, where possible geographically close, and with the same commitment to 'getting better at what we do'.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

In setting the objectives, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education. The objective of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in Clare and the surrounding area.

Staff and students at both Trust schools regularly engage in community activities in support of local community groups and with local businesses.

In September SVCS enhanced their curriculum due to the 10th Anniversary celebrations. During the afternoon on the 22nd at SVCS there was a whole school assembly from the Head of History (a member of staff who has been at the heart of SVET from the start) showing how SVCS came about, what school life was like in 2011. There was also a P5 collapsed timetable for the whole school to create a digital album of SVCS in 2021. Every student has a space in the digital album to include what they think the school today stands for, what they like the most about school, their hopes for the future and what they think the school will be like in 2031. Every student has submitted their contribution and it will be scanned into the 'album'. After school that day, SVCS and CCPS staff, governors and trustees and local community leaders congregated in a marquee outside for a presentation and the GCSE Food students did us proud by making and serving the most delicious canapés.

Clare Archaeology Dig 2021 took place at Clare Country Park in September. Some of the SVCS Year 7s took part in the following activities: sifting earth, washing finds such as bones and pottery, a tour with archaeologist Jo Caruth to look at the skeleton of an Anglo-Saxon man found in this excavation site, digging in one of the excavation areas and a workshop with Caroline Adams. SVCS students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at the dig.

A teacher at SVCS started work in the summer of 2021 to ensure that all SVCS staff and governors were actively engaged in challenging any and all behaviours associated with harassment of any kind, to ensure that all students and staff are safe.

This was in response to:

- Everyone's Invited Schools' List
- Ofsted review of sexual harassment in schools

In July students created a video protecting against sexual harassment in schools and this was shown to all students during tutor time. This was to highlight the issue at SVCS, make it a talking point and raise the profile. The video was also shared with parents and carers to provide help and support for parents to talk to their children about sexual harassment in general. Suggested resources were attached to the release of the video on the Facebook page and in the Parent and Carer bulletin.

In September students, parents and staff were surveyed on the topic of sexual harassment at SVCS. Following the results of the survey a group of students created a 'Code of Ethics' to set out an agreed high standard of expected behaviour, specifically regarding sexual harassment but taking into account other unacceptable behaviours. This work is ongoing via the PSHE curriculum and the Ethics Committee.

A Climate Emergency Committee (CEC) has been formed and are creating a buzz too. Every tutor group has a plant to look after, recycling bins have appeared around site and exciting changes lie ahead come the Spring, including an allotment and poly-tunnel. SVCS are working alongside non-profit organisation Greener Growth to set this up alongside other Wishlist projects. These will be going ahead in collaboration with local organisations, but SVCS are moving steadily as they continue to apply for green grants to make it all happen. It's very much a case of 'when' not 'if'.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives and activities (continued)

For Earth Week in April SVCS saw its second Green Day and its first ever Climate Education Day for Y7 (off timetable).

The member of staff leading the CEC has also written to all secondary schools in Suffolk. It is a proposal to work together on global matters at a local level, essentially the pooling of ideas. Some schools are doing amazing things for the environment and others aren't doing anything. The idea is to meet once a term to share ideas that can inspire and drive change. The concept might initially only attract a handful of schools, but she thinks it'll be inspiring for our students to hear about what other schools are doing and to know that issues are being addressed outside of Clare. So, in essence, raising awareness, promoting hope, driving change.

In other news, one of the Technology teachers has set up 'Clare Repair'. Clare Repair is a project hosted by Stour Valley Community School which aims to bring the community together through fixing loved items and preventing them from going to landfill. Volunteers who live in Clare or the surrounding villages and have skills in woodwork, electronics, textiles or bicycle repairs have brought the project to life.

SVCS has raised a total of £2,663.56 with special thanks to the Co-op Members who opted in to support the community swimming pool. This will greatly help towards the ongoing maintenance costs of the outdoor pool for the local community to use.

At Stour Valley Year 9 took part in an 'Immigration nation Day' with a series of workshops about the issues surrounding immigration. 5 speakers were in school; 2 having been immigrants themselves, another having visited the camps in Calais and 2 actors completing workshops on post WW2 immigration to Britain.

Year 10 had a Careers Day in July. Year 10 were off timetable all day. Sessions were run by external providers.

The drama teacher arranged two opportunities for students to experience live local theatre: a trip to Bury's Theatre Royal to see 'The Bone Sparrow', a play inspired by the real stories of asylum seekers experiences of refugee camps. And in June Year 6 and Year 7 watched 'The Lies You Tell', brought to us at SVCS by Hightide Theatre Company, which explored themes around mental health, well-being, and the importance of truth and speaking up when things aren't right. This performance was followed up for all students with a drama workshop delivered by the Theatre Royal exploring these themes further.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

Major KPIs on which the Trustees receive regular reports include:

- Student numbers
- Expenditure budgets and cash flow
- Student behaviour
- Reports on progress in teaching and learning
- Progress towards school targets

Stour Valley Community School

The government has stated that it will use the 2022 results to publish league tables based on them. There are significant concerns about the 2022 Progress 8 figure as this does not take account of national over-achievement due to the additional support provided to students.

SVCS had its best ever set of exam results. Male students, on average, achieved their target grades, with female students overachieving by a third of a grade on average. This is a narrower gap than in previous years. The following subjects had a negligible (less than 0.3) gap in relation to gender progress; English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Chemistry, Computing, History, Religious Studies and Statistics. Greatest gaps in gender performance were in Graphics and Photography.

