

Company Registration Number: 07387540 (England & Wales)

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	C H Hender A Veur P Roberts B Vann N Capstick
Trustees	V Bragg, Accounting Officer ¹ A Corbett M J Larsen ¹ P J Shilston, Chair of Trustees ² B Couch (Resigned 31 January 2022) M G Colton-Dyer ¹ D Barton ³ J Trestain (Resigned 1 July 2022) ¹ J F Swain S Eddy (Appointed 18 November 2022) ¹ Finance, Audit and Remuneration Committee ² Christian Ethos Committee ³ Hub Council
Company registered number	07387540
Company name	Aspire Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	20 St Austell Business Park Carclaze St Austell Cornwall PL25 4FD
Company secretary	V Edwards
Chief executive officer	V Bragg
Senior management team	V Bragg, CEO R Warwick, Deputy Chief Executive Officer A Earnshaw, Director of Training, Leadership and CPD S Hannaford, Director of Safeguarding T Hooper, Chief Operating Officer (Chief Financial Officer)
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Salt Quay House 4 North East Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0BN

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

Bankers	Lloyds Bank PLC White River Place Shopping Centre St Austell Cornwall PL25 5AZ
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Solicitors	PHP Law LLP 6 Delamore Park Cornwood Ivybridge Plymouth PL21 9QP
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ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 29 primary academies, all currently within Cornwall. Its academies were funded on 5563 pupils excluding nurseries during the 2021/22 financial year, taken from the October 2020 census.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Aspire Academy Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £5,000,000.

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to four Trustees who are appointed by members.
- no fewer than two Trustees who are appointed by Askel Veur, provided that the total number of Trustees appointed would not thereby exceed 25% of the total number of Trustees.
- up to two Hub Council Chairs.
- the Chief Executive Officer.
- Parent Trustees, if in the event that no provision is made for parent representatives on the Hub Councils.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

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

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Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will ensure all accountability frameworks and policies integral to the role are structured into an induction programme, alongside courses to support the knowledge required to fulfil the role. Trustees will receive a tour of the academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils is always actively encouraged. All Trustees are provided with both on and off the job training together with an induction pack that include key documents and information that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

The Academy Trust shall always promote and ensure that specific courses and sharing of ideas with other academy Trustees, from both within and outside of the Academy Trust, is actively encouraged as part of the Aspire culture and ethos.

Organisational Structure

Aspire Academy Trust follows the organisational structure laid down in the Articles of Association that were registered with Companies House on 1 November 2010 and revised on 8 July 2016.

The Academy Trust's organisational structure consists of three levels: Members, Trustees and Hub Councils, alongside an operational level of Executive Directors/Senior Leaders.

The Members have ultimate control over the Academy Trust, with the ability to appoint some of the Trustees and the right to amend the Academy Trust's Articles of Association. The Members meet annually to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Trustees establish an overall framework for the Academy Trust and are responsible for setting the direction, holding trust leaders to account and ensuring financial probity. As Trustees of a charitable company, they also ensure that the Academy Trust complies with charity and company law requirements meet. The Trustees meet at least termly.

The Hub Councils are a core layer in providing effective governance at local level working directly with the academies/schools reporting back to the Trustees on efficient monitoring, support, and challenge. They also promote high standards and educational achievement. Supporting Ofsted visits, they demonstrate continuous development of school improvement to achieve successful pupil outcomes.

Delegated committees to support the governance framework as per the Trust's Scheme of Delegation include:

- Finance, Audit and Remuneration Committee – meet at least 3 times per year and is responsible for financial monitoring and oversight, internal scrutiny, assessing risk, ensure robust practices and report to the Trust Board accordingly.
- Christian Ethos Committee – meet at least 3 times per year and monitor, evaluate and develop the Christian character and distinctiveness in accordance with the Church of England and Diocese. They report to the Board termly.

The Trust Board has a scheme of delegation which detail decisions that are reserved to the Board of Trustees, these include: to consider any proposals for changes to the status of any Academy, set terms of reference for its committee structure, to appoint or remove the Chair and Vice Chair, to appoint the CEO and Governance Professional to the Trustees, to approve the Annual Strategic Plan and budget.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, assessing risk, monitoring academy improvement and outcome data and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust.

The Academy Trust's Executive Directors support the strategic direction of the Academy Trust through operational delivery. They monitor the Academy Trust's effectiveness and standards and drive its development in all areas. They consist of the following personnel:

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Chief Executive Officer
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chief Operating Officer
Director of Training, Leadership and CPD
Director of Safeguarding

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Executive Directors to comprise of the key management personnel of the Academy Trust, in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy Trust on a day to day basis.

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

Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually and is benchmarked against pay levels in other multi academy trusts of a similar size, both locally and nationally.

Trade Union Facility Time

There is one member of staff recognised as an official trade union official, they are based at Mount Hawke Academy.

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	1
1%-50%	
51%-99%	
100%	

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	N/A
Provide the total pay bill	
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time / total pay bill) x 100	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period / total paid facility time hours) x 100	0
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Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

Free use of land for an outdoor provision with GMV Limited, Carlyon Bay nominee and JTC Fund Solutions (Guernsey) Ltd that has links to Commercial Estates Group of which the Trustee Jacky Swain is an employee. The ESFA confirm that approval was not needed for this agreement, disclosure will be within the financial statements.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Aspire Academy Trust recognises the benefits of having a diverse workforce and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community. This applies to those accessing training, career progression and promotion within the Academy Trust. Under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, the Academy Trust is

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required to demonstrate that its recruitment processes are fair and that it is not discriminating against or disadvantaging anyone because of their age, disability, gender reassignment status, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. At the application stage, a number of questions are asked to determine who is applying for each position and to ensure that no one is unfairly discriminated against or disadvantaged. All staff have equal access to training and development, career progression and promotion.

Aspire Academy Trust asks applicants to declare if they have a disability so that reasonable adjustments can be made to ensure that any selection processes - including the interview - are fair and equitable and are complying with the Equality Act 2010.

Aspire Academy Trust offers a guaranteed interview scheme if the applicant meets the minimum criteria set out in the person's specification. For employees who become disabled during their employment, the Trust will support the employee by determining the reasonable adjustments that need to be put into place. The Aspire Trust does this through referrals to occupational health and other support services.

The Trust engages with their employees through a myriad of platforms and methods, including:

- Consulting with employees on key matters and HR policies, including engaging with the recognised trade unions
- Consulting with employees via staff surveys
- Regular updates to all staff members, via weekly staff bulletins, CEO newsletters, including covering both financial and non-financial performance
- Regular meetings and visits with Hub Councils and Board of Trustees
- Full utilisation of Microsoft Teams and the Staff Hub within the Trust to promote all inclusive collaborative working within schools, subject specialism and areas of expertise such as SEN and EYFS

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

Being a predominantly government funded organisation, we continue to take our responsibilities that come with this status, seriously and ensure appropriate use of public funds and business relationships at all times.

We continue to follow best value procedures in line with our financial policies and procedures for all purchasing. During the last year, we have continued to work with the DFE's Schools Buying Hub for procurement and tendering frameworks and guidance, especially for larger valued contracts, to ensure best value and financial compliance. To add, the Trust's internal audit schedule also focussed on procurement practices to ensure our systems and procedures operated with best practice and compliant to financial procedures and regulations.

As a Trust, we work with a large number of suppliers for a wide range of services, including many from our local communities, who are always given the opportunity to tender. To reduce our carbon footprint, supplier's social and environmental performance and sustainability practices are considered as part of all tender scoring and decision making.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The principal object and activity of the Academy Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing mainstream schools, offering a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of different abilities.

The Aspire Academy Trust mission is 'by working together and inspiring excellence we enable our children to excel both academically and in character.'

