

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07977940 (England and Wales)

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015**

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OF COMPANIES**

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AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

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AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Mrs Pat Marchiori	Chair of Trustees	
Mr Richard Smith#	Chair of Trust Audit & Risk Management Committee	
Mrs Marilyn Bramford*		
Mr Brian R Hooper*#	Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	
Mrs Caroline Sard#	Vice-Chair of Trustees	
Mr Nigel Smith*	Chair of Trust Finance Committee	
Mrs Berni Catling*		
Mrs Ann Harris OBE		(appointed 26 March 2015)
Mr Jonathan Badger		(appointed 26 March 2015)

* Membership of Finance Committee

Membership of Audit & Risk Management Committee

Members of the Company in bold

Company secretary

Sherrí Hawkins

Senior Management Team

Brian R Hooper	Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer
Nicki Morton	Director of Special Education
Alex Prout	Director of Primary Education
Paul Holman	Director of Outcomes and Performance Improvement
Sherrí Hawkins	Business Director
Verity McAuley	Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer

Principal and Registered Office

Ambitions Academies Trust
Petersfield Campus
Petersfield Road
Bournemouth
BH7 6QP

Company Registration Number

07977940

Auditors

Filer Knapper LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
10 Bridge Street
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1EF

Bankers

Lloyds
PO Box 1000
Andover
BX1 1LT

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Ambitions Academies Trust (Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2015

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

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

The Trust was incorporated on 6 March 2012. These financial statements consolidate the figures for Tregonwell Academy, Queen's Park Academy and Longspee Academy from 1 September 2014, as well as King's Park Academy which converted to an Academy on 1 March 2015, Manorside Academy which converted to an Academy on 1 April 2015 and St Aldhelm's Academy which transferred to the Trust on 1 June 2015.

As at 31 August 2015, the Trust was comprised of six Academies and Ambitions Teaching School.

The Trustees of the Trust are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company was known as Tregonwell Multi-Academy Trust until 1 July 2014 when its name was changed to Ambitions Academies Trust.

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

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

In accordance with normal practice, the Trust insures its Trustees and Academy Advisory Committee members against errors, negligent acts or omissions relating to their work for the Trust, for a maximum of £2.3m on any single claim.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, the education of young people by fostering high expectations of all our pupils and offering a targeted curriculum that encourages the development of individual strengths.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust has a total of nine Trustees. This includes the Chief Executive Officer. Trustees serve a term of office of four years. New Trustees and Academy Advisory Committee (AAC) members are appointed by the Board of Trustees. When new Trustees or AAC members are to be appointed, the Board or the Academy Advisory Committee approves at that time an appropriate process and criteria for recruitment, based on an analysis of the current skill and capability requirements of the Board or Academy Advisory Committee, the current needs of each of the Academies and governance good practice at Trust level.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees.

When new Trustees or Academy Advisory Committee members are appointed, an analysis of the requirements of their role and their current skills determine their induction process. The induction process is set out in the Governance Handbook.

Organisational Structure

For the period of these financial statements, the Trust's decisions are taken on behalf of all Academies by the Board of Trustees, in respect of governance, financial control and procedure and staffing structure. Associate Principals under the guidance of Directors of Education and Academy Advisory Committees lead individual Academies, making decisions on the direction of teaching and learning and attainment.

Risk Management

For the period covered by these financial statements, the Trustees alongside the Chief Executive Officer are responsible for identifying risks faced by the Trust and by individual Academies. With the support of the Accounting Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Trustees are required to establish and implement procedures to mitigate and monitor these risks.

Through the Finance Committee and Audit & Risk Management Committee, Trustees identify risk and establish policies to assess the implications of risks and effectively mitigate them through controls and procedures. New policies and procedures are written with Charity Commission guidelines in mind. The Trustees acknowledge they have responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has an appropriate system of financial controls. The Trustees also understand their duty to ensure that proper accounting records are kept which disclose at any time with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Trust and which enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. The Trustees acknowledge responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and, as such, the need for reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or irregularities.

Mitigation against identified risks includes steps to ensure that

- The Trust is operating efficiently and effectively
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Trust or for its publication is reliable
- The Trust complies with relevant laws and regulations

Mitigation in the year has taken the form of

- Appointment of a Financial Controller
- Appointment of a registered Auditor to conduct internal audit work
- An extensive programme of training with the Finance Team, led in partnership with a registered Auditor
- An interim External Audit within the year

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The aim of the Trust is to operate as a group of collaborating Academies for the benefit of young people. Academies are geographically close which offers the Trust the opportunity to develop a common ethos, share best practice and combine resources. Ambitions Academies Trust exists to provide outstanding education for pupils and young people, improving the life chances of all pupils and young people across the Trust. The Trust provides an outstanding education across all sectors, primary, secondary and special, ensuring that pupils and young people are given a broad and balanced education which prepares them well for success in their future lives. The Trust provides strong challenge and support to Academies and ensures they deliver success for all.

Professional development, challenge and support are at the heart of ensuring that staff are some of the finest teachers so they can deliver outstanding teaching. As a "unique" Trust, the mainstream and special classes benefit greatly from working collaboratively across the Trust. Ambitions Academies Trust has been appointed a Teaching School in 2014 which has enabled us to build on our successful outreach and teacher training work. This now enables us to provide extensive support to many schools and Academies across Bournemouth and Poole.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

For the period covered by these financial statements the Trust comprises of six Academies, Tregonwell Academy, Queen's Park Academy, Longspee Academy, King's Park Academy, Manorside Academy and St Aldhelm's Academy. The Trust also encompasses Ambitions Teaching School.

Tregonwell Academy – Converted 1 April 2012

Tregonwell Academy is an outstanding specialist provision. It caters for statemented and purchased place pupils across Bournemouth, Poole, Hampshire and Dorset who have a range of needs, together with offering an alternative provision for pupils and students that are excluded or at risk of exclusion from mainstream schools. Tregonwell Academy delivers provision across three sites, the Petersfield Campus, the Nigel Bowes Campus and the Throop Learning Centre.

Tregonwell Academy's Petersfield Campus for secondary school pupils and Nigel Bowes Campus for primary pupils provide a personalised education tailored to the individual needs of the pupils. The Throop Learning Centre provides a student focused learning environment for those students who find themselves unable to access their schooling in their mainstream school at a particular time in their education for a variety of reasons. It is a small unit which aims to promote the nurturing environment that these students require at these times in their lives. These needs could include illness and recovery time, an operation which causes a safety issue in their mainstream school, anxiety, medical condition or pregnancy. Tregonwell Academy's aim is to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential, and high expectations are set for the whole community.

Queen's Park Academy – Converted as a sponsored academy 1 October 2012

Queen's Park Academy is a Junior School (Year 3 – Year 6) with approximately 480 pupils on roll. Queen's Park Academy is proud to have been rated 'Outstanding' last year, having made rapid changes from Special Measures when it joined the Trust in October 2012. Queen's Park Academy's motto is 'High Expectations lead to High Achievers'. Through a broad, balanced, relevant and enjoyable curriculum, Queen's Park Academy aims to enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners. High personal standards of achievement are set and the Academy aims to foster children's self-esteem, help them build positive relationships and help them grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

Longspee Academy – Converted as a sponsored academy 1 September 2013

Longspee Academy is a specialist provision working with children and young people who have social, emotional and mental health issues. These issues have manifested themselves in extremely challenging behaviour which cannot be supported within mainstream settings.

Longspee Academy provides education for children across Bournemouth, Poole, Hampshire and Dorset from Reception through to Year 8. The mantra for the Academy is 'High Expectations on the Journey to Success' and we aim to provide a nurturing, pupil-centred learning environment with high levels of support and challenge enabling all the children and young people to achieve their full potential. Our aim is to develop the whole child in order that they succeed academically, can self-regulate their emotions and are able to develop and maintain good relationships with others in order to go on and lead happy, successful lives as part of the wider community.

King's Park Academy – Converted as a sponsored academy 1 March 2015

King's Park Academy is a Primary School providing education to children mainly from the local area of Boscombe and Littledown. Offering provision from Reception – Year 6 for approximately 550 pupils, King's Park Academy believes that exciting, engaging lessons, adapted individually to each child's needs, are the best way to ensure every child succeeds. King's Park Academy has an in-depth understanding of individuals' abilities enabling them to cater for each of their needs, supporting them to become successful learners. Children thrive due to careful planning of the curriculum, ensuring all children are enjoying challenging activities and encouraged to direct their own learning.

Manorside Academy – Converted as a sponsored academy 1 April 2015

Manorside Academy is a two-form entry school for boys and girls between the ages of 4 to 11 and each class has a capacity for approximately 30 pupils. At Manorside Academy, we all have high expectations and we feel that by having high expectations of ourselves and each other, we encourage those around us to have high expectations of themselves. A culture of high expectation leads to the highest achievers as we all thrive to better ourselves. Children and staff are challenged and supported to get the best possible outcomes. Children, with the support of their teacher, set themselves goals and targets which they then challenge themselves to meet.