2022 E & M 4+	74.8	%	80.2	2022 TARGET E & M 4+
2022 E & M 5+	50.5	%	49.9	2022 TARGET E & M 5+
2022 E & M 7+	17.1	%	9.0	2022 TARGET E + M 7+
2022 ATTAINMENT 8	52.1		49.9	2022 TARGET ATTAINMENT 8
2022 PROGRESS 8	0.19		0.0	2022 TARGET PROGRESS 8

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

**Average
Attainment 8 Score**

All	52.1
Male	48.1
Female	55.6
PP	40.6
Non PP	55.4
SEN	23.7
Higher PA	64.1
Middle PA	49.7
Lower PA	34.1

There were 25 Pupil Premium students in the year group. There was a negligible (less than 0.3) gap in progress between PP and non-PP students in Combined Science, Computing and Statistics. Greatest differences in achievement were in Drama, Music and Photography.

SEN students, by definition, have additional learning needs. Each individual has a personalised plan and subjects which they find more and less challenging. Learning Support Assistant support should allow those students to work towards at least expected progress. Subjects where SEN students made at least expected progress were Combined Science, Graphics, History, Music, Religious Studies. Some subjects did not have SEN students in their groups.

Students in this year group had their preparation year for GCSE interrupted by lockdown learning. They then had a period of remote learning during the middle of Year 10 and a period of significant staff absence, due to Covid, in Year 11. They watched the year ahead of them prepare for exams, only to have them cancelled. They studied through a time of great uncertainty, both in their home lives and their education. We are proud of the achievements of every student and every member of the staff team in achieving an excellent set of exam results.

SVCS Student Numbers

The school continued to receive mid-year transfers of students and was successful at attracting students for the 2022/23 academic year. The number of students on roll as at October census 2022 was 595 with the new Year 7 intake being significantly oversubscribed once again. Normal service was resumed and SVCS held an Open Evening and an Open Week for parent tours. Initial indications are that this has positively impacted on applications for 2022.

Clare Community Primary School Targets and Outcomes

The school has gained in popularity as a result of a clear vision of excellent standards in the core subjects supported by an emphasis on the creative curriculum, which is already having a positive effect on standards in all areas. This vision is enhanced by an impressive range of extra-curricular activities on offer both at lunchtimes and after school; the introduction of a Breakfast and Afterschool club; and the welcoming, nurturing atmosphere that is evident throughout the school. A new headteacher was appointed at Clare Primary from January 2022. Student numbers are back up from October 2021 census (which was at 180) with 191 on roll at the census in October 2022. This is closer to the stability in previous years of 200 in October 2019 and 199 in October 2020.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

EYFS GLD	81% (new EAL pupil)		
Y1 Phonics	64%		
Y2 Phonics re-check	100%		
Expected standard and above		Greater depth	
KS1 R	47%	KS1 R	13%
KS1 W	30%	KS1 W	0
KS1 M	50%	KS1 M	10%
KS2 R	78%	KS2 R	44%
KS2 W	50%	KS2 W	9%
KS2 M	53%	KS2 M	22%
KS2 GPdS	59%	KS2 GPdS	9%

EYFS - a high proportion achieved GLD.

KS1 - phonics Year 1- 2 pupils were expected to pass but narrowly missed - they will pass the Year 2 recheck with ease. Both had low attendance.

Year 2 phonics 100% was above predicted number.

The Year 2 SATs were lower than predicted but the class had had substantial disruption throughout the year with pupil and staff absence due to COVID. The focus had been on filling gaps in learning created by previous lockdowns. The Year 2 class had missed education in the formative first two years of school and therefore their results were greatly impacted. However, phonics shows that the results of filling gaps in prior attainment was very successful. Coverage of all areas of the expected standards was not able to occur with the majority of the class by May due to previous gaps.

Year 6

Reading results were very pleasing; this is an area that was more affected lower down the school.

Although lower than national, writing and maths were both higher than the Year 6 teacher had predicted. Lost learning had impacted some pupils who had attained low expected scaled scores in Year 2 and struggled to retain these. Notable 10 pupils out of 21 were awarded extra time and adjustments due to SEND needs.

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue 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 accounting policies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

a. Financial review

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's accounting period is from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. Most of the Academy Trust's income was obtained from the Education Funding Agency (EFA), an executive arm of the Department for Education (DfE), in the form of General Annual Grant (GAG) which is the per capita funding required to run the school and deliver the curriculum. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

As central government funding has become tighter and not kept pace with wage inflation it has been necessary to implement still tighter controls over internal cost centres, to keep all expenditure within allocated budgets and seek efficiencies. Unless government funding improves, Trustees are aware that similar challenges will be faced in future years. The Trustees have continued to maintain the curriculum to meet the needs of all ability levels of our student population.

The in-year surplus for the Trust, being the change in restricted funds (excluding pension reserves) plus unrestricted funds, was £129,095.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels monthly. The review takes into account the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of reserves. The Trustees will keep the level of reserves under review.

The Trustees have agreed to aspire to a level of reserves equivalent to one month's expenditure which equates to £375,000. The Academy Trust currently holds £205,999 of unrestricted reserves and £249,205 of restricted general funds. Reserves are currently meeting of our target level, however with the uncertainty surrounding future funding levels, it is not clear that the aspiration to hold one month's expenditure as reserves will be possible in the near future.

