

Companies House

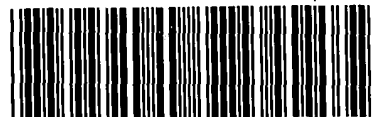
New River Trust

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements**

31 August 2022

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number
07708890 (England and Wales)

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COMPANIES HOUSE

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Reference and administrative information

Trustees	J Beer S Daley U Hamid-Dizier C Karayannis M McKenzie (Accounting Officer) J Oldham L Pinnick J Scott (Chair of Trustees) D Stout
Members	S Daley N Scott J Scott G Wyse R Wells
Alexandra Park School Local Governors	M Box L Callaghan (Elected 30/3/2022) S Daley A Gee U Hamid-Dizier (Chair of Local Governors) C Housby (Elected 17/12/2021) R Johnson (Elected 6/6/2022) M McLachlan (Term of office ended 1/3/2022) M McKenzie (Headteacher) J Morago N Richardson (Term of office ended 1/6/2022) T Sandles N Scott
Senior leadership team	M McKenzie - CEO and Headteacher I Felfeli - DHT, Performance and Development R O'Riordan-Fennessy - DHT, Safeguarding and Pastoral D Silverman - DHT, Curriculum and Standards J Chadwick - AHT, Director of KS3 K Perry - AHT, Inclusion & Pathways SJ Starkie - AHT, Director of Sixth Form G Stratis - AHT, Teaching & Learning T Ware - AHT, Standards & Assessment A Falola - AHT, Director of KS4
Company secretary	E Bell
Company registration number	07708890 (England and Wales)

Reference and administrative information

Registered address	Alexandra Park School Bidwell Gardens London N11 2AZ
Independent auditor	Buzzacott LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL
Bankers	LloydsTSB Bank Plc Silver Street PO Box 1000 BX1 1LT
Investment advisors	CCLA Investment Management Limited COIF Charity Funds Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
Solicitors	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR

Trustees' report (including the strategic report) Year to 31 August 2022

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

The Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 19 serving a catchment area in Haringey. It has a DFE stated student capacity of 1,290 and had a roll of 1,799 in the school census, October 2020.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of New River Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as New River Trust.

The Trust was incorporated on 18 August 2011, obtaining single academy status from 1 October 2011. On 12 September 2016 the Trust changed its name from Alexandra Park School to New River Trust. On 1 January 2017, it became a multi-academy Trust, known as New River Trust.

Details of those who served as Trustees and Governors of Alexandra Park School during the year 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 charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnity insurance

The Trustees are indemnified in respect of their legal liability for financial loss arising as a result of a negligent act, accidental error or omission in the course of their official duties. As explained in note 10 to the accounts the limit of the indemnity of £10,000,000.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment of election of Trustees

As set out in its Articles of Association, the number of Trustees shall be not less than 3 and up to 10, appointed under Article 50 of the Articles. The Chief Executive Officer shall be a Trustee, appointed pursuant to Article 57. The Trustees are appointed by the Members on the basis of the range of skills and experiences they are able to bring to the Trust. Trustees are appointed for a period of office determined by the Members. The Department for Education (DfE) Governance Handbook and Competency Framework is used to map required skills and competencies at Board level and inform succession planning, and an annual skills audit and governance review is conducted to ensure that any knowledge gaps are addressed via recruitment or training, as appropriate. This review includes consideration of Equality Act protected characteristics data for the Governing Body as a whole, to inform recruitment and succession planning for skills and diversity. Trustee succession planning is a standing agenda item at all Trustee meetings and Trustees are asked to lead succession planning for their area(s) of expertise.

Trustee candidates can come from a variety of sources and often start as Local Governors. Local Governors are recruited via the school website, through advertising on community networks such as local social media groups and through Governors' own networks. Additionally, Directors of Studies are asked to nominate parents and carers whom they consider strong candidates for the role of Local Governor.

The Trust has established a Local Governors' Advisory Group (LGAG) for Alexandra Park School which includes two elected Parent Local Governors and two elected Staff Local Governors. Elected Local Governors serve for a period of 2 years. Appointed Local Governors are appointed by the Board of Trustees on the basis of the range and skills they are able to bring to the LGAG and an annual skills audit and governance review is conducted to ensure that any knowledge gaps are addressed via recruitment or training, as appropriate. Appointments to the LGAG are reviewed by the Board of Trustees on an annual basis pursuant to Article 101 except for the Headteacher, to whom this time limit does not apply. When appointing new Local Governors, Trustees give consideration to the range of skills and experiences within the existing membership and to Equality Act protected characteristics data in order to ensure that the LGAG has the necessary skills, competencies and diversity to contribute fully to the development of Alexandra Park School.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for Trustees and Local Governors is delivered in accordance with the New River Trust Trustee and Local Governor Induction Schedules and the NRT Governance Handbook, approved by the Board of Trustees.

The induction programme for new Trustees and Local Governors is dependent upon existing experience, but will always include an induction meeting with the Chair and Clerk and induction meetings with Deputy Headteachers in the areas of Safeguarding and Pastoral; Curriculum and Standards; and Teacher Training and Trust Partnerships. Board of Trustees and Finance & Audit Committee induction programmes also include a finance induction meeting with the Finance Director. Trustees and Local Governors induction programmes always include safeguarding training and a school visit Alexandra Park School during which they are given the opportunity to meet staff and students.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees
(continued)

As part of the induction programme, all Trustees and Local Governors are provided with copies of, or links to, essential policies and procedures, agendas and minutes, strategic documents, including those relating to financial planning and performance, and the NRT Scheme of Delegation. The Scheme is reviewed annually and includes details of the statutory framework under which the Trust operates, the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the Finance & Audit Committee, Personnel Committee, Admissions Committee and the Local Governors' Advisory Group and their Terms of Reference.

Regular additional training is provided to Trustees and Local Governors via an agreed annual programme. This programme is informed by action planning to address any training needs identified following the annual skills audit and governance review, by relevant sector developments and by two-year governance development targets set biennially by the Board of Trustees. The programme includes governance briefings and information sessions at Trustee and Local Governors' Advisory Group (LGAG) meetings, an annually scheduled training and development event, and additional training sessions at Board and LGAG meetings, as required. These include presentations aimed at increasing confidence, skills and capabilities relevant to each group's roles and responsibilities and keeping Trustees and Local Governors updated on relevant developments that impact on their governance duties. The annual programme also includes updated Safeguarding Training and other external training is undertaken as required.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least six times per year. It has established an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and has established a Finance & Audit Committee, Personnel Committee and Admissions Committee and, for Alexandra Park School (currently the single school within the Academy Trust), a Local Governors' Advisory Group (LGAG). It has determined membership, terms of reference and delegated responsibilities and procedures for each of its Committees, including the LGAG, which are recorded in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and annual Schedules of Business. The Board receives minutes and reports, including policies, from the Finance & Audit Committee and other Committees for review and approval at its regular meetings. A Trustee currently acts as Chair of the LGAG and an additional Trustee has been appointed to the LGAG as Link Trustee.

As per the Trust's Articles of Association and scheme of delegation, the decisions reserved to the Board of Trustees include but are not limited to: to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its Committee structure; to appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair; to appoint the CEO and Headteacher and the Clerk; to approve the School Development Plan (SDP) annually on the recommendation of the LGAG; and, on the recommendation of the Finance & Audit Committee, to approve the annual Budget and Year-End Financial Statements. The Board of Trustees has devolved responsibility for the day-to-day management of Alexandra Park School to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT consists of the Headteacher, 3 Deputy Headteachers and 6 Assistant Headteachers. The Headteacher is also the CEO of the Trust.