St Aldhelm's Academy – Transferred as a sponsored academy 1 June 2015

St Aldhelm's Academy believes in meeting all students' individual needs. The Academy has capacity for 900 pupils at Key Stage 3 and 4. The curriculum is broad and balanced with a focus on ensuring that young people are literate, numerate and well-rounded individuals.

St Aldhelm's Academy has 3 key objectives:

- To ensure the support, structure and systems in place allow students to be "the very best that they can be" academically and socially
- To ensure the leadership at all levels is outstanding
- To provide an outstanding educational experience for all students

St Aldhelm's Academy works on the principle that "The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers" (Sir Michael Barber)

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT
ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust has significantly developed during the period, strengthening its governance and expanding its capacity at Trust level to support the move from three to six academies and the Teaching School. The Trust has, since the year end, begun the process of looking at potential free school and nursery provisions. The expansion and development of the Trust is a mark of its excellent reputation in delivering outstanding outcomes.

The Trust has fully acknowledged the outcomes of last year's audit, responding with a programme of bespoke finance training across all academies and attendance by Audit Committee & Risk Management members at Finance Manager meetings. The Board of Trustees have expanded in the year and Members have considered matters as a distinct group. Strengthening the Trust Leadership has been a focus in the year, with new roles for Directors of Education for Special Education, Primary Education and Outcomes and Performance Improvement. We have also recruited to the roles of Financial Controller, Deputy Business Director and Deputy Estates Manager.

Tregonwell Academy

Outcomes for pupils across all of Tregonwell Academy's sites were Outstanding.

Petersfield Campus

In year 11 the vast majority of our students and groups of students have made outstanding progress given their starting points on arrival to the Academy. This can be evidenced in three areas:

- Target grades – (targets are set using induction data which is informed by prior academic success. All students are expected to make two full levels of progress across a key stage.)
- Students achieving 5A*-G

100% of students achieved at least 3 GCSE's enabling them to access further study. The fact that there is no gap between disadvantaged students and the rest of the cohort shows the relentless focus of the academy to improve the life chances for all students.

55% of students achieving 5A* - G at GCSE evidences the progress being made by the Academy when set against National benchmarks. In 2013/14 The National standard was 10.5%. In the South West this figure was 11.3% which highlights the high expectations the Academy places on its students' success.

Nigel Bowes Campus

All targets are set using the DfE Progression Guidance. This ensures that the Academy sets challenging targets. The Academy judges the progress our pupils make against national expectations whenever appropriate. Challenging targets are set on an individual basis with the very large majority expected to achieve or exceed nationally recognised rates of progress. Pupil's progress is monitored termly through a system of data challenge. Senior leaders discuss progress directly after an assessment week. Progress is discussed, targets are revisited and actions are agreed to support pupils in reaching or exceeding targets.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Throop Learning Centre

In year 11 our students and groups of students have made outstanding progress given their starting points on arrival at TLC. This can be evidenced in three areas:

- Target grades – targets are set using induction data which is informed by prior academic success. These are reviewed regularly and amended accordingly.
- All students are expected to make two full levels of progress across a key stage.
- Students achieving 5A*-G.

78% of TLC students achieved 5A* - G at GCSE of which 22% achieved 5 A*-C.

Every student, 100%, achieved an A*-G grade in the exams they were entered for in the year 2014-5.

Only two students were unable to sit their exams due to their medical issues and two were not in a position medically to sit any exams during the school year.

Longspee Academy

Longspee Academy's Outcomes for pupils are Outstanding. Despite prior low attainment, Longspee Academy supports pupils to achieve well and to make good or outstanding progress over time as evidenced through school progress data and analysis, work scrutiny and case studies. We track pupils individually and the following key cohorts: ASC 8%, LAC 14%, GRT 8%, Girls 8%, Children in Need 13%, Child Protection 8% (CYPSC), FSM 52% and PPG 35%. From this year's Year 6 cohort 37.5% joined the Academy in either Year 5 or 6.

Queen's Park Academy, King's Park Academy and Manorside Academy

Within our primary academies, we believe passionately in helping our pupils achieve their individual best. At the heart of all our work is our belief that 'High Expectations lead to High Achievers'. Our high expectations extend to all aspects of the Academy's work: academic standards, behaviour, respect, kindness and courtesy.

We deliver a rich curriculum which provides opportunities for all our pupils to succeed. It is characterised by two themes: academic rigour and creative learning experiences so our pupils grow into independent, confident learners.

Results for Queen's Park Academy:

% achieving level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths – 97% - this ranks Queen's Park 1st out of 23 schools.

% making expected progress in reading – 100% - this ranks Queen's Park tied 1st out of 23 schools.

% making expected progress in writing – 100% - this ranks Queen's Park tied 1st out of 23 schools.

% making expected progress in maths – 99% - this ranks Queen's Park tied 1st out of 23 schools.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Results for King's Park Academy are:

% achieving level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths – 68% - this ranks King's Park 21 out of 23 schools Although this is disappointing, it is an overall improvement on last year and reflects the work the Trust has been doing with King's Park since September 2014

% making expected progress in reading – 93% - this ranks King's Park 10 out of 23 schools

% making expected progress in writing – 100% - this ranks King's Park 1 out of 23 schools and is a huge achievement

% making expected progress in maths – 93% - this ranks King's Park 8 out of 23 schools, up from 76% last year

St Aldhelm's Academy

St Aldhelm's Academy has gone through a turbulent time during its time as an Academy Formerly under the Diocese of Salisbury, the Academy was labelled the worst school in the country in 2011 when only 3% of the students gained 5 A to Cs in their GCSEs The Academy was placed under a Financial Notice to Improve following a fraud and the Ofsted report in 2014 where the Academy was placed in Special Measures deemed all areas to be inadequate

Ambitions Academy Trust started work in the Academy in February 2015 Brian Hooper as CEO and Sian Thomas as new Principal designate took control of the Academy, in place at this time was a Partnership Board set up by the Regional Commissioner In April 2015 the new Senior Leadership Team was set up and in June 2015 the sponsorship to Ambitions Academies Trust was completed There is a priority support group in place to ensure the governance of the school focuses on the core purpose of moving the Academy out of special measures There are currently 348 pupils on roll

Structures and processes are now in place for rapid acceleration of progress There is a clear academic calendar and self-evaluation cycle in which all staff understand how progress is monitored reviewed and further actions implemented and how they contribute to this

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Key Performance Indicators

The key financial performance indicators during the year were as follows

Key Financial Performance Indicator 2014-15		Ambitions Academies Trust	Existing Academies	Converted Academies in year	Transferred Academies in year
Year End Reserves	Target	8%-12%	8%-12%	8%-12%	8%-12%
	Actual	17 5%	19 7%	16 9%	0 4%
Number of months' reserves		2 18	2 48	2 09	0 05
Direct Staff cost as % of Income	Target		67 7%	73 0%	73 0%
	Actual	61 5%	61 2%	63 9%	59 4%
Total Staff cost as % of Income	Target		77 7%	80 0%	84 0%
	Actual	73 3%	72 1%	73 9%	81 8%

Tregonwell Academy

Petersfield Campus

KS4 Attainment – Summer 2015 - Year 11 – GCSE (or equivalents)

English, Maths and Science

A* - G (or equivalent)	ENGLISH	MATHS	SCIENCE
Whole Cohort	91%	73%	91%
PPG Students	100%	100%	100%

All Subjects and Awards

Number of A* - G Grades (or equivalents)	Percentage of Cohort (All)	Percentage of Cohort (PPG)
6	36%	50%
5	55%	67%
4	91%	100%
3	100%	100%

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Nigel Bowes Campus

	Percentage of pupils in receipt of PPG who have made at least 1 sublevel of progress (25 PUPILS)	Percentage of pupils in receipt of PPG who have made 2 sublevels progress * (25 PUPILS)	Percentage of pupils not in receipt of PPG who have made 1 sublevel of progress (12 PUPILS)	Percentage of pupils not in receipt of PPG who have made 2 sublevels progress* (12 PUPILS)
Reading	100%	63 50%	91 70%	50%
Writing	92 30%	38 40%	91 70%	41 60%
Maths	92%	36%	100%	50%

Throop Learning Centre

3A KS4 Attainment – Summer 2015 - Year 11 – GCSE

English, Maths and Science

A* - G (or equivalent)	ENGLISH	MATHS	SCIENCE
Whole Cohort	100%	100%	100%
PPG Students	100%	100%	100%

3B All Subjects

Number of A* - G Grades	Percentage of Cohort (All)	Percentage of Cohort (PPG)
5	100%	100%
4	100%	100%
3	100%	100%