As at 31 August 2022, the Trust held total funds of £8,529,006, of which £8,323,007 was restricted funds, including fixed assets which were carried at £8,073,802.

Restricted funds include a pension fund of £Nil.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Academy Trust. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the trust faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls, in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The School has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the statement on internal control.

The school has a comprehensive set of policies covering inter alia the teaching of the curriculum, the management of school facilities and operational procedures. These policies were reviewed by the relevant committees in the year under review.

During the year the Trustees continued to develop their comprehensive risk management procedures for the Academy Trust. These help to identify and monitor the risks faced by the Academy Trust. The key risk areas identified for inclusion are Strategy, Governance, Skills, Health and Safety including Covid risks, Safeguarding, IT, Business continuity and Financial Reporting and Management related. A point scoring mechanism has been put in place with a greater emphasis directed towards those areas identified as being higher risk.

d. Investment policy

The Investment policy has been approved by the Resources Committee. Surplus funds may only be invested in cash deposits with the leading High Street banks for periods which deliver the best financial returns to the Academy Trust while ensuring that the Trust has access to sufficient liquidity to meet all financial obligations when due.

Fundraising

The Trust only undertakes fundraising through non-uniform days and other small events such as cake sales and Summer and Christmas Fetes which are organised internally or by the Parent Teachers and Friends Association. These events raise vital additional funds for the academy schools within the Trust. The Trust does not use any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The Trust understands its responsibilities to protect the public, including vulnerable people, from reasonably intrusive or persistent approaches and undue pressure to donate. All fundraising is undertaken in a fun and friendly environment.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Plans for future periods

Trustees acknowledge that SVET is a relatively small trust and accordingly trustees are very aware of the challenges and benefits which our size brings. We remain exceptionally highly regarded in our community and continue to be oversubscribed for students each year at Stour Valley. The reputation of Clare Primary continues to strengthen and pupil numbers are returning to more normal levels. Our strong financial management and controls has enabled the Trust to gradually increase reserves which has given greater planning confidence. Our vision and ethos and our values and behaviours provide the Trust with a strong moral compass.

The external environment complicates the view of the future. The economic situation will provide challenges for future funding levels. Changes in government and policy are also bringing a degree of uncertainty about the speed and feasibility of growth in the academy sector.

The Trustees are clear that plans for future periods will always be led by the best interests of our students, staff and community and we will continue to concentrate efforts on delivering the best possible educational experience to all students. Whilst remaining alert to growth opportunities, the Trustees will continue with the strategy developed in 2021 of extending and deepening collaboration with local MATs with a similar ethos.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

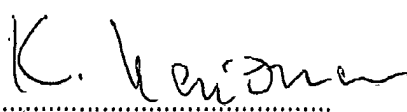
The Academy Trust does not hold any funds as Custodian Trustee.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 DECEMBER 2022 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
K Haisman
Chair of Trustees

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited 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.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report. The board of Trustees has formally met 3 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
C G Hawkins	3	3
K Haisman, Chair	3	3
P K Luxon	2	3
R A Kelly	3	3
R J Priestley	2	2
S Goldsmith, Vice Chair	2	3
R Goodchild	2	2
H Marsh	2	2

The composition of the Board of Trustees during the 2021/22 period included sub-committees of a Resources Committee, dealing specifically with MAT finance, human resources and premises issues, an Audit Committee, dealing with oversight of regularity and control, a Pay committee which dealt solely with pay progression and salary percentage increases, and a Local Governing Body for each individual school.

Conflicts of Interest

An electronic register of interests of trustees and governors is maintained by the Trust Business Manager and is available to view on Governorhub. Trustees and governors are required to update/confirm their interests at the beginning of each academic year. Each Trust Board meeting, Local Governing Body meeting and Resources Committee meeting begins with a requirement for members to declare any interest or conflict with any item on the meeting agenda.

The Trustees reflected on issues faced during the year using a variety of means, including:

- The framework for Trustees under the Academies Financial Handbook which outlines their responsibilities
- Use of Governor Hub to plan, implement and disseminate information to all Trustees
- Training for trustees and heads – using both internal and external providers
- Review of the Trust's business plan
- Updating of the risk register regularly

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

In addition to the ongoing reviews as mentioned above Trustees also considered:

- Vision, ethos and strategy
- Governance structures
- Values and Behaviours
- Trustee Board effectiveness and skills
- Engagement
- Effective accountability of the executive leadership
- Impact on outcomes for pupils

In order to assess and review these areas, Trustee meetings through year were provided with a wide variety of source information including data and improvement reports for each individual school which identify strengths and weaknesses at local levels. Financial management reports taken directly from the management information system, FMS, ensured up to date information was received in a timely manner at each meeting, and these reports were posted on a monthly basis onto Governor Hub so that Trustees – including the Chair of Trustees and the Chair of the Trust Resources Committee – could review them in-between meetings. Internal audit reports, risk assessments and analysis data from external sources were all used to aid the Trustees in assessing the effectiveness of their governance and progress of the Trust. The Trustees appointed School Business Services to carry out two Internal Audit reviews during the financial year, one in February and the other in August.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree local budgets, monitor and approve financial and operational standards.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Goldsmith, Chair	3	3
C G Hawkins	2	3
R A Kelly	3	3
R J Priestley	2	2
P K Luxon	3	3
K Haisman	1	1