Trustees' report (including the strategic report) Year to 31 August 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational structure (continued)

The Headteacher, one Deputy Headteacher, the Finance Director and the Finance & Audit Committee are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets as summarised in the Scheme of Financial Delegation approved by the Board. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders in line with the Trust's Scheme of Financial Delegation. The Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff at Alexandra Park School.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel comprises: the Chief Executive Officer and Headteacher; Deputy Headteachers and Assistant Headteachers.

The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Board of Trustees, which also reviews CEO performance annually and determines pay and remuneration arrangements. In making its decisions on pay and remuneration of management personnel, the Board of Trustees acts in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy, Executive Pay Procedure and Performance Review Policy and considers external advice from appropriately skilled independent specialists, external data on Trust performance against agreed targets and external benchmarking information. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Personnel Committee undertakes the CEO and Headteacher's annual performance appraisal in accordance with the Trust's performance appraisal policy and annual salary review in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy and Executive Pay Procedure. The Personnel Committee reports on the outcome of the CEO annual performance appraisal and salary review to the Board of Trustees and recommends annual salary for approval by the Board of Trustees.

The Finance & Audit Committee approves pay arrangements for Deputy and Assistant Headteachers on the basis of recommendations from the Headteacher in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy, performance appraisal policy and line with national pay and conditions.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	2

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	0
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

New River Trust, through Alexandra Park School, also helps train new teachers through the New River Teaching Alliance (NRTA). In that role, it has entered into partnership, through a memorandum of understanding, with secondary schools in Haringey and Barnet. Working with its partners, it leads on the delivery of the Government's initial teaching training programme.

The Board of Trustees' overall aim is to ensure it delivers its charitable objects, as set out in its Articles of Association as follows:

1. to advance for the public benefit education in the UK in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.
2. to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of North London and the surrounding area, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances and, similarly, for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

The Trust mission is "Success for all". To fulfil the potential of each individual within New River Trust, raising aspiration and achievement through a culture of challenge, improvement and cohesion.

The Trust is committed to the principle of providing an accessible, broad and attainable curriculum for all pupils regardless of ability, race, religion, gender, ethnicity, colour, sexuality or class. It has articulated how it will achieve its key aim of "Success for All" in the Alexandra Park School Development Plan (SDP) as follows:

"Our aim is to develop a whole school ethos of aspiration and success with structures in place to challenge and support all individuals. If we are successful we will have created an evolving learning environment, which is vibrant, stimulating and contemporary and where all participants feel valued because they understand the part they play in the experience".

The Board of Trustees has also articulated its approach to MAT growth in the Trust's five-year vision as follows:

"New River Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust with a single, high achieving, successful comprehensive school. We are proud of the longstanding success of Alexandra Park School and will take every action to maintain and build on this success, whatever national challenges we may face.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations (continued)

Our vision is to build on our good practice in Alexandra Park School to benefit the wider education community. We will achieve this through:

- ◆ Expanding our portfolio of outstanding practice, including through curriculum development in our lower school, raising aspirations in the sixth form and teacher training and development
- ◆ Maximising the impact of our current partnerships and programmes, such as The Ogden Trust and Science Learning Partnership
- ◆ Building new partnerships that deliver real impact. These could include:
 - ◇ Collaborating with like-minded schools, local community organisations and international partners.
 - ◇ Integrating schools into our MAT. We will pursue MAT expansion only where we are confident this is both sustainable and creates real educational benefit for all schools in the MAT, in line with the rest of our vision. Strategic evaluation of MAT expansion opportunities presented to us will be informed by regular review of our local and national context.

By doing this, our Trust will become a beacon for outstanding practice nationally, allowing us to develop and invest in our colleagues, and ultimately ensuring the success of all our students."

The New River Trust has made a strategic commitment to progress toward this vision through five key aims:

- ◆ To maintain a broad and ambitious curriculum that values learning for all and expand our portfolio of outstanding practice
- ◆ To foster a positive and inclusive environment which promotes development, performance and wellbeing
- ◆ To ensure consistency in Teaching, Learning and Assessment and maintain high quality educational outcomes
- ◆ To maintain a physical environment which is safe, engaging and fit-for-purpose, whilst ensuring financial and environmental sustainability
- ◆ To maximise our impact and reputation as a beacon nationally through public engagement and partnership with other schools & organisations

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

The principal activity of the Trust is delivery of its charitable objects as outlined above.

Objectives, strategies and activities are set out in the Trust's Strategic Objectives and the SDP for Alexandra Park School, having been determined in the context of Trust's vision, values and priorities and the challenges and the opportunities arising from changes in the national education context, including policy and funding. The Trust's 2021-22 strategic objectives included the following:

- ◆ A broad and ambitious curriculum that values learning for all: review Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 curriculum in view of impact of the Covid pandemic; develop of Key Stage 5 vocational offer in line with national developments of Level 3 vocational courses (T-Levels); Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the curriculum, including Educating for Anti-Racism.
- ◆ A positive and inclusive environment: expand and enhance provision of support for both student and staff wellbeing, especially in the context of the pandemic and return after lockdowns; development and delivery of whole school approach to harmful sexual practices and behaviour; continued involvement of students, staff and parents in a shared, open and consistent approach to pastoral and behaviour support.
- ◆ Consistency in Teaching, Learning and Assessment: implementation of strategies to maintain high quality outcomes post-covid (including revision skills, homework, feedback, literacy and APS sixth form mindset); implementation of specific and targeted interventions including a comprehensive catch-up programme that meets needs and minimises covid impact to close gaps in performance; continuing to develop Performance Management to support improved Teaching and Learning and further enhancement of the APS CPD offer for staff and provision for the Early Careers Framework (ECF)
- ◆ Safe and engaging physical environment: development of the school site and making building improvements to meet curriculum offer and support wellbeing of staff and students; review and revise site arrangements to ensure risk mitigation and minimisation after lockdown; creation and implementation of an Environment charter to ensure APS is doing as much as we can to develop sustainable environmentally responsible practices as we move towards net zero.
- ◆ Maximising our impact and reputation as a beacon nationally: engagement with North East London Teaching School Hub (NELTSH); development of Science collaboration with the Haringey Education Partnership; development of collaboration with other key partners including the IoE, IoP, Ogden and SLP; full review and update of Trust website.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities (continued)

With reference to MAT growth, in 2021-22 the Trust focussed on clarifying its vision and intention to pursue formal MAT expansion only where confident this is both sustainable and creates real educational benefit for all schools in the MAT, in line with the rest of its vision. This was achieved via contextual research and discussions at Board Level, informed by stakeholder feedback, including interviews with Senior Leads. The Board of Trustees also continued to actively consider opportunities for formal MAT growth throughout the year, including by way of formal risk-based analyses and scenario planning and regular review of local and national contexts, with particular attention to government White Paper and Schools Bill.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

Delivery of the Trust's charitable objects as outlined above, further the Trust's purposes for the public benefit including: 'to advance for the public benefit education by establishing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum' and 'to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of North London and the surrounding area, the provision of facilities for individuals who have need of such facilities with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.'

The London Borough of Haringey manages the admissions process for the Trust. Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs which named Alexandra Park School were admitted in accordance with Section 324 of the Education Act 1996.