The Aspire Academy Trust vision statement is 'nurturing curiosity, resilience, respect and excellence; our children will thrive and live life well'

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Aspire is an innovative and ambitious Trust. We want every child in our care to excel both academically and in character. Therefore, we set an unapologetically high bar regarding expectations for our schools to deliver an excellent education. We have some of the highest performing schools in the country showing how relentlessly ambitious we can be. In terms of equity we believe that every child should thrive and have the best opportunity to succeed, regardless of where they live, their social circumstances or additional needs.

In terms of educational excellence, we want a level playing field for all our pupils. Our focus for the next five years will be to innovate and scale up what we know works- finding the best that there is and ensuring it becomes widespread across all schools. We have pockets of excellence in all our schools and we will do more to understand what is working and be deliberate about sharing that across our schools

Our academies will provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is rich in knowledge and cultural capital learning. Aspire prepares pupils for a lifetime of learning and success by teaching them, in equal measures, both the academic skills and the personal strengths they need to excel. By doing this, we enhance the life chances of the children in our care.

The Aspire Academy Trust understands that improvement is never a static concept: it is ever evolving and our constant drive for higher standards demands ambition, flexibility, creativity and innovation. Therefore, we remain in a constant state of 'restlessness', continually ambitious, fearless and always striving to improve.

The key descriptors or objectives of the Aspire Academy Trust during the past year September 2021-August 2022 are summarised below:

- There is a strong and unwavering 'One Trust' culture and sense of wellbeing.
- There is a shared vision and clarity of purpose that is embedded throughout the Trust.
- Aspire operates as a single entity with all academies aligned to the vision and strategic direction of the organisation.
- There is a relentless focus on quality and on the overcoming of perceived or real barriers or limiting factors.
- There is deep collaboration amongst all staff, regardless of role, to improve education and enable all children to excel both academically and in character.
- Parity exists across all schools in the Trust. All schools are 'as good as the best' in every aspect. This includes environment, infrastructure, educational standards, teaching, leadership and wider curriculum opportunities for children.
- Limitless horizons for continuous improvement, driven by a sense of urgency, ensures excellence is always the expected standard.
- Excellence is evident in all aspects of the work of the Trust – including safeguarding, premises, financial resilience, curriculum, governance and extraordinary pupil outcomes.
- Anything less than excellent is always targeted for improvement no matter how difficult the challenge.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

a) Growth and Development

Aspire Academy Trust had a total of 29 primary academies at year end August 2022. The Academy Trust also works with other academies and MATs across Cornwall and Devon and has established many professional networks and relationships to benchmark our Academy Trust and to share best practice and innovative ideas for improving primary MATs and academies.

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b) Performance against objectives

Achievements and performance of the Aspire Academy Trust during 2021-2022 continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with high staff and pupil Covid related absence rates in academies throughout the Autumn and early Spring Terms.

Our key goal at the start of the academic year was to ensure that lost learning during the first lockdown was recovered whilst supporting schools to continue to make the developments necessary to perform well in a post-pandemic world. In order to achieve this, we made judicious decisions about our focus for the year, ensuring that we implemented a smaller number of well-considered, high-impact initiatives.

These included:

- Identifying learning gaps for individual pupils and ensuring Catch Up interventions were successful
- Delivery of targeted teaching and interventions to address gaps in learning due to the disruptions of Covid19.
- High quality CPD on the development of a sequenced and progressive curriculum- particularly in History.
- Extending and expanding quality Nursery provision across the Trust
- Focus on outdoor learning provision with a focus on EYFS outdoor spaces.

The Trust Board adopts a holistic view to measuring the performance of the Trust and its Academies, ensuring that they are not measured on academic data alone. Academies within the Trust are tracked across the following metrics: Ofsted grading, academic attainment, and progress of the cohorts, number on roll versus capacity, attendance, pupil and staff turnover and financial stability and sustainability.

Notable achievements during the year 2021-2022:

A comprehensive annual delivery improvement plan has been developed and approved by Trustees to deliver on the objectives of the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. Progress has been notable toward the following objectives:

- Develop further staff and pupil wellbeing strategies
- Ensure everybody in the Trust is aligned around the vision and strategic direction and fidelity to the vision drives all key objectives
- Review and evaluate the roles and responsibilities of all leaders driving school improvement
- Improve KS2 outcomes for disadvantaged pupils
- Pedagogy – embedded evidence-based teaching for outstanding teachers
- Ensure aspirations for pupils with SEND are high
- Strengthen early language acquisition
- Develop subject leadership and curriculum design
- Develop outdoor learning provision across the Trust.
- Strengthen communication – further promote a culture of accountability
- Strengthen our risk management procedures
- Strengthen core services systems connections with school improvement
- Strengthen integrated financial planning
- Develop further our systems and procedures for maintenance and improvements to our premises
- Ensuring outstanding outdoor learning spaces for all EYFS pupils

c) Ofsted Inspections

The following academies received an Ofsted inspection in the year September 2021 to July 2022:

School	Date	Section 5 or 8	Previous grade	New grade
St Uny Academy	September 2021	Section 5	Good	Good
Nansloe Academy	November 2021	Section 8	Good	Good
Penryn Primary	November 2021	Section 5	Requires Improvement	Good
Cusgarne School	May 2022	Section 5	Good	Good
Bugle School	July 2022	Section 5	Inadequate	Good

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d) Educational Performance

All data is provisional – data not validated

2022 Provisional data	Trust Average	National Average 2022
Early Years Foundation Stage	71%. 2019 data	72% 2019 data
Phonics Y1	78%	75%
KS1 Reading EXS	67%	67%
KS1 Writing EXS	60%	58%
KS1 Mathematics EXS	65%	68%

2022	Aspire Trust Average provisional 2022	National Average 2022
KS2 Reading/Writing/Maths combined score	58%	59%
KS2 Reading EXS	73%	74%
KS2 Writing EXS	73%	61%
KS2 Mathematics EXS	71%	71%
KS2 Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling EXS	71%	72%

Key Performance Indicators – details to follow

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. The management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention. In the period under review, no GAG was carried forward.

Some key financial performance indicators for the 2021/22 were as follows:

	2021/22	2020/21
Funded Pupils:	5,563	5,443
GAG Income:	£25,324,679	£22,784,054
Non GAG Income:	£10,505,619	£10,551,055
Staffing Costs as a % of GAG:	112%	113%
Staffing Costs as a % of Income:	79%	77%
Staffing Costs Per Pupil:	£5,082	£4,736
Total Costs Per Pupil:	£6,747	£6,232
Surplus/ (Deficit) as a % of Total Income:	(4.8%)	(1.7%)

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Reserves as a % of Total Income:	7.3%	5.0%
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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 it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Trust's Going Concern statement.

Promoting the success of the company

The Board of Trustees recognise that in promoting its success it has taken into consideration as per section 172 (1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the company's employees
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Trust received total income of £35,830,298 and incurred total expenditure of £37,533,201. The deficit of income over expenditure for the year was £(1,702,903).

At 31 August 2022, the net book value of fixed assets was £54,157,446 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 15 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The land, buildings and other assets were transferred to the Trust upon conversion when each academy joined the Trust or when any new academies were built. Land and buildings were valued by the Trustees on conversion at £27,866,718. Other assets have been included in the financial statements at a best estimate, taking into account purchase price and remaining useful lives.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 27 to the financial statements.

Benchmarking is performed to both internal and external comparisons with regards the financial performance of the Trust as a whole and for the academies within it. Key measures are listed in the previous section and are reviewed and compared during the year by management and Trustees against the Kreston Reeves benchmarking report and the DfE's VMFI website to provide challenge and models of good practice of good financial management.