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide internal scrutiny to ensure that financial controls and risk management procedures are robust and effective.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
C G Hawkins	2	3
S Goldsmith	3	3
R A Kelly	3	3
P K Luxon	3	3
R J Priestley	2	2
K Haisman	1	1

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Pay Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree pay progression and salary incremental increases.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R J Priestley, Chair	2	2
S Goldsmith	2	2
K Haisman	2	2
R A Kelly	2	2
R Goodchild	2	2

The Trust recognises the importance of strong governance and regularly reviews all tiers of governance through meetings with the chairs of the local governing bodies. In line with national interpretation of the accountability framework, work has been undertaken to construct a robust local governing body within each academy school which links directly to the Trust Board and via its sub-committees. Full Terms of Reference for all tiers of governance have been introduced. This restructure also includes, since 2019, the introduction of an Audit Committee, sitting within the Resources Committee, in compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook.

The Chair of Trustees currently engages in the national governance arena and his access to current thinking through the Confederation of School Trusts and the NGA has influenced the strategic governance and accountability decisions within the Trust.

The Trust Board membership encompasses significant experience of working in governance in both the education and business environment, and has been selected with a range of specific skills in mind, covering finance, audit & accountancy, business management, building surveyance and human resources.

The Academies Accounts Direction requires Trusts, where the Board has met less than six times during the year, to include a statement on the maintenance of effective oversight. All Trustees receive monthly summary and full financial reports for each school comprising:

Current Budget,
Actuals to Date,
Commitments,
Total Actuals + Commitments
Income or Expenditure Remaining to Meet Budget
Forecast Year End Actual Position
% Received or Spent to Date
Expected % Year to Date
Comments

The Chair of Trustees and the Chair of the Resources Committee review the reports monthly with the Trust Business Manager and agree any actions necessary.

The Risk Assessments are reviewed in each school by the CEO who reports changes to Trustees on an exception basis.

The focus for Trust Board development in the next academic year is on:

- Continued communication with and training of Trustees and LGBs to ensure that all tiers of governance carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively and efficiently. The recently launched range of training

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

- programmes from the Confederations of School Trusts may prove beneficial.
- Encouraging Trustees and Governors to extend their networks to other Trusts and sector bodies.

Governance Reviews

In the Spring Term 2022 trustees undertook a review of effectiveness of governance in the Trust Board and both Local Governing Bodies. In addition, all trustees and governors completed a skills audit. The proformas used were as recommended by the National Governance Association.

Trust Board effectiveness: there were 2 key findings:

- i) Whilst the Trust has a clear vision and long-term strategy, it was considered that greater alignment between the local governing bodies and the Trust Board would bring further benefits. Training and communication events were held for all Trust staff, governors and trustees during the year and this will feed into future strategy away days.
- ii) The review challenged whether the academies receive benefit from collaboration with other local schools and employers. Each academy has a School Development Priority to strengthen links with other local Trusts and Teaching hubs. Clare Primary School participates in school-to-school school improvement work brokered by the Suffolk Association of Primary Headteachers and two Clare Primary staff are completing National Professional Qualifications in Literacy and Leading Teaching. Stour Valley Community School has strong links with Saffron Alliance, working with Specialist Leaders of Education to review and support SEN, amongst other things. The Assistant Headteacher is seconded one day a week to Cambridge and Suffolk Teaching Alliance and she delivers on the NPQ programmes and also leads on teacher training for MFL. SVCS also have strong links with two Initial Teacher Training Providers, CTSN and The Oaks, Suffolk. For 2022-23 the CEO of the Trust has brokered support from a School Improvement Consultancy to lead independent reviews and support the two schools in the Trust with school improvement. The impact of the initiatives will be reviewed in 2022-23.

The findings of the effectiveness review in both academies have been reviewed with the Chair of Trustees and, together with the findings of the skills audits, development plans have been agreed.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- long term contracts being regularly reviewed and compared against other providers, in order to achieve the best price without compromising quality;
- reviewing the audit provision with a full tender process which resulted in a better and more robust service being secured;
- using economies of scale available as a multi-academy trust with purchases of print, broadband and IT equipment, for example;
- undertaking a review of external services we are currently purchasing to look at opportunities to secure better, more cost effective provision e.g. payroll and contract management.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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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 academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Academy 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 Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Academy 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 Resources 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 decided to employ School Business Services as internal auditor.

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from School Business Services (SBS). This option has been chosen because SBS has a strong track record and breadth of service provision. They also have a positive expertise in these areas and has been working closely with the Academy Trust for over 11 years.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

Review 1 – 15 February 2022

1. Budgeting and Cashflow Process
2. Website Review
3. Whistle Blowing Policy
4. Self-Evaluation of Financial Competencies
5. Governance
6. Gifts and Hospitality Policy
7. Register of Pecuniary Interests
8. Data Protection
9. School Development Plan

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

Review 2 – 17 May 2022

1. Financial Procedures
2. Purchases
3. Related Party Transactions
4. Assets
5. Accounting System
6. VAT and other Taxation

On a bi-annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Internal Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

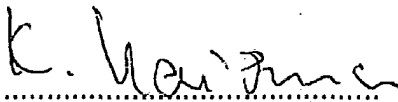
The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of the internal auditor's work.