Criteria for admissions in 2021-22 were as follows:

- ◆ Children in Care
- ◆ Social/Medical needs
- ◆ Brother or sister already attending the school
- ◆ Children of Staff
- ◆ Distance from the school
- ◆ Tie breaker - children living closest to the school

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The Trust teaches young people from the age of 11-18. In this year Centre Assessed Grades were assigned. Sixth Form students at Alexandra Park School achieved a 99% pass rate at A level in 2021-22, with 42% of students achieving A*-/A grades or equivalent and 67% achieving A*-B grades. The average A level grade was a B. GCSE achievements were the highest on record. The Academy Trust's performance is impressive with an estimated Progress 8 of 0.65 and Attainment 8 of 62.8. In the new exams, the headline "4+" English and Maths grades is 90%. The figure for "5+" is 77%.

The Trust holds a number of awards and kitemarks, reflecting its commitment to excellence in education. In 2020-21 these included Science Learning Partnership Lead for North and East London and Turin Project lead school.

Alexandra Park School is heavily oversubscribed. It received applications for the 1,672 places available in Year 7 in September 2021, 958 of these were first and second choice applications.

The Trust met its objectives for 2021-22. Achievements and performance were in-line with stretch targets. In reviewing its achievement and performance, the Trust concluded that its proactive policy of retaining skilled and experienced staff through a focused CPD programme and support with the emphasis on self-reflection had impacted effectively. Throughout the period under review, staff displayed high levels of autonomy and confidence both in the classroom and when delivering remote education and teaching was innovative and creative.

Key performance indicators

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2021-22 were 1,855 an increase of 59 over 2020-2021.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income and in the 2021-22 year, the Trust set an indicator that staff costs should be no more than 80% of total income.

All financial performance indicators set by the Board of Trustees for this period were met. These were:

- ◆ to maintain an operating surplus to support the strategic development of the Trust;
- ◆ to retain an appropriate level of free reserves in line with the reserves targets set under section 4 of the Trust's reserves policy, which should be a minimum of four weeks' expenditure.
- ◆ to ensure a ratio of at least 1:1 for current assets (excluding restricted cash): current liabilities (current ratio).
- ◆ to diversify income streams by increasing the proportion of total income represented by non-core EFSA funding and grants.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Key performance indicators (continued)

Non-financial KPIs are set annually against each of the Trust's objectives and the Board receives data at least termly to support monitoring the delivery of objectives via KPIs. In 2021-22, the objectives outlined above provided the framework for the provision of monitoring data against non-financial KPIs, including: student attendance; examination results; student characteristics including SEND and LAC; student behaviour and exclusions; safeguarding and pastoral concerns; staff absence; staff recruitment and retention and staff training.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries and having undertaken a full assessment of going concern status, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, some of which are restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA 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 ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants 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 expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, total expenditure of £14,417k (2021: £12,959k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and transfers to restricted fixed asset funds) was £261k (2021: excess of income over expenditure was £619k). This excludes the loss on investments of £72k (2021: gain of £676k).

In 2020-21 the Trust received Recovery Premium funding in the amount of £93k which was spent in 2021-22. The Board published its plans for allocating this funding and evaluating its impact in the Trust's Premium Funding Strategy. For 2021/22, planned expenditure of the Recovery Premium included: targeted booster and revision classes, personalised timetabling, support for students at lunchtime and after school, additional TA and specialist mentor support, enhanced support for students at key transition points and intervention sessions in The Bridge which address academic, social, emotional and behavioural needs. Additional baseline and ongoing assessment data was harvested and is being used to establish learning loss during periods of disruption, inform longer term strategies and measure the effectiveness of planned and ongoing interventions.

Trustees' report (including the strategic report) Year to 31 August 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Financial review (continued)

At 31 August 2022 the net book value of fixed assets was £23,236k (2021: £22,932k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 11 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of Alexandra Park School.

The London Borough of Haringey Pension Fund, in which the Trust participates, showed a surplus of £863k (2021: deficit of £3,936k) at 31 August 2022. As this surplus is only recoverable by the Trust if they leave this pension scheme, this surplus has not been recognised within the accounts. Of this sum, £1,015k was inherited by Alexandra Park School from the London Borough of Haringey on 1 October 2011, the date the local authority's staff transferred to employment with the Trust.

Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees has established the Trust's Reserves Policy and reviews Trust performance against this policy annually. This review includes a benchmarked review of reserve levels and encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

As per the Reserves Policy, Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to a minimum of four weeks' expenditure, which is approximately £1,109k (2021: £997k). This minimum has been set to ensure sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust's level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) may be greater than the minimum specified where such reserves are held for the purposes listed in the reserves policy. The Board of Trustees considers actively and regularly the use of these reserves to enhance educational provision in accordance with the principles outlined in the reserves policy.

The Trust's current level of free reserves of £3,247k (2021: £3,417k) is greater than the minimum and during 2021-22 the Trust planned and delivered Phase 2 of a programme of capital development, drawing on these reserves. In 2020-21 the first stage of this programme was completed, adding almost 1,000 square metres of space to the school. Initial plans for phase 3 capital development were also approved by the Board in 2021-22, earmarking a further £2,000,000 towards delivery of this plan.

Investment policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Trust has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the Trustees see fit. The Board of Trustees has established the Trust's investment policy to set out the processes by which the Board will meet its duties under the Trust's Funding agreement with the Secretary of State and the ESFA Academies Financial Handbook to invest monies surplus to operational requirements in furtherance of the Academy's charitable objects and to ensure that investment risk is properly and prudently managed.

Trustees' report (including the strategic report) Year to 31 August 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Investment policy (continued)

Investment risk is managed through asset class selection and diversification to ensure that security of deposits takes precedence over revenue maximisation. Expert advice is sought as considered necessary and the Board agrees a suitable asset allocation strategy for reserves with the Trust's professional investment manager, regulated by the ESFA.

Assets are invested in line with the Trust's values, charitable objects and the Board has established an investment policy, which has regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on ethical and responsible investment. This policy includes information on individual investments to be excluded where they conflict, or could be perceived to conflict, with the Trust's values and charitable objects. In addition, the Board of Trustees has set responsible investment principles outlined in this policy and the Trust's investment managers have been directed to take into consideration the environmental, social and governance risk characteristics of existing and prospective investments, providing regular reports evaluating performance against the policy to the Trust's Finance & Audit Committee.

The organisation has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses. The banking facilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

Financial Position

The Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2022 of £26,483k (2021: £22,413k) comprising £22,519k (2021: £19,478k) of restricted funds and £2,964k (2021: £2,935k) of unrestricted general funds.

Of the restricted funds £23,236k (2021: £22,932k) is represented by tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve which is considered part of restricted funds was £nil (2021: £3,936k) in deficit. The actuarial valuation of the scheme calculated that the pension reserve value was a surplus of £863k. However this is not recognised within the accounts, as the asset would only be recoverable if the Trust left the LGPS pension scheme.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Board of Trustees have established a risk management strategy which outlines the formal risk management process used by the Trust to assess, mitigate and manage business risks. This process includes identification of the types of risk the Trust faces, scoring and prioritising these in terms of their potential operational and financial impact, assessing the likelihood of occurrence and identifying means of mitigating or managing each risk, as appropriate. This information is included in the Trust's Risk Register, which is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis by the Finance & Audit Committee and the Board of Trustees.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The Board has introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls, to further minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, the Trust has ensured it has adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement on page 19. The Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the risk identification and management process, ensuring staff ownership and awareness of risk. Senior staff are allocated management responsibility for risk mitigation and control activities for the relevant sections the Risk Register, reporting to the Board of Trustees, and all finance and governance staff receive training to keep them up to date with the relevant practice requirements and compliance.

