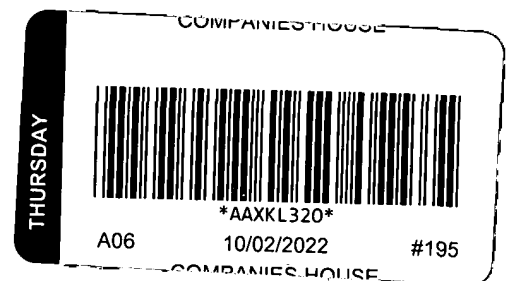


Company Registration No. 07796938 (England and Wales)

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Directors' report	3 - 16
Governance statement	17 - 21
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	22
Statement of directors' responsibilities	23
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	24 - 27
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	28 - 29
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	30 - 31
Balance sheet	32
Statement of cash flows	33
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	34 - 55

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

C Crouchman
H Danpure
P Davies
H Malhi (appointed 01 September 2021)
P Nash
G Pittaway (resigned 04 January 2021)
D Yarrow

Directors

P Davies (Chair)
D Trood
P Nash (Resigned 23 September 2021)
M Lecky (Accounting Officer)
E Lavery
P Nixon
A Sykes
K Rowe
D Collins
S Saraon

Senior management team

- Executive Headteacher, Accounting Officer	M Lecky
- Headteacher, Ruislip High School	G Davies
- Headteacher, Ryefield Primary School	C Tucker
- Headteacher, Vyners School	G Mullings
- Chief Financial Officer, Commercial Director	P Ivanova (from 1 March 2021)
- Chief Financial Officer (acting)	A Evans (stood down 1 March 2021)

Company registration number

07796938 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office

Vyners School
Warren Road
Ickenham
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB10 8AB
United Kingdom

Academies operated

Vyners School
Ryefield Primary School
Ruislip High School

Location

London Borough of Hillingdon
London Borough of Hillingdon
London Borough of Hillingdon

Headteacher

G Mullings
C Tucker
G Davies

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor	Azets Audit Services Gladstone House 77-79 High Street Egham Surrey TW20 9HY United Kingdom
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 21-22 High Street Uxbridge Middlesex UB8 1JD United Kingdom
Solicitors	Winckworth Sherwood Minera House 5 Montague Close London SE1 9BB United Kingdom

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The directors present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates three schools:

Ruislip High School: A mixed 11-18 comprehensive secondary school serving a catchment area in Ruislip, Hillingdon.

Ryefield Primary School: A mixed comprehensive primary school serving a catchment area in Hillingdon.

Vyners School: A mixed 11-18 comprehensive secondary school, serving a catchment area in Ickenham, Hillingdon and Uxbridge area.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration no. 7796938) and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The board of directors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of Vanguard Learning Trust and are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Vanguard Learning Trust. Details of the directors who served throughout the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1. Vanguard Learning Trust was originally incorporated as Vyners School Academy Trust on 4 October 2011 and obtained initial Academy status (as a secondary academy only) from 1 November 2011. The Trust converted to a multi-academy trust (MAT) on 1 February 2015, when it was joined by Ryefield Primary School. The Trust changed its name to Vyners Learning Trust on the same date to reflect the broader remit of the Trust. A new board of directors was constituted on 1 February 2015 to reflect the changed structure of the Trust. The Trust changed its name again on 29 March 2018 to Vanguard Learning Trust in order to facilitate further schools joining the Trust. Ruislip High School joined the Trust on 1 September 2018.

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.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Trust is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Further information is given on page 7.

Directors' indemnities

The Trust joined the Risk Protection Scheme, organised by the Department for Education, on 1 September 2015. The scheme includes provision to protect directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2021 is not separately identifiable.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of directors

The members of the Trust shall comprise no fewer than 5 persons.

The number of directors shall be not less than 3, but shall not be subject to a maximum. Until 31 August 2018, the structure of the Trust was as follows: up to 4 directors appointed by the members and up to 4 directors made up from the principals/chairs of local governing bodies. From 1 September 2018, the Trust moved to a 'skills-based' model of directorship, with 9 directors appointed by the members, based on the skills they can bring to the Trust.

The Trust has chosen to maintain local governing bodies for each school; this includes a minimum of 2 parent governors on each local governing body. Through their children, parent governors have first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from the local, community point of view. Directors believe that parents can be valuable at a school as well as at a board level.

The board of directors is responsible for setting out the scheme of delegation and formally appointing governors of local governing bodies. The terms of reference, which were reviewed in 2020, have been implemented from 1 September 2020 and apply to all three schools across the Trust.

The term of office for any director shall be 4 years. Subject to remaining eligible, a director may be reappointed or re-elected.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of directors

During the period under review, the directors held 6 ordinary meetings. In line with the Academies Financial Handbook, all individuals who served on the board of directors have been, on appointment, supplied with a pack of key information, setting out their obligations under Companies and Charities law.

Organisational structure

The structure of the Trust consists of three levels: the board of directors, a local governing body and a senior leadership team at each school. The senior leadership team is supported by a sub-structure of subject, phase and departmental heads. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The scheme of delegation sets out the specific responsibilities of the board of directors, local governing bodies and executive staff.

The directors are legally accountable to the Department for Education and other statutory agencies for the overall running of the Trust. They agree on an overall Trust strategy, including in relation to educational improvement. They are responsible for setting Trust-wide policies on such matters as human resources, finance and overall governance. They are responsible for reviewing recruitment, pay progression and performance management arrangements of executive leaders within the Trust.

Local governing bodies are responsible for strategically overseeing the day-to-day operation of individual schools within the Trust, including monitoring school performance and levels of student progress, reviewing local policies and setting and monitoring school budgets. Local governing bodies oversee performance management and pay progression for staff within their individual school with the exception of the school's headteacher. Interview panels for senior leader posts will contain a governor.

The senior leadership team at each school operates at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the board of directors and local governing body. The headteacher is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff. Some spending control is devolved to budget holders with specified limits and a second level of authorisation by a senior leader.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All members undertake their roles on a purely voluntary basis. Directors undertake their duties on the same unpaid basis, with the exception of the executive headteacher; she is remunerated for undertaking only her respective executive role.

All staff within the Trust, including members of the schools' senior leadership teams, are appointed to a predetermined pay band/range. For teaching staff, the pay range is aligned to the national teaching pay scales. Throughout the 2019-20 academic year, support staff at the two pre-existing schools were appointed to pay scales determined locally by the Trust. Staff joining from Ruislip High School on 1 September 2018 did so on National Joint Council (NJC) terms and conditions protected under TUPE legislation. When the VLT grades were established in 2014, they too were closely aligned to NJC pay scales. In 2020-2021 trustees agreed that Trust support staff terms and conditions of employment (excluding any TUPE agreements) would be harmonised to the NJC terms and conditions. The new NJC terms and conditions were consulted on and implemented at Ryefield Primary School on 1 September 2021. The implementation for Vyners School support staff will take place during 2021-2022. The grading for support staff roles is independently verified through a job evaluation process.