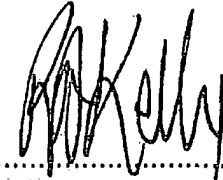
Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the CEO 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 benchmarking processes and the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Resources Committee and a plan is in place to ensure continuous improvement of the system.

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


.....
K Haisman
Chair of Trustees
Date: 14 DECEMBER 2022


.....
R A Kelly
Accounting Officer

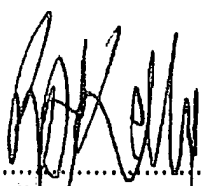
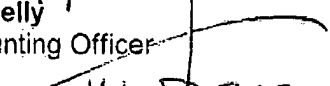
STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy 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 Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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.


.....
R A Kelly
Accounting Officer
Date: 

14 DECEMBER 2022

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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 charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 2021 to 2022;
- make judgments 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 charitable company will continue in business.

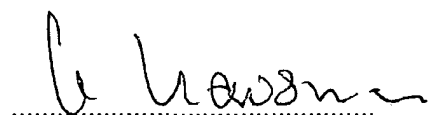
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the 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 its conduct and operation the charitable company applies 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 charitable company'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 on
and signed on its behalf by:

14 December 2022



K Haisman
(Chair of Trustees)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the 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 2021 to 2022 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 Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its 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 2021 to 2022 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 Academy Trust 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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 including the Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report and the Strategic report have 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the Strategic 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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Due to the field in which the Company operates, we identified the areas most likely to have a direct material impact on the financial statements as compliance with tax legislation, accounting standards and requirements, including Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law. In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations which whilst not having a direct impact on the financial statements, are fundamental to the Company's ability to operate, including Academy Trust Handbook 2021, funding agreements, safeguarding requirements, health and safety; employment law, data protection and compliance with various other regulations relevant to the conduct of the Company's operations.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, included the following:

- Enquiries with management, the accounting officer and the trustees about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, accidents in the workplace, safeguarding breaches, data breaches, potential litigation or claims and fraud;
- Considering the conclusion of our assurance report on regularity to the Company and the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Reviewing the Accounting Officers Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance;
- Review the findings of the Company's internal scrutiny;
- Reviewing legal and professional fees to confirm matters where the Company engaged lawyers during the year;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Reviewing board and finance committee minutes and any relevant correspondence with external authorities,

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)**

- including regulators;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates, particularly around the actuarial assumptions used to estimate the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation; and
 - Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Larking Gowen

Giles Kerkham FCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

**for and on behalf of
Larking Gowen LLP**

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Ipswich

Date: 19 December 2022

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited 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 Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated December 2014 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO STOUR
VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY
(CONTINUED)**

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts 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 Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

In planning and conducting our work we had due regard to professional guidance, including the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022. The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion, includes, but is not limited to:

- Enquiry of senior management and the Academy's Governors
- Inspection and review of the accounting records, meeting minutes, prior year regularity report, internal control procedures, management representations and declarations of interest
- Observation and re-performance of the financial controls
- Review of the results of the Academy's process of independent checking of financial controls, systems, transactions and risks

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 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Larking Gowen

for and on behalf of
Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Date: 19 December 2022

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	3,404	5,098	77,379	85,881	557,989
Other trading activities		14,669	75,726	-	90,395	87,331
Investments	6	77	-	-	77	61
Charitable activities		28,619	4,448,968	-	4,477,587	4,373,564
Total income		46,769	4,529,792	77,379	4,653,940	5,018,945
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		43,288	4,579,502	488,491	5,111,281	5,026,102
Total expenditure		43,288	4,579,502	488,491	5,111,281	5,026,102
Net income/(expenditure)		3,481	(49,710)	(411,112)	(457,341)	(7,157)
Transfers between funds	19	-	(67,676)	67,676	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		3,481	(117,386)	(343,436)	(457,341)	(7,157)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	1,481,000	-	1,481,000	(317,000)
Net movement in funds		3,481	1,363,614	(343,436)	1,023,659	(324,157)

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Note					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	202,518	(1,114,409)	8,417,238	7,505,347	7,829,504
Net movement in funds	3,481	1,363,614	(343,436)	1,023,659	(324,157)
Total funds carried forward	<u>205,999</u>	<u>249,205</u>	<u>8,073,802</u>	<u>8,529,006</u>	<u>7,505,347</u>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 07226557

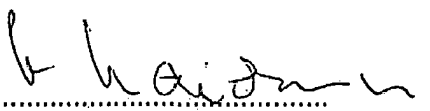
**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	14	1,350	2,250
Tangible assets	15	8,070,763	8,153,740
		<u>8,072,113</u>	<u>8,155,990</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	98,612	386,536
Cash at bank and in hand		693,568	635,515
		<u>792,180</u>	<u>1,022,051</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(318,672)	(434,694)
Net current assets		<u>473,508</u>	<u>587,357</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,545,621</u>	<u>8,743,347</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(16,615)	-
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability		<u>8,529,006</u>	<u>8,743,347</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / liability	27	-	(1,238,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>8,529,006</u></u>	<u><u>7,505,347</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	8,073,802	8,417,238
Restricted income funds	19	249,205	123,591
		<u>8,323,007</u>	<u>8,540,829</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19		
Pension reserve	19	-	(1,238,000)
Total restricted funds	19	<u>8,323,007</u>	<u>7,302,829</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>205,999</u>	<u>202,518</u>
Total funds		<u><u>8,529,006</u></u>	<u><u>7,505,347</u></u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 07226557

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

The financial statements on pages 30 to 67 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:


.....
K Haisman
Chair of Trustees
Date: 14 DECEMBER 2022

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21	5,621	(196,534)
Cash flows from investing activities	23	33,261	528,370
Cash flows from financing activities	22	19,171	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		58,053	331,836
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		635,515	303,679
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u>693,568</u>	<u>635,515</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England, registration number 07226557. The registered office is Cavendish Road, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 8PJ.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Academy 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 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Stour Valley Educational Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£) and rounded to the nearest £.