The below outline provides an overview of the principal risks facing the Trust as identified by the Board of Trustees together with a summary of its plans and strategies for managing those risks.

Financial

The financial risks to which Trust is exposed relate primarily to greater decline than currently forecast in Government funding arising from further deterioration in the UK economy. The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding. This is recognised as a principal risk because the Trust cannot assume that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

A financial risk also arises in relation to the defined benefit pension LGPS scheme due to the historic deficits seen. This risk is currently managed in that any deficit is covered by the Government promise.

As government funding is based on pupil numbers, financial risk is closely linked with reputational risk and associated risks to admissions. Monitoring and mitigation of reputational risk is outlined below.

Failures in governance, management and/or compliance

The risk in this area arises from potential failure of the Board to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc.

The Board of Trustees continues to review governance and management risks and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, including taking legal or specialist advice on key areas of relevant legislation. For example, the Board has extended the remit of the biannual internal audit to include a full review of compliance, informed by the Trust's Risk Register. The Board has also agreed a formal policy review schedule to ensure policies are reviewed and updated in line with statutory requirements and a decision-making framework, summarising key management and reporting responsibilities in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. In addition, the Trust has appointed a professional Clerk to the Board of Trustees to provide guidance to ensure that the Board works in compliance with appropriate legal and regulatory framework.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Reputational

The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on attracting applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining its reputation for outstanding educational standards. To mitigate risk to the Trust's reputation, Trustees and Local Governors ensure that student success and achievement are rigorously monitored and reviewed. This risk is further mitigated via Trust involvement in collaborative interventions across a network of schools as described on page 9, strengthening the Trust's reputation for high quality education.

The number of applicants applying for admission to the Trust in 2021 remained the highest amongst Haringey schools, with Alexandra Park School receiving the most first second and third preferences.

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, training, health and safety and discipline.

Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its leadership and staff, so the primary risks faced in this area relate to the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. Retention of the CEO is seen as key to the Trust's success, as is the Trust's New Teacher Training (NTT) and continued professional development (CPD) programmes.

To mitigate staffing risks, The Board of Trustees monitors and reviews policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training for all staff including implementation of the Trust's electronic performance management system. The Board of Trustees receives regular reports on staffing including recruitment and retention data, information on continued professional development of staff and biennial staff survey results. In 2021-22, this included review of the Trust's stakeholder engagement strategy, delivering improvements to the Trust's recruitment resources and approach to new staff induction.

The start of the 2021-2022 academic year saw the Trust fully staffed in all areas.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust has contracted with an audit firm to provide internal audit service to carry out checks on financial systems and records following sector guidance.

Fundraising

There were no major fundraising activities in the year.

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Plans for future periods

Details of the Trust's plans for Alexandra Park School are set out in the New River Trust Five Year Vision, NRT Strategic Aims and Objectives and the Alexandra Park School Development Plan (SDP) which are available on the school website and outlined in the Strategic Report. The Vision and Strategy are regularly reviewed and monitored by the Board of Trustees and the SDP is regularly monitored by the SLT and the LGAG, and reviewed by the Board of Trustees. These documents are updated annually by the Board and Senior Leaders, following consultation and input from staff and Local Governors. The curriculum priorities in the Strategic Objectives and SDP are used to inform future budget priorities.

In summary, in 2021-2022 the Trust will:

- ◆ continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its students at all levels;
- ◆ continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives;
- ◆ continue to work with partner schools and organisations to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community; and,
- ◆ continue to develop its reputation as a leading provider of high-quality teacher training and CPD.

The decision to become a multi-academy trust was made in the context in particular of formalising the Trust's commitment to working with partners to improve educational opportunities for students in the wider community and this remains a key priority for the Trust. This priority is reflected in the Trust's five-year MAT vision as outlined above. The five-year vision will form the basis of future plans, with a focus on building the Trust's reputation for high quality education through collaboration and partnership building, pursuing those opportunities which will deliver genuine educational benefit for all parties.

The Trust acknowledges that the maintenance of outstanding educational provision at Alexandra Park School is central to achievement of its MAT vision, therefore future plans include strategic capital development at the school to support continued excellence. As outlined above, the Trust planned and delivered Phase 2 of a programme of capital development in 2021-22 following completion of the first stage of this programme in 2020-21, a programme which has already added almost 1,000 square metres of space to the school. This programme focussed on the development of a STEM centre of excellence, enhancing provision for current students and, more widely, expanding our work with partners The Ogden Trust and Science Learning Partnership. Strategic plans for phase 3 capital development have now been approved by the Board, and include development focussed on enhancing educational provision and student experience in the Sixth Form, future-proofing this provision in an increasingly competitive context and ensuring financial sustainability via management of key financial and strategic risks.

Trustees' report (including the strategic report) Year to 31 August 2022

STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)

Funds held as custodian Trustee on behalf of others

During the year and in response to a request from the London Borough of Haringey (LBH) the academy has acted as an agent for the Network Learning Community (NLC). The NLC is a consortium of all primary schools located in the west of the LBH. The NLC meets regularly at Alexandra Park School to consider and co-ordinate improvement and support initiatives across its consortium schools. The Trust had a brought forward creditor balance of £26,732 relating to undistributed funds. During the year the Trust received an additional £12,100 which was added to the fund and disbursed £17,600 from the fund, which includes an administration fee of £2,100 payable to the academy. An amount of £21,232 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds.

Disclosure of information to auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- ◆ there is no relevant audit information of which the Trust's auditor is unaware; and
- ◆ the Trustees have taken all the steps 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 Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on15/12/2022..... and signed on its behalf by:



...15/12/2022.....

J Scott

Chair of Trustees

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 New River 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

The Board of Trustees formally met 6 times during the year. Meetings were held in person, with a blended option available for virtual attendance as requested in accordance with the Virtual Board and Committee Meetings Policy established by the Board of Trustees, which outlines conduct and administrative protocols for virtual attendance at meetings.

Attendance at meetings of the Board of Trustees was 91% as per below.

Trustees	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Beer	5	6
S Daley	3	6
U Hamid-Dizier	6	6
C Karayannis	6	6
M McKenzie (Accounting Officer)	6	6
L Pinnick	6	6
J Scott (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
J Oldham	6	6
D Stout	6	6

Conflicts of interest

The Trust has established processes to actively manage conflicts of interests, which are outlined in the Trust's conflict of interest policy. This policy sets out the Trust's framework for ensuring that the decisions and decision-making processes at New River Trust and its schools are, and are seen to be, free from personal bias and do not unfairly favour any individual or company connected with the Trust and its schools and outline criteria for deciding the appropriate course of action to take regarding real or perceived conflicts of interest as and when they arise. This includes arrangements for declaration, review and publication of any pecuniary or business interests, informing regular review and maintenance of an up-to-date and complete register of interests for Members, Trustees, Local Governors, senior staff and budget holders, by the Board of Trustees and published on the Trust's website. The register, in conjunction with declaration of interests as a standing agenda item at all Board and Committee meetings, ensures Trustees and Local Governors are removed from any decision-making processes in which they or close family members have, or could be seen to have, a personal or business interest. The register is also shared with senior leaders, budget holders and the finance department for day-to-day use in avoiding any conflicts of interest, perceived or otherwise, in financial decision-making.