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Longspee Academy

<u>KS1</u>	Number of terms at Longspee Academy	<u>Writing</u>	Comparison to National KS1 Average APS Statemented Pupils = 6 8	<u>Reading</u>	Comparison to National KS1 Average APS Statemented Pupils = 7 6	<u>Speaking and Listening</u>	<u>Maths</u>	Comparison to National KS1 Average APS Statemented Pupils = 7 4
Pupil A	2	9	2 2	9	1 4	13	11	3 6
Pupil B	2	19	12 2	21	13 4	17	23	15 6
Pupil C	3	11	4 2	15	7 4	17	13	5 6
Average		13	+6 2 Outstanding progress	15	7 4 Outstanding progress	15 7	15 7	8 3 Outstanding progress

APS for all Longspee KS1 = 14.6 compared with the National KS1 Average APS Statemented Pupils = 7.9

Pupils at Longspee Academy are advantaged significantly when compared with Statemented peers Nationally with a gain of + 6.7 APS for reading, writing and maths combined with KS1.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Queen's Park Academy, King's Park Academy and Manorside Academy

	Writing 4+	Writing 5+	Writing 6+	Writing 2LP	Writing 3LP
QPA	97%	53%	2%	100%	42%
KPA	80%	20%	0%	100%	45%
MA	42%	4%	0%	62%	4%

	Reading 4+	Reading 5+	Reading 6+	Reading 2LP	Reading 3LP
QPA	98%	61%	2%	100%	40%
KPA	80%	32%	0%	88%	40%
MA	62%	27%	0%	73%	19%

	Maths 4+	Maths 5+	Maths 6+	Maths 2LP	Maths 3LP
QPA	98%	69%	27%	99%	64%
KPA	84%	34%	5%	93%	35%
MA	65%	19%	4%	62%	15%

	SPAG 4+	SPAG 5+	SPAG 6+
QPA	97%	76%	7%
KPA	77%	43%	2%
MA	58%	31%	

Queen's Park Academy L4 Combined 96%

King's Park Academy L4 Combined 68%

Manorside Academy L4 Combined 46%

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

St Aldhelm's Academy

KS4 Attainment

22% of the 2015 cohort gained 5+ A*-C English and maths. This is considerably below the national average yet considerably above what may have been achieved if last minute intervention had not been put into place by the new Ambitions Trust team. Exam board changes and extensive revision programmes in English and maths meant that courses that were delivered in the final months and exceed results from the previous year.

	% 2015	No. of students	% 2014
5+A*-C inc English /Maths	22%	22	17%
A*-C English	37%	36	20%
A*-C Maths	48%	47	35%

KS4 Progress 2014

Similarly, progress exceeded that of 2014 due to Ambitions interventions.

	% 2015	No. of students	% 2014
English 3+ LOP	43%	42	30%
Maths 3+ LOP	44%	43	35%
English 4+ LOP	13%	13	5%
Maths 4+ LOP	13%	13	7%

KS3 Attainment and Progress

Internal assessment data was shown to be unreliable and further analysis showed it to be wholly inadequate. Hence, baseline assessments were carried out at the end of the summer term for all years in English, maths and science. Consistent assessment procedures have been introduced from September onwards with planned regular formal assessment windows. Assessment continues to be monitored using National Curriculum levels for the current academic year whilst a working party develops a future assessment model.

	% 2015	No. of students
Year 9 L5+ En	77.9%	53
Year 9 L5+ Ma	69.1%	47
Year 9 L5+ Sc	47.1%	32

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STRATEGIC REPORT *(continued)*

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charitable Company's objectives and aims and in planning activities for the period. The Trustees consider that the Charitable Company's aims are demonstrably to the benefit of the public.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust and five of the individual Academies have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Trust 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.

The Trustees recognise that St Aldhelm's Academy has significant legacy issues dating back to December 2012, resulting in a brought forward deficit of £1.4m, of which £1.2m represents cash drawn down from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as per the Financial Notice to Improve issued in April 2012. St Aldhelm's Academy continues to work closely with the EFA on its financial recovery plan, with quarterly reviews and detailed financial submissions to both the EFA and Trustees.

Pension Deficit

The Trustees recognise that the pension scheme brought in on conversion and the movements this period has led to a deficit in the pension scheme reserve. This is being dealt with by way of a valuation that aims to address the deficit in the long term by adjusting contributions to the scheme.

Therefore, the Trust intends to return its share of the Local Government Pension Scheme to surplus in the long term through increased pension contributions.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Financial risks are indicated and managed as part of the Risk Register, which is reviewed by Trustees. The Trust aims to limit its exposure to financial risks and does not undertake high risk investment strategies.

The Trust's principal financial instruments comprise bank balances, trade debtors and trade creditors. The main purpose of these instruments is to finance the Trust's operations.

In respect of bank balances, the liquidity risk is managed by maintaining a balance that will allow the Trust to operate and meets its objectives. The Trust will seek to hold cash in such a way that achieves a competitive rate of interest.

Trade debtors are managed in respect of credit and cash flow risk by policies concerning the credit offered to customers and the regular monitoring of amounts outstanding for both time and credit limits. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful debtors.

Trade creditors' liquidity is managed by ensuring sufficient funds are available to meet amounts due.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

In the main, the Trust's income comes from the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The income comes in the form of recurrent grants for specific purposes. These grants and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities. The Trust also receives specific grants and a high level of non-recurrent income for special educational needs provision from Local Authorities.

The Trust also receives recurrent grants for fixed assets from the EFA. These grants are shown in the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income and represented in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets.

During the period to 31 August 2015, total expenditure (excluding depreciation and loss on pension scheme) of £10,311,343 (2014 - £6,838,921) was more than covered by grant funding from the EFA and income from Local Authorities. The excess of income over expenditure for the period (excluding fixed asset funds and pension scheme actuarial movements) was £324,678 (2014 - £294,418). The expenditure in the period was used for direct provision of education to our pupils and for the support services necessary to enable this provision.

At 31 August 2015 the net book value of fixed assets was £38,474,587 (2014 - £16,329,115). These assets were used exclusively for providing education to the Trust's pupils and related support services.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed, through a Risk Register and through the robust scrutiny and challenge of the Audit & Risk Management Committee, the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. In particular, assessment has been made of the risks relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust and its finances. Risks are assessed through a number of systems, and procedures are implemented to mitigate these risks. Some of these mitigating procedures include internal financial controls, trend and sensitivity analysis, vetting of new staff, health and safety policies and data protection procedures. The Trust has ensured that adequate insurance cover is in place to mitigate risk.

In respect of St Aldhelm's Academy's financial recovery, the Trustees have undertaken a process of due diligence to quantify and mitigate the risks. Mitigating factors include a full audit process at the point of transfer, written clarification of responsibilities from the EFA and a rigorous reporting and monitoring schedule. While this is still early days for St Aldhelm's Academy as part of the Trust, there are indications of strong improvement. Ofsted inspections at the academy have described the progress as 'remarkable'. Pupil numbers have risen since the start of term, with 10 pupils transferring into the academy mid-term. And the specialist leadership recruited to the academy is having a transformative impact on the quality of teaching and learning and pupil outcomes.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)*

Reserves Policy

The Trust held balance at 31 August 2015, including St Aldhelm's Academy's deficit on transfer, was £33,845,335 (2014 - £15,453,758), comprising of a deficit of £1,014,698 (2014 - £422,918) of restricted funds, a pension reserve deficit of £4,828,000 (2014 - £2,014,000), restricted fixed asset funds of £38,668,136 (2014 - £16,329,115) and £1,019,898 (2014 - £715,725) of unrestricted general funds which represented free reserves

Total revenue reserves, which exclude the fixed asset fund of £38,668,135 (2014 - £16,329,115) and the pension reserve deficit of £4,828,000 (2014 - £2,014,000) as at 31 August 2015 were £5,200 (2014 - £1,138,643) again including St Aldhelm's Academy's legacy deficit

The Trustees consider that the reserves levels across the academies are sufficient for the working capital and operational needs of the Trust, based on historic levels of activity. The reserves meet our need for substantial investment in our properties, addressing the backlog of repairs inherited across the estate on conversion. Given the current expansion of the Trust, these requirements are not fixed. The Trustees will keep the level of reserves under review.