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 Academy 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 Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy 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.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

Grants are included in the 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 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.

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Taxation

The Academy 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 Academy 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 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Computer software	- 3 years
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STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 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 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 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:

Leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Leasehold buildings	- 50 years straight line
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	- 3-10 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	- 25 years straight line

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 statement of financial activities.

1.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.10 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.

1.11 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 Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Provisions

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

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

1.13 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.14 Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Cash at bank - is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 17 and 18. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Academy Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust 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 Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. 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 Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the 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.

If the present value of the LGPS defined benefit obligation at the reporting date is less than the fair value of plan assets, the plan has a surplus. A defined benefit plan surplus is recognised as an asset to the extent that the Academy Trust is able to recover the surplus either through reduced future contributions or through refunds from the plan.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.16 Fund accounting

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit asset/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 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension asset/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 asset/liability at 31 August 2022. 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 asset/liability.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Proceeds from land disposal	-	-	54,780	54,780
Donations	3,404	5,098	-	8,502
Capital grants	-	-	22,599	22,599
Subtotal	3,404	5,098	22,599	31,101
	3,404	5,098	77,379	85,881

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	150	679	-	829
Capital grants	-	-	557,160	557,160
	150	679	557,160	557,989

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. Funding for the academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,091,046	4,091,046
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	22,283	22,283
Pupil Premium	-	185,341	185,341
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	25,881	25,881
	-	4,324,551	4,324,551
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	85,726	85,726
	-	85,726	85,726
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	28,619	14,673	43,292
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	18,561	18,561
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	5,457	5,457
	-	24,018	24,018
	28,619	4,448,968	4,477,587

The Trust received £18,561 of funding for Covid-19 catch up premium and costs incurred totalled £18,103 with the remaining £458 to be spent in 2022/23.

The Trust received £5,457 of other Covid-19 funding for mass testing and vaccination with costs incurred of £5,457.

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. Funding for the academy's educational operations (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,759,384	3,759,384
Other DfE/ESFA grants			
UIFSM	-	20,922	20,922
Pupil Premium	-	160,994	160,994
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	219,628	219,628
	-	4,160,928	4,160,928
Other Government grants			
Local authority grants	-	66,033	66,033
	-	66,033	66,033
Other income from the Academy Trust's direct costs - activities (activity 1)	431	44,098	44,529
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	56,220	56,220
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	45,854	45,854
	-	102,074	102,074
	431	4,373,133	4,373,564

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Hire of facilities	6,762	7,360	14,122
Department income	-	20,883	20,883
Solar PV income	4,017	-	4,017
Production income	-	3,148	3,148
Insurance income	-	1,749	1,749
Other income	3,890	34,171	38,061
General income	-	8,415	8,415
	<u>14,669</u>	<u>75,726</u>	<u>90,395</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Hire of facilities	1,363	9,364	10,727
Department income	-	10,621	10,621
Solar PV income	4,256	-	4,256
Production income	668	1,118	1,786
Other income	1,785	37,098	38,883
Transport	14,187	-	14,187
General income	45	6,826	6,871
	<u>22,304</u>	<u>65,027</u>	<u>87,331</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Short term deposits	<u>77</u>	<u>77</u>

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

6. Investment income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Short term deposits	61	61

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Academy Trust's educational operations				
Direct costs	3,274,299	-	390,927	3,665,226
Allocated support costs	351,160	212,439	882,456	1,446,055
	<u>3,625,459</u>	<u>212,439</u>	<u>1,273,383</u>	<u>5,111,281</u>

	<i>Staff Costs 2021 £</i>	<i>Premises 2021 £</i>	<i>Other 2021 £</i>	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Academy Trust's educational operations				
Direct costs	3,186,674	-	411,028	3,597,702
Allocated support costs	354,517	190,752	883,131	1,428,400
	<u>3,541,191</u>	<u>190,752</u>	<u>1,294,159</u>	<u>5,026,102</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational operations	3,665,226	1,446,055	5,111,281

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2021 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Educational operations	3,597,702	1,428,400	5,026,102

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	351,160	351,160
Depreciation and amortisation	182,930	182,930
Premises costs	472,531	472,531
Other support costs	422,663	422,663
Governance costs	16,771	16,771
	1,446,055	1,446,055

Governance costs comprise audit and accountancy fees incurred in the year.

	<i>Activities 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	354,517	354,517
Depreciation and amortisation	226,050	226,050
Premises costs	424,723	424,723
Other support costs	410,505	410,505
Governance costs	12,605	12,605
	1,428,400	1,428,400

STOUR VALLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST LIMITED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	26,775	23,232
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	245,554	225,870
Amortisation of intangible assets	900	450
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	9,750	9,025
- other services	5,680	5,175
	<u>268,700</u>	<u>234,752</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	2,527,677	2,510,599
Social security costs	272,103	268,777
Pension costs	825,679	761,815
	<u>3,625,459</u>	<u>3,541,191</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	50	45
Administration and support	47	45
Management	8	7
	<u>105</u>	<u>97</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	42	40
Administration and support	36	36
Management	8	7
	<u>86</u>	<u>83</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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10. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy 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 Academy Trust was £604,615 (2021: £468,543).