Governance review

In 2021-22 Trustees and Local Governors completed the Trust's annual skills audit and governance review based on the Department for Education's Governance Handbook and Competency Framework. The results of this review were used to inform succession planning and to plan training opportunities at both Board and LGAG level. In 2021-22, in addition to the annual skills audit and governance review, Trustees carried out a self-evaluation of governance effectiveness against the DfE Handbook and Competency Framework, identifying areas for further development of governance practices and agreeing governance development priorities and a two-year action plan to deliver these during 2021-22 and 2022-23. Focus areas selected by the Trustees included succession planning for skills and diversity: refining the Trust's recruitment and succession planning processes to promote diversity on the Board and LGAG; and ensuring Trust policy reflects our vision and values: reviewing Trust policy to reflect the Trust's environmental sustainability and equality objectives. The two-year action plan is on track for completion at year end 2022-23.

New River Trust Members received regular reports on Board effectiveness, which included the results of the skills audit and governance review. Members maintained oversight of the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees via discussion of these reports at the AGM and by receiving additional reports from the Chair of Trustees as to the Board's plans in relation to training and succession planning. As a result of these reviews, the Board established a formal review cycle of governing body Equality Act protected characteristics data to inform recruitment and succession planning for skills and diversity, further enhancing the effective functioning of the Board and its Committees.

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees.

Its purpose is to scrutinise effective and appropriate use of Trust resources, to ensure propriety and value for money and to monitor finance, estates and audit management on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The Finance & Audit Committee also functions as Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with section 3.6 of the 2021 Academy Trust Handbook (prev. Academies Financial Handbook). The Finance & Audit Committee formally met five times during the year.

Attendance at meetings of the Finance & Audit Committee was 88% as per below.

Not included in the list below is local governing body member, J Morago, who is also a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. J Morago attended 4 out of 5 possible meetings during the year.

Trustees	Number of meetings attended	Out of a possible
C Karayannis	4	5
M McKenzie (Accounting Officer)	5	5
J Scott (Chair of Trustees)	4	5
D Stout (Chair of Finance & Audit Committee)	5	5

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The below sets out how Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the academic year:

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Improving Educational Results

Optimising educational results for all students is a key priority for the Trust. Its commitment to "Success for all" is achieved through a diverse and carefully planned curriculum that is strongly led, delivered by experienced and skilled professionals and underpinned by a clear understanding of the academic, social and emotional growth needs of each of our students. It includes extra-curricular opportunities and extended learning to develop the whole person to help prepare them for higher education, further training or work. During 2021-22, strategic development targets to ensure consistency in Teaching, Learning and Assessment and maintain high quality educational outcomes included: implementation of strategies to maintain high quality outcomes post-covid (including revision skills, homework, feedback, literacy and APS sixth form mindset); implementation of specific and targeted interventions including a comprehensive catch-up programme that meets needs and minimises covid impact to close gaps in performance; continuing to develop Performance Management to support improved Teaching and Learning and further enhancement of the APS CPD offer for staff and provision for the Early Careers Framework (ECF).

The Trust has a robust tracking system for monitoring achievement at all key stages (KSs) and is continually looking at how data can inform staff to enable them to support learning opportunities for our students. It involves all of its curriculum and curriculum support teams in focusing on the students' learning needs and encourage innovation and creativity to meet those needs.

The Trust offers students a comprehensive student support service and specialist learning provision, where appropriate, including one to one mentoring and small group work. It has a high number of students with special educational needs (SEND) who are supported by an experienced team of specialist staff.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Trusts' governance arrangements include regular financial monitoring by the Board of Trustees and its committees, including the Finance & Audit Committee. The Board of Trustees and the Finance & Audit Committee receive regular financial reports, including management accounts at each meeting, and ask relevant questions as evidenced in the minutes. Key areas of oversight include:

- a) Ensuring the operation of the academy demonstrates value for money and efficient and effective use of resources:

Alexandra Park School uses competitive tendering process for ensuring value for money on a regular basis, established by the Board of Trustees and outlined in the Trust's Scheme of Financial Delegation and Finance Procedures. At least two written quotations are obtained for all orders between £5,000 and £10,000 and at least three written quotations are obtained for all orders between £10,000 and £100,000 to identify the best source of the goods/services. All items of expenditure over £50,000 are reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee and all orders over £100,000 are put out to tender. In addition, during the year a number of contracts and purchases were reviewed and challenged to ensure existing contracts provided best value for the school.

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Financial Governance and Oversight (continued)

b) Maximising income generation:

During 2021-22, the Trust worked within constraints related to the pandemic to allow the site to safely reopen for lettings and diversify use of the site for income generation. The Trust also actively sought and applied for three substantial external funding bids during 2021-22, totalling £340k.

c) Reviewing controls and managing risk:

Monthly management reports are produced which result in actions being taken to address any significant variances that may have arisen and that are likely to have impact on the budget out-turn.

The Academy ensures that surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts to maximise interest-earning potential.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in New River Trust for the period 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 Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

The Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- ◆ comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of governors;
- ◆ regular reviews by the resources committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

The risk and control framework (continued)

- ◆ setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- ◆ clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- ◆ delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- ◆ identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees considered the need for a specific internal scrutiny function and decided to appoint an external firm with effect from September 2013. It appointed Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services, a firm of accountants specialising in the field of education, to carry out a programme of internal scrutiny testing between 2013 and 2020. In the context of updated ESFA guidance specifying that internal and external audit functions be carried out by separate firms and following regular review of the performance of internal scrutiny provision by Wilkins Kennedy, the Board of Trustees elected to retender the contract for the provision of internal scrutiny provider in Autumn 2020 and appointed Baxter & Co., a firm of accountants also specialising in education, as the Trust's new internal scrutiny provider from 2020. Baxter & Co carried out the testing programme agreed by the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021-22, which included a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems and other compliance and risk-based checks with reference to the Trust's risk register. Baxter & Co. reported to the Finance & Audit Committee on its findings, including the operation of the systems of control and the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. All work was completed as planned and actions implemented to bring about improvements where these were identified. There were no material control issues.

The schedule of audit work agreed by the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021-22 was undertaken via two audit visits: the first in January 2022 and the second in April 2022, comprising both in person (on-site) and remote testing. The programme of testing included scrutiny in areas related to: Accounting, Purchasing, Payroll, Non GAG income, Compliance with transparency requirements and 'Other Requirements from the Academy Trust Handbook'. There were 1 management recommendations arising from the testing, 7 of which were graded 'low' (best practice guidance) and 4 graded 'medium' (non-urgent actions recommended for consideration and implementation as appropriate within an agreed timeframe). All recommendations were agreed and subsequently addressed by the Trust.

Review of effectiveness

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

- ◆ the work of the internal auditor;
- ◆ the work of the external auditor;
- ◆ the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- ◆ the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

Governance statement Year to 31 August 2022

Review of effectiveness (continued)

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on ..15/12/2022..... and signed on its behalf by:



M McKenzie
Accounting Officer

Date: 15/12/2022



J Scott
Chair of Trustees

Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance Year to 31 August 2022

As Accounting Officer of New River Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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



M McKenzie
CEO and Accounting Officer

Date: 15/12/2022

Statement of Trustees responsibilities Year to 31 August 2022

The Trustees of New River Trust (who are also directors of New River Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Governors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual 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 Trust, 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 in the Charities' SORP (FRS 102) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- ◆ make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ◆ state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- ◆ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation.