The board of directors reviews pay arrangements each year and may, at its discretion, award a cost of living pay award to all staff. Pay progression for teachers, over and above this cost of living award, is on the basis of individual appraisal.

The structure of the senior leadership team at each school is determined in conjunction with the local governing body. The pay range for each role is approved by the local governing body. The pay range for Trust staff and the three headteachers within the Trust are determined by the Trust's pay and personnel committee as outlined in the Trust's pay and conditions policy for school leaders; this committee decides the pay progression for headteachers and the executive headteacher following appraisal committee meetings.

Each school operates a local pay committee which determines annual performance pay progression for staff, including members of the senior leadership team with the exception of the headteacher.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

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

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
---	---

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Engagement with employees

On a Trust-level, nine updates were provided to staff to ensure they were being given ongoing information about developments and activities. This has been part of the communication strategy which aims to engender collective responsibility. There was a working party for the new vision and values statements which involved staff from all schools; this meant that all schools collaborated on the new vision statement of outstanding, inclusive education as well as the three values of aspiration, community and equity. The Trust also encouraged all schools to participate in a staff survey with a third-party provider on equality and diversity; this provided all schools with benchmarked reports and directors with a Trust-wide one. At a school level, all schools ensured that they engaged with staff, receiving feedback from them particularly on wellbeing and lessons learned from the pandemic.

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

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, academy trusts are charitable companies and should take 'promoting the success of the company' to mean promoting the success of the multi-academy trust to achieve its educational purposes, and in doing so must have regard to:

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

Stakeholders

In education, the term stakeholders refers to individuals who are invested in the school community and its students, including teachers, staff members, students, parents, families, community members and local business leaders. All schools ensure they have strong relationships with students and their parents; this ensures a vibrant school community which promotes students' learning and wellbeing. This is managed through the use of different platforms including social media as well as the schools' and Trust's newsletters. In terms of staff, the Trust is trying to engender a culture of collective responsibility, including providing Trust-wide opportunities for professional development and school-to-school collaboration. The Trust schools communicate with parents and students through regular newsletters and requests for feedback, eg. satisfaction levels with the provision of the curriculum during the pandemic.

The directors attend meetings throughout the year, including the following committees: curriculum and standards, strategy, finance and resources, audit, risk and compliance, and pay and personnel. The local governing bodies meet four times a year and have curriculum and standards and pay and personnel committee meetings. All matters regarding the Trust's governance arrangements, that are reserved for decision by the directors, are presented at board or committee meetings. The directors consider the potential impact on stakeholders of their decisions before making a final decision which they believe is in the best interests of the Trust and its members.

In relation to suppliers, the Trust aims to implement all its business conduct with integrity and courtesy. The Trust collaborates with suppliers and customers to ensure that there is a mutually successful partnership including account reviews where appropriate. Payments to the majority of suppliers are within 30 days.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Vyners School operated as a stand-alone Academy Trust until 1 February 2015, when it joined with Ryefield Primary School to form a MAT. The Trust was expanded on 1 September 2018 to include Ruislip High School, a local secondary school. There is no third party sponsor to the Trust.

Transactions with related parties during the year ended 31 August 2021 are disclosed in note 25.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objects of the Trust is specifically restricted to the following;

- to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.
- to promote, for the benefit of individuals living in Hillingdon, Ickenham, Uxbridge and the surrounding area who have need by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, or for the public at large the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time activities in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the life of said individuals.

The board of directors has established the following principles as the core vision and values of Vanguard Learning Trust. These were reviewed during 2020 and agreed in May 2021.

Core purpose

Vanguard Learning Trust's core purpose is to provide outstanding, inclusive education through collective responsibility across several, rather than individual, local schools. This provides a sustainable foundation allowing for a broader range of school improvement work including crossphase, joint professional development opportunities as well as student activities. The collective responsibility allows schools and the central team to provide support and share expertise both within and beyond the Trust.

Mission statement

As a group of local primary and secondary schools, Vanguard Learning Trust's mission is to serve its local community by providing outstanding, inclusive education. We have a collective purpose and responsibility to provide effective teaching, through a curriculum based on equality of opportunity and entitlement that allows our students to shine both in and out of the classroom. Each school in the Trust has its own ethos, which also complements the Trust's vision and values, and the common aspiration that all students can achieve their potential.

Vision

The Trust's vision is outstanding, inclusive education.

Values

The Trust's values are represented by ACE:

- Aspiration: Endless possibilities with limitless boundaries
- Community: Collective responsibility, collaborating within and beyond the Trust
- Equity: Opportunities for all to achieve equitable outcomes

The directors believe in encouraging students to be happy and healthy, enthused by the intellectual, social and physical challenges posed by their experience at school. Students are supported to become independent learners, aware of how to learn and how to respond constructively to challenge and difficulty, as well as success.

Staff across the Trust have the opportunity to develop further as professionals within their field, working collaboratively with others to enhance their own expertise. Through their passion, teachers enthuse and inspire students to explore new ideas.

Governors and directors contribute to the life of the school on a wider scale, acting as critical friends to support all schools within the Trust to remain or become 'outstanding' schools in terms of Ofsted designation.

The board of directors recognises that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives, strategies and activities

End of year review

Key area 1: School improvement and developing people

1a. Staff: All schools to promote the principle of collective responsibility in particular in relation to joint school improvement work

School leaders actively promoted the Trust in their schools and supported engendering an ethos of collective responsibility throughout the year. The net capacity concept has been developed and a formal approach established for 2021-2022 led by the external school improvement leads. A directory of services and an executive summary were developed; these will be revisited regularly as the central team expands and the scheme of delegation is revised. A new vision and values summary was finalised by the working party and approved by directors.

1b. Students: All schools to eliminate underperformance, particularly with vulnerable subgroups

Little progress could be made because of the pandemic and the evidence base for any progress made is not nationally available. A Trust scorecard has been approved by directors which includes ten different aspects and provides an indication of the quality of education in schools as well as their capacity for improvement. One of the aspects is vulnerable subgroups. The Trust-wide peer review on the provision and outcomes for disadvantaged students was postponed until the autumn term 2021.

1c. Standardisation of data: All schools to complete the Trust's key performance indicator (KPI) comparative report by determining all quantities in a standardised way, in particular students' attendance and staff absences

The termly KPI comparative report was completed by all three Trust schools as well as the two associate schools throughout the year. Guidance on each section was given to ensure consistency and queries raised by the executive headteacher, governors and directors were followed up.

Key area 2: Governance and risk management

2a. Governance: The Trust to implement the recommendations of the National Governance Association (NGA) review of its effectiveness, including governance days and a new structure to meetings

The NGA recommendations included a renewed focus on governance development; a plan was presented to members, directors and governors as part of the inaugural governance day. Two governance days were held in November 2020 and June 2021 with external consultants supporting them. The feedback from both days was exceedingly positive. The Trust led a review for the board of directors and local governing body which was organised by the company secretary. The recommended actions will inform governance development for 2021-2022. The 360-feedback process for chairs of governors and the chair of directors was led by an external consultant and the process was well received.

2b. Expansion: The Trust and two associate schools to agree whether they intend to proceed with the schools joining the Trust and two schools to be identified and invited to be associate members for 2021-2022

Following a formal invitation to join the Trust, both associate schools' governing bodies agreed in principle to start the process in January 2021. This involved due diligence and stakeholder feedback. An external project manager led the process and all costs incurred have been covered by the Department for Education grant. The two associate schools, Field End Junior School and Hermitage Primary School, joined the Trust on 1 September 2021. The Trust has agreed not to offer any associate membership for 2021-2022 and to review its due diligence process in terms of HR and finance.

2c. Risk management: The Trust to agree its approach to how the Trust's risk register is compiled and updated in terms of its alignment with schools' risk registers and the quality assurance process

A working party was established in the spring term initially led by the executive headteacher and then the commercial director. An external consultant was commissioned to support the working party and write the draft policy. The revised policy was adopted by the board of directors on Wednesday 14 July 2021. The next step is to support the schools with the new 5x5 matrix.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Key area 3: Finance and school resource management

3a. Financial controls: The Trust to ensure that all schools fully comply with all financial controls as part of the change to a central finance function

The central bank account was set up in January 2021. The finance system for all schools was consolidated into one database rather than individual databases for each school. The centralisation involved the adoption of the Department for Education's chart of accounts. A new budgeting software was procured and implemented in the summer term 2021. The finance policy has not yet been updated. A consultant was commissioned to support the newly appointed commercial director with the process and this will need to be considered by directors in the spring term 2022.

3b. Centralised services: The Trust to decide how to proceed with the centralisation of other functions in particular IT and HR and support staff harmonisation

There were meetings in relation to the IT steering group and the vision statement was approved by the board of directors. The project has been delayed because of a lack of capacity. The review of the HR function was postponed as the support staff harmonisation projects were given priority. The Trust agreed its approach to support staff harmonisation and carried out two of the three projects.

3c. Procurement: The Trust to procure a contractor for a single cleaning contract for all three schools through a joint tendering process

The new contractor was approved by directors in May 2021 following a rigorous tendering process. The TUPE process of Ryefield staff was carried out in the summer term and the new contract began in August 2021.

Public benefit

The board of directors confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Students are admitted into each school in line with the published admissions criteria, a copy of which is available on each school's website. Vyners School has places for 240 students in Years 7, 8 and 9, 180 in Years 10 and 11 and 280 for the sixth form. Students may be admitted to the hearing impaired resource base over and above this number. Ryefield School has places for 39 in its nursery classes and 60 places in reception through to Year 6. Ruislip High School has places for 210 students in Years 7, 8 and 9, 180 in Years 10 and 11 and 250 for the sixth form.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The schools in the Trust and centrally employed staff continued to work effectively together to ensure that the Department for Education control measures were in place in September 2020 as part of reopening. Both secondary schools worked together in the spring and summer terms in relation to the determination of teacher assessed grades. Template reopening plans were provided for schools as well as a centre policy for teacher assessed grades. Schools were supported with a peer review process regarding their remote learning provision. Governors and directors were kept informed and made decisions as and when required particularly with schools' reopening plans and risk assessments. A third-party was commissioned to check all the plans and conduct monitoring visits.

Ruislip High School

Specific targets 2020-2021

Target

- To reduce variations in outcomes of vulnerable groups, most notably the progress of disadvantaged students and boys at Key Stage 4

Evaluation

- The gap between boys and girls in the summer of 2021 narrowed significantly compared with summer 2020 results. Boys had an attainment 8 (A8) score of 51.95 in 2021, compared with a score for girls of 53.15 which indicates a gap of 1.2. Figures from 2020 show that boys had an A8 score of 48.25, compared with the score for girls of 59.26, a gap of 11.01.
- Although the progress 8 (P8) score isn't an official measure for these Year 11 cohorts, the difference between scores for different groups is a useful indicator. There was a difference in the P8 score of +0.05 between boys and girls in 2021, compared with a difference of -0.92 between boys and girls in 2020.
- The gap between students identified as disadvantaged and other students did not see the same reduction and continues to be a priority for the school. Despite the school providing chromebooks and dongles, and offering students identified as disadvantaged the opportunity to attend as vulnerable students, the difficulties faced by disadvantaged students were exacerbated during the pandemic when students were not able to attend school.

Target

- To achieve a significant reduction in persistent absenteeism to at least below 10% and see an improvement in attendance in the main school to above 96%

Evaluation

- This measure was not achieved and, although significantly affected by the pandemic; a significant focus on reducing persistent absenteeism will continue for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Target

- To ensure that the school has successfully implemented its intended curriculum including a comprehensive remote learning package across all subjects

Evaluation

- School staff remained committed throughout the pandemic to ensure the curriculum remained ambitious and challenging, in order to allow students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. The evidence is clear that a sustained response is required to move forward following COVID-19, and that high-quality teaching is the best strategy to improve outcomes for students. This is part of the school improvement plan for 2021-2022.
- The school is committed to providing continuity of education for all students should they be affected by COVID-19. A peer review of the school's remote curriculum carried out by Vyners senior team highlighted the strengths of the remote curriculum as well as providing feedback on how the provision can be refined and improved.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Ryefield School

Specific targets 2020-2021

Target

- 76% of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in reading
- 70% of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in writing
- 78% of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in maths

Evaluation

As national assessments were cancelled, these are all evaluated based on teacher assessments.

End of year 6 teacher assessment show that:

- 78% (73%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in reading
- 80% (78%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in writing
- 74% (79%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS2 in maths

Target

- 65% of pupils achieving expected standards in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of KS2 to be in line with national average.

Evaluation

Reading, writing and mathematics combined:

62% (65%) of pupils achieved expected standards in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of KS2

End of year 2 teacher assessment show that:

- 87% (75%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS1 in reading
- 81% (69%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS1 in writing
- 87% (77%) of pupils achieve expected standards at the end of KS1 in maths

Target

- At the end of KS1 pupils achievement is in line with national average.

Evaluation

- Phonics assessments were cancelled. Due to the introduction of a new phonics scheme, the school continued to track pupils and administer the phonics check.

Target

- At the end of Y1 results of the phonics test are in line with national average.

Evaluation

- By the end of Year 2: 91% (91%) of the cohort passed the phonics check.
- By the end of Year 1: 50% (82%) of the cohort were on track to pass the phonics check.

Target

- At the end of EYFS the proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development is in line with national average.

Evaluation

- 50% of the cohort were assessed as having made a good level of development.
- With regards to phonological awareness, 70% of the cohort were assessed to be accessing Year 1 Read Write Inc material.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Vyners School

Specific targets 2020-2021

Target

- To maintain excellent GCSE results including %9-4 English and Mathematics 82%+ and top 25% for progress nationally.

Evaluation

- External examinations were cancelled this year and replaced by teacher assessed grades. This process involved using a variety of assessed student work (eg. in class assessments, trial exams, end of course assessments, etc.) to calculate a fair/reasonable grade for each student in each subject.
- Students in Years 11 and 13 were able to complete trial examinations prior to the lockdown in January. Students also completed coursework in specific subjects (however, they were not penalised if they were unable to complete it). The school also ran a series of final assessments for each course in May prior to the final submission of grades.
- 80% of students in Year 11 achieved grades 4+ in English and Maths, whilst 61% achieved grades 5+.
- The estimated progress 8 score for the Year 11 cohort was +0.44 (compared to +0.3 in 2019), whilst the estimated ALPS score for the cohort was 2.

Target

- To improve further A-level outcomes, securing 55%+ A*-B, and Alps 4+

Evaluation

- At A-level, 39% of grades were awarded at A*-A, whilst 62% were awarded at A*-B. These outcomes have exceeded all previous results but are broadly in line with the average teacher assessed grade results for state funded schools nationally.
- The Year 11 cohort achieved an Alps rating of 2

Target

- To maintain excellent behaviour standards throughout the academic year including a 5%+ reduction in fixed term exclusions and a significant reduction in C3 and C4 consequences

Evaluation

- Overall comparisons were difficult this year due to the fact that lockdowns have occurred at different points during both 2019-20 and 2020-21; however half-termly comparisons were possible at various points.
- There was a slight increase in the number of fixed-term exclusions in the autumn term overall and an increase in the number of days lost due to exclusion.
- There were fewer exclusions in spring 1 this year (10) compared to 2019-20 (12) and fewer days lost.
- There were concerns about the nature of the emotional and behavioural difficulties experienced by some children when they returned to school after the lockdown in March. However, the number of exclusions did not increase as a result.

Going concern

Covid-19 has impacted on the financial performance of the Trust as certain operational costs had increased as a result of the additional measures put in place to reduce the spread of infections. Although some of these additional costs had been offset by savings due to school closures and additional government funding, it should be noted that most of the additional measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future and therefore will have an adverse impact on the financial results and reduce the Trust's reserves. The Trust received an extra £311k of Covid-19 funding; this was used by schools primarily as part of the catch-up premium as well as some costs associated with additional free school meals, lateral flow testing and enhanced cleaning. After making appropriate enquiries, the board of directors 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 directors 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.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Protecting the success of the Trust

The Trust is developing its approach to long-term strategic planning. The directors are clear that Vanguard Learning Trust is a good and fair employer. For example, the directors made the decision to pay in the spring term 2021 the additional 20% to the two secondary schools' catering staff to ensure all of them received full pay when they were furloughed (this had also been done the previous year). In addition, the support staff harmonisation project was agreed by directors to ensure all support staff have the same nationally agreed terms and conditions; this ensures all support staff are on the more favourable terms and conditions. The schools' and central team's operational staff continued to work diligently with third parties during the lockdown period to ensure all matters in relation to business continuity were agreed in a timely manner and that they adhered to government guidelines. The central team has expanded in terms of centrally employed staff; this is kept under review to ensure that the Trust has the staff to carry out its core functions in conjunction with school-based staff.

Financial review

Financial report for the year

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 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the charities statement of recommended practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019), these 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.

The London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) donated the new teaching block at Ruislip High School to the Trust, the donation is valued at £10,924k.

During the year ended 31 August 2021, total expenditure of £18,564k (2020: £17,271k) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £558k (2020: equivalent excess of expenditure over income was £545k, excluding restricted fixed asset funds, transfers to restricted fixed asset funds and the assets donated from LBH).

At 31 August 2021 the net book value of fixed assets was £54,704k (2020: £44,352k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Trust.

Vyners School, Ryefield Primary School and Ruislip High School are members of The London Borough of Hillingdon Pension Fund. The Trust's share of the overall scheme deficit at 31 August 2021 was £10,371k (2020: £8,091k). Of this sum, £641k was inherited by Vyners School Academy Trust from the London Borough of Hillingdon on 1 November 2011 the date the staff transferred to employment with the Academy; £1,116k was inherited by Ryefield Primary School from the London Borough of Hillingdon on 1 February 2015; and £1,552k was inherited from Ruislip High School on 1 September 2018 when joining the Trust.

Reserves policy

The directors review the reserve levels of the academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The directors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four weeks' expenditure, approximately £1,318k (2020: £1,190k).

The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust's current level of free reserves is £3,142k (2020: £2,950k) (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds). The directors expect the excess of general unrestricted funds to reduce in the coming years, should nationally agreed pay awards for school staff continue to not be fully funded.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In addition to its free reserves the Trust has restricted reserves totalling £44,749k (2020: £36,308k). Of this total, £54,627k (2020: £44,399k) comprised the restricted fixed asset fund. This balance was offset by the deficit balance on the restricted pension fund, as detailed on page 13.

The Trust's restricted pension reserve was £10,371k (2020: £8,091k) in deficit as at 31 August 2021. This deficit is not an immediate liability of the Trust. Instead, the deficit will be met through increased pension contributions on behalf of staff in the future. A full actuarial valuation of the LBH's local government pension scheme (LGPS) took place in 2019. The impact on the employer's LGPS pension contribution will be applied for a four-year period commencing September 2020.

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

Principal risks and uncertainties

The financial risks which Vanguard Learning Trust is exposed to relates primarily to:

- Change in government and legislation
- Inflationary costs
- The agreement, at a national level, of pay rises which are not subsequently fully funded
- Potential of reduced funding and cash flow
- Reduction in student numbers, particularly in the primary sector
- The impact of COVID-19 in particular school closure to the majority of students

A risk arises in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme, due to the fact that there is a deficit of £10,371k (2020: £8,091k).

Risk management

The Trust has assessed the major risks to which the Trust as a whole, and individual schools, are exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of schools within the Trust, and its finances. A number of systems have been implemented to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (eg. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. Operational procedures and internal financial controls are in place in order to minimise risk. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the governance statement on page 18.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Fundraising

Vanguard Learning Trust primarily raises extra income through the commercial letting of its school premises. All schools within the Trust have parents associations that undertake voluntary fundraising activities on behalf of each school. Activities include selling refreshments at school events, sponsored events and raffles. The Trust does not use the services of a professional fundraiser and none of the schools engage in any form of 'cold calling'.

Central Services

The total cost of the Trust's central services provision in 2020-2021 was £602k (2019-2020 £311k). This was separated into central staffing and services. The central staff cost was for the executive headteacher, commercial director, HR director, finance manager, PA to the executive headteacher, payroll manager and company secretary. The central services provided to schools included: financial, legal, professional, human resources and educational support. The Trust charged this expenditure as a flat rate percentage of the general annual grant (GAG) and other revenue streams.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

	2021 kWh	2020 kWh
<i>Energy consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	3,666,860	3,070,617
- Fuel consumed for transport	1,169,685	1,129,004
- Electricity purchased	79	2,083
	<u>4,836,624</u>	<u>4,201,704</u>
	2021	2020
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>	metric tonnes	metric tonnes
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	674.23	564.59
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	-	0.15
	<u>674.23</u>	<u>564.74</u>
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	272.70	263.22
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the Trust	0.02	0.35
	<u>946.95</u>	<u>828.31</u>
Total gross emissions		
	<u>946.95</u>	<u>828.31</u>
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.33	0.29
	<u>0.33</u>	<u>0.29</u>

Quantification and reporting methodology

The Trust has followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. The Trust has also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Vanguard Learning Trust aims to increase energy efficiency throughout the organisation. Ryefield Primary School carried out a roof replacement in 2020-2021; this will increase the energy efficiency in the school. The new building at Ruislip High School has been fitted with energy efficient lighting; whilst the overall energy usage in the Trust has increased, this is mainly due to the fact that the schools were open for a longer period of the year compared to the previous year and two of the schools have additional buildings. Throughout the year the central staff have been working at home, which has reduced mileage costs. All the directors' meetings were held remotely. As an organisation we will look to continue to reduce mileage and ways of increasing energy efficiency.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Plans for future periods

The directors have agreed the priorities for the next academic year with the caveat that they may need to be revised because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Any adjustments will be part of the mid-year review of the Trust's strategic action plan for 2021-2022.

1. School improvement and developing people

1a. Staff: All schools to promote the principle of collective responsibility in relation to joint school improvement work; this will be evidenced by the Trust's dividend report which will be the annual report outlining evidence of the positive impact of the Trust.

1b. Students: All schools to eliminate underperformance, particularly with vulnerable subgroups; this will be evidenced by peer review reports and national data that indicate that gaps have been reduced.

1c. Standardisation of data: The Trust to embed the use of the scorecard with agreed criteria to evaluate the quality of education in each school as well its capacity to improve; this will be evidenced by the scorecard being presented to the directors and actions agreed on a Trust-wide level based on standardised evidence.

2. Governance and risk management

2a. Governance: The Trust to consider how to promote unison between all levels of governance; this will be evidenced by a revised scheme of delegation which will be shared with all tiers of governance, the governance development programme and feedback from governors.

2b. Expansion: The Trust to consolidate its recent expansion and review its procedures for future expansion; this will be evidenced by the successful integration of the new schools into Trust-wide systems and structures and agreement on the recruitment of associate schools.

2c. Risk management: The Trust to launch its new risk management policy to ensure a consistent culture is developed across the Trust regarding the main principles and practices to ensure effective risk management; this will be evidenced by schools' and the Trust's risk registers adhering to the policy, including clarity of roles and responsibilities in terms of the three lines of defence as well as the risk appetite for medium and high level risk.

3. Finance and school resource management

3a. Financial controls: The Trust to ensure that all schools fully comply with all financial controls as part of the change to a central finance function; this will be evidenced by a revised finance policy and robust auditor and internal scrutiny reports.

3b. Centralised services: The Trust to decide how to proceed with the centralisation; this will be evidenced by a clear plan for the expansion of core functions, in particular HR and estate management as well as putting all support staff on the same terms and conditions.

3c. Procurement: The Trust to ensure there are contracts lists for all schools and the central team and a plan is agreed about centralising future contracts; this will be evidenced by contract lists and an agreement on those that should in the future be managed and/or procured centrally.

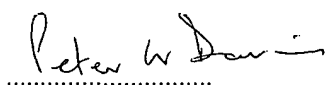
Auditor

In so far as the directors are aware:

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

The current auditors have been in place for more than five years; therefore in line with the Academy Trust Handbook, a tender process was conducted in the autumn term 2021. A recommendation to appoint the auditors is an agenda item at the members' annual general meeting in January 2022.

The directors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of directors, as the company directors, on 09.12.21 and signed on its behalf by:



P Davies

Chair

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of directors delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the executive headteacher, 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 Vanguard Learning Trust (formerly Vyners Learning Trust) and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the directors' report and in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Attendance information below is set out according to the forms taken by the board of directors:

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Davies (Chair)	6	6
D Trood	5	6
P Nash (Resigned 23 September 2021)	5	6
M Lecky (Accounting Officer)	6	6
E Lavery	6	6
P Nixon	6	6
A Sykes	5	6
K Rowe	6	6
D Collins	5	6
S Saraon	4	6

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The work of the board of directors

Throughout 2020-2021 the board worked to a regular cycle of approving, reviewing and monitoring:

- School improvement initiatives;
- School targets;
- Budgets and finances for individual schools and the central team;
- The internal financial assurance programme;
- Trust and school risks;
- Key performance indicators as part of termly reports;
- Policy approvals and the work of the board's committees; and
- Compliance and health and safety as part of termly reports..

In addition, the work of the directors included approving, monitoring or overseeing:

- Lessons learned from the pandemic with regard to the curriculum and teaching and learning;
- The development of a 3-5-year strategic plan for the Trust;
- The development of the Trust dividend to capture the benefits of MAT membership;
- The creation of the central finance team and finance functions along with new central systems and processes;
- A review of the Trust's vision and values;
- Individual school's capital expenditure;
- Updates on the security audits of the school's sites;
- Trust-wide procurement projects, eg. cleaning contract, photocopier contract, finance and budgeting software;
- Approval for the two associate member schools to join the Trust from 1st September 2021, including due diligence;
- The expansion of Ruislip High School
- The governance development programme for 2021-2022; and
- A range of activities and initiatives to improve the effectiveness of meetings at all levels of governance.

Governance review 2020-2021

To ensure that the board of directors is effective in their leadership of the Trust, and in line with the objects of the Trust, its core purpose and mission statement, the directors agreed in 2019-2020 that a three-year rolling programme of external (year one) and internal (years two and three) governance review be launched. An external review was conducted in 2019-2020 and followed-up in 2020-2021 by an internal review of the board of directors and the local governing bodies. All directors participated in the review and the output was shared with trustees and local governors. The output has been used to develop the director and governor development programme 2021-2022.

Vanguard Learning Trust operates a finance and resources committee as a sub-committee of the main board of directors. The committee met twice during the year.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Davies (Chair)	4	4
D Trood	4	4
E Lavery	4	4
D Collins	4	4

Vanguard Learning Trust audit, risk and compliance committee met three times during the year. Attendance data for the directors who are members of the committee is given below. The committee also has additional members, drawn from the local governing bodies.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Nash (Resigned 23 September 2021)	3	3
E Lavery	3	3
A Sykes	3	3
S Saraon	3	3

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the executive headteacher 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 directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by

- Ensuring all three Trust schools have aligned practice has put the Trust in a strong place to lever future procurement deals; ensure future procurement is conducted in the most time-efficient way; and allow new joiners to the Trust to standardise their approach in these areas;
- Agreeing the central services recharge methodology, ensuring shared costs are accurately captured and fairly apportioned across the Trust;
- Procuring professional subscriptions jointly which can now operate on a Trust-wide level, thus resulting in some savings (eg. SSAT, legal advice, National College);
- Procuring Trust-wide cleaning contract
- Operating centralised budgeting software
- Operating a centralised payroll service, ensuring all three schools use the same provider, generating cost saving for all;
- Sharing national benchmark figures with board of directors and local governing bodies and ensuring key considerations were identified and discussed;
- Expanding the voice over internet phone (VOIP) communications network system to all schools ensuring long-term operational savings;
- Supporting schools with business continuity plans during lockdown;
- Continuing a programme of collaborative visits to high achieving schools and other MATs and bringing back the very best practice into the Trust; and
- Successful application for the Trust Capacity fund will enable the Trust to invest in projects and systems that will improve and drive efficiencies across the Trust.

COVID-19 Financial Impact

The Trust received COVID-related funding of £311k throughout the academic year; the funding received was in relation to the catch-up premium funding, mass test and free school meal supplementary grant. The majority of the funding was spent in 2020-2021; however, a proportion of the mass-test funding was not spent and will be carried forward to offset against future COVID related costs.

During the lockdown the Public Procurement Notice (PPN) 02/20 was applicable to all contracting authorities, Academy trusts were deemed to be a contracting authority and were required to put into place the most appropriate payment measures to support suppliers by paying suppliers as quickly as possible to maintain cash flow and protect jobs. The Trust ensured timely payment to suppliers throughout the lockdown period. The PPN 02/20 was used in relation to external contracts for catering provision at the secondary schools and the approximate cost of this to the Trust was £24k. In addition to this the Trust had additional unforeseen costs of approx £109k in 2020-2021; these were mainly additional cleaning costs, internal catering staff salary costs, general costs and class based staff cover costs.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is undertaken by a third party, Cooper Parry, to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Vanguard Learning Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

Local governing bodies are responsible for reviewing the key risks to which each school is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of directors (via the audit, risk and compliance committee) is responsible for monitoring the most serious risks to which the Trust is exposed and is satisfied that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31st August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The Trust updated its risk management policy adopted a new 5x5 risk register and schools and Trust register is reviewed termly together with detailed analysis of major risk and plans to mitigate these risks.

In terms of the global pandemic, the schools worked closely together throughout lockdown. The board of directors made strategic decisions at its meetings, ensuring a co-ordinated approach in order to support school leaders and provide guidance to local governing bodies.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems at a local school level with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed by each local governing body;
- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems at a Trust level with a consolidated annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed the board of directors;
- regular reviews by both the local governing body and board of directors of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Trust's audit, risk and compliance committee sets out a programme of internal scrutiny each year, designed to address key areas of risk, as set out in the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH). The audit, risk and compliance committee commissioned Cooper Parry to review the Trust's compliance with the AFH.

Cooper Parry delivered their programme of work as planned and no material control issues arose.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the executive headteacher 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 an external audit firm in relation to the internal assurance review;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The accounting officer has been advised of the recommendations of the internal assurance carried out by Cooper Parry by the audit, risk and compliance committee and a plan to address areas of improvement and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of directors on09.12.21..... and signed on its behalf by:



P Davies
Chair



M Lecky
Accounting Officer

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

As accounting officer of Vanguard Learning Trust (formally Vyners Learning Trust) I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust board of directors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

I confirm that I and the Trust's board of directors 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 Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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 directors and ESFA.



M Lecky
Accounting Officer

09.12.21

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The directors (who also act as trustees for Vanguard Learning Trust (formally Vyners Learning Trust)) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the directors must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The directors 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 accounts 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 directors 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 that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of directors on09.12.21..... and signed on its behalf by:



P Davies
Chair

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Vanguard Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the trust's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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 the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 directors' 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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts 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 accounts 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.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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 directors' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the directors' report including the incorporated 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 Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report, including the incorporated 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 accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Use of our report

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

Azets Audit Services.

Kevin Walmsley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

17.12.21

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Gladstone House
77-79 High Street
Egham
Surrey
United Kingdom
TW20 9HY

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 17 September 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Vanguard Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 Vanguard Learning Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Vanguard Learning Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Vanguard Learning Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Vanguard Learning Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Vanguard Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 November 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, 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 2020 to 2021. 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 period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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 period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Azets Audit Services.

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
Gladstone House
77-79 High Street
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9HY
United Kingdom

Dated: 17.12.21

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	32	-	11,270	11,302	11,563
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	17,427	-	17,427	15,455
Other trading activities	5	160	-	-	160	171
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	6
Total		<u>192</u>	<u>17,427</u>	<u>11,270</u>	<u>28,889</u>	<u>27,195</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	-	17,140	1,424	18,564	17,271
Total	7	<u>-</u>	<u>17,140</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>18,564</u>	<u>17,271</u>
Net income		192	287	9,846	10,325	9,924
Transfers between funds	18	-	(382)	382	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(1,692)	-	(1,692)	(1,553)
Net movement in funds		192	(1,787)	10,228	8,633	8,371
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,950	(8,091)	44,399	39,258	30,887
Total funds carried forward		<u>3,142</u>	<u>(9,878)</u>	<u>54,627</u>	<u>47,891</u>	<u>39,258</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2020		funds	General	Fixed asset	2020
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	301	-	11,262	11,563
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	18	15,437	-	15,455
Other trading activities	5	171	-	-	171
Investments	6	6	-	-	6
Total		<u>496</u>	<u>15,437</u>	<u>11,262</u>	<u>27,195</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	272	15,680	1,319	17,271
Total	7	<u>272</u>	<u>15,680</u>	<u>1,319</u>	<u>17,271</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		224	(243)	9,943	9,924
Transfers between funds	18	(5)	(310)	315	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(1,553)	-	(1,553)
Net movement in funds		219	(2,106)	10,258	8,371
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,731	(5,985)	34,141	30,887
Total funds carried forward		<u>2,950</u>	<u>(8,091)</u>	<u>44,399</u>	<u>39,258</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	54,704	44,352
Current assets			
Debtors	14	742	650
Cash at bank and in hand		4,120	3,289
		<u>4,862</u>	<u>3,939</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,214)	(832)
Net current assets		<u>3,648</u>	<u>3,107</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>58,352</u>	<u>47,459</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(90)	(110)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability		<u>58,262</u>	<u>47,349</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	(10,371)	(8,091)
Total net assets		<u>47,891</u>	<u>39,258</u>
Funds of the Trust:			
Restricted funds	18		
- Fixed asset funds		54,627	44,399
- Restricted income funds		493	-
- Pension reserve		(10,371)	(8,091)
Total restricted funds		<u>44,749</u>	<u>36,308</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>3,142</u>	<u>2,950</u>
Total funds		<u>47,891</u>	<u>39,258</u>

The accounts on pages 30 to 55 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 09.12.21 and are signed on their behalf by:



P Davies
Chair

Company Number 07796938

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	1,358	685
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-	6
Capital grants from DfE Group		199	416
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		80	9
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(784)	(597)
Net cash used in investing activities		(505)	(166)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of other loan		(21)	(13)
Finance costs		(1)	-
Net cash used in financing activities		(22)	(13)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		831	506
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		3,289	2,783
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		4,120	3,289

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

Vanguard Learning Trust is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The address of its registered office and principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the directors' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts 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 accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period 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 in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Donations

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

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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.

Donated fixed assets

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

Upon becoming an academy trust, ownership of the Vyners School site transferred to the charitable company. This asset was recognised in the financial statements at its valuation under the depreciated replacement cost model.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Land and buildings	2%
Plant and machinery	15%
Computer equipment	25%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	15%

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(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.

1.6 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.

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 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. 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. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer 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 net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.11 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 directors.

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

1.12 Agency Arrangements

The academy 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 trust can use up to 20% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 26.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. 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.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical areas of judgement

No further judgements have been made in arriving at the results disclosed in the financial statements.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Donated fixed assets	-	10,991	10,991	10,837
Capital grants	-	265	265	416
Other donations	32	14	46	310
	<u>32</u>	<u>11,270</u>	<u>11,302</u>	<u>11,563</u>

The London Borough of Hillingdon paid for construction of a new teaching block on the existing site of Ruislip High School. On completion, responsibility for the property was handed over to the Academy Trust. The fair value of the building has been recognised as a donation in kind and an addition to tangible fixed assets (see note 13).

During the year, the Trust received donations of laptops for student use. The fair value of the laptops has been recognised as a donation in kind and an addition to tangible fixed assets (see note 13).

In the prior year, the London Borough of Hillingdon paid for construction of a new teaching block on the existing site of Vyners School. On completion, responsibility for the property was handed over to the Academy Trust. The fair value of the building was recognised as a donation in kind and an addition to tangible fixed assets.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 Funding for the Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	14,507	14,507	12,895
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
Pupil premium	-	482	482	479
Teachers pension grants	-	566	566	550
Teachers pay grants	-	200	200	195
Others	-	69	69	114
	-	15,824	15,824	14,233
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,276	1,276	1,204
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium	-	190	190	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	55	55	-
	-	245	245	-
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Other Coronavirus funding	-	82	82	-
	-	82	82	-
Other funding				
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	18
Total funding	-	17,427	17,427	15,455

The academy trust received £190k of Covid Catch-up Premium funding and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £193k, resulting in a recorded overspend of £3k

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Hire of facilities	21	-	21	36
Catering income	13	-	13	24
Music tuition	27	-	27	14
Parental contributions	45	-	45	25
Other income	54	-	54	72
	<u>160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>171</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	6
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	11,852	821	955	13,628	12,906
- Allocated support costs	2,310	1,700	926	4,936	4,365
	<u>14,162</u>	<u>2,521</u>	<u>1,881</u>	<u>18,564</u>	<u>17,271</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	18	17
- Other services	6	7
Operating lease rentals	12	14
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,424	1,319
Bank and loan interest	1	-
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	142	117
	<u>1,599</u>	<u>1,454</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Central services

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

- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services; and
- professional support services.

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis

- as a percentage of total student numbers.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Vyners School	282	90
Ryefield Primary School	68	40
Ruislip High School	252	129
	<u>602</u>	<u>259</u>

9 Charitable activities

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	13,628	12,906
Support costs		
Educational operations	4,936	4,365
	<u>18,564</u>	<u>17,271</u>

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,343	2,067
Depreciation	603	542
Technology costs	200	204
Premises costs	1,097	967
Legal costs	238	122
Other support costs	401	416
Governance costs	54	47
	<u>4,936</u>	<u>4,365</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Wages and salaries	10,043	9,316
Social security costs	1,033	897
Pension costs	2,801	2,503
Staff costs - employees	13,877	12,716
Agency staff costs	285	327
	14,162	13,043
Staff development and other staff costs	160	64
Total staff expenditure	14,322	13,107

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	165	155
Administration and support	151	148
Management	6	5
	322	308

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	6	12
£70,001 - £80,000	6	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	2	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £582,309 (2020: £619,728).

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

11 Directors' remuneration and expenses

The Headteacher and other staff directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as directors. Other directors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as directors.

The value of directors' remuneration was as follows:

M Lecky (Ruislip High School Headteacher and director)

Remuneration £125,000 - £130,000 (2020: £130,000 - £135,000)

Employer's pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2020: £20,000 - £25,000)

Directors' expenses

During the period ended 31 August 2021, no expenses were paid on behalf of directors (2020: £nil).

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

12 Directors' 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 directors 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 directors and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme for the year ended 31 August 2021.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Plant and machinery	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost					
At 1 September 2020	45,619	648	1,030	2,122	49,419
Additions	11,170	11	274	321	11,776
At 31 August 2021	56,789	659	1,304	2,443	61,195
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	3,239	250	707	871	5,067
Charge for the year	819	99	181	325	1,424
At 31 August 2021	4,058	349	888	1,196	6,491
Net book value					
At 31 August 2021	52,731	310	416	1,247	54,704
At 31 August 2020	42,380	398	323	1,251	44,352

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13 Tangible fixed assets (Continued)

The net book value of land and buildings comprises:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Freeholds	31,285	20,711
Long leaseholds (over 50 years)	21,446	21,669
	<u>52,731</u>	<u>42,380</u>

The sites of Ryefield Primary School and Ruislip High School are leased by the Trust from the London Borough of Hillingdon. The lease period is 125 years at a peppercorn rent.

Included in Land and Buildings above is £8.342 million relating to land, which is not depreciated.

The London Borough of Hillingdon paid for construction of a new teaching block on the existing site of Ruislip High School. On completion, responsibility for the property was handed over to the Academy Trust. The fair value of the building has been recognised as a donation in kind and an addition to tangible fixed assets (see note 3).

14 Debtors

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade debtors	23	24
VAT recoverable	308	366
Other debtors	16	27
Prepayments and accrued income	395	233
	<u>742</u>	<u>650</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Other loans	21	22
Trade creditors	365	241
Other taxation and social security	265	226
Other creditors	80	136
Accruals and deferred income	483	207
	<u>1,214</u>	<u>832</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Other loans	90	110
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis of loans	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	111	132
Less: included in current liabilities	(21)	(22)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Amounts included above	90	110
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Instalments not due within five years	9	24
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	21	22
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	21	22
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	60	65
Due in more than five years	9	24
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	111	133
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Included within other loans are two loans totalling £15,594 from Salix Finance. The loans are interest free and will be repaid in full in March 2025 and September 2025 respectively.

Also included in other loans are two Condition Improvement Fund loans totalling £95,000. Repayments on these loans have commenced and will continue until April 2026 and March 2028 respectively. The loans attract interest of 0.01% per annum.

17 Deferred income

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	102	88
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	88	215
Released from previous years	(88)	(215)
Resources deferred in the year	102	88
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	102	88
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

At 31 August 2021, deferred income consisted of grants and contributions from parents received in advance for the 2021-22 financial year.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	14,507	(13,705)	(382)	420
Pupil premium	-	482	(482)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	566	(566)	-	-
Teachers pay grants	-	200	(200)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	69	(69)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,276	(1,276)	-	-
Covid-19 Catch-up premium	-	190	(193)	-	(3)
Other DFE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	55	(39)	-	16
Other non DFE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	82	(22)	-	60
Pension reserve	(8,091)	-	(588)	(1,692)	(10,371)
	<u>(8,091)</u>	<u>17,427</u>	<u>(17,140)</u>	<u>(2,074)</u>	<u>(9,878)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	17,032	265	(1,424)	-	15,873
Capital expenditure from GAG	16,665	-	-	382	17,047
Other capital funding	10,702	11,005	-	-	21,707
	<u>44,399</u>	<u>11,270</u>	<u>(1,424)</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>54,627</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>36,308</u>	<u>28,697</u>	<u>(18,564)</u>	<u>(1,692)</u>	<u>44,749</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>2,950</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,142</u>
Total funds	<u>39,258</u>	<u>28,889</u>	<u>(18,564)</u>	<u>(1,692)</u>	<u>47,891</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Trust. 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 2021.

Other DfE/ESFA grants: This includes any ESFA grant stream not separately disclosed above.

Capital Improvement Fund Grant: grant received for refurbishment of the exterior cladding on some of the school buildings.

LA and other grants: this includes SEN funding, Pupil Premium Funding, 6th Form Pay Grant funding and HIRB funding from London Borough of Hillingdon and Ealing

Other capital donations: Amounts received to fund specific capital projects.

The transfer of funds relate to the purchase of fixed assets from revenue funds during the year.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	12,895	(12,585)	(310)	-
Pupil premium	-	479	(479)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	550	(550)	-	-
Teachers pay grants	-	195	(195)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	114	(114)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,204	(1,204)	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,985)	-	(553)	(1,553)	(8,091)
	<u>(5,985)</u>	<u>15,437</u>	<u>(15,680)</u>	<u>(1,863)</u>	<u>(8,091)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	17,754	416	(1,138)	-	17,032
Capital expenditure from GAG	16,355	-	-	310	16,665
Other capital funding	32	10,846	(181)	5	10,702
	<u>34,141</u>	<u>11,262</u>	<u>(1,319)</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>44,399</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>28,156</u>	<u>26,699</u>	<u>(16,999)</u>	<u>(1,548)</u>	<u>36,308</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>2,731</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>(272)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>2,950</u>
Total funds	<u>30,887</u>	<u>27,195</u>	<u>(17,271)</u>	<u>(1,553)</u>	<u>39,258</u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:		
Vyners School	1,527	946
Ryefield Primary School	642	666
Ruislip High School	1,568	1,338
Central services	(102)	-
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	3,635	2,950
Restricted fixed asset fund	54,627	44,399
Pension reserve	(10,371)	(8,091)
Total funds	47,891	39,258

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Vyners School	5,687	703	385	751	7,526	7,214
Ryefield Primary School	1,390	488	131	234	2,243	2,169
Ruislip High School	4,593	803	412	811	6,619	6,255
Central services	180	316	25	227	748	192
	11,850	2,310	953	2,023	17,136	15,830

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	54,704	54,704
Current assets	4,335	493	34	4,862
Creditors falling due within one year	(1,193)	-	(21)	(1,214)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(90)	(90)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(10,371)	-	(10,371)
Total net assets	3,142	(9,878)	54,627	47,891

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	44,352	44,352
Current assets	3,760	-	179	3,939
Creditors falling due within one year	(810)	-	(22)	(832)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(110)	(110)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(8,091)	-	(8,091)
Total net assets	2,950	(8,091)	44,399	39,258

20 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 the London Borough of Hillingdon. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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.

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.

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The 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 pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,621k (2020: £1,485k).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.1 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £742k (2020: £639k).

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

Total contributions made	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Employer's contributions	742	592
Employees' contributions	165	138
Total contributions	907	730
Principal actuarial assumptions	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.2	2.5
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.2
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.9	2.3

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.3	21.7
- Females	24.7	23.7
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.3	22.4
- Females	26.2	25.0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Discount rate -0.1% (2020: -0.5%)	398	1,568
Salary rate +0.1% (2020: +0.5%)	17	74
Pension rate +0.1% (2020: +0.1%)	376	1,472
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability

Scheme assets	6,887	5,100
Scheme obligations	(17,258)	(13,191)
Net liability	(10,371)	(8,091)

The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2021 Fair value £'000	2020 Fair value £'000
Equities	3,237	2,397
Bonds	2,066	1,679
Cash	482	357
Property	1,102	667
Total market value of assets	6,887	5,100

The actual return on scheme assets was £995,000 (2020: £(412,000)).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current service cost	1,188	1,028
Interest income	(93)	(97)
Interest cost	235	214
Total operating charge	1,330	1,145

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
At 1 September 2020	13,191	10,881
Current service cost	1,188	1,028
Interest cost	235	214
Employee contributions	165	138
Actuarial loss	2,594	1,044
Benefits paid	(115)	(114)
At 31 August 2021	17,258	13,191

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
At 1 September 2020	5,100	4,896
Interest income	93	97
Actuarial (gain)/loss	902	(509)
Employer contributions	742	592
Employee contributions	165	138
Benefits paid	(115)	(114)
At 31 August 2021	6,887	5,100

21 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	10,325	9,924
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(11,270)	(11,262)
Investment income receivable	-	(6)
Finance costs payable	1	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	446	436
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	142	117
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,424	1,319
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(93)	268
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	383	(111)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,358	685

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2021 £'000
Cash	3,289	831	4,120
Loans falling due within one year	(22)	1	(21)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(110)	20	(90)
	3,157	852	4,009

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

23 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

At 31 August 2021 the total of the Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Amounts due within one year	25	14
Amounts due in two and five years	40	11
	<u>65</u>	<u>25</u>

24 Capital commitments

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	202

25 Related party transactions

Note 11 contains details of related party transactions during the period of account of certain directors' remuneration and expenses.

Income Related Party Transaction

During the year, the Uxbridge United Welfare Trusts donated two laptops to the Trust. The aggregate value of the laptops was £478. P Davies, a director of the Trust, is a trustee of Uxbridge United Welfare Trusts.

26 Post balance sheet events

After the year end, the following schools converted to academy trust status and joined Vanguard Learning Trust:

- Field End Junior School
- Hermitage Primary School

At this stage, it is not possible to reliably estimate the value of the net assets acquired by the Trust in relation to these two schools.

27 Members' liability

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

VANGUARD LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

28 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2021 the trust received £25k (2020: £31k) and disbursed £18k (2020: £26k) from the fund. An amount of £36k (2020: £29k) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.