11. Central services

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

- Executive leadership
- Financial administration services (Hub finance support, outsourced payroll service)
- HR services (employee contract administration, wellbeing and employee relations including legal and professional services)
- Centralised ICT support
- Centralised GDPR support
- Centralised Site Management and Caretaking

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The proportion of time spent at each school has been calculated and staffing costs, including all on-costs, have been charged accordingly.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Stour Valley Community School	205,842	194,193
Clare Community Primary School	50,135	43,558
Total	<u>255,977</u>	<u>237,751</u>

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12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2022	2021
		£	£
R A Kelly	Remuneration	80,000 -	75,000 -
		85,000	80,000
	Pension contributions paid	15,000 -	15,000 -
		20,000	20,000

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to any Trustee (2021 - £NIL to Trustee).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Academy Trust 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 academy 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.

14. Intangible assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	4,900
At 31 August 2022	4,900
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2021	2,650
Charge for the year	900
At 31 August 2022	3,550
Net book value	
At 31 August 2022	1,350
At 31 August 2021	2,250

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures & equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2021	9,241,844	268,018	522,041	10,031,903
Additions	-	23,395	75,580	98,975
At 31 August 2022	9,241,844	291,413	597,621	10,130,878
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2021	1,185,891	192,571	499,701	1,878,163
Charge for the year	132,429	25,300	24,223	181,952
At 31 August 2022	1,318,320	217,871	523,924	2,060,115
Net book value				
At 31 August 2022	7,923,524	73,542	73,697	8,070,763
At 31 August 2021	8,055,953	75,447	22,340	8,153,740

16. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	114	1,080
Other debtors	14,107	11,628
Prepayments and accrued income	84,391	373,828
	98,612	386,536

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	2,556	-
Trade creditors	72,643	45,859
Other taxation and social security	136,801	68,874
Accruals and deferred income	106,672	319,961
	<u>318,672</u>	<u>434,694</u>
	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	37,749	41,888
Resources deferred during the year	52,280	37,749
Amounts released from previous periods	(37,749)	(41,888)
	<u>52,280</u>	<u>37,749</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance in regard to the Universal Infant Free School Meals funding which was paid during the financial year, but related to grant allocations for the 2022/23 financial year. Deferred income also includes rates relief income, which was received in advance of the 2022/23 year to which it relates.

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	<u>16,615</u>	<u>-</u>

A Salix loan of £20,448 is being repaid in equal installments over eight years and will be fully repaid in the year to 31 August 2030. The year end balance was £19,171.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	202,518	46,769	(43,288)	-	-	205,999
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	90,048	4,091,046	(3,886,884)	(67,676)	-	226,534
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	3,993	233,505	(233,491)	-	-	4,007
Other grants	18,969	181,223	(181,528)	-	-	18,664
Covid-19 support	10,581	24,018	(34,599)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,238,000)	-	(243,000)	-	1,481,000	-
	<u>(1,114,409)</u>	<u>4,529,792</u>	<u>(4,579,502)</u>	<u>(67,676)</u>	<u>1,481,000</u>	<u>249,205</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations	2,681	54,781	(1,028)	(48,000)	-	8,434
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	27,033	22,598	(22,290)	(13,830)	-	13,511
GAG funded assets	35,403	-	(13,579)	-	-	21,824
Assets purchased from grants	5,234	-	(14,531)	95,104	-	85,807
Gifted assets on conversion	8,055,955	-	(132,430)	-	-	7,923,525
Assets purchased from unrestricted funds	33,582	-	(12,881)	-	-	20,701
CIF Capital Grants	257,350	-	(291,752)	34,402	-	-
	<u>8,417,238</u>	<u>77,379</u>	<u>(488,491)</u>	<u>67,676</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,073,802</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

19. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Total Restricted funds	7,302,829	4,607,171	(5,067,993)	-	1,481,000	8,323,007
Total funds	7,505,347	4,653,940	(5,111,281)	-	1,481,000	8,529,006

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) is used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust.

Other ESFA grants are various specific grants provided to the Academy Trust from the ESFA.

Other restricted grants includes SEN funding.

Covid-19 Support grants are for Covid-19 mass testing and Covid-19 Catch-up premiums.

A transfer of £67,676 (2021: £28,851) was made from GAG (2021: unrestricted general funds) to restricted fixed asset funds in respect of assets purchased.