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Reserves Policy

Levels of financial reserves are regularly monitored and reviewed by Trustees.

Reserves are pooled for the whole Trust and not separated per academy. Trustees have determined that the recommended level of free reserve should be set between a minimum of 1% and a maximum of 10% of total revenue income for the year. Levels and use of reserves are constantly reviewed to ensure:

- the nature of reserves held (restricted or unrestricted) and amounts are appropriate and within agreed levels
- planned commitments and regular outgoings, such as payroll costs, can be met from sufficient cash levels
- strategic planning, curriculum investment and capital projects can be delivered
- revenue costs are not funded from reserves
- contingencies are held so that the risk of potential unforeseen events can be mitigated
- the impact of any future reductions in funding can be mitigated or reduced.

Variances to these rules shall be reviewed by the finance committee on a case by case basis and with consideration to the Trust as a whole or per each academy's circumstances, per the criteria detailed within the Trust's finance policy.

Total unrestricted and GAG Income for the year, excluding restricted fixed assets and pension on conversion, was £27,397,803 and therefore the reserve balance should be between £273,978 and £2,739,780.

The current level of free reserves is £2,104,527.

The Trustees have reviewed the future plans of the Trust and plan to use a proportion of these reserves on:

- Supporting our academies with additional cost pressures in the next financial year, especially energy costs - £225,000
- Targeted academy improvement support and interventions - £100,000
- Set up costs for a new pay model for support staff - £165,000
- Infrastructural investment in advance of growth - £70,000
- Capital costs for outdoor education centres and services -£80,000

The Local Government pension Scheme (LGPS) is currently in deficit. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature and timing of receipt of funding, the Academy Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements.

The Academy Trust will operate a cautious and risk averse approach to investing pupil funding, income and reserves. The Academy Trust therefore make no investments, other than cash balances being held in UK banks and their short term investments accounts, to take advantage of higher interest rates, which are all authorised by the Trustees.

No other form of investment is authorised.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to finances, teaching, facilities, health and safety, and other operational areas. A number of systems to mitigate these risks have been implemented by Trustees, together with additional insurance policies to reduce any further financial risk.

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The Academy Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by refining and developing key internal controls and procedures and increasing staff awareness and training. A risk register is maintained and updated on a regular basis, which has undergone a significant review and remodelling in the last year to ensure it remains fit for purpose and meeting the Trust's ever changing requirements.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust are as follows:

Financial - the Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. Whilst this is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms. The risk to the Trust remains that pupil numbers are forecasted to drop over the next few years which potentially could have a significant impact on funding levels. Additional financial pressures are being faced by the Trust from inflationary cost pressures and an uncertain financial climate. These pose a risk to the Trust if funding levels do not keep pace with such cost increases which will undoubtedly lead to a review of the Trust's general operations.

Failures in governance, fraud and mismanagement of funds - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. which if not done, could lead to a serious mismanagement of public funds and therefore a significant impact on the Trust's reputation. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, to include a rigorous internal audit function to carry out checks on financial and governance systems to the levels required by the Academy Trust Handbook and to ensure all finance and governance staff receive training and CPD to expected standards.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust and the academies within it, is dependent on its ability to attract pupils in sufficient numbers through maintaining the highest educational standards. The impact of academies not improving sufficiently or from receiving declining Ofsted ratings and results, could have a significant impact so it is vital for Trustees to mitigate such risks by monitoring standards and pupil achievements closely.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy Trust is reliant upon the quality of its employees and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. A key identified risk is both staff absence and also the recruitment and retention of staff. Trustees continue to review how these risks can be mitigated, especially so for key staff, which will include succession planning and staff wellbeing.

Risk is monitored by the audit committee, who review the Trust Risk Register termly and report up to the Board accordingly. The full Risk Register is reviewed regularly by the full Trust Board. A Risk Management Strategy and Policy was agreed in the last year to strengthen risk procedures across the Trust. Trustees have assessed the major risks which the Trust is exposed to including those related to financial, teaching, and other operational areas. Internal controls are in place to mitigate risks and trustees monitor on a regular basis.

The Trustees and Finance Committee examine the financial health on an ongoing basis, with an in depth review at their quarterly meetings. They regularly review financial performance reports, which include income v expenditure analysis and performance against budgets, future forecasting, cash flow, KPIs and benchmarking.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 23 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution

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commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

Fundraising

Fundraising across the Trust is undertaken at academy level and is supported by the 'PTA/Friends of Committees of each school, any monies raised is to support educational outcomes for pupils and for the intended purpose of the fundraising.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022	1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	4,969,353	5,053,546
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional)		
• gas,	1,813,217	1,840,879
• electricity,	1,628,491	1,793,441
• transport fuel (leased vehicles)	67,983	84,484
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	330.3	340.2
Owned transport – mini-buses - leased	10.5	9.8
<u>Total scope 1</u>	340.8	350.0
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	311.4	418.1
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	21.9	7.8
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	1,017.1	775.9
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.173	0.206

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. We have chosen to voluntarily provide data for oil consumption as this currently accounts for over 30% of our emissions.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency (to follow)

During this period energy efficiency surveys of our schools were carried out with a grant from Low Carbon Skills Fund. This allowed us to develop decarbonisation plans for the schools. These were our focus for the year and we submitted a large number of applications to the psds1 and psds2. Unfortunately, these were unsuccessful. However, we have a better understanding of how we can make our buildings more carbon efficient when finances allow. During planned maintenance we introduced insulation into classrooms where ceilings were replaced. A new 2 classroom building at Bugle School is heated by underfloor heating from an air source heat pump. An Elliott building at St Stephen benefitted from enhanced insulation during a roof replacement. A number of windows in schools were replaced by higher efficiency units

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Formalisation of home working procedures has led to permanent decisions to home work. This has reduced home to work travel. Use of Teams will make for a long-term reduction in mileage. In addition, ongoing covid issues has reduced school visits and the associated mileage. On the negative side the need to ventilate our buildings has increased our heating requirements over the 20/21 winter.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (2022/23)

- Develop further staff and pupil wellbeing strategies using the YTS Well MAT and DFE Wellbeing Charter
- Ensure All activities in the Trust are aligned around the vision and strategic direction and fidelity to the vision drives all key decisions and objectives
- Formulate a clear talent management plan
- Improve outcomes in mathematics for disadvantaged pupils
- Improve parent and pupil feedback systems
- Delivery of a Quality Curriculum
- Outdoor Learning and provision
- Embed Character Education across the curriculum
- Further develop ICT and Digital learning skills across the curriculum
- Review structures and systems for Trust growth, including safeguarding
- Premises activities are aligned with DFE Good Estates Management
- Development of Trust wide sustainability projects

ADDITIONAL COMPANIES ACT REQUIREMENTS

Equality Information & Objectives Policy

The Academy Trust has adopted an Equality Information and Objectives Policy which sets out the Academy Trust's policies in respect of the following:

- for disabled employees — in respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons; and
- for employee consultation — a description of the action taken during the year to introduce, maintain or develop arrangements to provide information and consult employees on matters affecting them.

The policy is available on the Trust website.