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 the ESFA have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

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



J Scott
Chair of the Trustees
Date: 15/12/2022

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

Independent auditor's report to the members of New River Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of New River Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), 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) (the Charities SORP 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- ◆ give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- ◆ have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- ◆ have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC'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 charitable company'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.

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

Conclusions relating to going concern (continued)

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

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions 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, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ◆ the Trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law and includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the strategic report.

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

- ◆ adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

Matters on which we are required to report by exception (continued)

- ◆ 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 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 charitable company'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 Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- ◆ the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ◆ we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge of the academy Trust sector;
- ◆ the identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit;

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ we considered the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, the Academy Trust Handbook 2021, and the academy Trust's funding agreement with the ESFA as well as legislation pertaining to safeguarding in the UK;
- ◆ we understood how the charitable company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to management and those responsible for legal, compliance and governance procedures. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of the minutes of Trustees' meetings and papers provided to the Trustees.
- ◆ we planned and carried out a separate limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- ◆ making enquiries of management and those charged with governance as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- ◆ considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- ◆ performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ tested the authorisation of expenditure as part of our substantive testing thereon;
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- ◆ used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- ◆ agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- ◆ reviewing the minutes of Trustees' meetings;

Independent auditor's report on the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- ◆ enquiring of management and those charged with governance as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ◆ reviewing any available correspondence with Ofsted, ESFA and HMRC; and
- ◆ the work undertaken in relation to the limited assurance engagement in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts issued by the ESFA, as set out in our separate independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. International Standards on Auditing also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

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 auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Buzzacott LLP

16 December 2022

Hugh Swainson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report Year to 31 August 2022

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity to New River Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 June 2021 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 New River Trust during the year from 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 New River Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to New River Trust and the 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 New River Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of New River Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of New River Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 16 July 2013 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 from 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.

Independent reporting accountant's assurance report Year to 31 August 2022

Approach (continued)

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- ◆ An assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across all of the Trust's activities;
- ◆ Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including enquiry, identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence across all areas identified as well as additional verification work where considered necessary; and
- ◆ Consideration of evidence obtained through the work detailed above and the work completed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion.

Conclusion

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

Buzzacott LLP

16 December 2022

Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Statement of financial activities Year to 31 August 2022

(including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £'000	Restricted		2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
			General £'000	Fixed Assets Fund £'000		
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	1	14	—	253	267	729
Charitable activities						
· Funding for the Trust's educational operations	2	—	12,912	—	12,912	12,379
· Funding for teaching school		—	11	—	11	54
Other trading activities	3	283	342	—	625	475
Investments	4	3	—	—	3	3
Total income		300	13,265	253	13,818	13,640
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
· Trust's educational operations	5	199	13,591	591	14,381	12,929
· Teaching School		—	36	—	36	30
Total expenditure		199	13,627	591	14,417	12,959
(Losses) gains on investments	13	(72)	—	—	(72)	676
Net income (expenditure) for the year		29	(362)	(338)	(671)	1,357
Transfers between funds	17	—	(642)	642	—	—
Other recognised (losses) gains						
Actuarial gains (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	19	—	4,741	—	4,741	(522)
Net movement in funds		29	3,737	304	4,070	835
Reconciliation of funds						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2021		2,935	(3,454)	22,932	22,413	21,578
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2022		2,964	283	23,236	26,483	22,413

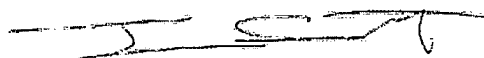
All of the Trust's activities derived from continuing activities in the above two financial periods.

All gains and losses are included in the statement of financial activities above.

Balance sheet Year to 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		23,236		22,932
Current assets					
Debtors	12	731		723	
Investments	13	3,770		3,842	
Cash at bank and in hand		776		570	
		<u>5,277</u>		<u>5,135</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,010)		(1,688)	
Net current assets			<u>3,267</u>		<u>3,447</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>26,503</u>		<u>26,379</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(20)		(30)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>26,483</u>		<u>26,349</u>
Pension scheme liability	19		—		(3,936)
Total net assets			<u>26,483</u>		<u>22,413</u>
Restricted funds					
. Fixed assets fund	18		23,236		22,932
. Restricted general fund	18		283		482
. Pension reserve	18		—		(3,936)
Total restricted funds			<u>23,519</u>		<u>19,478</u>
Unrestricted funds					
. General fund	18		2,964		2,935
Total funds			<u>26,483</u>		<u>22,413</u>

The financial statements on pages 35 to 59 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue and are signed on their behalf by:



J Scott
Chair of Trustees
Date: 15/12/2022

New River Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration Number: 07708890 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	783	2,223
Cash flows from investing activities	C	(567)	(2,654)
Cash flows from financing activities	B	(10)	(14)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		206	(445)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds:			
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		570	1,015
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	D	776	570

A Reconciliation of net (expenditure) income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Net (expenditure) income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	(671)	1,357
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation charges	591	647
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(253)	(709)
Interest receivable	(3)	(3)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	734	448
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	71	53
Increase in debtors	(8)	(170)
Increase in creditors	322	600
Net cash provided by operating activities	783	2,223

B Cash flows from financing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Repayments of borrowing	(10)	(14)
Net cash used in financing activities	(10)	(14)

C Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	3	3
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(895)	(2,690)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	253	709
Payments to acquire investments	72	(676)
Net cash used in operating activities	(567)	(2,654)

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 August 2022

D Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	776	570
Total cash and cash equivalents	776	570

E Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Cash	570	206	776
Loans falling due within one year	(14)	4	(10)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(30)	10	(20)
Total	526	220	746

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2022

Statement of accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical 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 financial statements 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.

The financial statements are stated in pounds and rounded to the nearest thousand.

Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

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.

The 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2022

Income (continued)

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

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.

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

All expenditure is stated net of recoverable VAT.

Agency arrangements

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 25.

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £4,000 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. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed assets fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed assets fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Trust's depreciation policy.

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

♦ Trust's buildings	50 years straight line
♦ Furniture, fittings and equipment	4 years straight line
♦ Computer and office equipment	3 years straight line
♦ Motor vehicles	3 years straight line

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2022

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

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.

Current asset investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Unrealised investment gains (or losses) are recognised in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the 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.

Leased assets

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

Financial instruments

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement basis 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 13. 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 note 15. 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.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2022

Taxation

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11 Chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the 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 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. As stated in note 19, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Where the scheme is estimated to be in a surplus position, under the reporting provisions of FRS 102, the Academy is only able to recognise the surplus as to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. As the Academy does not anticipate being able to recover the surplus in the aforementioned manner, the surplus is not recognised on the balance sheet, and a corresponding adjustment is within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities (as an actuarial loss) to bring the net LGPS position to £nil on the balance sheet.

Principal accounting policies Year to 31 August 2022

Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed assets funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education or other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted ESFA funds comprise all other grants received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Restricted other funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Local Authority, Hertfordshire County Council.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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 for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, 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.

The net book value of tangible fixed assets is based on the original cost/value of the asset net of provision for depreciation. The depreciation provision to date is based on the Trustees' assessment of the estimated useful economic lives of such assets.