The pension reserve total gains of £1,481k include derecognition of £245k surplus as there is no indication that it be recovered in the future.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	222,110	22,946	(13,687)	(28,851)	-	202,518
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,759,384	(3,669,336)	-	-	90,048
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	8,877	401,783	(406,667)	-	-	3,993
Other grants	2,410	175,598	(159,039)	-	-	18,969
Covid-19 support	-	102,074	(91,493)	-	-	10,581
Pension reserve	(758,000)	-	(163,000)	-	(317,000)	(1,238,000)
	(746,713)	4,438,839	(4,489,535)	-	(317,000)	(1,114,409)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations	4,296	-	(1,615)	-	-	2,681
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	37,264	20,302	(30,533)	-	-	27,033
GAG funded assets	56,742	-	(21,339)	-	-	35,403
Assets purchased from grants	8,389	-	(3,155)	-	-	5,234
Gifted assets on conversion	8,239,833	-	(183,878)	-	-	8,055,955
Assets purchased from unrestricted funds	7,583	-	(2,852)	28,851	-	33,582
CIF Capital Grants	-	536,858	(279,508)	-	-	257,350

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2021 £</i>
	8,354,107	557,160	(522,880)	28,851	-	8,417,238
Total Restricted funds	7,607,394	4,995,999	(5,012,415)	28,851	(317,000)	7,302,829
Total funds	7,829,504	5,018,945	(5,026,102)	-	(317,000)	7,505,347

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Stour Valley Community School	326,744	281,325
Clare Community Primary School	128,460	44,784
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	455,204	326,109
Restricted fixed asset fund	8,073,802	8,417,238
Pension reserve	-	(1,238,000)
Total	8,529,006	7,505,347

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. 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 2022 £
Stour Valley Community School	2,510,717	381,743	245,038	787,887	3,925,385
Clare Community Primary School	612,757	130,878	93,918	165,413	1,002,966
Academy Trust	3,123,474	512,621	338,956	953,300	4,928,351

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £
Stour Valley Community School	2,445,727	329,283	301,428	710,380	3,786,818
Clare Community Primary School	652,047	115,367	95,600	150,220	1,013,234
Academy Trust	3,097,774	444,650	397,028	860,600	4,800,052

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	4	-	8,070,759	8,070,763
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	1,350	1,350
Current assets	235,715	554,772	1,693	792,180
Creditors due within one year	(29,720)	(288,952)	-	(318,672)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(16,615)	-	(16,615)
Total	205,999	249,205	8,073,802	8,529,006

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,153,740	8,153,740
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	2,250	2,250
Current assets	202,518	300,077	519,456	1,022,051
Creditors due within one year	-	(176,486)	(258,208)	(434,694)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,238,000)	-	(1,238,000)
Total	202,518	(1,114,409)	8,417,238	7,505,347

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per statement of financial activities)	(457,341)	(7,157)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	900	450
Depreciation	181,952	225,600
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(77,379)	(557,160)
Interest receivable	(77)	(61)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	220,000	149,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	23,000	14,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	287,924	(317,297)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(118,578)	296,091
Gain on disposal	(54,780)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	5,621	(196,534)

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Salix loan received	20,449	-
Repayments of loan	(1,278)	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	19,171	-

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	77	61
Purchase of fixed assets	(98,975)	(28,851)
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	54,780	-
Capital grants from DfE Group	77,379	557,160
Net cash provided by investing activities	33,261	528,370

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	693,568	635,515
Total cash and cash equivalents	693,568	635,515

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	635,515	58,053	693,568
Debt due within 1 year	-	(2,556)	(2,556)
Debt due after 1 year	-	(16,615)	(16,615)
	635,515	38,882	674,397

26. Capital commitments

	2022 £	2021 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	314,667

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments

The Academy 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 Suffolk County Council. 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 £661,016 (2021 - £668,792).

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 Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. 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 2022 was £164,000 (2021 - £173,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £128,000 (2021 - £136,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 36,000 (2021 - £37,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23 per cent for employers and variable per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

	2022	2021
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.8	3.6
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.1	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.1	2.9

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

	2022	2021
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.9	22.1
Females	24.3	24.5
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	26.1	26.4

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27. Pension commitments (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(52)	87
Discount rate -0.1%	52	(87)
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	80	135
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(80)	(135)
CPI rate +0.1%	50	82
CPI rate -0.1%	(50)	(82)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2022 £	At 31 August 2021 £
Equities	1,533,000	1,407,000
Debt instruments	496,000	533,000
Property	225,000	149,000
Cash and other liquid assets	-	43,000
Total market value of assets	2,254,000	2,132,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £Nil (2021 - £360,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(339,000)	(285,000)
Interest income	36,000	30,000
Interest cost	(59,000)	(44,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(362,000)	(299,000)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	3,370,000	2,432,000
Current service cost	339,000	285,000
Interest cost	59,000	44,000
Employee contributions	35,000	37,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(1,781,000)	583,000
Benefits paid	(13,000)	(11,000)
At 31 August	2,009,000	3,370,000

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	2,132,000	1,674,000
Interest income	36,000	30,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(55,000)	266,000
Employer contributions	119,000	136,000
Employee contributions	35,000	37,000
Benefits paid	(13,000)	(11,000)
Pension asset not recognised	(245,000)	-
At 31 August	2,009,000	2,132,000

At 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust's LGPS Fund had an excess of £245,000 of the fair value of its assets over the present value of its liabilities. However the criteria for recognition of the surplus as an asset as described in accounting policy 1.15 was not met. The scheme's assets have therefore been restricted by £245k so as to not recognise the surplus.

28. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	27,112	26,775
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	63,153	69,049
Later than 5 years	42,751	57,001
	133,016	152,825

29. Property transaction

SVET occupy the Stour Valley Community School site by virtue of a 125-year lease with Suffolk County Council on 1 July 2014. Following agreement from the Secretary of State, an Agreement to Surrender a strip of land across the site entrance has been signed between the Trust and SCC which is subject to certain planning conditions. It is anticipated that this transfer will be completed by February 2023, which will result in a further receipt of £112,000.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

30. 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.

31. Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration already described in note 12.