Funds as a custodian

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The 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 auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and they will be considered as per the terms of the contract and any re-tender process in line with the Academies Trust Handbook.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14.08.2022 and signed on its behalf by:


PJ Shilston
Chair of Trustees

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 7 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
P J Shilston, Chair	7	7
M J Larsen, Vice Chair	6	7
V Bragg	6	7
A Corbett	6	7
J F Swain	5	7
M G Colton-Dyer	5	7
B Couch	1	2
D Barton	7	7
J Trestain	1	5

In order for the Aspire Board to have effective oversight, the Aspire Board has had 7 meetings this year. The agendas for these meetings cover all aspects of their responsibilities for the Trust. To support the Trustee role, the delegated Finance, Audit and Remuneration Committee meet at least 3 times a year and the accounts are presented by the Chair of the Finance Audit and Remuneration Committee. To support the scrutiny and effective oversight, the Chair of the Board receives monthly reports and has meetings with the Chief Financial Officer. The Accounting Officer also receives regular updates through meetings with the Chief Financial Officer and reports this to the Board as necessary. Outside attending the meetings, the Trustees regularly visit schools, they attend additional meetings for Hub Councils, Christian Ethos Committee, Academy Improvement Group and Aspire Premises Improvement Team. Appointed Trustees for Safeguarding, CIC, SEND and Whistleblowing provide key information to the Trustees to support their oversight. The Chair has routine meetings with the CEO, Deputy CEO and CFO. By supporting the Trust both in the Board meetings and outside them, the Board are able to have comprehensive knowledge of how the Trust is working and are able to identify areas for them to address accordingly.

A review of the Board took place in 2021/22 through a skills audit, with the identified gaps being addressed with two prospective Trustees in the process of recruitment ready for Board consideration in the Autumn term. The Board undertook a self-review through completing the '12 Questions to ask a Multi-Academy Trust', this demonstrated the Board meeting its core purpose and Trustees evaluated accordingly. Trustees recognised the need for future proofing governance structures in line with the Trust growth.

Governance Review

The Trustee Board undertook self-evaluation for the year 2021/22. An external review of governance undertaken by the National Governance Association commenced in July 2022.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Finance and Audit and Remuneration Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to allow more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the Board's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Academy Trusts finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Finance Committee Section

Attendee	Meetings attended.	Out of a possible
M J Larsen (Chair)	5	5
V Bragg (Accounting Officer)	5	5
T Hooper (Chief Financial Officer)	5	5
S Eddy	5	5
L Hill	2	5
J Trestain	0	5
M Colton-Dyer	2	5

Audit and Remuneration Committee Section

Attendee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M J Larsen (Chair)	4	4
S Eddy	4	4
L Hill	2	4
J Trestain	0	3
M Colton-Dyer	3	4
V Bragg (In attendance only)		

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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.

A large proportion of purchases made by the Academy Trust is paid for with public funds and therefore the Board of Trustees maintains the integrity of such, by following these principles of 'best value':

- **Probity**— it must be demonstrable that there is no corruption or private gain involved in the contractual relationships of the Academy Trust;
- **Accountability** — the Academy Trust is accountable for its expenditure and the conduct of its affairs;
- **Fairness** — that all those dealt with by the Academy Trust are made on a fair and equitable basis.

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:

- Robust financial governance and budget management.
- Value for money purchasing.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Considering allocation/targeting/use of resources.
- Not allocating time/resources to areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government.
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Deploying staff effectively.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching.
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress.
- Outlining procedures for accepting best value quotes, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

- By **challenging** how and why services are provided to all of our academies within the Aspire Academy Trust. We regularly review all of the academy's core functions through requesting regular feedback, target setting, performance indicators and evaluating the impact on pupil outcomes and learning at all times, to ensure continual improvement in all areas of the trust.
- By **comparing** the performance of the Academy Trust as a whole and also individual academies with other schools and academies from both within and outside of the Academy Trust. This is performed through the use of both local and national financial benchmarking statistics, effective financial management procedures, internal and external audits and self-evaluation assessments.
- By **consulting** with appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made, for example through parental questionnaires on the effectiveness of our academies, pupil councils, staff, hub councils and directors.
- By promoting fair **competition** through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way possible. Contracts shall always be reviewed and/or re-negotiated at regular intervals where appropriate, recommended with 3 years as the maximum. The lowest tender or price shall generally be accepted but where a different decision is taken, the Board shall always ensure the reasons for which are documented. The Academy Trust ensures only contractors registered with their professional trade or trade association are employed to carry out major work across the Academy Trust.
- By **collaborating** with academies across the Aspire Academy Trust to obtain high quality and good value products, services and professional development opportunities, as well as developing and growing our own staff and services.

The Academy Trust will also achieve Best Value through the following practical methods:

- Bulk and routine purchasing of common consumables'
- Negotiating discounts,
- Being aware of, and taking advantage of, seasonal pricing variations,
- Ensuring alternative quotes are obtained whenever possible, and
- Using approved suppliers and contractors from the Academy Trust's safe contractor list.

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 ongoing 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 Aspire Academy Trust 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 2020 to 31 August 2021 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:

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- Regular reviews by the Finance, Audit and Remuneration Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for internal scrutiny; alongside the centralisation of the financial systems which supports the oversight of the academies by the Trust's Business and Finance Team, a schedule of audits has been prepared. This year's audits undertaken included:

- November 2021 - Annual Audit
- January 2022 - VAT Compliance Check
- February 2022 - Cleaning (15 schools)
- April 2022 - Purchasing Systems & Controls
- May 2022 - Teachers Pension Audit
- May 2022 - Ed Tech Annex G
- May 2022 - Teaching School Annex G
- June 2022 - Interim Audit
- July 2022 - Governance and Regularity
- July 2022 - External Review of Governance (National Governance Association)
- August 2022 - Ed Tech Extension Annex G
- HSE Compliance - Estate Audit Compliance

Further audits planned are:

- Safeguarding

Audit reports are analysed by the audit committee and further reported and reviewed by the Board of Trustees. On a termly basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Audit and Remuneration Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

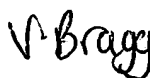
- Internal audit schedule;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- The work of the SLT within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by: 14 December 2022



P J Shilston
Chair of Trustees



V Bragg
Accounting Officer

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Aspire Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and 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.

V. Bragg

V Bragg
Accounting Officer
Date: 14 December 2022

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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**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
14th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



P J Skilston
Chair of Trustees

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

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Aspire Academy Trust (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 FRS 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.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ASPIRE
ACADEMY TRUST (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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

- 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.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

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

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal Academy specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academy Trust Handbook, Charity law, Charity Statement of Recommended Practice, UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Academy Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

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.



Pamela Tuckett FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth
PL4 0BN

Date: 19 December 2022

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 31 August 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 Aspire Academy Trust 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 Aspire Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Aspire Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Aspire Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND
THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Aspire Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 March 2019 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.

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.

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


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

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 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.



Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth
PL4 0BN

Date: 19 December 2022

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
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					
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	91,625	52,214	2,024,349	2,168,188	2,351,867
Other trading activities	6	426,499	-	-	426,499	224,682
Investments	7	463	-	-	463	383
Charitable activities	4	2,073,124	31,162,024	-	33,235,148	30,695,065
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	63,112
Total income		2,591,711	31,214,238	2,024,349	35,830,298	33,335,109
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		331,400	228	10,145	341,773	272,354
Charitable activities		1,330,993	34,352,177	1,508,258	37,191,428	33,582,963
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	63,112
Total expenditure		1,662,393	34,352,405	1,518,403	37,533,201	33,918,429
NET (EXPENDITURE) /INCOME		929,318	(3,138,167)	505,946	(1,702,903)	(583,320)
Transfers between funds	19	41,451	(38,080)	(3,371)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		970,769	(3,176,247)	502,575	(1,702,903)	(583,320)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	22,071,000	-	22,071,000	(5,484,000)
Net movement in funds		970,769	18,894,753	502,575	20,368,097	(6,067,320)

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(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 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,133,758	(20,218,675)	55,076,454	35,991,537	42,058,857
Net movement in funds	970,769	18,894,753	502,575	20,368,097	(6,067,320)
Total funds carried forward	2,104,527	(1,323,922)	55,579,029	56,359,634	35,991,537