Critical areas of judgement

Other than the estimates discussed above, the Trustees do not consider that there are any key judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

1 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	—	253	253	709
Other donations	14	—	—	14	20
	14	—	253	267	729

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Capital grants	—	—	709	709
Other donations	20	—	—	20
	20	—	709	729

2 Funding for the Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	11,064	11,064	10,265
Other ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	—	242	242	247
Others	—	549	549	696
Other DfE Group grants	—	—	—	25
	—	11,855	11,855	11,233
Other government grants				
Local Authority grants	—	828	828	864
	—	828	828	864
Other income from the academy Trust's educational operations	—	173	173	130
Teaching School Hub				
DfE/ESFA grants	—	11	11	40
Other income	—	—	—	14
	—	11	11	54
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Recovery premium	—	30	30	93
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	26	26	59
	—	56	56	152
2022 Total funds	—	12,923	12,923	12,433

The Trust received £30k for funding for recovery premium (2021 - £93k) with all funding spent in year.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

2 Funding for the Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
<i>ESFA revenue grants</i>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,265	10,265
Other ESFA grants			
Pupil Premium	—	247	247
Others	—	696	696
Other DfE Group grants	—	25	25
	<u>—</u>	<u>11,233</u>	<u>11,233</u>
<i>Other government grants</i>			
Local Authority grants	—	864	864
	<u>—</u>	<u>864</u>	<u>864</u>
<i>Other income from the academy Trust's educational operations</i>	—	130	130
<i>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</i>			
Catch-up premium	—	93	93
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	—	59	59
	<u>—</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>152</u>
2021 Total funds	<u>—</u>	<u>12,379</u>	<u>12,379</u>

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities/lettings income	80	—	80	27
Income from other charitable activities	4	342	346	338
Music services income	28	—	28	76
Trip income	141	—	141	17
Other income	30	—	30	17
	<u>283</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>475</u>

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities/lettings income	27	—	27
Income from other charitable activities	—	338	338
Music services income	76	—	76
Trip income	17	—	17
Other income	17	—	17
	<u>137</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>475</u>

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Short term deposits	3	—	3	3
	3	—	3	3

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Short term deposits	3	—	3
	3	—	3

5 Expenditure

	Non-pay expenditure			2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
	Staff costs (note 8) £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000		
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	8,871	—	835	9,706	9,103
Allocated support costs	2,461	1,364	850	4,675	3,826
Teaching school					
Direct costs	33	—	—	33	28
Allocated support costs	—	—	3	3	2
	11,365	1,364	1,688	14,417	12,959

	Non-pay expenditure			2021 Total funds £'000
	Staff costs (note 8) £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	
Academy's educational operations				
Direct costs	8,500	—	603	9,103
Allocated support costs	1,966	1,262	598	3,826
Teaching school				
Direct costs	28	—	—	28
Allocated support costs	—	—	2	2
	10,494	1,262	1,203	12,959

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

5 Expenditure (continued)

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Net income (expenditure) for the year includes:		
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	13	12
Other services	3	3
Operating lease rentals	16	15
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	591	647

6 Charitable activities - Trust's educational operations

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Direct costs – educational operations	9,706	9,103
Direct costs – teaching school hub	33	28
Support costs – educational operations	4,675	3,826
Support costs – teaching school hub	3	2
	14,417	12,929

	Teaching school hub £'000	Educational operations £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Analysis of support costs				
Support costs				
Support staff costs	—	2,461	2,461	1,966
Depreciation and amortisation	—	591	591	647
Technology costs	—	79	79	80
Maintenance of premises and equipment	—	773	773	615
Other support costs	3	740	743	492
Legal costs	—	4	4	6
Governance costs	—	27	27	20
	3	4,675	4,678	3,826

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

7 Comparative information

Analysis of income and expenditure in the year ended 31 August 2021 between restricted and unrestricted funds:

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £'000	Restricted		2021 Total funds £'000
			General Fund £'000	Fixed Assets Fund £'000	
<i>Income from:</i>					
Donations and capital grants	1	20	—	709	729
Charitable activities					
· Funding for the Trust's educational operations	2	—	12,379	—	12,379
· Funding for teaching school	26	—	54	—	54
Other trading activities	3	137	338	—	475
Investments	4	3	—	—	3
Total income		160	12,771	709	13,640
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Charitable activities					
· Trust's educational operations	5	—	12,282	647	12,929
· Teaching School	26	—	30	—	30
Total expenditure		—	12,312	647	12,959
Gains on investments	13	676	—	—	676
Net income (expenditure) for the year		836	459	62	1,357
Transfers between funds	17	(1,503)	(478)	1,981	—
Other recognised (losses) gains					
Actuarial (losses) gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	—	(522)	—	(522)
Net movement in funds		(667)	(541)	2,043	835
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 September 2020		3,602	(2,913)	20,889	21,578
Fund balances carried forward at 31 August 2021		2,935	(3,454)	22,932	22,413

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

8 Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Wages and salaries	7,809	7,455
Social security costs	886	813
Pension costs	2,326	2,011
	11,021	10,279
Agency staff costs	316	215
Staff restructuring costs	28	—
	11,365	10,494

b) Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

The academy trust paid one (2021: none) severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following band:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£25,001 - £50,000	1	—

c) Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2022 was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	116	119
Administration and support	87	86
Management	10	10
	213	215

d) Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	6	9
£70,001 - £80,000	5	4
£80,001 - £90,000	2	2
£180,001 - £190,000	1	1

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

8 Staff (continued)

e) *Key management personnel*

The key management personnel of the academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1 and the finance manager. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employee national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy Trust was £1,096,588 (2021: £1,090,872).

9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Headteacher and Staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of the services they provide undertaking their roles as employees of the Trust and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. During the year expenses no (2021: £nil were reimbursed to one Trustee). The expenses in 2022 related to travel and staff wellbeing.

The value of Trustees' annual remuneration in the year ended 31 August 2022 was as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
M McKenzie (Headteacher)		
Remuneration	180 - 185	180 - 185
Pension contributions paid	40 - 45	40 - 45

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out within the related parties note.

10 Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £'000	Assets under construction £'000	Furniture and fittings £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost						
At 1 September 2021	22,631	3,228	1,353	563	39	27,814
Reclassification	3,752	(3,752)	—	—	—	—
Additions	—	789	4	97	5	895
Disposals	—	—	(992)	(313)	—	(1,305)
At 31 August 2022	26,383	265	365	347	44	27,404
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2021	3,200	—	1,223	441	18	4,882
Charge for the year	366	—	102	115	8	591
Disposals	—	—	(992)	(313)	—	(1,305)
At 31 August 2022	3,566	—	333	243	26	4,168
Net book values						
At 31 August 2022	22,817	265	32	104	18	23,236
At 31 August 2021	19,431	3,228	130	122	21	22,932

Included in land and buildings is land valued at £5,709k (2021: £5,709k) which is not depreciated.

12 Debtors

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trade debtors	75	80
VAT recoverable	126	141
Prepayments and accrued income	530	502
	731	723

13 Current asset investments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Balance brought forward	3,842	3,166
Additions	—	—
(Losses)/Gains in year	(72)	676
Balance carried forward	3,770	3,842
Cost of investments at 31 August 2022	2,286	2,286

The investment is in COIF Charities Investment Fund and valued at bid-market value.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Other loans	10	14
Trade creditors	667	522
Taxation and social security	775	807
Accruals and deferred income	507	345
Other creditors	51	—
	2,010	1,688

Included within other creditors is a loan of £30k (2021: £44k) from Salix which is repayable over 8 years and which is interest free.