Investment Policy

For the period covered by these financial statements, all cash balances have been held in current accounts in UK banks. In future, the Trust intends to hold surplus cash in low risk high interest deposit accounts using the services of a bank which specialises in charity clients.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The future plans of the Trust are as follows

- The first priority of the Trust is to continue to consolidate its achievement of high standards by ensuring development of outstanding practice across the Trust, securing the best educational outcomes for our pupils
- The Trust will ensure the stability of the academies that have joined in the period
- The Trust intends to continue its growth by considering expansion in 2016 to nursery provision
- The Trust will give consideration to the free schools' programme. This will enable the Trust to make best use of its strength and expertise

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

No funds are held as a custodian on behalf of the others by the Trust

AUDITOR

Insofar as the Trustees are aware

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 18/12/15 and signed on the Board's behalf by



Mrs P Marchiori
Chair of Trustees

Date 18/12/15

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

GOVERNANCE

At Trust level, the Board of Trustees has formally met four times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs P Marchiori	4	4
Mrs C Sard	4	4
Mr R Smith	4	4
Mr N Smith	3	4
Mrs B Catling	3	4
Mrs M Bramford	3	4
Mr B Hooper	4	4
Mrs A Harris	1	2
Mr J Badger	2	2

During the period of these financial statements, a review of the Governance arrangements has been conducted as part of the Financial Management and Governance Evaluation with the conversions of King's Park Academy and Manorside Academy. The Board of Trustees has increased by 2 to a total of 9 Trustees, 3 of which are Members.

In the period, there has been an emphasis on professional oversight and scrutiny at Trust level. Financial delegation has been facilitated through the Finance Committee, as a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. The Trust Audit & Risk Management Committee has met 5 times within this period.

The Board of Trustees has been assisted by the Finance Committee and Audit & Risk Management Committee with the oversight of financial and other controls and risk management. The Finance Committee had sight of the management of all income and expenditure on behalf of the Trust and reviewed the Accounting Policies in this period. The Finance Committee was chaired by a solicitor and the Audit & Risk Management Committee was chaired by an HMRC Intervention Team Leader. During the period, the Trust also recruited a Financial Controller, in response to the growing size and complexity of the Trust. Members, Trustees, Academy Advisory Committee members and senior leaders have received training and development through the Governance Conferences, which took place twice in the year, and through membership of the National Governors' Association.

The Finance Committee has formally met three times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Finance Committee was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr N Smith	2	3
Mrs B Catling	3	3
Mrs M Bramford	2	3
Mr B Hooper	2	3

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

The Audit & Risk Management Committee has formally met five times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Finance Committee was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr R Smith	5	5
Mrs C Sard	5	5
Mrs L Parker (Advisory Committee)	5	5

Additionally, during the period an external registered auditor has been contracted to provide Internal Audit support, along with the existing internal audit activities of the Finance Director and Financial Controller.

Oversight of the Governance arrangements has been held by the Audit & Risk Management Committee. Both the Finance Committee and the Audit & Risk Management Committee are elected Sub-Committees of the main Board of Trustees, with Finance responsibility largely removed from individual academies with the exception of non-pay expenditure. The purpose of the Audit & Risk Management Committee is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money. It reports its findings to the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Trust's annual reporting requirements. The role of Accounting Officer has developed over the year, with the implementation of Finance and Governance meetings and Trust Team meetings chaired by the Accounting Officer. The Accounting Officer has also delivered training on the Academies Financial Handbook to the Finance Team and scrutinised EFA investigation reports with the Finance Director.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's 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 the Trust for the period from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The work of the Audit & Risk Management Committee has been supported by a series of interim audits throughout the period, which has helped to identify areas where internal control procedures can be improved upon. The points raised by audit in the prior period have resulted in improvements to the current systems across the Trust. The main objective of the coming year is to ensure an increase in individual skill and understanding in the finance function across the various Academies within the Trust.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Trustees have reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trustees are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees and Trust Management Team.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

- Regular budget and management information reviews by the Trust Management Team and Academy Advisory Boards
- Rigorous management of accounts, budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget, staff structure review and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees or Academy Advisory Boards as appropriate;
- Regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts and of major purchase plans, procurement of major contracts, capital works and expenditure programmes, treasury and accounting policies,
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance,
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines,
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties,
- Regular reviews by the Audit & Risk Management Committee to enable identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has contracted an external registered auditor to provide specific internal audit support to the Trust Audit & Risk Management Committee and Accounting Officer. Internal audit reviews have taken place in the period, with a three year internal audit schedule is being designed in conjunction with the external registered auditor.

The Audit & Risk Management Committee will receive internal audit reports and monitor the Trust's progress against recommendations both from the internal audit process and from recommendations resulting from the external audit process and documented in the Management letter.

The internal audit role will include giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems, agreed in advance by the Trust Audit & Risk Management Committee in order to assist the Trust Audit & Risk Management Committee in fulfilling its role of ensuring the adequacy of the financial systems. Additionally, throughout the year internal audit will continue to be commissioned to provide independent investigation analysis and report on key risks identified by the Audit & Risk Management Committee.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

- The work of the internal audit role,
- The work of the external auditor throughout a series of meetings and internal audits,
- The financial management and governance self-assessment process undertaken on the conversion of King's Park Academy and Manorside Academy,
- The work of senior managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, including the work of the new Financial Controller

Throughout the financial year, the Audit & Risk Management Committee will continue to periodically review the system of internal control, advise the accounting officer and develop and monitor the implementation of measures to address weaknesses where they are identified

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 18/12/15 and signed on its behalf by

Mrs P Marchion
Chair of Trustees

Mr B Hooper
Accounting Officer

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

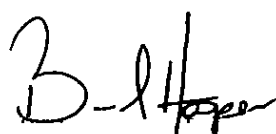
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

As Accounting Officer of Ambitions Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's Board of Trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA 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.

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and EFA.



Mr B Hooper
Accounting Officer

Date 18/12/15

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who act as Governors of Ambitions Academies Trust and are also Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction published by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations

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

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

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

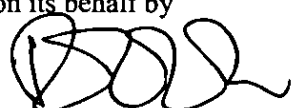
The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform to the requirements both of propriety and good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from the Education Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the Trustees are aware

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18/12/15 and signed
on its behalf by



Mrs P Marchion
Chair of Trustees

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

We have audited the financial statements of Ambitions Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2015 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. 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 2014 to 2015 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 23], the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with this Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Trust's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Trustees, and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2015, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended,
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2014 to 2015 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST *(continued)***

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

OPINION ON OTHER MATTER PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006


In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report, including the Strategic Report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements

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 Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made, or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

10 Bridge Street
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1EF


LUCY FILER
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
FILER KNAPPER LLP
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditor

31 December 2015

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT
ON THE REGULARITY TO AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY**

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 6 November 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2014 to 2015, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Ambitions Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 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 Ambitions Academies Trust and the EFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Ambitions Academies Trust and the EFA 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 the Ambitions Academies Trust and the EFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Ambitions Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 July 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2014, 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 2014 to 2015. 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 2014 to 31 August 2015 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 2014 to 2015 issued by the EFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT
ON THE REGULARITY TO AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY *(continued)***

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes

- Reviewing the systems and procedures in place
- Reviewing the results of the audit work which could have implications over the assurance conclusion
- Reviewing the Trust's funding agreement and articles of association and whether these have been followed
- Considering the requirements of the financial handbook and accounts directions issued by the EFA and whether any material breaches have occurred

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, other than those matters noted in the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance by the Accounting Officer, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them

10 Bridge Street
Christchurch
Dorset
BH23 1EF


FILER KNAPPER LLP
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditor

31 December 2015

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES)

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	-	2,881	-	2,881	3,224
Transfer from Local Authority	28	272,065	(1,284,000)	9,938,096	8,926,161	4,916,398
Transfer of sponsored academy	28	-	(2,764,122)	10,889,595	8,125,473	-
Activities for generating funds	3	17,445	138,070	-	155,515	88,976
Investment income	4	1,289	-	-	1,289	1,105
Incoming resources from charitable activities:						
Funding for the Trust's educational operations	5	41,302	12,341,717	-	12,383,019	7,084,950
Other incoming resources	6	-	-	-	-	5,977
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		332,101	8,434,546	20,827,691	29,594,338	12,100,630
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:						
Trust's educational operations	8	27,928	10,191,938	667,418	10,887,284	7,166,177
Governance costs	9	-	91,477	-	91,477	76,553
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	7	27,928	10,283,415	667,418	10,978,761	7,242,730
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		304,173	(1,848,869)	20,160,273	18,615,577	4,857,900
Gross transfers between funds	16	-	(2,178,747)	2,178,747	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		304,173	(4,027,616)	22,339,020	18,615,577	4,857,900
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	16, 25	-	(224,000)	-	(224,000)	(392,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		304,173	(4,251,616)	22,339,020	18,391,577	4,465,900
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Funds brought forward at 1 September 2014		715,725	(1,591,082)	16,329,115	15,453,758	10,987,858
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2015		1,019,898	(5,842,698)	38,668,135	33,845,335	15,453,758

All of the Trust's activities derive from continuing operations and acquisitions during the
above financial period

A statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as all gains and losses are included in the Statement of
Financial Activities