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 32 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07387540

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	55,157,446	54,526,636
		<u>55,157,446</u>	<u>54,526,636</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	1,211,083	1,516,675
Cash at bank and in hand		4,541,652	3,384,283
		<u>5,752,735</u>	<u>4,900,958</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,659,703)	(2,570,131)
Net current assets		<u>3,093,032</u>	<u>2,330,827</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>58,250,478</u>	<u>56,857,463</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(57,844)	(113,926)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>58,192,634</u>	<u>56,743,537</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	(1,833,000)	(20,752,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>56,359,634</u></u>	<u><u>35,991,537</u></u>

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07387540

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	55,579,029	55,076,454
Restricted income funds	19	509,078	533,325
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	56,088,107	55,609,779
Pension reserve	19	(1,833,000)	(20,752,000)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total restricted funds	19	54,255,107	34,857,779
Unrestricted income funds	19	2,104,527	1,133,758
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total funds		<u>56,359,634</u>	<u>35,991,537</u>

The financial statements on pages 27 to 70 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 14th December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:


P J Shilston
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 32 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(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 operating activities	21	2,423,450	793,478
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(1,209,999)	(3,504)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(56,082)	(54,932)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1,157,369	735,042
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,384,283	2,649,241
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<hr/> <hr/> 4,541,652	<hr/> <hr/> 3,384,283

The notes on pages 32 to 70 form part of these financial statements

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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.

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.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(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.

• **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions) where receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

• **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.

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy Trust)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 EXPENDITURE

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the 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.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the 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 these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is not charged on freehold land. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following base:

Freehold property	- 2% per annum on cost
Leasehold property	- 2% per annum on cost for buildings, 125 years straight line - land.
Furniture and fixtures	- 20-25% per annum on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% per annum on cost

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.

Where the Academy Trust has been granted use of the school buildings from the Diocese under Supplemental Agreements, the Academies Accounts Direction prescribes that under this agreement the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the Diocese. A donation from the Diocese has been recognised equal to the deemed rental expense, based on the rateable value of the buildings.

1.8 DEBTORS

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

1.9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

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

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Liabilities and provisions 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. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

1.11 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.

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.

1.12 OPERATING LEASES

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

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 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.

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

1.14 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.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

From 1 September 2019 the Academy Trust put in place a policy of GAG pooling. Individual GAG allocations as well as unrestricted funds are pooled for distribution in accordance with individual school needs.

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(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 valuation of land and buildings transferred on conversion to an Academy. The Trustees use all information available including valuation reports and benchmarking these valuations to determine the fair value.

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 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 liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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 liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

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

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	91,625	52,214	1,085,598	1,229,437
Capital Grants	-	-	938,751	938,751
	<u>91,625</u>	<u>52,214</u>	<u>2,024,349</u>	<u>2,168,188</u>

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS (CONTINUED)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
DONATIONS				
Transferred on conversion or from existing Academy Trust	223,198	(446,661)	1,161,910	938,447
SUBTOTAL DETAILED DISCLOSURE	<u>223,198</u>	<u>(446,661)</u>	<u>1,161,910</u>	<u>938,447</u>
Donations	78,462	52,214	139,200	269,876
Capital Grants	-	-	1,143,544	1,143,544
SUBTOTAL	<u>78,462</u>	<u>52,214</u>	<u>1,282,744</u>	<u>1,413,420</u>
	<u>301,660</u>	<u>(394,447)</u>	<u>2,444,654</u>	<u>2,351,867</u>

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Education	2,073,124	31,162,024	33,235,148
	<u>2,073,124</u>	<u>31,162,024</u>	<u>33,235,148</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Education	1,443,045	29,252,020	30,695,065
	<u>1,443,045</u>	<u>29,252,020</u>	<u>30,695,065</u>

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
EDUCATION			
DfE/ESFA GRANTS			
General Annual Grant	-	25,324,679	25,324,679
OTHER DfE/ESFA GRANTS			
Pupil Premium	-	1,919,612	1,919,612
UFSM	-	773,593	773,593
PE & Sports Grant	-	481,602	481,602
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	784,375	784,375
	-	29,283,861	29,283,861
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS			
SEN- High Needs	-	894,897	894,897
Other Local Authority Funding	1,036,824	544,436	1,581,260
Other government grants	-	73,400	73,400
	1,036,824	1,512,733	2,549,557
Other income from the Academy Trust's education	1,036,300	-	1,036,300
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DfE/ESFA)			
Recovery Premium	-	197,362	197,362
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	168,068	168,068
	-	365,430	365,430
	2,073,124	31,162,024	33,235,148

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

5. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
EDUCATION			
DFE/ESFA GRANTS			
General Annual Grant	-	22,784,054	22,784,054
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS			
Pupil Premium	-	1,829,944	1,829,944
UFSM	-	775,582	775,582
PE & Sports Premium	-	494,490	494,490
Teachers' Pension Grant	-	895,539	895,539
Other DFE/ESFA grants	-	557,555	557,555
	-	27,337,164	27,337,164
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS			
SEN- High Needs	-	719,389	719,389
Other Local Authority Funding	819,060	467,957	1,287,017
Other government grants	6,093	197,825	203,918
	825,153	1,385,171	2,210,324
Other Income from the Academy Trust's education	617,892	-	617,892
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)			
Catch-up Premium	-	449,659	449,659
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	80,026	80,026
	-	529,685	529,685
	<u>1,443,045</u>	<u>29,252,020</u>	<u>30,695,065</u>

The Academy Trust received £Nil (2021: £447,659) of funding for catch-up premium and costs in respect of this funding totalled £131,946 (2021: £315,713). There is a £Nil C/Fwd balance in the current year (2021: £131,946).

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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

6. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings	59,057	59,057	12,311
External catering	5,299	5,299	2,459
Consultancy	32,123	32,123	25,795
Extended services	330,020	330,020	184,117
	<u>426,499</u>	<u>426,499</u>	<u>224,682</u>

All prior year amounts relate to unrestricted funds.

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest	463	463	383

All prior year amounts relate to unrestricted funds.

8. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	261,559	10,145	70,069	341,773
Education:				
Direct costs	24,671,477	912,075	2,703,505	28,287,057
Allocated support costs	3,338,510	1,584,587	3,981,274	8,904,371
Teaching school	-	-	-	-
	<u>28,271,546</u>	<u>2,506,807</u>	<u>6,754,848</u>	<u>37,533,201</u>

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8. EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)

	<i>Staff Costs</i> <i>2021</i> £	<i>Premises</i> <i>2021</i> £	<i>Other</i> <i>2021</i> £	<i>Total</i> <i>2021</i> £
The Trust no longer has a teaching school function.				
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	156,885	6,420	109,049	272,354
Education:				
Direct costs	22,124,032	871,295	2,110,186	25,105,513
Allocated support costs	3,436,912	2,011,853	3,028,685	8,477,450
Teaching school	61,584	-	1,528	63,112
	<u>25,779,413</u>	<u>2,889,568</u>	<u>5,249,448</u>	<u>33,918,429</u>

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	<i>Activities</i> <i>undertaken</i> <i>directly</i> <i>2022</i> £	<i>Support</i> <i>costs</i> <i>2022</i> £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> <i>2022</i> £
Education	<u>28,287,057</u>	<u>8,904,371</u>	<u>37,191,428</u>

