

Report of the Governors and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2017
for
Holmer Church Of England Academy



Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

MEMBERS

A Banks
Rev S Lee
Mrs R J Maund
C Bramble (resigned 22.9.16)
Cllr P A Andrews

GOVERNORS (TRUSTEES)

C Bramble
Cllr P Andrews
Mrs R Vodden

Miss E Stackhouse
Mrs C Hartland
A Banks
Mrs R J Maund
C Pinches
A Wibmer
Mrs M Hillman
Rev S Lee
Mrs J Brandreth
Mr E Williams
Mr R Oram
Mrs Wendy Burge

Community (Resigned September 2017)
Local Authority
Foundation
Non-teaching
staff
Foundation (Resigned July 2016)
Parent
Head Teacher
Parent
Co-opted
Foundation (Resigned July 2016)
Ex Officio
Teacher (Resigned 5th June 2017)
Parent
Foundation
Foundation

MEMBERS OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Cllr P Andrews
Mrs J Maund
C Pinches

Miss E Stackhouse
Mr A Wibmer

Local Authority
Head Teacher
Parent
Non-teaching
Staff
Co-opted

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mrs J Maund
Miss A Begley
Mrs Z Jackson
Miss A Keating
Mrs B Deuchar

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Mrs J Maund

COMPANY NAME

Holmer Church of England Academy

REGISTERED OFFICE

Holmer Church Of England Academy
Holmer Road
Hereford
HR4 9RX

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	7850551 (England and Wales)
SENIOR STATUTORY AUDITOR	Mr Kevin Tong FCCA ACA
AUDITORS	Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 2 Wyevale Business Park Kings Acre Hereford Herefordshire HR4 7BS
SOLICITORS	Lanyon Bowdler Broadway House 32 - 35 Broad Street Hereford HR4 9AR
BANKERS	Lloyds TSB 6 - 8 High Town Hereford

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Report of the Governors for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

The governors who are also directors of the academy trust for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the academy trust for the year ended 31 August 2017. The governors have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our aim is to help children realise their full potential by providing:

- The highest quality education within the context of Christian belief
- A happy and attractive environment which enables children to make the most of their opportunities and abilities
- A caring and approachable staff and an ethos of concern for others and responsibility for our own actions
- A broad, balanced, challenging and relevant curriculum which caters for the needs of individual children
- Up-to-date learning materials, technology, teaching and learning experiences

We also aim to help our children develop:

- An understanding of the Christian faith and promote Christian values for all pupils
- Courtesy, good manners and consideration towards others
- Relationships based on mutual respect and self-discipline
- Lively minds, knowledge, understanding and a range of practical and mental skills
- A love of books, pride in the quality of their work
- Appreciation and interest in music, art and drama
- Healthy bodies and physical skills in PE, swimming and games
- Respect for the World in which we live and concern for it and its dwindling resources
- Independence and self-reliance

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Key priorities for the year are contained in our school Improvement Plan which is available from the school office. Other key areas for development include:

- Completion of upgrade to fire protection and alarm system
- Increase capacity of Senior Leadership Team and development of middle leaders
- Completion of roofing repairs

The School Development Plan identifies development under the four Key Judgement Areas of Leadership and Management, Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour, Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and Outcomes for children and learners. As well as this priorities for development within the Early Years are identified.

Public benefit

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Report of the Governors
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Achievements and performance

The Academy is in its sixth year of performance and has continued to increase in size. Over the last four years the Academy has admitted close to a full complement of 60 pupils. As smaller cohorts leave year 6 the size of the academy has increased with 408 pupils on role in September 2017, an increase from 401 in September 2016 and nearing the school PAN of 420.

At the end of foundation stage, in 2017 the Academy's attainment resulted in 78% of pupils attaining a good level of development (maintaining the standard of 2016 and an increase from 62% in 2015) and above national figures. The Academy tracked the progress pupils made from their point of entry and the progress was good with a higher percentage of children typical plus on exit than on entry.

Areas	Below entry	Below on exit	Typical + on entry	Typical + on exit	Above on entry	Above on exit
Listening	30	19	70	81	0	17
Understanding	33	22	67	78	0	7
Speaking	35	19	65	77	0	17
Moving and handling	38	10	62	88	0	9
Health self care	32	14	68	87	0	16
Self confidence	37	16	63	83	0	12
Feelings behaviour	30	17	70	78	0	16
Relationships	18	12	82	84	0	12
Reading	44	16	56	84	1.5	24
Writing	49	21	51	79	0	10
Numbers	42	14	58	86	3	17
Shape, space, measure	40	16	60	82	0	16
People, communities	33	21	66	79	0	10
The world	37	21	63	76	0	16
Technology	25	9	75	92	0	14
Exploring, media, materials	28	12	72	88	0	10
Being imaginative	32	17	68	83	0	5

The three year performance of the percentage of pupils passing the year 1 national phonics test is consistently above national. In 2017, pupils in Year 1 attained well above national expectation. Six Year 2 pupils retook the screening test with four out of the six passing.

	2015		Year 1 2016		2017	
	School	National	School	National	School	National
All pupils	87	77	92	81	93	81

	2015		Year 2 Cumulative 2016		2017	
	School	National	School	National	School	National
All pupils	86	90	78	91	67	

In 2017 the New National Curriculum was assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2. Comparisons could be made for the first year, comparing 2017 to 2016.

Report of the Governors
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Achievements and performance

National Curriculum Assessments Key Stage 1 - percentages 2017

% of Pupils working towards the standard or above - WTS+

% of pupils working at the standard or above- AT+

% of pupils working at greater depth of study (GDS)

Writing KS1	WTS+	AT+	GDS	Maths KS1	WTS+	AT+	GDS
2017	98	81	25	2017	98	79	34
2016	95	79	8	2016	97	80	18
National 2017		68	16	National 2017		75	21

Reading KS1	WTS+	AT+	GDS
2017	98	81	30
2016	97	83	10
National 2017		76	25

Reading, Writing and Maths combined % attaining the standard or better

R W M KS1	AT
2017	72
2016	63
National 2017	64

EXS = expected standard

HNM = has not met the expected standard

At Key Stage 1 the percentage of pupils working at the standard or above was above national standards in all areas. The percentage of pupils attaining greater depth of study was above national.

Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests 2017

For each child raw scores were converted into scaled scores in a range 80 -120

Scaled score of 100+ = standard met

Scaled score of 110+ = higher standard met

Writing was teacher assessed with higher standard = greater depth

Average Scaled Score	Reading	Writing	GPAS	Maths
2017	108	/	112	110
2016	105	/	109	108
National 2017	104	/	106	104

Reading	Achieved Standard	Achieved Higher Standard
2017	94	35
2016	74	30
National 2017	71	25

Writing	Achieved Standard	Achieved Higher Standard
2017	92	29
2016	85	17
National 2017	76	18

GPAS	Achieved Standard	Achieved Higher Standard
2017	98	69
2016	93	46
National 2017	77	31

Report of the Governors
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Achievements and performance

Mathematics	Achieved Standard	Achieved Higher Standard
2017	94	62
2016	85	17
National 2017	75	23

Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined

R W M Combined	Achieved Standard	Achieved Higher Standard
2017	90	23
2016	72	11
National 2017	61	9

The performance of Holmer pupils is above the national figures in all areas and is likely to be significantly above national in reading, GPAS and mathematics.

Key Stage 2 Progress Scores

Interpreting progress scores

Progress scores will be centred around 0, with most schools within the range of -5 to +5.

A score of 0 means pupils in this school on average do about as well at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

A positive score means pupils in this school on average do better at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

A negative score means pupils in this school on average do worse at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment nationally.

Progress Measure	Reading	Writing	GPAS	Maths
2017	+4.2	+3.7	/	+6.4
2016	+2.6	+1.2	/	+4.9

These progress scores are likely to place Holmer in the top 10% of schools.

To ensure that achievement continues to remain above national averages in the academy and that all pupils make at least expected progress, with a significant amount of pupils making more than expected progress the Academy will:

- Monitor the progress of pupils each term
- Implement intervention and support for pupils who are not making expected progress focusing on identified areas of development within the academy
- Implement intervention and support for pupils who are attaining below age expected outcomes
- Implement intervention and support for pupils who need to be challenged to attain the highest levels
- Monitor the attainment of all pupils
- Monitor the attainment and progress of significant groups of pupils with the academy
- Monitor and support the needs of pupil premium and disadvantaged pupils.

Key financial performance indicators

These are covered throughout the Governors' Report.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Governors consider that the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are:

- Meeting requisite standards of education for students in core subjects
- Complying with legislative requirements regarding employment law, data protection, discrimination, Companies House and HMRC, child protection, the Charity Commission and the National Curriculum.
- Financial risk - not operating within its budget and running a deficit, changes in funding, inappropriate or insufficient financial controls and systems, fraudulent activity and/or financial commitments made without adequate authorisation.
- Operational risks resulting from inexperienced or inappropriate staff being employed and inaccurate, out of date or inappropriate information.

The key controls used by the Academy include:

- Detailed terms of reference for all committees
- Formal agendas for the Academy board and committees
- Schemes of delegation and formal financial regulations
- Formal written policies
- Clear authorisation and approval levels
- Policies and procedures required by law to protect the vulnerable

Investment and reserves policy and objectives

The governors 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 Academy's current level of reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £216,550 (2016: £50,864), all of which is free reserves. The level of general restricted reserves is £517,793 (2016: £755,982).

Any excess monies are put on short-term deposits to obtain the best returns possible.

Financial review

The majority of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2017 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2017, total expenditure of £1,203,121 (2016: £1,209,368) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The total net incoming resources before transfers and revaluations for the year was £14,190 (2016: £76,315).

At 31 August 2017, the net book value of fixed assets was £2,257,403 (2016: £2,300,379) and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Report of the Governors
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The School has agreed a Risk Management strategy, a Risk register and a risk management plan. These have been discussed by governors and include the financial risks to the school. The register and plan are constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

Future plans

The Academy will continue to improve the performance of its pupils at all levels and will continue to ensure that pupils have the best start to their education.

Increases in population will be up to the size of 420. This will occur within the next 2 years.

Full details of our plans for the immediate development of the school are in the School Improvement Plan.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Company was incorporated on the 17 November 2011 and converted from a Local Authority School to an Academy Trust on the 1st December 2011.

The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of Holmer Church of England Academy and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Holmer Church of England Academy.

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

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.

Governors' Indemnities

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

The liability insurance is provided by Zurich PLC and provides cover up to £1,000,000 (2016: £1,000,000) on any one claim.

Principal activities

This is defined in the Articles of Association.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Governors

This is defined in the Articles of Association. The Members may appoint up to 6 Governors.

The Members may appoint Staff Governors through such process as they may determine, provided that the total number of Governors (including the Principal) who are employees of the Academy Trust does not exceed one-third of the total number of Governors.

The LA may appoint the LA Governor.

The Principal shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio governor.

Subject to Article 57, the Parent Governors shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected.

The Governors may appoint up to 2 Co-opted Governors. A 'Co-opted Governor' means a person who is appointed to be a Governor by being Co-opted by Governors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Governors may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Governor if thereby the number of Governors who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one-third of the total number of Governors (including the Principal).

Organisational structure

The Academy has a leadership structure which consists of the governors and the Senior Leadership Team. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

The governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Senior Management Team is the Headteacher, deputy Headteacher and three teaching staff. These leaders direct the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the governors and reporting back to them.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Governors

The Academy has a Governor Recruitment and Induction policy.

The training and induction provided for new governors includes a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. The Governor Support Team at the Local Authority provides external training including financial matters. They provide regular updates on practice, legislation and guidance. All governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as governors.

Arrangements of Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Academy follows the Teachers Performance Related Pay Policy adopted by the Academy in February 2015 which sets out the agreed criteria and parameters for Headteachers pay at the Academy and the Deputy Head and Senior Leaders. The policy follows the agreed policy adopted by Herefordshire Local Authority. All teaching staff are paid within the teacher's pay scales as agreed in the policy. Performance related pay targets are set each year and Teachers Pay progression is determined by the outcome of the Performance Management Meetings.

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

For the period September 2016 to August 2017 three related parties were identified within the Academy. One related party is Mr A Wibmer, a Governor of the Academy, who works to supply ICT support to the Academy. Mr Wibmer provided ICT support to the school pre academisation and has been in post since academisation and well before being appointed to the Governing Body. Mr Wibmer's declaration of interest is declared at every Governing Body Meeting. Mr E Williams', parent Governor, connection is his sibling is a teacher at the Academy. This interest is declared at every Governing Body meeting. Miss Emma Stackhouse, finance administrator is the daughter of the proprietor of Hereford Butchers who were used to supply breakfast early one morning after a Year 2 sleep over. No other supplier could be sort at this time of day and pupils paid for the food supplied and again to supply hot dogs to the Year 6 BBQ when the school cooker malfunctioned at the last moment. There are currently no other related parties or connections with charities and organisations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

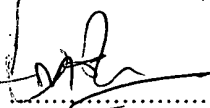
Risk management

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

AUDITORS

The auditors, Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Governors report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the governors, as the company directors, on 3/12/17 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
A Wibmer - Governor

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

Scope of Responsibility

As governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Holmer Church Of England Academy 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 of loss.

The board of the governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Holmer Church Of England Academy and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of governors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Report of the Governors and in the Statement of Governors Responsibilities. The board of governors has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of governors was as follows:

Trustee		Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr C Bramble	Community	3	4
Rev S Lee	Ex Officio	4	4
Cllr P Andrews	Local Authority	4	4
Mrs R Vodden	Foundation	4	4
Mrs J Brandreth	Teacher	2	3
Miss E Stackhouse	Non-teaching staff	3	4
Mr A Banks	Parent	2	4
Mrs J Maund	Head Teacher	4	4
Mr A Wibmer	Co-opted	4	4
Mr C Pinches	Parent	4	4
Mr E Williams	Parent	1	4
Mrs Wendy Burge	Foundation	4	4
Mr Rob Oram	Foundation	4	4

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee		Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr A Wibmer	Co-opted	3	3
Miss E Stackhouse	Non-teaching staff	3	3
Cllr P Andrews	LA Governor	3	3
Mr C Pinches	Parent - Chair	3	3
Mrs J Maund	Head Teacher	3	3

The Buildings Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee		Meetings Attended	Out of a Possible
Mr A Wibmer	Co-opted	3	3
Mr A Banks	Parent	3	3
Cllr P Andrews	Chair - LA Governor	2	3
Rev S Lee	Ex Officio	2	3
Mrs J Maund	Head Teacher	3	3
Mrs W Burge	Foundation	3	3

Governance Review

The Academy reviews the skills set of the Governors to ensure a board range of knowledge/expertise is represented.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

Improving educational results

We have ensured that resources are directed towards improving educational opportunities for all our children by:

- Funding support for the provision of daily reading
- Providing the best possible teaching and support staff in all areas
- Targeting support to assist the achievement of all individuals and all groups of pupils
- Tracking and reviewing all pupil progress and ensuring that interventions are smart, effective and resulting in progress.
- Pupil premium spending has resulted in Narrowing the Gap and improved outcomes, this is illustrated by the report on our website
- Collaborating with a soft federation of schools to acquire bespoke cpd for staff
- KS1 attainment was significantly above national in all subjects
- KS1 progress in all subjects was above average and above average for significant groups of pupils
- KS1 attainment in reading writing and maths combined was above national average at expected level and greater depth.
- KS2 attainment was above national in all subjects
- KS2 progress in all subjects was above average and above average for significant groups of pupils
- KS2 attainment in reading writing and maths combined was above national average at expected level and greater depth.
- The average scaled score for pupils in KS2 in reading, in writing & in mathematics was above other pupils nationally
- 100% of disadvantaged KS2 pupils that achieved age expectation in all areas
- The proportion of Year 1 pupils that met the expected standard in phonics was above the national figure
- The proportion of children attaining a good level of development at the end of the EYFS was above national figure.

The effectiveness of these strategies was confirmed by our ASP data and internal pupil tracking.

Financial governance and oversight

Our governance and oversight are strong and include regular contact with our accountants and scrutiny of the financial position at 3 meetings of the Finance Committee per year (termly):

- Regular monitoring of accounts takes place by the finance committee
- Spending proposals are costed and compared to ensure best value and then considered by the finance committee
- The budget position is discussed regularly to ensure decisions are made after considering the short and long term view
- Contracts are renegotiated where possible and collaboration with other schools ensure economies of scale and best value.
- Purchasing decisions are always based on requests for discounts and challenging providers to provide a best price.
- Contracts are reviewed and compared with other options before renewal
- School decisions are benchmarked against options available to other schools locally
- Through prudent and cost effective spending the school is in a position to make further spending on buildings improvement
- Some income is acquired by various lettings and holiday clubs.

Review of Value for Money

New initiatives

- Providing a venue for training will provide increased CPD opportunities for the school at no cost to the school
- Increase the after school club provision to enable more children to be accommodated in a wide range of activities, including KS1 pupils
- Offering holiday club facilities through 84% of school holidays will improve our offer to stakeholders including under 5s for half day sessions
- Further Increase the capacity of breakfast club so more children can be accommodated

Review of Value for Money

- The school has secured additional funding through CFI bids to install an upgraded fire alarm system as a second phase in the part of the school not completed under phase 1
- Provide musical opportunity so all children in upper key stage 2 learn to play a musical instrument
- Provide external coaches to improve the PE opportunity for pupils and offer staff CPD at the same time.

Future objectives

- To increase the capacity within the school of senior leadership team and of middle leaders to enable effective distributed leadership to take place and build internal capacity.
- The school is in a position to use its capital to benefit the pupils and needs to ensure spending meets the needs of current pupils, provides financial security for the future and ensure that levels of staffing can be maintained in the long term.
- Review of Risk Register in the current financial year.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Holmer Church Of England Academy for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of governors has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of governors is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of governors.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body;
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Governance Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

The Risk and Control Framework

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the governors have appointed Chris Pinches, a Governor, to carry out a programme of internal checks. The reviewers role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems.

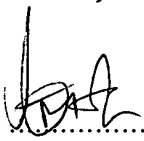
Review of Effectiveness

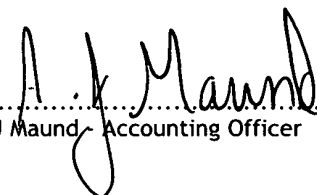
As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of governors on 7/12/17..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
A Wibmer - Governor


.....
Mrs R J Maund - Accounting Officer

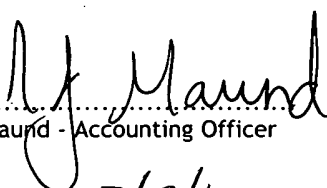
Holmer Church Of England Academy

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

As accounting officer of Holmer Church Of England Academy I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of governors and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of governors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

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 governors and ESFA.


.....
Mrs R J Maund - Accounting Officer

Date: 7/12/17

Statement of Governors Responsibilities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

The governors (who act as trustees of Holmer Church Of England Academy and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Governors and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the academy trust will continue in business.

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


The governors are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the academy trust applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the governors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the academy trust's auditors are unaware; and
- the governors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The governors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the academy trust's website.

Governors report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the governors, as the company directors, on 7/12/17 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
A Wibmer - Governor

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Holmer Church Of England Academy

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Holmer Church Of England Academy (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2017 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 2015 and Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the 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

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

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

Other information

The governors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Governors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Governors 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 academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Governors.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Holmer Church Of England Academy

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of governors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the governors were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Governors.

Responsibilities of governors


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

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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


Mr Kevin Tong FCCA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Date: 2/12/17

Note:

The maintenance and integrity of the Holmer Church Of England Academy website is the responsibility of the trustees; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to
Holmer Church Of England Academy and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Holmer Church Of England Academy during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 Holmer Church Of England Academy and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Holmer Church Of England Academy and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Holmer Church Of England Academy and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Holmer Church Of England Academy's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Holmer Church Of England Academy's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2016, 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 2016 to 2017. 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 2016 to 31 August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- detailed testing of a sample of items of income and expenditure to ensure appropriately applied for the purposes intended
- specific testing, on a sample basis, of system controls relevant to the above
- a general review of correspondence with the appropriate authorities regarding Academy governance matters during the year
- a general review and discussion of the Academy's internal procedures for establishing and maintaining systems of control and documentation regarding these matters

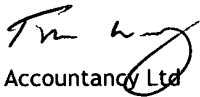
This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion.

Without qualifying our opinion, we would like to refer to the related and connected party transactions highlighted in note 19 in the attached accounts.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to
Holmer Church Of England Academy and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

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 2016 to 31 August 2017 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Date: 7/12/17

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

		Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fixed Assets £	Restricted General Fund £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
	Notes					
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants		-	8,342	45,994	54,336	127,327
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	2	-	-	1,501,698	1,501,698	1,422,654
Other trading activities	3	32,297	-	3,103	35,400	38,854
Investment income	4	430	-	-	430	596
Total		32,727	8,342	1,550,795	1,591,864	1,589,431
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations		16,084	85,928	1,475,662	1,577,674	1,513,116
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		16,643	(77,586)	75,133	14,190	76,315
Transfers between funds	16	149,043	208,279	(357,322)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit schemes		-	-	100,000	100,000	(185,000)
Net movement in funds		165,686	130,693	(182,189)	114,190	(108,685)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		50,864	2,126,710	376,982	2,554,556	2,663,241
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		216,550	2,257,403	194,793	2,668,746	2,554,556


The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
At 31 August 2017

	Notes	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	2,257,403	2,300,379
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	125,500	72,590
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>705,390</u>	<u>715,014</u>
		830,890	787,604
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(96,547)	(154,427)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>734,343</u>	<u>633,177</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,991,746	2,933,556
PENSION LIABILITY	17	(323,000)	(379,000)
NET ASSETS		<u>2,668,746</u>	<u>2,554,556</u>
FUNDS	16		
Unrestricted funds:			
Unrestricted General fund		216,550	50,864
Restricted funds:			
General Annual Grant		517,793	576,927
Other Restricted		-	158,786
Other DfE/EFA grants		-	20,269
Restricted Pension Fund		(323,000)	(379,000)
DfE/YPLA Capital Grants		647,118	699,239
Conversion and Depreciation		1,412,269	1,427,471
Fixed assets funded by GAG		<u>198,016</u>	-
		2,452,196	2,503,692
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>2,668,746</u>	<u>2,554,556</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Governors on 21/12/17 and were signed on its behalf by:


A Wibmer - Governor

The notes form part of these financial statements

Holmer Church Of England Academy

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

	Notes	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>3,371</u>	<u>120,021</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>3,371</u>	<u>120,021</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(21,769)	(35,891)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA		8,344	101,086
Interest received		<u>430</u>	<u>596</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(12,995)</u>	<u>65,791</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(9,624)</u>	<u>185,812</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>715,014</u>	<u>529,202</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>705,390</u>	<u>715,014</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

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

	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	14,190	76,315
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	64,743	69,089
Capital grants from DfE/EFA	(8,344)	(101,086)
Interest received	(430)	(596)
Decrease in stocks	-	604
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(52,910)	855
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(57,878)	60,840
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	<u>44,000</u>	<u>14,000</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>3,371</u>	<u>120,021</u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Holmer Church Of England Academy meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

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

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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.

Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	- 2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33.3% on cost

Assets acquired at a cost over £1,000 are considered for capitalisation.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation of these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

Included within long leasehold is land and buildings that the school occupies under a Church Supplement Agreement with the Hereford Diocese Board of Education which gives the academy permission to occupy the site only. The Diocese Board of Education can give the academy a two year notice period to terminate the agreement and to be vacated from the site.

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. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a Charitable Company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

Fund accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in the notes to the accounts, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the Academy Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. 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 gains and losses.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, 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 2017. 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.

Financial Instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

i. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
Grants	-	8,343	8,343	101,087
School Trips etc	-	34,916	34,916	21,404
Other grants & payments	-	11,077	11,077	4,836
	<u>-</u>	<u>54,336</u>	<u>54,336</u>	<u>127,327</u>

Grants and other grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
Capital Grants	<u>8,343</u>	<u>101,087</u>

ii. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
DfE/ESFA revenue grant				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	1,342,520	1,342,520	1,297,597
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	135,398	135,398	110,219
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,477,918</u>	<u>1,477,918</u>	<u>1,407,816</u>
Other government grant				
Local Authority Grants	-	23,780	23,780	14,838
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,501,698</u>	<u>1,501,698</u>	<u>1,422,654</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
Room and building hire	9,904	-	9,904	8,930
Catering income	22,393	-	22,393	18,427
Sundry Income	-	3,103	3,103	11,497
	<u>32,297</u>	<u>3,103</u>	<u>35,400</u>	<u>38,854</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
Deposit account interest	<u>430</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>596</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

5. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other costs £	31.8.17 Total £	31.8.16 Total £
Charitable activities					
Academies educational operations					
Direct costs	962,532	15,202	201,840	1,179,574	1,109,087
Allocated support costs	<u>120,316</u>	<u>95,513</u>	<u>182,271</u>	<u>398,100</u>	<u>404,029</u>
	<u>1,082,848</u>	<u>110,715</u>	<u>384,111</u>	<u>1,577,674</u>	<u>1,513,116</u>

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
Auditors' remuneration	6,952	6,953
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>64,745</u>	<u>69,089</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.17 Total funds £	31.8.16 Total funds £
Direct costs	859	1,178,715	1,179,574	1,109,087
Support costs	<u>15,225</u>	<u>382,875</u>	<u>398,100</u>	<u>404,029</u>
	<u>16,084</u>	<u>1,561,590</u>	<u>1,577,674</u>	<u>1,513,116</u>

	31.8.17 Total £	31.8.16 Total £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	120,316	115,498
Depreciation	49,541	53,889
Premises costs	92,791	100,231
Other support costs	125,778	124,736
Governance costs	<u>9,674</u>	<u>9,675</u>
Total support costs	<u>398,100</u>	<u>404,029</u>

7. GOVERNORS' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

One or more governors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

Headteacher and staff governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff and not in respect of their services as governors. Other governors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy in respect of their role as governors. The value of governors' remuneration was as follows:

J Brandreth (Staff Governor):

Remuneration	£40,000 - £45,000	(2016: £35,000 - £45,000)
Employers Pension Contribution	£0 - £5,000	(2016: £5,000 - £10,000)

R J Maund (Head Teacher):

Remuneration	£60,000 - £65,000	(2016: £65,000 - £70,000)
Employers Pension Contribution	£10,000 - £15,000	(2016: £10,000 - £15,000)

E Stackhouse (Staff Governor)

Remuneration	£10,000 - £15,000	(2016: £10,000 - £15,000)
Employers Pension Contribution	£0 - £5,000	(2016: £0 - £5,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2017, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £78 (2016: £NIL) were reimbursed to the governors.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Governors' expenses

There were no governors' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2017 nor for the year ended 31 August 2016.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

8. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.17 £	31.8.16 £
Wages and salaries	876,282	823,054
Social security costs	66,573	51,305
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	125,503	115,139
	<u>1,068,358</u>	<u>989,498</u>
Supply teacher costs	14,490	10,279
	<u>1,082,848</u>	<u>999,777</u>

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	31.8.17	31.8.16
Teachers	20	17
Administration and support	30	24
Management	1	1
	<u>51</u>	<u>42</u>

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

	31.8.17	31.8.16
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise 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 academy trust was £269,000 (2016: £248,000).

9. GOVERNORS' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased insurance to protect Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 (2016: £1,000,000) on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £331 (2016: £410)

The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fixed Assets £	Restricted General Fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and capital grants	358	101,087	25,882	127,327
Charitable activities				
Funding for the academy's educational operations	-	-	1,422,654	1,422,654
Other trading activities	38,014	-	840	38,854
Investment income	596	-	-	596

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted Fixed Assets £	Restricted General Fund £	Total funds £
Total	38,968	101,087	1,449,376	1,589,431
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Academy's educational operations	21,824	121,444	1,369,848	1,513,116
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	17,144	(20,357)	79,528	76,315
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial gains/losses on defined benefit schemes	-	-	(185,000)	(185,000)
Net movement in funds	17,144	(20,357)	(105,472)	(108,685)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	33,720	2,147,067	482,454	2,663,241
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>50,864</u>	<u>2,126,710</u>	<u>376,982</u>	<u>2,554,556</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long leasehold £	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 September 2016	1,499,684	864,333	50,490	99,405	2,513,912
Additions	-	-	-	21,769	21,769
At 31 August 2017	<u>1,499,684</u>	<u>864,333</u>	<u>50,490</u>	<u>121,174</u>	<u>2,535,681</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2016	72,210	41,205	32,739	67,379	213,533
Charge for year	<u>15,202</u>	<u>17,287</u>	<u>7,546</u>	<u>24,710</u>	<u>64,745</u>
At 31 August 2017	<u>87,412</u>	<u>58,492</u>	<u>40,285</u>	<u>92,089</u>	<u>278,278</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2017	<u>1,412,272</u>	<u>805,841</u>	<u>10,205</u>	<u>29,085</u>	<u>2,257,403</u>
At 31 August 2016	<u>1,427,474</u>	<u>823,128</u>	<u>17,751</u>	<u>32,026</u>	<u>2,300,379</u>

Included in cost or valuation of land and buildings is freehold land of £739,576 (2016 - £739,576) which is not depreciated.

Included within long leasehold is land and buildings that the academy occupies under a Church Supplement Agreement with the Hereford Diocese Board of Education which gives the academy permission to occupy the site only. The Diocese Board of Education can give the academy a two year notice period to terminate the agreement and to be vacated from the site.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Trade debtors	80	525
Other debtors	45,460	-
VAT	27,873	24,134
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>52,087</u>	<u>47,931</u>
	<u>125,500</u>	<u>72,590</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Trade creditors	29,650	94,057
Social security and other taxes	30,805	30,165
Other creditors	-	120
Accruals and deferred income	<u>36,092</u>	<u>30,085</u>
	<u>96,547</u>	<u>154,427</u>

DEFERRED INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Resources deferred in the year	<u>35,561</u>	<u>29,443</u>

Income has been deferred based on the period to which it relates

£35,561	(2016: £29,443)	has been deferred in relation to Universal Infant Free School Meals Revenue Income, Pupil premium provision and Capital payment
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14. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted General fund	Restricted Fixed Assets	Restricted General Fund	31.8.17 Total funds	31.8.16 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	2,257,403	-	2,257,403	2,300,379
Current assets	216,550	-	614,340	830,890	787,604
Current liabilities	-	-	(96,547)	(96,547)	(154,427)
Pension liability	-	-	(323,000)	(323,000)	(379,000)
	<u>216,550</u>	<u>2,257,403</u>	<u>194,793</u>	<u>2,668,746</u>	<u>2,554,556</u>

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.16 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.17 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted General fund	50,864	16,643	149,043	216,550
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant	576,927	139,402	(198,536)	517,793
Other Restricted	158,786	-	(158,786)	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	20,269	(20,269)	-	-
Restricted Pension Fund	(379,000)	56,000	-	(323,000)
DfE/YPLA Capital Grants	699,239	(56,205)	4,084	647,118
Conversion and Depreciation	1,427,471	(15,202)	-	1,412,269
Fixed assets funded by GAG	-	(6,179)	204,195	198,016
	2,503,692	97,547	(149,043)	2,452,196
TOTAL FUNDS	2,554,556	114,190	-	2,668,746

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted General fund	32,727	(16,084)	-	16,643
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant	1,342,523	(1,203,121)	-	139,402
Other Restricted	72,875	(72,875)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	135,397	(155,666)	-	(20,269)
DfE/YPLA Capital Grants	8,342	(64,547)	-	(56,205)
Restricted Pension Fund	-	(44,000)	100,000	56,000
Conversion and Depreciation	-	(15,202)	-	(15,202)
Fixed assets funded by GAG	-	(6,179)	-	(6,179)
	1,559,137	(1,561,590)	100,000	97,547
TOTAL FUNDS	1,591,864	(1,577,674)	100,000	114,190

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

- General Annual Grant (GAG): Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August
- Other DfE/EFA Grants: are utilised for the purposes intended by the donor.
- Other Restricted General Funds: include payments made towards Academy trips.
- The Pension Fund: is the surplus/(deficit) in the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- Restricted Fixed Asset Funds: include the fixed assets transferred on conversion to Academy, capital grants, additions and depreciation.
- Unrestricted Funds: are all those income and expenses for general use in the Academy.

Transfers between funds relate to re-allocation of the cash on conversion to unrestricted funds, and expenditure on fixed assets.

17. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £14,944 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2017 (2016: £13,882) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' pension scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis these contributions along with those made by employers 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. 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 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report as published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge (currently 14.1%))
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%

During the previous year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employers pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £97,000 (2016: £93,000).

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 a 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.

17. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS
- continued

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £32,000 (2016: £24,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £22,000 (2016: £16,000) and employees' contributions totalled £10,000 (2016: £8,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 10.8 % for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees.

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

As the scheme is in deficit, the School has entered into an agreement with the trustees to make additional contributions in addition to normal funding levels.

The rates payable over a three year period will be the Future Service Rate of 13.5% of payroll plus phased lump sum deficit contributions starting at £6,800 for the year to 31 March 2018, increasing by approximately 4% per annum. The rate payable from 1 April 2020 will be further revised following the next valuation of the Pension Fund on 31 March 2019.

The current estimated recovery period is 18 years.

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Present value of funded obligations	-	(559,000)
Fair value of plan assets	<u>293,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>
	<u>293,000</u>	<u>(379,000)</u>
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>293,000</u>	<u>(379,000)</u>
Net asset/(liability)	<u>293,000</u>	<u>(379,000)</u>

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

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Current service cost	63,000	29,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	6,000	6,000
Administrative expenses	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>76,000</u>	<u>28,000</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

17. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS
- continued

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Defined benefit obligation	559,000	303,000
Current service cost	63,000	29,000
Contributions by scheme participants	12,000	8,000
Interest cost	10,000	12,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(28,000)	207,000
	<u>616,000</u>	<u>559,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Fair value of scheme assets	180,000	123,000
Contributions by employer	28,000	22,000
Contributions by scheme participants	10,000	8,000
Expected return	4,000	6,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	72,000	22,000
Administrative expenses	(1,000)	(1,000)
	<u>293,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
	£	£
Actuarial gains/(losses)	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(185,000)</u>
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(185,000)</u>

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.17	31.8.16
Equities	86.1%	83.4%
Bonds - Other	5.2%	6.3%
Cash/liquidity	1.3%	2.3%
Bonds - Government	3.6%	0%
Property	3.8%	4.5%
Other	0%	3.5%

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages)

	31.8.17	31.8.16
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.4%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.2%	1.9%
Rate of increase for pensions inpayment/inflation	2.2%	2%
Discount rate	2.5%	2.2%

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2017

17. 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:

	At 31 August 2017	At 31 August 2016
Retiring today		
Males	22.6	23.5
Females	25.6	25.9
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24.8	25.8
Females	27.9	28.2
Sensitivity analysis		
	At 31 August 2017 £'000	At 31 August 2016 £'000
Central	323	379
Sensitivity 1 (discount rate +0.1%)	306	362
Sensitivity 2 (inflation +0.1%)	341	396
Sensitivity 3 (pay growth +0.1%)	326	387
Sensitivity 4 (1 year increase in life expectancy)	334	389

18. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no significant contingent liabilities that the Governors are aware of.

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

During the 12 month period to 31 August 2017 payments totalling £13,303 (2016: £5,918) to Marches IT Services Ltd, a company in which A Wibmer is a director and shareholder, for the provision of IT Services. At the year end a balance of £nil (2016: £nil) was due to / from Marches IT Services Ltd.