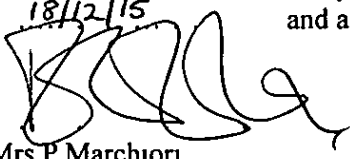
AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET

31 AUGUST 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	38,474,587	16,329,115
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	1,284,080	844,739
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,150,721</u>	<u>920,459</u>
		3,434,801	1,765,198
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(2,071,053)</u>	<u>(626,555)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,363,748</u>	<u>1,138,643</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		39,838,335	17,467,758
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	<u>(1,165,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		38,673,335	17,467,758
Pension scheme liability	25	<u>(4,828,000)</u>	<u>(2,014,000)</u>
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY		<u>33,845,335</u>	<u>15,453,758</u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY:			
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Fixed asset funds	16	38,668,135	16,329,115
General funds	16	(1,014,698)	422,918
Pension reserve	16	<u>(4,828,000)</u>	<u>(2,014,000)</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		32,825,437	14,738,033
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	16	<u>1,019,898</u>	<u>715,725</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>33,845,335</u>	<u>15,453,758</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 59 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 18/12/15 and are signed on their behalf by


Mrs P Marchiori
Chair of Trustees

Registration Number 07977940

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	19	958,032	136,123
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	20	1,289	1,105
Capital expenditure	21	-	-
Acquisitions and disposals	22	270,941	120,266
Increase in cash in the year	23	1,230,262	257,494
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Net funds at brought forward at 1 September 2014		920,459	662,965
Net funds at 31 August 2015		2,150,721	920,459

All of the cash flows are derived from acquisitions in the current financial year

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, the Charity Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('SORP 2005'), the Academies Accounts Direction 2014 to 2015 issued by the Education Funding Agency and the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

Going Concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

- **Grants receivable**

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 entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the year for which it is receivable and any unspent amount is reflected as a balance in the restricted general fund. Capital grants are recognised when receivable and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

- **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable, where there is certainty of receipt and it is measurable.

- **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be reliably measured.

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

- **Donated Services and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the Trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which they are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the Trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Trust's policies.

The transfer of leasehold land and buildings from the Local Authority at £Nil consideration has been recognised as incoming resources by way of a transfer from the Local Authorities on conversion. This has been included at the value written out of the accounts from the Local Authorities, Bournemouth Borough Council and Poole Borough Council but using the land value provided by the EFA desktop valuation where this is available. The transfer of freehold land and buildings of the sponsored academy at £Nil consideration has been recognised as incoming resources and included at a valuation determined by a professional valuer as at date of transfer. The amounts are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Trust's policies.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is recognised in the period in which a liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

- **Costs of generating funds**

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the Trust's educational operations.

- **Governance Costs**

These include the costs attributable to the Trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and Trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Conversion to an Academy

The conversion from a state maintained school to the Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £Nil consideration and has been accounted for under the acquisition accounting method.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Kings Park and Manorside Schools, to the Trust have been valued at their fair value being a reasonable estimate of the current market value that the Trustees would expect to pay in an open market for an equivalent item. Their fair value is in accordance with the accounting policies set out for the Trust. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in voluntary income as net income in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 28.

**AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Transfer of sponsored Academy

The transfer of a sponsored academy to the Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £Nil consideration and has been accounted for under the acquisition accounting method

The assets and liabilities transferred with St Aldhelm's Academy to the Trust have been valued at their fair value being a reasonable estimate of the current market value that the Trustees would expect to pay in an open market for an equivalent item. Their fair value is in accordance with the accounting policies set out for the Trust. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in voluntary income as net income in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 28.

Tangible Fixed Assets

There has been no minimal value for assets capitalised as tangible fixed assets. These are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed 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 Trust's depreciation policy.

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

Leasehold land and buildings	- buildings 50 and 15 years straight line / land 125 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% reducing balance
IT and computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

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

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.

Leased Assets

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

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Taxation

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

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes, are contracted out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme ('SERPS'), and the assets are held separately from those of the 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 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 note 25, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the 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 Academies 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. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Voluntary income	-	2,881	2,881	3,224
	-	2,881	2,881	3,224

3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Hire of facilities	10,103	-	10,103	11,633
Catering income	-	48,506	48,506	22,199
Sale of books and uniforms	7,342	-	7,342	1,427
Music lesson income	-	1,517	1,517	2,015
Consultancy	-	43,847	43,847	13,515
Educational trips	-	43,010	43,010	36,356
Other income	-	1,190	1,190	1,831
	17,445	138,070	155,515	88,976

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Short term deposits	1,289	1,289	1,105
	1,289	1,289	1,105

5. FUNDING FOR TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2015 £
DfE/EFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,699,614	5,699,614	3,176,553
Start up grants	-	140,001	140,001	-
Capital grants	-	1,731,804	1,731,804	33,880
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	999,845	999,845	356,974
	-	8,571,264	8,571,264	3,567,407
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	3,295,455	3,295,455	3,068,637
	-	3,295,455	3,295,455	3,068,637
Other income				
Pupil placement	-	143,327	143,327	376,612
V Behavioural Support	-	192,129	192,129	-
Other grants - NCTL	-	81,100	81,100	61,000
Insurance income	-	6,238	6,238	11,294
Teaching School	-	48,690	48,690	-
Other	41,302	3,514	44,816	-
	41,302	474,998	516,300	448,906
	41,302	12,341,717	12,383,019	7,084,950

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

6. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Sundry income	-	-	-	5,977
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,977</u>

7. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Staff Costs £	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £	Other Costs £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	6,696,813	557,130	622,326	7,876,269	5,269,229
Allocated support costs	<u>1,330,927</u>	<u>375,346</u>	<u>1,304,742</u>	<u>3,011,015</u>	<u>1,896,948</u>
	<u>8,027,740</u>	<u>932,476</u>	<u>1,927,068</u>	<u>10,887,284</u>	<u>7,166,177</u>
Governance costs including allocated support costs	48,958	-	42,519	91,477	76,553
	<u>8,076,698</u>	<u>932,476</u>	<u>1,969,587</u>	<u>10,978,761</u>	<u>7,242,730</u>

The method used for the apportionment of support costs is disclosed in the accounting policies

	2015 £	2014 £
Outgoing resources for the year include:		
Operating leases	12,357	12,358
Fees payable to auditor		
Audit	22,500	16,500
Accountancy	17,000	8,500
Other services	11,500	2,000

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	3,120	6,693,693	6,696,813	4,588,661
Depreciation	-	557,130	557,130	282,666
Educational supplies	2,995	131,535	134,530	101,277
Examination fees	242	46,623	46,865	10,504
Educational visits	95	75,698	75,793	85,179
Educational consultancy	-	273,200	273,200	194,336
Other costs	1,764	90,174	91,938	6,606
	<u>8,216</u>	<u>7,868,053</u>	<u>7,876,269</u>	<u>5,269,229</u>
Allocation supported costs				
Support staff costs	5,866	1,325,062	1,330,928	790,765
Depreciation	-	110,288	110,288	121,143
Maintenance of premises and equipment	846	264,212	265,058	270,176
Computer and internet costs	1,245	138,889	140,134	94,679
Rates and water	-	46,380	46,380	20,722
Energy costs	-	121,626	121,626	64,079
Insurance	-	119,557	119,557	93,040
Motor vehicle costs	150	13,796	13,946	16,503
Motor and travel costs	-	3,425	3,425	41,279
Accountancy fees	-	17,000	17,000	12,310
Legal and professional fees	-	84,203	84,203	68,906
Telephone	810	64,092	64,902	19,638
Hire of equipment and facilities	-	69,596	69,596	8,486
Other support costs	9,496	365,374	374,870	97,151
Licences and subscriptions	-	21,357	21,357	14,326
Catering costs	874	181,104	181,978	97,854
Finance costs	-	44,765	44,765	65,000
Bank charges and interest	425	577	1,002	891
	<u>19,712</u>	<u>2,991,303</u>	<u>3,011,015</u>	<u>1,896,948</u>
Total direct costs and support costs	<u>27,928</u>	<u>10,859,356</u>	<u>10,887,284</u>	<u>7,166,177</u>

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Legal and professional fees	19,154	19,154	19,378
Auditor's remuneration			
Audit of financial statements	22,500	22,500	16,500
Support staff costs	48,958	48,958	37,585
Training and support costs	865	865	3,090
	<u>91,477</u>	<u>91,477</u>	<u>76,553</u>

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

10. STAFF COSTS

	2015 £	2014 £
Staff costs during the year were		
Wages and salaries	6,855,540	4,494,405
Social security costs	397,680	268,609
Pension costs	942,998	576,793
	<u>8,196,218</u>	<u>5,339,807</u>

Supply teacher costs £823,410 (2014 - £665,078) included within wages and salaries

Staff severance payments

There were no non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments in the year (2014 - £29,294)
Contractual severance payments were made to three individuals totalling £90,221 (2014 - £Nil)

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Trust during the year, and the full time equivalents, was as follows

	2015 No	2015 Full time Equivalent	2014 No	2014 Full time Equivalent
Charitable Activities				
Teachers	189	153	128	100
Administration and support	134	58	44	38
Management	6	6	6	6
	<u>329</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>144</u>

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

	2015 No	2014 No
£60,000 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£150,001 - £160,000	2	-
£180,001 - £190,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

All of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme During the year ended 31 August 2015, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £63,325 (2014 - £52,350)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

10. STAFF COSTS (continued)

Central services

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

List of services	Trust charges for services £	Tregonwell Academy		Queen's Park Academy		Longspee Academy		King's Park Academy		Manorside Academy		St Aldhelm's Academy		Method of appointment
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Leadership and professional services	285,778	128,161	55,446	47,575	37,068	17,535	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Trust Management staff charged on a time-apportioned basis
Premises and Health & Safety	1,964	880	381	326	254	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged to Tregonwell Academy
Finance, Payroll & HR services	1,885	845	365	313	244	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged on an actual basis where possible, or one-third basis
Other IT and software	4,577	2,052	888	761	593	280	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged on an actual basis
Communications	1,856	832	360	308	240	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged to Tregonwell Academy
Legal services	1,161	520	225	193	150	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged to Tregonwell Academy
Training and development	2,086	935	404	347	270	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged on an actual basis
Other central costs	4,770	2,139	925	794	618	292	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Charged to Tregonwell Academy
	304,077	136,364	58,994	50,617	39,437	18,654	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

From 1 September 2014, new Trust arrangements are in place to allocate central services costs on a fixed percentage basis

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS - TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Chief Executive only received remuneration in respect of services provided undertaking his role, and not in respect of services as a Trustee. The value of the Chief Executive's remuneration, inclusive of employer's NI contributions was between £200,000 - £205,000 for the year 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015, (£185,000 - £190,000 for the year 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014). Employer's pension contributions were £25,439 (2014 - £23,324). Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Trust in respect of their role as Trustees.

During the year travel and subsistence expenses totalling £14 (2014 - £28) were reimbursed to Trustees. Related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 26.

12. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2015 was £7,752 (2014 - £6,238). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £	Fixtures Fittings and Equipment £	IT and Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2014	16,705,936	234,179	107,790		17,047,905
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion	9,938,096	-	-	-	9,938,096
Transfer from sponsored Academy	10,059,553	30,694	796,494	1,054	10,887,795
Additions	1,508,250	268,709	184,035	26,005	1,986,999
At 31 August 2015	<u>38,211,835</u>	<u>533,582</u>	<u>1,088,319</u>	<u>27,059</u>	<u>39,860,795</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2014	591,461	69,467	57,862	-	718,790
Charged in year	449,133	64,509	151,556	2,220	667,418
At 31 August 2015	<u>1,040,594</u>	<u>133,976</u>	<u>209,418</u>	<u>2,220</u>	<u>1,386,208</u>
Net book values					
At 31 August 2015	<u>37,171,241</u>	<u>399,606</u>	<u>878,901</u>	<u>24,839</u>	<u>38,474,587</u>
At 31 August 2014	<u>16,114,475</u>	<u>164,712</u>	<u>49,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,329,115</u>

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

14. DEBTORS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade debtors	543,677	544,007
VAT recoverable	388,271	110,597
Other debtors	-	11,521
Prepayments and accrued income	352,132	178,614
	<u>1,284,080</u>	<u>844,739</u>

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade creditors	664,262	351,493
Taxation and social security	346,852	147,363
EFA creditor abatement of GAG	144,103	-
Other creditors	32,403	-
Accruals and deferred income	883,433	127,699
	<u>2,071,053</u>	<u>626,555</u>

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance (deferred income) as follows

	£
Capital grant	19,646
Insurance grant	37,313
Other income	101,826
	<u>158,785</u>

CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
Other creditors	1,165,000	-
	<u>1,165,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Amounts falling due after more than one year is the liability of St Aldhelm's Academy to the EFA in respect of deficit funding which was provided by the EFA to fund a deficit in the Academy's funding resources

The amount is scheduled to be repaid in monthly instalments from September 2017. It is interest free.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Sep 14 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Losses £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Aug 15 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	386,083	5,699,614	(5,591,351)	-	(446,943)	47,403
Start up grants	-	140,001	(69,123)	-	-	70,878
Other EFA/DoE grants	-	999,845	(959,848)	-	-	39,997
Capital grants DFC	-	31,804	-	-	(31,804)	-
Capital grants EFA	-	1,700,000	-	-	(1,506,450)	193,550
Local authority grants						
High Needs top up funding	-	3,064,145	(2,859,470)	-	-	204,675
Behavioural outreach and support	-	170,199	(170,199)	-	-	-
Looked after children	-	42,492	(42,492)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	18,620	(14,331)	-	-	4,289
Other income						
Pupil placement from other schools	-	143,327	(143,327)	-	-	-
Outreach services from other schools	-	192,129	(193,282)	-	-	(1,153)
Activities for generating funds	-	138,070	(138,070)	-	-	-
Teaching school - NCTL	36,835	81,100	(81,100)	-	-	36,835
Teaching school - other	-	48,690	(8,189)	-	-	40,501
Voluntary income	-	2,881	(2,881)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	3,514	(3,514)	-	-	-
Other income	-	6,238	(6,238)	-	-	-
	422,918	12,482,669	(10,283,415)	-	(1,985,197)	636,975
Pension reserve	(2,014,000)	(2,590,000)	-	(224,000)	-	(4,828,000)
Sponsored Academy deficit	-	(1,458,123)	-	-	-	(1,458,123)
Transfer from restricted general fund to restricted fixed asset fund	-	-	-	-	(193,550)	(193,550)
	(1,591,082)	8,434,546	(10,283,415)	(224,000)	(2,178,747)	(5,842,698)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixtures, fittings, equipment and IT computer equipment	214,640	828,243	(218,285)	-	478,747	1,303,347
Leasehold land and buildings	16,114,475	19,999,448	(449,133)	-	1,506,450	37,171,240
Capital grant	-	-	-	-	193,550	193,550
	16,329,115	20,827,691	(667,418)	-	2,178,747	38,668,135
Total restricted funds	14,738,033	29,262,237	(10,950,833)	(224,000)	-	32,825,437
Unrestricted funds	715,725	332,101	(27,928)	-	-	1,019,898
Total funds	15,453,758	29,594,338	(10,978,761)	(224,000)	-	33,845,335

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS *(continued)*

General Annual Grant (GAG)

The General Annual Grant funding from the Education Funding Agency has been used in line with the funding agreement for the running of the Trust, including salary costs, overheads, premises costs and curriculum costs £446,943 was spent towards restricted fixed assets and transferred to this fund

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2015

Start up grants

Education Funding Agency grants to contribute to the cost of converting a maintained school to an Academy Costs incurred during the period have been for professional support costs, legal, consultancy, financial services, software and licences, training, website and branding

Other DFE / EFA Grants

£999,845 of other DFE / EFA grants as follows

£73,632 Funding for insurance premiums

Funding received from the Education Funding Agency to contribute to the cost of insurance Spent on insurance costs including buildings, contents and liability, but excluding minibus insurance

£518,353 Pupil premium

Funding from the Education Funding Agency to contribute to the additional educational needs of children who qualify The purpose is to close the educational attainment gap between pupils identified under pupil premium and other pupils This grant was spent on additional curriculum support services An annual statement of how each of our Academies has utilised their grant is published on our website

£5,000 Pupil premium summer school

Funding from the Education Funding Agency to contribute to the additional educational needs of children who qualify This grant was spent on summer school programmes at St Aldhelm's Academy An annual statement of how each of our Academies has utilised their grant is published on our website

£15,125 Year 7 Catch Up Grant

Year 7 Catch Up Funding of £15,125 represents funding from the Education Funding Agency The purpose being for additional education for each Year 7 pupil who has not achieved level 4 in reading and/or maths at Key Stage 2 Spent on additional teacher/teaching assistant time

£34,314 PE Grant

Income received to raise the standard of PE within schools Spent on wages and specialist sports equipment for whole school use

£27,490 Rates

Rates top up funding received from the Education Funding Agency to cover rates costs across our maintained academies

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS *(continued)*

£140,000 School Improvement Grant

School Improvement funding received from the Education Funding Agency in respect of St Aldhelm's Academy. This mainly covered the cost of professional education specialist intervention from the trust.

£75,000 Sponsor Capacity Grant

Sponsor Capacity Grant received from the Education Funding Agency to build capacity to support further academies. This was spent on strengthening the Trust's leadership capacity in preparation for sponsoring three further academies in this academic year.

£17,500 Head Teachers Board

Funding received from the EFA to provide executive representation and specialist advice on the Regional Headteachers Board. This reimbursed time spent on the Board by the Chief Executive Officer.

£27,038 Other Factors

Funding received from the EFA for St Aldhelm's Academy's base lump sum funding, as part of the main GAG settlement. This was used to fund premises and fixed costs.

£14,288 Exceptional Factors

Funding received from the EFA for St Aldhelm's Academy's Joint Use Agreement funding, as part of the main GAG settlement. This was used to pay the Trust's share of the use of Rossmore Leisure Centre.

£36,105 Universal Infant Free School Meals

Funding received from the EFA for Universal Infant Free School Meals. This funding was used to provide hot free school meals to infant pupils.

£16,000 Collaborative Fund Grant

Grant funds received in respect of the Collaborative Fund. Used to provide capacity to work with other academies and trusts in a collaborative, supportive partnership.

Capital Grant (EFA)

£31,804 relates to Devolved Formula from the Education Funding Agency, to be utilised on capital expenditure in line with the school development plan. The total of the capital grant brought forward and received during the period was fully utilised in the period on assets.

Costs spent in the period have been transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund.

£1,700,000 relates to Project Capital Funding from the Education Funding Agency in relation to St Aldhelm's Academy. This grant is to be used to make premises alterations necessary to bring St Aldhelm's Academy into a conducive educational environment. £1,506,450 of this capital grant was utilised in the period on assets. The remaining grant is held within the Trust at the period end. Costs spent in the period have been transferred to the restricted fixed asset fund.

Local Authority Grants

£170,199 Funding for Outreach service

Funding from Local Authority to provide support to local schools for pupils who need behaviour support. Providing a service to schools to help pupils manage behaviour within the school environment and spent on a dedicated school support team within the curriculum support.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS *(continued)*

Local Authority Grants *(continued)*

Other Local Authority grants of £3,064,145 include -

- £2,919,680 High Needs Top Up

Funding from Local Authority in respect of high needs top up payments for pupils in special schools
 This funding was spent on the full range of education provision for these pupils

- £64,845 Pupil Placement funding

Funding from Local Authority for the education of pupils placed at Tregonwell Academy or Longspee Academy in addition to the general admission criteria. This funding was spent on the full range of education provision for these pupils

- £20,000 Pupils over Roll

Funding from Local Authority for pupils placed with Longspee Academy over and above the commissioned roll number. This funding was spent on the full range of education provision for these pupils

- £59,620 Funding for 1:1 SEN provision

Funding from Local Authorities to provide bespoke support to pupils with SEN statements requiring 1:1 support in the classroom, spent on dedicated members of staff within curriculum support

£42,492 Looked After Children

Looked After Children funding received by Queens Park Academy and Longspee Academy from Local Authorities to support the education and social progress of Looked After Children. This grant was spent on additional curriculum support services

Other Grants include -

- £12,845 Free School Meal funding

Funding from Local Authority for meals provided to qualifying pupils in special schools. This funding was spent on the provision of hot meals to qualifying pupils

- £5,775 Education Services Grant

Funding from Local Authority for Education Services Grant received by Tregonwell Academy directly. This funding was spent mainly on provision of central services

Other income:

Pupil placement from other schools £143,327

Funding received from other schools to meet the extra cost of receiving placement pupils. Spent on the direct costs of providing education as well as the running of the Special Academies and the Trust, including salary costs, overheads, premises costs and curriculum costs

Outreach Services £192,129

Funding received in respect of outreach services and behaviour management. Providing a service to schools to help pupils manage behaviour within the school environment and spent on a dedicated school support team within the curriculum support

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS *(continued)*

Local Authority Grants *(continued)*

Activities for Generating Funds £138,070

Income includes £43,051 of parental donations towards the cost of educational school trips, used to cover the cost of these trips attended in the period £45,522 of parental payments for hot meals, used to cover the cost of providing the meals £43,847 of educational consultancy provided to King's Park Primary School, used to cover the salary costs of education specialists £4,174 of other income, including sales of uniform and text books

National College of Teaching and Learning (NCTL) £81,100

Funding from NCTL in respect of Tregonwell Academy's recognition as a Teaching School Spent on the costs of providing, delivering and facilitating training of newly qualified teachers and associated support costs

Teaching School £48,690

Income from schools towards the cost of participating in courses and programmes run by Ambitions Teaching School Spent on provision of courses, tuition and programmes

Voluntary Income £2,881

Income raised for charity of £2,417, paid to charity and other voluntary income of £464

Other Grants £3,514

Grant received to purchase Judo mats at Longspee Academy, fully utilised

Insurance £6,238

Income from insurance claims, including staff absence insurance and premises insurance, spent on covering staff and repairs to premises

Pension reserve

The deficit brought across on conversion to Academy status Movements represent the costs and losses during the period on each Academy fund, administered by Dorset County Pension Fund

Sponsored academy deficit

This is primarily the monies owed to the EFA and is set out in note 28

Restricted fixed asset funds

Transfers represent money received as stated from the source above for spend on capital items Incoming resource represents the transfer from Local Authority on conversion relates to the leasehold land and buildings, transferred from the Local Authorities, Borough of Poole, for Longspee Academy and Bournemouth Borough Council for the Nigel Bowes Campus and Throop Learning Centre Resource expenditure is the depreciation charged during the year

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

16. FUNDS (continued)

Analysis of Academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2015 were allocated as follows

	2015 £	2014 £
Ambitions Academy Trust	163,694	-
Tregonwell Academy	197,007	417,990
Queens Park Academy	764,729	573,164
Longspee Academy	169,097	147,489
Kings Park Academy	171,598	-
Manorside Academy	114,418	-
St Aldhelms Academy	(1,575,343)	-
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	<u>5,200</u>	<u>1,138,643</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	38,668,135	16,329,115
Pension reserve	(4,828,000)	(2,014,000)
Total	<u>33,845,335</u>	<u>15,453,758</u>

Analysis of Academies by cost

Expenditure incurred by each Academy during the year was as follows

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Ambitions Academy Trust	323,902	241,395	20,598	184,762	770,657	-
Tregonwell Academy	2,543,973	546,249	234,781	575,346	3,900,349	3,835,077
Queens Park Academy	1,073,400	160,262	87,981	291,556	1,613,199	1,655,136
Longspee Academy	1,032,730	69,213	43,275	194,454	1,339,672	1,348,708
Kings Park Academy	845,861	129,451	59,262	173,359	1,207,933	-
Manorside Academy	372,939	61,514	28,360	101,394	564,207	-
St Aldhelms Academy	526,981	150,193	135,263	102,889	915,326	-
Academy Trust	<u>6,719,786</u>	<u>1,358,277</u>	<u>609,520</u>	<u>1,623,760</u>	<u>10,311,343</u>	<u>6,838,921</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 August 2015 are represented by

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	38,474,585	38,474,585	16,329,115
Current assets	3,090,951	150,300	193,550	3,434,801	1,765,198
Current liabilities	(2,071,053)	-	-	(2,071,053)	(626,555)
Non current liability	-	(1,165,000)	-	(1,165,000)	-
Pension scheme liability	-	(4,828,000)	-	(4,828,000)	(2,014,000)
Total net assets	1,019,898	(5,842,700)	38,668,135	33,845,335	15,453,758

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Operating leases

At 31 August 2015 the Trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

	2015 £	2014 £
Other		
Expiring within one year	-	2,456
Expiring within two to five years	13,312	10,841
	<u>13,312</u>	<u>13,297</u>

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2015 £	2014 £
Net income	18,615,577	4,857,900
Depreciation	667,418	403,809
Grants from DfE/EFA utilised for capital	(1,985,198)	(283,159)
Capital income on transferred academies	(20,827,690)	(5,037,132)
Interest receivable	(1,289)	(1,105)
Cash transferred on conversion to an Academy Trust	(270,942)	(120,266)
Pension liability transferred on conversion	2,590,000	-
FRS 17 pension cost less contributions payable non-cash item	-	288,000
FRS 17 pension finance income	-	65,000
Increase in debtors	(439,341)	(395,531)
Increase in creditors	1,444,497	358,607
Increase in non current liabilities	1,165,000	-
Net cash inflow from operating activities	958,032	136,123

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

20. RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE

	2015 £	2014 £
Interest received	<u>1,289</u>	<u>1,105</u>
Net cash inflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance	<u>1,289</u>	<u>1,105</u>

21. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

	2015 £	2014 £
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	1,985,197	283,159
Capital grants from EFA	(1,538,254)	(283,159)
Capital expenditure from surplus GAG	(446,943)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from capital expenditure and financial investment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

22. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

	2015 £	2014 £
Cash transferred on conversion to an Academy Trust	<u>270,941</u>	<u>120,266</u>

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1 Sep 14 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Aug 15 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>920,459</u>	<u>1,582,262</u>	<u>2,130,721</u>

24. 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

25. 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 Dorset County Pension Fund Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2013

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

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

Not less than every four years 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 was 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 year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4% from September 2015, which will be payable during the implementation period until the next valuation as at March 2016, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £942,998 (2014 - £576,794).

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

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 17) Retirement Benefits, 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Teachers' Pension Scheme Changes

Lord Hutton made recommendations in 2011 about how pensions can be made sustainable and affordable, whilst remaining fair to the workforce and the taxpayer. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as the basis for consultation with trade unions and other representative bodies. In March 2012 the Department for Education published proposals for the design for a reformed TPS.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include a pension based on career average earnings, an accrual rate of 1/57th, and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the proposed final agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of normal pension age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

In his interim report of October 2010, Lord Hutton recommended that short-term savings were also required, and that the only realistic way of achieving these was to increase member contributions. At the Spending Review 2010 the Government announced an average increase of 3.2 percentage points on the contribution rates by 2014-15. The increases have been phased in since April 2012 on a 40/80/100% basis.

The Department for Education has continued to work closely with trade unions and other representatives bodies to develop the reformatted Teachers' Pension Scheme and regulations giving effect to it came into force on 1 April 2014. Communications are being rolled out and the reformatted scheme will commence on 1 April 2015.

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 17) Retirement Benefits, the TPS is a multi-employer pension scheme. The academy is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly, the academy has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 17 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Academy has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate Trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2015 was £507,000, of which the employer's contributions totalled £380,000 and the employees' contributions totalled £127,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.4% for employers and 5.5% to 8.5% 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.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 Aug 15	At 31 Aug 14
Rate of increase in salaries	4.2%	4.2%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.7%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities (Queens Park is 3.9%)	4.0%	4.0%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.7%	2.7%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50%	50%

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

	At 31 Aug 15	At 31 Aug 14
Retiring today		
Males	22.8	22.7
Females	25.2	25.1
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	25.1	24.9
Females	27.6	27.4

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme *(continued)*

The Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were

	Expected Return at 31 Aug 15	Total Fair Value at 31 Aug 15 £	Expected Return at 31 Aug 14	Total Fair Value at 31 Aug 14 £
Alternative assets	19%	800,000	5%	76,000
Equities	55%	2,358,000	55%	849,000
Gilts	12%	505,000	20%	311,000
Property	10%	433,000	9%	143,000
Cash	4%	166,000	9%	144,000
Absolute return portfolio	-	-	2%	35,000
Total market value of assets		4,262,000		1,558,000
Present value of scheme liabilities				
- Funded		(8,981,000)		(3,510,000)
Present value of unfunded obligation		(109,000)		(62,000)
Deficit in the scheme		(4,828,000)		(2,014,000)

The return on gilts and other bonds are assumed to be gilt yield and corporate bond yield (with an allowance for defaults) respectively at the relevant date. The returns on equities and property are then assumed to be margin above gilt yields.

The actual return on scheme assets was £433,000 (2014 - £143,000)

Deficits of £759,000, £525,000 and £1,306,000 were transferred in on conversion of Kings Park Longspee Academy, Manorside and St Aldhelm's respectively

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme *(continued)*

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	Tregonwell Academy 2015 £	Queen's Park Academy 2015 £	Longspee Academy 2015 £	King's Park Academy 2015 £	Manorside Academy 2015 £	St Aldhelm's Academy 2015 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(216,000)	(96,000)	(72,000)	(103,000)	(42,000)	(57,000)	(586,000)	(276,000)
Past service cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total operating charge	(216,000)	(96,000)	(72,000)	(103,000)	(42,000)	(57,000)	(586,000)	(276,000)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme *(continued)*

Analysis of pension finance income / (costs)

	Tregonwell Academy 2015 £	Queen's Park Academy 2015 £	Longspee Academy 2015 £	King's Park Academy 2015 £	Manorside Academy 2015 £	St Aldhelm's Academy 2015 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Expected return on pension scheme assets	60,000	23,000	14,000	16,000	12,000	18,000	143,000	63,000
Interest on pension liabilities	(94,000)	(35,000)	(21,000)	(25,000)	(17,000)	(25,000)	(217,000)	(128,000)
Pension finance costs	(34,000)	(12,000)	(7,000)	(9,000)	(5,000)	(7,000)	(74,000)	(65,000)

The actual gains and losses for the current period are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is a £224,000 loss (2014 - £392,000 loss)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme *(continued)*

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

	Tregonwell Academy 2015 £	Queen's Park Academy 2015 £	Longspee Academy 2015 £	King's Park Academy 2015 £	Manorside Academy 2015 £	St Aldhelm's Academy 2015 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
At 1 September 2014								
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,240,000	827,000	505,000	1,314,000	970,000	2,524,000	8,380,000	2,547,000
Current service cost	216,000	96,000	72,000	103,000	42,000	57,000	586,000	276,000
Interest cost	94,000	35,000	21,000	25,000	17,000	25,000	217,000	128,000
Actuarial (loss)/gains	(1,000)	(24,000)	1,000	(112,000)	(66,000)	-	(202,000)	559,000
Benefits paid	(15,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(15,000)	(7,000)
Employee contributions	54,000	18,000	15,000	19,000	7,000	14,000	127,000	72,000
Unfunded pension payments	(3,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,000)	(3,000)
At 31 August 2015	2,585,000	952,000	614,000	1,349,000	970,000	2,620,000	9,090,000	3,572,000

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

25. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS *(continued)*

Local Government Pension Scheme *(continued)*

Movements in the fair value of Academy's share of scheme assets:

	Tregonwell Academy 2015	Queens Park Academy 2015	Longspee Academy 2015	Kings Park Academy 2015	Manorside Academy 2015	St Aldhelms Academy 2015	Total 2015	Total 2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 September 2014								
Opening fair value of scheme	967,000	364,000	227,000	555,000	445,000	1,218,000	3,776,000	1,037,000
Expected gain on assets	60,000	23,000	14,000	16,000	12,000	18,000	143,000	63,000
Actuarial gain employer contributions	(9,000)	(4,000)	(2,000)	(29,000)	(22,000)	(80,000)	(146,000)	167,000
Employer contributions	165,000	56,000	44,000	57,000	22,000	36,000	380,000	229,000
Employee contributions	54,000	18,000	15,000	19,000	7,000	14,000	127,000	72,000
Assets distributed on settlements	(18,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(18,000)	-
Benefits paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,000)
At 31 August 2015	1,219,000	457,000	298,000	618,000	464,000	1,206,000	4,262,000	1,558,000

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2015 is £211,000

The current year history of experience adjustments is as follows:

	2015	2014
		£
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(9,090,000)	(3,572,000)
Fair value of share of scheme assets	4,262,000	1,558,000
Deficit in the scheme	(4,828,000)	(2,014,000)
Experience adjustments on share of scheme assets	146,000	167,000
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities	-	64,000

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Academy's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations, the Academies Financial Handbook and normal procurement procedures.

There were no related party transactions above the de minimis of £2,500 in the year.

The Trust is controlled by the Board of Trustees.

27. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Trust has decided to open a nursery class at King's Park Academy following the termination of existing nursery provisions by a third party on the site. The nursery class will take admissions from 5 January 2016.

28. TRANSFER OF ACADEMIES TO THE TRUST

On 1 March 2015, Kings Park School converted to Trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to the Trust from the Bournemouth Borough Council Local Authority for £Nil consideration.

On 1 April 2015, Manorside School converted to Trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all operations, assets and liabilities were transferred to the Trust from the Poole Borough Council Local Authority for £Nil consideration.

On 1 June 2015, St Aldhelm's Academy transferred to the Ambitions Academy Trust as a sponsored academy. All operations, assets and liabilities were transferred into the Trust at fair value at that date.

The transfers have been accounted for using the acquisition method. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities as transfer from Local Authority on conversion.

AMBITIONS ACADEMIES TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

28. TRANSFER OF ACADEMIES TO THE TRUST *(continued)*

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Tangible fixed assets					
Leasehold land and buildings and equipment					
- on conversion	-	-	9,938,096	9,938,096	5,037,132
- sponsored academy	-	-	10,889,595	10,889,595	-
Budget surplus on LA funds					
- on conversion	272,065	-	-	272,065	120,266
- sponsored academy	-	(1,458,122)	-	(1,458,122)	-
LGPS pension deficit					
- on conversion	-	(1,284,000)	-	(1,284,000)	-
- sponsored academy	-	(1,306,000)	-	(1,306,000)	(241,000)
Net assets/ (liabilities)	<u>272,065</u>	<u>(4,048,122)</u>	<u>20,827,691</u>	<u>17,051,634</u>	<u>4,916,398</u>

The above net assets include £270,942 that was transferred as cash

The leasehold land and buildings were transferred by way of a long term lease over 125 years