	<i>Activities</i> <i>undertaken</i> <i>directly</i> <i>2021</i> £	<i>Support</i> <i>costs</i> <i>2021</i> £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> <i>2021</i> £
Education	<u>25,105,513</u>	<u>8,477,450</u>	<u>33,582,963</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Education 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Pension finance costs	86,000	86,000	77,000
Staff costs	3,338,510	3,338,510	3,436,912
Depreciation	129,493	129,493	140,649
Other costs	26,670	26,670	21,354
Recruitment and support	23,904	23,904	21,048
Maintenance of premises and equipment	572,050	572,050	428,078
Cleaning	720,299	720,299	769,400
Rent and rates	230,841	230,841	371,809
Energy costs	401,962	401,962	359,781
Insurance	416,454	416,454	392,290
Security and transport	305,430	305,430	169,712
Catering	1,502,632	1,502,632	1,310,643
Technology costs	25,065	25,065	15,853
Office overheads	414,073	414,073	296,108
Legal and professional- other	213,220	213,220	231,770
Bank interest and charges	-	-	(114)
PFI Charges	373,351	373,351	357,267
Governance costs	84,054	84,054	70,540
Legal and professional - conversion	40,363	40,363	7,350
	<u>8,904,371</u>	<u>8,904,371</u>	<u>8,477,450</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	236,109	257,522
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,518,403	1,555,797
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	12,760	11,600
- other services	20,475	18,610

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11. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	18,392,050	17,659,381
Social security costs	1,705,678	1,559,278
Pension costs	6,950,071	5,602,136
	<u>27,047,799</u>	<u>24,820,795</u>
Agency staff costs	1,156,821	833,019
Staff restructuring costs	66,926	125,599
	<u><u>28,271,546</u></u>	<u><u>25,779,413</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2022 £	2021 £
Redundancy payments	-	53,741
Severance payments	65,776	69,808
Other restructuring costs	1,150	2,050
	<u><u>66,926</u></u>	<u><u>125,599</u></u>

Included in staff restructuring costs were non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £nil to 0 members of staff (2021: £4,320 to one member of staff).

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	275	283
Administration and teaching support	574	591
Management	50	36
	<u><u>899</u></u>	<u><u>910</u></u>

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11. 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	5	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	5
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</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 key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £596,861 (2021 - £641,238).

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

12. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Academy improvement
- Finance and business management
- Human resources and payroll
- Health and Safety
- Premises and Compliance
- Legal Services
- IT Management and Technical Support
- Accountancy and Audit
- Marketing, Communications and PR
- Governance
- Administrative Support, including safeguarding

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

From 1 September 2019, the Academy Trust put in place a policy of GAG pooling. The Academy Trust also agreed to pool all individual school reserves (excluding any unspent balances of school specific restricted funds) from 31 August 2019. Therefore, no central recharges were made in the year.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

13. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Chief Executive Officer only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer under their contract of employment, and not in respect of services as a Trustee. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows; V Bragg: Remuneration £105,000 - £110,000 (2021: £105,000 - £110,000), Employer's pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2021: £25,000 - £30,000).

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustees (2021 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £851 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2021 - £136 to 1 Trustee). Expenses related to travel and accommodations costs.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 31.

14. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £2,402 (2021 - £2,319). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

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

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION						
At 1 September 2021	11,228,396	47,850,353	2,326,177	1,400,811	3,400	62,809,137
Additions	108,599	1,640,013	269,903	130,698	-	2,149,213
Disposals	-	-	-	(33,534)	-	(33,534)
Transfers between classes	325,489	(224,752)	(100,737)	-	-	-
At 31 August 2022	11,662,484	49,265,614	2,495,343	1,497,975	3,400	64,924,816
DEPRECIATION						
At 1 September 2021	897,819	4,505,867	1,764,155	1,111,260	3,400	8,282,501
Charge for the year	174,318	877,395	251,455	215,235	-	1,518,403
On disposals	-	-	-	(33,534)	-	(33,534)
At 31 August 2022	1,072,137	5,383,262	2,015,610	1,292,961	3,400	9,767,370
NET BOOK VALUE						
At 31 August 2022	10,590,347	43,882,352	479,733	205,014	-	55,157,446
At 31 August 2021	10,330,577	43,344,486	562,022	289,551	-	54,526,636

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15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Included in freehold property is land amounting to £2,906,063 (2021: £2,906,063) which is not depreciated.

Penryn Primary Academy and Shortlanesend CP School are under PFI agreements which means that access to the Land and Buildings is restricted. Aspire Academy Trust own the freehold situated at the schools however due to the restricted access they are not considered to have the full risks and rewards of ownership and so the value of land and buildings is not recognised in the accounts.

16. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	30,774	50,344
Other debtors	50	310,107
Prepayments and accrued income	804,707	831,980
VAT recoverable	375,552	324,244
	<u>1,211,083</u>	<u>1,516,675</u>

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17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Salix loans	59,180	60,193
Trade creditors	575,861	770,668
Other taxation and social security	391,118	370,300
Other creditors	447,724	439,742
Accruals and deferred income	1,185,820	929,228
	<u>2,659,703</u>	<u>2,570,131</u>

Included within Salix loans is a Salix Energy Efficiency Fund (SEEF) loan of £223,280 repayable in six-monthly instalments over 5 years with an applicable annual interest rate of 0%.

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	465,612	601,572
Resources deferred during the year	553,127	465,612
Amounts released from previous periods	(465,612)	(601,572)
	<u>553,127</u>	<u>465,612</u>

At the Balance Sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance of £459,045 for autumn term 2022 Universal Infant Free School Meals, £83,885 for Ukraine Pupil Funding and £10,198 of other funding from the LA and DfE.

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Salix loans	<u>57,844</u>	<u>113,926</u>

Included within Salix loans is a Salix Energy Efficiency Fund (SEEF) loan of £223,280 repayable in six-monthly instalments over 5 years with an applicable annual interest rate of 0%.

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

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
Additional energy costs	-	-	-	225,000	-	225,000
Support and interventions	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Support staff pay model	-	-	-	165,000	-	165,000
Infrastructural investment	-	-	-	70,000	-	70,000
Outdoor education centres and services	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>640,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>640,000</u>
GENERAL FUNDS						
General Funds	<u>1,133,758</u>	<u>2,591,711</u>	<u>(1,662,393)</u>	<u>(598,549)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,464,527</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>1,133,758</u>	<u>2,591,711</u>	<u>(1,662,393)</u>	<u>41,451</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,104,527</u>

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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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 £
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	25,324,679	(25,324,679)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	773,593	(773,593)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	894,898	(894,898)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,919,611	(1,919,611)	-	-	-
PE and Sports grant	186,321	481,602	(667,923)	-	-	-
Covid-19 Catch Up premium	131,946	-	(131,946)	-	-	-
Other LA	-	544,436	(544,436)	-	-	-
Diocesan Property rent	-	52,214	(52,214)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA income	-	501,792	(501,792)	-	-	-
Recovery Premium	-	197,362	(19,560)	-	-	177,802
Other restricted income	97,353	91,624	(82,397)	(38,037)	-	68,543
EdTech Programme	117,705	169,694	(287,356)	(43)	-	-
TCAF	-	262,733	-	-	-	262,733
Pension reserve	(20,752,000)	-	(3,152,000)	-	22,071,000	(1,833,000)
	<u>(20,218,675)</u>	<u>31,214,238</u>	<u>(34,352,405)</u>	<u>(38,080)</u>	<u>22,071,000</u>	<u>(1,323,922)</u>

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers In/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	41,980,501	-	(772,527)	-	-	41,207,974
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	133,889	-	(36,105)	38,037	-	135,821
DfE/ ESFA/ LA Capital grants	12,866,200	938,751	(645,653)	(41,408)	-	13,117,890
Gifted Assets	95,864	1,085,598	(64,118)	-	-	1,117,344
	<u>55,076,454</u>	<u>2,024,349</u>	<u>(1,518,403)</u>	<u>(3,371)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,579,029</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>34,857,779</u>	<u>33,238,587</u>	<u>(35,870,808)</u>	<u>(41,451)</u>	<u>22,071,000</u>	<u>54,255,107</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>35,991,537</u>	<u>35,830,298</u>	<u>(37,533,201)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,071,000</u>	<u>56,359,634</u>

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

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

Universal Infant free school meals - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for delivering free school meals for pupils in year groups reception, year one and year two.

High needs - Funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

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

PE and sports grant - This represents funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and Sport, for the benefit of primary-aged pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Covid-19 Catch-up Premium - Universal catch-up premium for the 2021/22 academic year to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure..

Other LA - This represents the other income received from the local authorities.

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19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Other DfE/ESFA income - This represents the other DfE/ESFA income received.

Recovery Premium - Additional funding for the Trust to support pupils whose education has been impacted by COVID-19.

Other restricted income - This represents the other sources of restricted curriculum income.

EdTech Programme - Funding received to enable the Trust to support schools in developing digital strategies which make effective use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Trust Capacity Fund (TCaF) - Funding received to help the Trust develop their capacity and take on underperforming schools.

Diocesan Property Rent - This represents a donation from the Diocese in respect of the use of the school buildings owned by the Diocese.

Pension reserve - This represents the Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes, this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy Trust. The Academy Trust is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Fixed assets transferred on conversion - This represents the buildings and equipment donated to the Academy Trust from the Local Authority on conversion.

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

Gifted Assets - This represents the value of assets that were gifted to the Academy Trust from the DfE.

Fixed assets purchases from GAG and other restricted funds - This represents the fixed assets purchased from GAG income and other restricted income. The fixed asset fund balance at the year end represents the NBV of assets and any unspent grant amounts.

OTHER INFORMATION

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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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	608,134	1,969,770	(1,422,674)	(21,472)	-	1,133,758
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	22,784,054	(22,784,054)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	775,582	(775,582)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	719,389	(719,389)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,829,944	(1,829,944)	-	-	-
Teachers Pension grant	-	895,539	(895,539)	-	-	-
PE and Sports grant	72,310	494,490	(356,114)	(24,365)	-	186,321
Covid-19 Catch-up premium	-	449,659	(317,713)	-	-	131,946
Other LA	-	278,457	(278,457)	-	-	-
Diocesan Property rent	-	52,214	(52,214)	-	-	-
Teaching School	-	63,112	(63,112)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA income	-	557,555	(557,555)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	80,026	(80,026)	-	-	-
Other restricted income	60,382	214,164	(167,383)	(9,810)	-	97,353
EdTech Programme	85,829	189,500	(152,919)	(4,705)	-	117,705
Pension reserve	(12,897,000)	(463,000)	(1,908,000)	-	(5,484,000)	(20,752,000)
	<u>(12,678,479)</u>	<u>28,920,685</u>	<u>(30,938,001)</u>	<u>(38,880)</u>	<u>(5,484,000)</u>	<u>(20,218,675)</u>

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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>
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	41,684,817	1,073,137	(797,720)	20,267	-	41,980,501
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	91,712	9,750	(23,749)	56,176	-	133,889
DfE/ESFA/LA Capital grants	12,352,673	1,222,567	(692,949)	(16,091)	-	12,866,200
Gifted Assets	-	139,200	(43,336)	-	-	95,864
	<u>54,129,202</u>	<u>2,444,654</u>	<u>(1,557,754)</u>	<u>60,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,076,454</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>41,450,723</u>	<u>31,365,339</u>	<u>(32,495,755)</u>	<u>21,472</u>	<u>(5,484,000)</u>	<u>34,857,779</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>42,058,857</u>	<u>33,335,109</u>	<u>(33,918,429)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,484,000)</u>	<u>35,991,537</u>

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19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Central	2,372,640	1,273,579
Biscovey Academy	20,021	26,778
Biscovey Nursery & Infants Academy	5,148	7,371
Bude Infants Primary School	6,317	7,148
Bude Juniors Primary School	8,602	17,276
Bugle Primary School	5,000	10,132
Connor Downs Academy	10,303	23,340
Cusgame Primary School	1,656	-
Delabole Primary School	6,853	6,952
Indian Queens Primary School	3,301	2,698
Mawgan-in-Pydar CP School	-	2,102
Mount Hawke Academy	5,049	8,405
Nansledan School	19,606	29,407
Nansloe Academy	-	21,000
Padstow School	3,972	6,851
Penryn Primary Academy	24,298	25,581
Probus Primary School	13,327	23,144
Sandy Hill Academy	21,223	44,370
Shortlanesend CP School	-	4,960
St Breock Primary School	29,151	35,537
St Mawes Primary School	1,429	7,516
St Minver School	4,105	8,500
St Stephen Churchtown Academy	19,406	22,328
St Uny Church of England Primary School	7,417	15,508
Summercourt Academy	9,731	14,447
Tintagel Primary School	-	1,299
Treverbryn Academy	3,165	8,262
Truro Learning Academy	3,724	1,016
Warbstow Primary School	6,561	5,413
Whitemoor Academy	1,600	8,405
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,613,605	1,669,325
Restricted fixed asset fund	55,579,029	55,076,454
Pension reserve	(1,833,000)	(20,752,000)
TOTAL	56,359,634	35,993,779

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

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The Academy Trust GAG pools and therefore the balances carried forward per school only represent the restricted funds that are not pooled.

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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 £
Central	4,065,943	2,641,043	201,058	771,695	7,679,739
Biscovey Academy	897,126	48,649	117,768	186,238	1,249,781
Biscovey Nursery & Infants Academy	657,872	37,180	23,541	177,966	896,559
Bude Infants Primary School	587,361	43,082	57,960	133,887	822,290
Bude Juniors Primary School	1,151,563	40,806	154,782	180,010	1,527,161
Bugle Primary School	824,568	58,075	52,456	141,434	1,076,533
Connor Downs Academy	634,993	48,122	52,859	181,460	917,434
Cusgarne Primary School	301,361	23,860	30,878	76,240	432,339
Delabole Primary School	423,165	29,705	37,241	97,068	587,179
Indian Queens Primary School	1,276,260	61,926	76,828	254,573	1,669,587
Mawgan-in-Pydar CP School	406,561	35,080	40,624	90,457	572,722
Mount Hawke Academy	937,840	48,320	54,118	213,725	1,254,003
Nansledan School	976,176	49,752	72,261	206,067	1,304,256
Nansloe Academy	767,130	64,720	69,330	184,379	1,085,559
Padstow School	612,368	40,917	40,601	134,907	828,793
Penryn Primary Academy	1,385,865	79,886	80,591	411,590	1,957,932
Probus Primary School	672,525	25,931	63,350	124,954	886,760
Sandy Hill Academy	1,233,178	106,893	141,480	236,260	1,717,811
Shortlanesend CP School	557,071	37,396	60,856	134,906	790,229
St Breock Primary School	710,072	66,088	87,784	150,697	1,014,641
St Mawes Primary School	173,989	22,157	20,440	57,894	274,480
St Minver School	562,356	35,720	40,389	133,096	771,561
St Stephen Churchtown Academy	1,012,483	36,982	74,738	198,198	1,322,401
St Uny Church of England Primary School	657,456	60,686	67,540	223,313	1,008,995
Summercourt Academy	407,575	39,002	58,749	105,126	610,452
Tintagel Primary School	362,766	25,728	33,612	83,079	505,185
Treverbyn Academy	960,336	69,076	76,469	205,138	1,311,019
Truro Learning Academy	770,662	41,995	59,915	140,494	1,013,066
Warbstow Primary School	290,103	21,008	34,788	77,601	423,500
Whitemoor Academy	402,753	17,284	26,544	89,784	536,365
ACADEMY TRUST	24,679,477	3,957,069	2,009,550	5,402,236	36,048,332

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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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:

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</i>	<i>Other support staff costs £</i>	<i>Educational supplies £</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation £</i>	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Central	1,773,521	1,527,845	88,306	687,120	4,076,792
Biscovey Academy	1,003,440	48,602	34,074	227,889	1,314,005
Biscovey Nursery & Infants Academy	715,439	67,896	70,341	184,181	1,037,857
Bude Infants Primary School	636,379	70,065	39,493	182,837	928,774
Bude Juniors Primary School	1,068,759	45,125	50,293	139,731	1,303,908
Bugle Primary School	795,889	72,383	26,960	156,024	1,051,256
Connor Downs Academy	605,541	46,639	26,088	147,567	825,835
Cusgarne Primary School	311,752	29,941	14,903	62,935	419,531
Delabole Primary School	467,254	30,014	31,362	101,330	629,960
Indian Queens Primary School	1,313,473	81,914	31,609	236,074	1,663,070
Mawgan-in-Pydar CP School	419,445	50,537	25,548	85,421	580,951
Mount Hawke Academy	921,615	73,013	51,648	186,175	1,232,451
Nansledan School	740,236	60,607	20,346	180,821	1,002,010
Nansloe Academy	153,006	15,407	3,938	45,538	217,889
Padstow School	545,739	52,498	20,052	152,603	770,892
Penryn Primary Academy	1,318,931	88,949	61,944	485,110	1,954,934
Probus Primary School	611,913	33,688	23,759	157,646	827,006
Sandy Hill Academy	1,013,231	97,135	42,418	227,851	1,380,635
Shortlanesend CP School	452,683	37,060	28,608	153,765	672,116
St Breock Primary School	697,093	68,389	26,726	168,802	961,010
St Mawes Primary School	164,850	19,954	9,495	60,443	254,742
St Minver School	564,591	47,243	12,315	130,150	754,299
St Stephen Churchtown Academy	992,534	56,487	46,775	185,083	1,280,879
St Uny Church of England Primary School	656,693	53,341	20,940	231,093	962,067
Summercourt Academy	383,151	42,979	28,488	103,692	558,310
Tintagel Primary School	388,820	30,220	16,398	91,585	527,023
Treverbyn Academy	883,568	88,634	29,740	279,504	1,281,446
Truro Learning Academy	724,363	40,401	46,021	160,102	970,887
Warbstow Primary School	315,917	33,247	8,056	88,112	445,332
Whitemoor Academy	424,810	30,564	14,704	98,687	568,765
ACADEMY TRUST	21,064,636	3,040,777	951,348	5,397,871	30,454,632

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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	-	-	55,157,446	55,157,446
Current assets	2,108,481	3,222,671	421,583	5,752,735
Creditors due within one year	(3,954)	(2,655,749)	-	(2,659,703)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(57,844)	-	(57,844)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,833,000)	-	(1,833,000)
TOTAL	2,104,527	(1,323,922)	55,579,029	56,359,634

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	-	-	54,526,636	54,526,636
Current assets	1,134,605	2,889,244	877,109	4,900,958
Creditors due within one year	(847)	(2,241,993)	(327,291)	(2,570,131)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(113,926)	-	(113,926)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(20,752,000)	-	(20,752,000)
TOTAL	1,133,758	(20,218,675)	55,076,454	35,991,537

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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)	(1,702,903)	(583,320)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	1,518,403	1,555,797
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(938,751)	(1,282,744)
Interest receivable	(463)	(383)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	463,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	2,787,000	1,674,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	365,000	234,000
Decrease in debtors	305,592	347,515
Increase in creditors	89,572	260,104
Net assets gained on conversion	-	(1,876,448)
(Profit)/Loss on disposal	-	1,957
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2,423,450	793,478

22. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Repayments of borrowing	(56,082)	(54,932)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(56,082)	(54,932)

23. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest received	463	383
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,149,213)	(1,147,431)
Capital grants from DfE Group	938,751	1,143,544
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(1,209,999)	(3,504)

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

24. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	4,541,652	3,384,283
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,541,652	3,384,283

25. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	3,384,283	1,157,369	-	4,541,652
Debt due within 1 year	(60,193)	-	1,013	(59,180)
Debt due after 1 year	(113,926)	-	56,082	(57,844)
	3,210,164	1,157,369	57,095	4,424,628

26. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
CONTRACTED FOR BUT NOT PROVIDED IN THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	531,871	285,564

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 Cornwall 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.

Contributions amounting to £443,770 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £434,276) and are included within creditors.

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

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,241,590 (2021 - £2,395,788).

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.

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 £1,928,000 (2021 - £1,823,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,525,000 (2021 - £1,441,000) and employees' contributions totalled £403,000 (2021 - £448,861). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.8%-21.1% per cent for employers and 5.5%-12.5% per cent for employees.

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

**ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2022	2021
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.05	2.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.05	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.05	2.90

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
RETIRING TODAY		
Males	21.3	21.5
Females	23.9	24.1
RETIRING IN 20 YEARS		
Males	22.5	22.8
Females	25.6	25.8

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Discount rate -0.1%	668	1,156
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	1,007	1,733
CPI rate +0.1%	617	1,040
Salary increase rate +0.5%	57	100

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	13,070,000	13,089,000
Corporate bonds	7,935,000	7,898,000
Property	1,867,000	1,354,000
Cash and other liquid assets	467,000	226,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	23,339,000	22,567,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £-941,000 (2021 - £2,590,000).

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27. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(4,312,000)	(3,115,000)
Interest income	386,000	313,000
Interest cost	(751,000)	(547,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(4,677,000)	(3,349,000)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	43,319,000	30,348,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	1,331,000
Current service cost	4,312,000	3,115,000
Interest cost	751,000	547,000
Employee contributions	403,000	382,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(23,398,000)	7,761,000
Benefits paid	(215,000)	(165,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	25,172,000	43,319,000

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

	2022 £	2021 £
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	22,567,000	17,451,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	868,000
Interest income	386,000	313,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(1,327,000)	2,277,000
Employer contributions	1,525,000	1,441,000
Employee contributions	403,000	382,000
Benefits paid	(215,000)	(165,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	23,339,000	22,567,000

ASPIRE ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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	245,136	239,500
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	718,023	693,298
Later than 5 years	727,050	872,460
	<u>1,690,209</u>	<u>1,805,258</u>

Included above are future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases relating to the Trust's obligation under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreements. The Trust has given due regard to the guidance in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021/22 and FRS 102 and has determined that the schools which have PFI contracts are not required to account for any assets held under service concession arrangements. Penryn Primary Academy and Shortlanesend CP School are under PFI agreements dated May 2004 and March 2004 respectively. The costs shown above include the annual PFI charge under the agreements.

29. 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.

30. GENERAL INFORMATION

Aspire Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, company no. 07387540, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 20 St Austell Business Park, Carclaze, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4FD.

31. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Other than the employment below and Trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 13, no related party transactions took place.

P Barton, spouse of D Barton, a Trustee, is employed by the Trust. P Barton's appointment was made before D Barton became a Trustee, in open competition and D Barton was not involved in the decision making process regarding the appointment. P Barton is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a Trustee.

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32. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

From 1 September 2022, 2 additional primary schools have joined the Trust. These are Crowan Primary School and Tregolls Academy.

A further 5 primary schools are due to join the Trust on the 1 January 2023. These are Coverack Primary School, Manaccan Primary School, St Keverne Primary School, Beage C of E School and Grade-Ruan C of E Primary School.