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Analysis of loans		
Wholly repayable within five years	30	44
Less: included in current liabilities	(10)	(14)
Amounts included above	20	30
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	10	10
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	20	34
	30	44

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Loans	20	30
	20	30

16 Deferred income

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	142	159
Released from previous years	(142)	(159)
Resourced deferred in the year	250	142
Deferred income at 31 August 2022	250	142

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for school trips, rates, relief, insurance, music lessons and devolved formula capital grant.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

17 Funds

	At 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	365	11,064	(10,504)	(642)	283
Pupil Premium	—	242	(242)	—	—
Teaching School	24	11	(35)	—	—
Catch-up premium	93	—	(93)	—	—
Other COVID-19 funding	—	56	(56)	—	—
Other grants	—	1,892	(1,892)	—	—
Pension reserve	(3,936)	—	(805)	4,741	—
	<u>(3,454)</u>	<u>11,064</u>	<u>(10,504)</u>	<u>4,099</u>	<u>283</u>
Restricted fixed assets funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	703	253	(14)	—	942
General fixed assets	22,229	—	(577)	642	22,294
	<u>22,932</u>	<u>253</u>	<u>(591)</u>	<u>642</u>	<u>23,236</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>19,478</u>	<u>13,518</u>	<u>(14,218)</u>	<u>4,741</u>	<u>23,519</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	2,935	300	(199)	(72)	2,964
Total unrestricted funds	<u>2,935</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>(72)</u>	<u>2,964</u>
Total funds	<u>22,413</u>	<u>13,818</u>	<u>(14,417)</u>	<u>4,669</u>	<u>26,483</u>

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

ESFA revenue grant fund and other restricted funds

These grants relate to the Trust's educational and operational activities, including the General Annual Grant.

General Annual Grant (GAG)

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

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This includes funding received from National College and ESFA restricted to the relevant use for Schools Direct, Insurance, Pupil Premium and Devolved Formula Capital expenditure.

LA and other grants

This includes SEN funding and looked after children funding received from London Borough of Haringey.

Other restricted funds include Confucius & Mandarin grants for the teaching of Mandarin and Ogden Trust grant for specific local science partnership.

Transfer of funds: this relates to the purchase of fixed assets during the year.

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

17 Funds (continued)

Fixed assets fund

These grants relate to funding received from the ESFA to carry out works of a capital nature. Transfers have been made from the ESFA capital grant funds to other revenue funds in respect of the expenditure on refurbishment of the Trust, which has been expensed in the year.

Pension reserve

The pension reserve relates to the Trust's Local Government Pension Scheme liability for support staff.

Comparative information

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

	At 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	10,265	(9,422)	(478)	365
Pupil Premium	—	247	(247)	—	—
Teaching School	—	54	(30)	—	24
Catch-up premium	—	93	—	—	93
Other COVID-19 funding	—	59	(59)	—	—
Other grants	—	2,053	(2,053)	—	—
Pension reserve	(2,913)	—	(501)	(522)	(3,936)
	<u>(2,913)</u>	<u>12,771</u>	<u>(12,312)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(3,454)</u>
Restricted fixed assets funds					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	(6)	709	—	—	703
General fixed assets	20,895	—	(647)	1,981	22,229
	<u>20,889</u>	<u>709</u>	<u>(647)</u>	<u>1,981</u>	<u>22,932</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>17,976</u>	<u>13,480</u>	<u>(12,959)</u>	<u>981</u>	<u>19,478</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	3,602	160	—	(827)	2,935
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,602</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(827)</u>	<u>2,935</u>
Total funds	<u>21,578</u>	<u>13,640</u>	<u>(12,959)</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>22,413</u>

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

		Restricted funds			
	Unrestricted fund £'000	General fund £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	2022 Total funds £'000	2021 Total funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	23,236	23,236	22,932
Current assets	2,964	2,313	—	5,277	5,135
Creditors falling due within one year	—	(2,010)	—	(2,010)	(1,688)
Creditors falling due after one year	—	(20)	—	(20)	(30)
Defined benefit pension liability	—	—	—	—	(3,936)
Total net assets	2,964	283	23,236	26,483	22,413

		Restricted funds			
	Unrestricted fund £'000	General fund £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	2021 Total funds £'000	
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:					
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	22,932	22,932	
Current assets	2,935	2,200	—	5,135	
Creditors falling due within one year	—	(1,688)	—	(1,688)	
Creditors falling due after one year	—	(30)	—	(30)	
Defined benefit pension liability	—	(3,936)	—	(3,936)	
Total net assets	2,935	(3,454)	22,932	22,413	

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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.

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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; and
- ♦ the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,383k (2021: £1,775k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pension Scheme website](#).

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.

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate Trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £414k (2021: £413k) of which employer's contributions totalled £301k (2021: £307k) and employees' contributions totalled £113k (2021: £106k).

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	3.9%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3.1%	2.9%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.3%	1.7%

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.5	21.7
Females	24.0	24.2
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	23.7
Females	25.8	26.0

Sensitivity analysis – Resultant net pension liability from a change in actuarial assumptions	At 31 August 2022 £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
Discount rate -0.1%	178	276
Rate of increase in salaries +0.1%	17	24
Pension increase +0.1%	162	244

The Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2022 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £'000
Equities	6,317	6,184
Corporate bonds	1,486	1,910
Property	1,208	909
Cash and other liquid assets	279	91
Total market value of assets	9,290	9,094
Present value of scheme liabilities		
· Funded	(8,427)	(13,030)
Surplus/ (deficit) in the scheme as determined by the actuary	863	(3,936)
Adjustment recognised in actuarial losses to cap the scheme surplus*	(863)	—
Deficit in the scheme as recognised on the balance sheet	—	(3,936)

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

19 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (continued)

*As the LGPS surplus is irrecoverable, recognition of the surplus on the balance sheet has been restricted to £nil. The adjustment of £863,000 has been offset against the overall actuarial gain for the year.

Amounts recognised in statement of financial activities	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Current service cost	1,013	755
Past service cost	22	—
Interest income	(152)	(127)
Net interest cost	223	180
Total operating charge	1,106	808

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	13,030	10,247
Current service cost	1,013	755
Interest cost	223	180
Employee contributions	113	106
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(5,814)	1,876
Benefits paid	(160)	(134)
Past service cost	22	—
At 31 August 2022	8,427	13,030

Changes in the fair value of the academy Trust's share of scheme assets	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
At 1 September 2021	9,094	7,334
Interest income	152	127
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(210)	1,354
Employer contributions	301	307
Employee contributions	113	106
Benefits paid	(160)	(134)
At 31 August 2021	9,290	9,094

20 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2022, the total of the Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was as follows:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Amounts due within one year	11	16
Amounts due between one and five years inclusive	44	—
	55	16

Notes to the financial statements Year to 31 August 2022

21 Capital commitments

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	26	25

22 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration already disclosed in note 9.

23 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 £1 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member

24 Agency arrangements

The academy has acted as an agent for the Network Learning Community. The academy had a brought forward creditor balance of £26,732 (2021: £41,020) relating to undistributed funds. During the year, the academy received an additional £12,100 (2021: £12,100) which was added to the fund balance and disbursed £17,600 (2021: £25,387) from the fund, which includes an administration fee of £2,100 (2021: £2,100) payable to the academy. An amount of £21,232 (2021: £26,732) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds.

The academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2022, the Trust received £50,778 (2021: £58,608) and distributed £62,777 (2021: £46,609) from the fund. An amount of £8,257 (2021: £5,650) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds.

The academy Trust has also acted as agent with respect to NCTL Schools Direct Income. In the accounting period 31 August 2022, the Trust received £nil (2021: £88,000) and distributed £12,040 (2021: £75,960). An amount of £nil (2021: £12,040) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds.