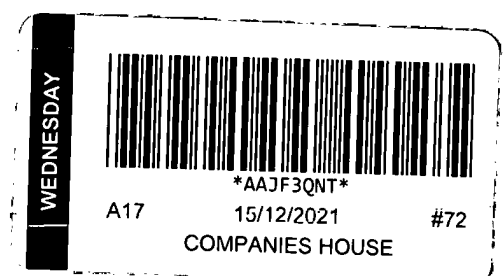


Ambitions Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2021

Company Registration Number:
07977940 (England and Wales)



Ambitions Academies Trust

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Ambitions Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members:

Mr Clive Barrow (resigned 25 April 2021)
Mr Alan Connell
Mr Pratap Deshpande (resigned 17 June 2021)
Mrs Caroline Sard
Mr Nigel Smith
Mrs Lesley Spain

Trustees:

Mrs Caroline Sard (Chair of Trustees) *
Mr Richard Smith (Vice Chair) #
Mrs Marilyn Bramford *
Mrs Berni Catling #
Mrs Pat Marchiori #
Mrs Louise Parker *
Mrs Roz Scammell #
Mr Ted Taylor* (resigned 31 December 2020)

*Membership of Finance Committee

Membership of Audit & Risk Management Committee

Company Secretary

Carol Box (appointed 1 April 2021)
Sherri Hawkins (resigned 31 March 2021)

Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	Sian Thomas
Director of Primary Education	Alex Prout
Director of Secondary Education	Jon Webb
Director of Special Education	Nicki Morton
Director of Outcomes	Paul Holman
Business Director	Sherri Hawkins
Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer	Andy Connell
Estates Director	Ian Hawkins

Ambitions Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Company Name

Ambitions Academies Trust

Principal and Registered Office

Manorside Academy

Evering Avenue

Poole

Dorset

BH12 4JG

Company Registration Number

07977940 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House

Mayflower Close

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO53 4AR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc

PO Box 1000

Andover

BX1 1LT

Solicitors

Michelmores LLP

Woodwater House

Pynes Hill

Exeter

EX2 5WR

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates six primary, four secondary, one studio school, and two special academies over 15 sites within Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth. It has a combined roll of just over 5,800 students. The Trust also operates Ambitions Teaching School and Ambers Group Limited, a trading subsidiary that is controlled by the Trust. Ambers Group Limited runs wrap around care for each of our primary schools along with three nurseries at King's Park, Manorside and Elm. Ambers ran a holiday camp at Oak and also runs the lettings across Oak and LeAF Academies.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Ambitions Academies Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Ambitions Academies Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved 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, with no limit on any single claim.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust has seven Trustees. Trustees are appointed to serve a term of office of four years. New Trustees are appointed/reappointed by the Members or the Trust Board as set out in the Trust's Articles of Association.

The Trust Board is responsible for recruiting Trustees. The Trust Board has undertaken a skills and requirements review to identify the skills needed to recruit and appoint to the Board. The Trustees will interview applicants to ensure they meet the specified criteria for the vacant positions and for future succession planning. Applicants that the Trust Board wish to appoint will be presented to the Members for approval.

The standard model of local school governance is the Academy Advisory Committees (AAC). The Trust also operates a 'high support' model of local governance. These Academy Priority Support Committees (ASPC) are led and chaired by the Trust's Director of Outcomes. An ASPC will transition to the AAC model following the period of high support. Members are appointed to the Academy committees as required to support the Academies.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the appointment of the Academy Committee Members.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

A supportive and comprehensive induction process to the governance of the Trust is in place.

There is a standard induction programme so that new Trustees very quickly become familiar with the structure of the Trust. There is a clear Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference for the full Board and each Committee. All Trustees operate within the governance code of conduct. Further training and ongoing support is provided to each Trustee to enable them to fulfil their specific role on the Board.

The induction of the Academy Committee Members is undertaken by the Academy working closely with the Trust Clerk to ensure consistency across the Trust.

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.

Directors under the guidance of the CEO, Principals, under the guidance of Directors of Education and Academy Committees, lead individual Academies, making decisions on the direction of teaching and learning and achievement.

The CEO is the Accounting Officer of the Trust.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration of the Trust's key management personnel are approved by the Trust Board's Personnel Committee. The Trust's teachers' pay policy is based on the national agreed pay scale as outlined in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document. The Trust adheres to Local Government pay arrangements for support staff and follows the Local Government pay spine.

Pay and remuneration for all personnel except the Chief Executive Officer is set by the Personnel Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer's pay and remuneration is set by an annual committee held solely for the appraisal and setting of pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
11	9.39

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	6
1%-50%	5
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£2,840
Total pay bill	£35.6m
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.008%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	4.32%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust seeks to avoid related party transactions. In this period there are no related parties with which the Trust has transacted with, with the exception of Ambers Group Limited (the trading subsidiary) which began trading in September 2017 and has been consolidated within these Financial Statements.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust believes in supporting, developing and working with its staff in order to meet the high expectations of the organisation. To achieve this, the Trust:

- Continues to develop a Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee consisting of members of the Trust and Unions. The purpose of this Committee is to review key policies and discuss issues which affect the staff looking at ways that both the Trust and the Unions can provide support. Full Committee meetings take place at least termly with sub-committees also meeting termly.
- Works with Unions in situations involving redundancy, re-structures, disciplinary matters, grievance, etc. and to ensure procedures are fair and equitable with relevant support being provided.
- Carries out staff surveys and share the results with staff. Actions identified from the survey are then implemented.
- Has set up a Wellbeing Forum consisting of members of staff (known as the Wellbeing Champions) from each of the Academies. This group meets termly to discuss factors relating to staff, feedback on wellbeing issues which have been identified in the Academies, promote wellbeing through noticeboards which are regularly updated, formulating a wellbeing policy based on the "Five Steps to Wellbeing" while reviewing the impact of Covid-19. Staff are able to seek support from the Wellbeing Champions in situations where they would not wish to approach their line manager.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic:

- The CEO has provided half termly letters to staff thanking them for their hard work and providing updates;
- Directors and Principals have worked together to ensure staff are supported with new ways of working and the challenges they face;
- We have provided flexible working conditions where possible;
- We have had regard to the financial implications for staff who were on furlough, with family in isolation, etc.;
- We have held frequent Covid-19 meetings to review government guidance and impact on the organisation.

The Trust's recruitment policy ensures that no candidate is discriminated against or unfairly treated because of a protected characteristic. Practical steps are taken to ensure reasonable adjustments are made at each stage of the recruitment process to allow disabled candidates to pursue a job vacancy and anonymous equality and diversity information is collected during the application process to ensure Ambitions Academy Trust's ability to monitor and improve its processes.

For staff members who become disabled during their employment with Ambitions Academies Trust, consideration is given to reasonable adjustments which will help to retain staff members whilst meeting the needs of the organisation in delivering its service.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons) (continued)

Ambitions Academies Trust works positively with Unions in all matters concerning its employees from joint consultation in relation to policy development, TUPE processes, disciplinary and grievance situations, issues relating to attendance at work and other employee relationship matters.

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

AAT uses supplier engagement to enhance relationships between the Trust and its suppliers focusing on people rather than systems and processes (the non-human elements). The Trust uses understanding and empathy and how these feelings impact motivation to nurture best value relationships, looking at the short-term needs rather than the volume of supply. Where both factors are prevalent, they are considered as part of supplier engagement. The Trust also uses supplier relationship management as an important tool, particularly when determining the best strategic partnerships to create and nurture. The use of supplier engagement is focused on driving better motivation and engagement with suppliers.

During the year the Trust has used this approach to effect principal decisions. In particular this can be seen across the Estates department and their work with our supplies for cleaning, grounds maintenance, intruder fire alarms systems maintenance and monitoring. It was also a factor in deciding to continue with the catering suppliers at King's Park Academy. When ensuring best value for money is obtained, it is vital to take all aspects of 'Value' into consideration and our engagement with suppliers ensures we are looking at the human factors when making decisions.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The Ambitions Academies Trust's objectives are set out in the Articles of Association. In summary it is to improve the level of education provision in Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth whether directly through our own Academies or indirectly through working with other education providers in the region.

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, early years, 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. The mainstream and special classes benefit greatly from working collaboratively across the Trust. Ambitions Academies Trust has been appointed as a Teaching School since 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 Dorset. We will be planning the move to re-branding our Teaching school as a Training School following the changes to moving to Teaching School Hubs. AAT work collaboratively with the new Hub to ensure we support best practice across the local area.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2021 are summarised below:

A Trust governance review in February 2019 led to the Trustees undertaking a strategic review which included reassessing the Trust vision, values and mission statement and clarifying the future direction.

Vision and Values

- Outstanding Achievement for all underpinned by inclusivity, integrity, openness and honesty.

Mission Statement

- To ensure each pupil reaches their potential by securing outstanding achievement, high standards of social skills and improved life chances.
- To raise standards of teaching and learning by ensuring strong, effective governance and outstanding leadership at all levels.
- To achieve outstanding outcomes throughout the Trust through the efficient use of public funding and assets.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

A Strategic Plan, initially for 2019-21, was developed and agreed and sets the Trust's strategic objectives as below:

1. To provide a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum that meets every pupil's needs enabling and empowering all children to develop and make ambitious progress and become well prepared for adulthood.
2. Quality staff recruitment, ongoing training and deployment to develop our people.
3. Efficient and effective management of finance, IT, resources and estates.
4. Strategic development of Ambers Group and evaluation of all commercial opportunities.
5. To ensure there is a culture of inclusivity where physical and emotional wellbeing is championed.

Under the leadership of the CEO the executive team is responsible for implementing the strategic plan across all sectors of the organisation.

Chair of Trustees holds regular strategic planning meetings with the CEO to discuss progress towards these strategic objectives. Additionally, the Trust Board meets twice per year to review progress towards these objectives and reassess the strategic direction.

The CEO and Directors formally review progress of implementing the objectives three times per year.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

Business:

- Review of staff contracts to reflect new legislation/guidance.
- Identified and managed the move to a new payroll provider.
- Covid-19:
 - Ensured staff risk assessments were in place for staff who were vulnerable, extremely vulnerable or pregnant in line with government guidelines.
 - Provided guidance on working from home. o Advised on safe working practices in school in line with government guidelines.
 - Monitored sickness absence and Covid-19 related sickness absences.
- Wellbeing forum - worked with the Wellbeing Champions in supporting staff across the Trust.
- Developed a strategy for Apprenticeship training and recruitment.
- Developed the wider CPD strategy across the Trust.
- Implemented a 3 year policy cycle review.
- Reviewed support staff Job Descriptions.

Estates:

- Covid-19 – Produced a generic risk assessment for the Trust, attended all sites to produce bespoke risk assessments and continually amending to suit government guidelines and changing circumstances
- St Aldhelm's – Project managed the installation of two specialist classrooms and six general classrooms, plus teacher work room and office space within a fixed time frame and budget.
- Oak – Project managed the installation of a drama block and associated classrooms and changing rooms within a fixed time frame and budget.
- All Saints/Wey Valley/Kinson continued to install solar arrays across all suitable buildings.
- Continued to ensure low cost lighting in suitable Academies across the Trust.
- Ongoing development of the Preventative Maintenance Programme and ensuring all high-risk areas are mitigated.
- IT developments across many sites.
- Refurb and additional facilities across many sites.

Finance:

- Provided continuity of service during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Development of the Trust Finance Leadership team.
- Embed the two new Longspee satellites and their finance teams.
- Introduction of integrated curriculum and financial planning into the secondary schools.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. This has been taken into account when reviewing the charitable company's objective and aims and in planning and operating the Trust for the period. The Trustees consider that the Nolan Principles and charitable company's aims are demonstrably to the benefit of the public.

The key public benefit delivered by the Trust is the maintenance and development of high-quality education to the young people of the communities the Academies serve. The Academies that the Trust operates are generally in deprived areas.

Through the teaching school, the Trust runs a number of courses throughout the year. It also runs NQT conferences. The teaching school runs the ITT for the Trust, a very successful model which not only provides excellent training, but also allows Principals a gateway to recruit new staff year on year.

Strategic Report

Educational Achievements and Performance

In 2020-21 Ambitions Academies Trust was relentless in their pursuit of the best learning opportunities for all the young people it serves. The Covid-19 pandemic brought about a challenge of such magnitude it resulted in our schools and nurseries having to respond to a national crisis that meant the vast majority of pupils completing their learning at home. The move from in-school to remote learning was undertaken in a matter of days. AAT are proud of what was achieved during the temporary closure of schools. All schools remained open to key worker families, pupils with EHCPs and vulnerable pupils. As the re-opening widened in June, AAT welcomed back year groups across primary and secondary. In addition to providing a full remote learning package, Trust leaders and their staff also worked tirelessly to support the ever-increasing needs that were being presented to them at this unprecedented time.

As a result of an IT infrastructure refresh programme over the previous 18 months, the Trust was in a good place to support new methods of required communication. Windows 10 operating system and Office 2019 software suite is now standard across all 15 sites. This enabled the deployment of Microsoft Teams across the Trust which provided consistent communication during the lockdown and beyond from Trustee meetings to classroom delivery. At a school level this meant that all secondary schools were able to provide digital remote learning as part of a blended learning package for their students. As a result of a DfE funding application, primary and special schools continue to develop their digital learning platforms in readiness for any future lockdown situations.

All schools received an allocation of DfE laptops for disadvantaged students and these were deployed appropriately during the summer term to support remote learning.

Staff at all levels have been provided with training opportunities to ensure they can use software appropriately. In addition, a staff development team across the three education sectors has provided an opportunity for the swift sharing of teaching and learning good practice as supportive technology continues to develop at a pace.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Educational Achievements and Performance (continued)

With the cancellation of all end of key stage assessments/examinations this year there are no national validated educational outcome comparators. Internally schools across all sectors continue to collect relevant assessment data to enable appropriate strategies and curriculum planning to be implemented with particular reference to any gaps in student knowledge as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trustees support and challenge programme continues to provide challenge for each sector, utilising the trust dashboard for both AAT and national comparisons where available.

Across all the Academies the student attendance on-site and the engagement of learning off-site was constantly reviewed. There was a mixture of learning tasks set across our schools which included: paper-based tasks, on-line platforms, live lessons and tasks set through Microsoft teams. It was important to keep our communities close during the period of lockdown, in order to do this, there were an inordinate amount of home visits and phone calls made each day. It was also essential to gauge the well-being of staff and pupils, for many it was an isolating time so schools were very creative in how they brought their communities together. There were also on-line surveys completed to gather vital information as to how people were feeling. The results of the surveys were analysed and acted upon.

One of the biggest tasks completed was the writing and implementing of risk assessments; education and estate leaders did an extraordinary job in compiling risk assessments that would essentially minimise all foreseeable risks associated with the virus. Many hours were spent on this task. Once written they were reviewed by the Trust executive team and the Trustees. AAT is proud of how the staff and trustees worked together to ensure that every risk was considered and appropriate measures were put in place. The work completed by Principals and their teams in sharing risk assessments and the new ways of working to enable all pupils to return in September was a mammoth task, but the hours of time involved certainly paid off when the pupils re-entered their schools in September.

Throughout the year the Trust continued all the activities linked to their accountability programme; it was important that the Trust kept up to date with the key information relating to the core business as laid down in the funding agreements and Articles of Association. This required many hours of on-line meetings sharing, reviewing and analysing the evidence brought to the table across education, business, estates and finance. Ensuring the scheme of delegation and the strategic plan were implemented throughout the period was key to the Trust fulfilling its vision and values.

Whilst Ofsted visits have been limited this academic year, Oak did have a remote Ofsted visit, the outcome of which was very positive but was not graded as it was part of the monitoring visits that Oak has as a requires improvement school.

The vast majority of our Academies maintain good or outstanding Ofsted judgements.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Educational Achievements and Performance (continued)

Sector	Academy	Current Ofsted Judgement
Primary	Bayside Academy	N/A due to transfer
	Elm Academy	Outstanding
	Kinson Academy	N/A due to transfer
	King's Park Academy	Good
	Manorside Academy	Outstanding
	Queen's Park Academy	Outstanding
Secondary	All Saints' Church of England Academy	N/A due to transfer
	LeAF Studio	Good
	Oak Academy	Requires Improvement
	St Aldhelm's Academy	Good
	Wey Valley Academy	N/A due to transfer
Special	Longspee School	Outstanding
	Tregonwell Academy	Outstanding

Key Performance Indicators

The key financial performance indicators during the year were as follows:

Key Financial Performance Indicator 2020-21	Ambitions Academies Trust	Primary Academies	Secondary Academies	Special Academies
Year End Reserves: Target (excluding long term liabilities) Actual	8-12% 17%	8-12% 50%	8-12% (10%)	8-12% 24%
Number of months' reserves:	2.1	6.0	(1.2)	2.9
Direct Staff cost as % of Income: Target Actual	60-70% 64%	60-70% 72%	60-70% 68%	60-70% 64%
Total Staff cost as % of Income: Target Actual	70-75% 77%	70-75% 86%	70-75% 79%	70-75% 86%

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Key Performance Indicators (continued)

The Trust's year end reserves have improved across all sectors during 2020-21. Both Primary and Special sectors hold reserves in excess of the KPI. The Secondary academies have reduced their reserve deficit from -18% to -10% . The Trust as a whole has 17% reserves which is above our KPI target.

The Trust's direct staff costs as a % of income have decreased from 67% in 2019-20 to 64% in 2020-21. There has been a decrease the primary and special sectors while the secondary sector has seen a increase in direct staff costs as a % of income in 2020-21 when compared to 2019-20. This decrease in % for the primary academies has been attributed to a greater overall income. Within the special sector the decrease has been attributed to a greater income from bespoke packages, the expenditure for running the programmes to a larger proportion falls outside the direct staff costs. The secondary academy increase has been attributed to the effect of lagged funding the Trust has had to increase direct staff costs as a result of additional students. The income for these students will not be seen until the following year. The direct staff costs as a whole are within the KPI the Trust has set.

The Trust's total staff costs as % of income has stayed the same at 77%. This is because the Trust's response to Covid-19 has meant lower than normal staff costs related to the pandemic. Where vacancies arose within the year these were not filled due to impact of Covid-19. Within the primary sector Kinson Academy has a higher cost of senior teaching staff than what the Trust would recruit into given the size of the academy. The Trust as a whole is 2% above the KPI target range.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Financial Statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

In order to maintain the financial stability of the Trust, the budget monitoring process has been reviewed and adjusted, cashflow is monitored on a daily basis and each site forecasts monthly and this is reviewed thoroughly by the Executive team and Board through the monthly management account meetings.

The Trustees recognise that St Aldhelm's Academy has significant legacy issues dating back to December 2012, resulting in a current deficit of £3,121,809. The Trust continues to work closely with the ESFA on its financial recovery plan, with quarterly reviews and detailed financial submissions to both the ESFA and Trustees. When St Aldhelm's Academy joined the Trust the Financial Notice to Improve was removed.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Promoting the success of the company

The Board of Trustees understand they must fully consider the wide reaching and the long-term impacts that the Board's decisions will have on employees, suppliers, customers, and the surrounding community and environment. The Board seek to embed a culture which pursues success for the stakeholders through the Trust's actions. When determining the Trust's strategy, the Board must place due importance on the duty of promoting the success of the company and not become blinded by the immediate issues, but instead take a step back and consider the longer-term vision. The Board discharges this duty with effective training and induction processes when new Trustees join the Board.

It is important that the Board receives and has access to timely relevant information to make informed decisions and they will consider if they have sufficient information regarding all stakeholders' interests that may be affected prior to making decisions. Where all the information is not available the Board will use the expertise available to them within the Trust to support the decision making. The Board understand that every stakeholder is indirectly an asset and that promoting a culture that considers the interests of all stakeholders is of benefit to the Trust.

Financial Review

In the main, the Trust's income comes from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). 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 received recurrent grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. 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.

The deficit attributable to St Aldhelm's Academy is largely covered by an agreed repayment programme with the ESFA. This year was the final year of repayments to the ESFA with respect to the repayment programme. Through the course of 2020-21 £500k was repaid to the ESFA. The Trust accounts for the ESFA loan as a concessionary loan and is interest free. Concessionary loans are made to a public benefit entity at below market interest rates to advance the charitable purposes of the charity to which it is made and are not for commercial purposes. The loan is recognised on initial measurement at the amount advanced and subsequently at the balance due. The Trust expects St Aldhelm's Academy to continue to make an in-year surplus. All 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 2021 the net book value of fixed assets was £86,608,017 (2020: £85,402,158). These assets were used exclusively for providing education to the Trust's pupils and related support services.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Financial Review (continued)

The trading subsidiary company, Ambers Group Limited, operates three nurseries at King's Park, Manorside, and Elm, along with operating wrap around care including breakfast, afterschool and holiday clubs across the primary Academies of the Trust. The facilities based at Oak and LeAF Studio are also let out to third parties. The year-end reserves were £41,630.

Reserves Policy

The Trust held a balance as at 31 August 2021, including St Aldhelm's Academy's deficit, of £55,873,767 (2020: £58,168,464), comprising of a surplus of £5,104,406 (2020: surplus of £2,216,613) of restricted funds, a pension reserve deficit of £36,689,000 (2020: £32,965,000), fixed asset reserves of £88,153,220 (2020: £87,070,690) and unrestricted reserves of £2,305,141 (2020: £1,846,161).

Total revenue reserves, which exclude the fixed asset fund of £88,153,220 (2020: £87,070,690) and the pension reserve deficit of £36,689,000 (2020: £32,965,000), as at 31 August 2021 were a surplus of £7,409,547 (2020: £4,062,774), again including St Aldhelm's Academy's legacy deficit. Excluding St Aldhelm's Academy's legacy deficit, total revenue reserves were a surplus of £10,531,356 (2020: £7,655,401). The fixed asset fund includes capital grants of £1,545,203 (2020: £1,668,532) for ongoing projects.

The Trust aims to hold between 8% and 12% of total revenue income in reserves. Currently the reserves held are 17%, an increase of 7% upon the prior year. The increase we have seen in 2020-21 has again been driven by the greater economies of scale now there are 13 academies within the Trust and the Trust's ability to mitigate the adverse financial impact of Covid-19. Within the reserves is the unspent element of the Covid-19 catch up funding of £251k relating to the 2020-21 period.

The pension reserve currently is in a deficit of £36,689,000 (2020: £32,965,000). Whilst this is a significant deficit that impacts on the total reserves of the Trust, this does not mean that there is an immediate liability for this value. The impact on this value will be a potential increase in the pension contribution that is made to the LGPS. The Trust attempts to limit the potential future impact on the budgets by reviewing various scenarios during the budget setting process.

The Trustees consider that the underlying reserves levels, excluding the long-term liabilities of St Aldhelm's Academy and the cash reserves 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 ongoing investment in our properties. 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. Where the balance permits, the Trust intends to hold any surplus cash in low risk high interest deposit accounts using the services of a bank which specialises in charity clients.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed, through a Risk Register and through the robust scrutiny and challenge of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, the major risks to which the Trust are 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 through membership of the ESFA's Risk Pooling Arrangement.

The principal risks have been identified as:

Reputational – the continued success of attracting sufficient numbers of pupils to the Academies by maintaining and improving educational standards.

Government funding – the Trust has considerable reliance on the continued government funding through the ESFA/ DfE and there is no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same and funding will remain at the same levels or on the same basis.

Staffing – the ability to retain, recruit and train quality staff and leaders by ensuring continual personal development and clear succession planning.

Safety, safeguarding and regulations – the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health and safety and discipline.

Buildings and Facilities – ensuring the estate under the control of the Trust remains safe, secure and compliant.

Pension Liability – this may fluctuate over time based on economic and Local Authority investment policy. This is a long term liability where it is hoped that it will reduce in the future by employer contributions and additional lump sum payments.

In respect of St Aldhelm's Academy's financial recovery, the Trustees have implemented an ongoing process of monitoring through the Finance and Resource Committee to quantify and mitigate the risks. St Aldhelm's Academy is now producing strong financial improvement. Pupil numbers have risen steadily throughout the period with new pupils joining in every year group and this is projected to continue for the medium term. The specialist leadership team recruited to the Academy is having a transformative impact on the quality of teaching and learning and pupil outcomes, validated by the Ofsted rating of Good.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Fundraising

As part of its work within the community, the Trust undertakes fundraising activities. This includes both fundraising in order to support its own operations and also to make donations to local and national charities. The Trust does not engage commercial participants or professional fund raisers in any of its fundraising activities; the work is undertaken by staff, students, family and community. The Trust has received no complaints with regards to its fundraising work in the 2020-21 academic year. The Trustees are satisfied that the public, including vulnerable people, are not put under unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches nor are they put under any pressure to donate to the Trust.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

Breakdown of energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh):

Energy type	2020/21	2019/20
Mandatory requirements:		
Gas	5,450,705	4,001,220
Purchased electricity from the grid	2,649,893	2,017,335
Transport fuel	90,232	77,640
Total energy (mandatory)	8,190,830	6,096,195
Voluntary requirements:		
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	701,154	701,154
Total energy (voluntary)	701,154	701,154
Total energy (mandatory & voluntary)	8,891,984	6,797,349

Breakdown of emissions associated with the reported energy use (tCO₂e):

Emission source	2020/21	2019/20
Mandatory requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Natural gas	998.30	735.70
Transport - Company owned vehicles (mini-buses)	18.00	19.80
<u>Scope 2</u>		
Purchased electricity (location-based)	562.70	470.30
<u>Scope 3</u>		
Transport – Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	4.50	-
Total gross emissions (mandatory)	1,583.50	1,225.80
<u>Intensity ratios (mandatory emissions only)</u>		
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per pupil	0.268	0.212
Tonnes of CO ₂ e per square meter floor area	0.023	0.018
Voluntary requirements:		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
Consumed electricity from on-site renewable sources	-	-
Total gross emissions (voluntary)	-	-
Total gross emissions (mandatory & voluntary)	1,583.50	1,225.80

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2021 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The majority of the electricity, natural gas and minibus consumption has been compiled from meter readings, invoices and mileage records. Benchmarks have been used on some sites where the invoices do not cover the entire reporting period. Solar Photovoltaic generation data was estimated based on the size of system and the yearly production of circa 1,130kWh/kWp installed. It is assumed that all of the electricity generated is used on site. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Intensity ratio

The primary intensity ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e (mandatory emissions) per pupil, which is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability. Pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2020 Census.

A secondary intensity ratio based on floor area (Gross Internal Area) is also provided to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions.

Energy efficiency action during current financial year

As expected, energy consumption was higher this year due to schools needing to have windows open for ventilation as part of their COVID-19 response.

Several projects have been implemented to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, including:

- Actively exploring the installation of LED lighting across all schools
- Regular reviews of unit prices on energy contracts
- The Trust has introduced video conferencing facilitating home working for suitable staff and therefore reducing non-essential travel.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Trustees' Report

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust had 13 Academies at the end of August 2021. These are across each of the following sectors Primary, Secondary, and Special. The Trustees continue to work to fulfil the Trust's charitable objectives vision and value in all of its academies.

The Trust will continue to explore opportunities to expand the Trust within its current geographical boundaries. The Trust plans to continue in its pursuit to raise standards and outcomes for the communities it serves. The Trust will persist in its raising the level of quality of the educational settings ensuring the highest level of buildings and ICT for the delivery of education. The Trustees are focused on ensuring the continued financial viability of the Trust as a whole and each of the individual academies. The Trustees are also concentrating on securing the best outcomes and Ofsted judgements for all of the Trust's academies.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others


The Trust does not hold assets or funds as custodian trustee on behalf of any other organisation.

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.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 9 December 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:


CSSard (Dec 13, 2021 11:10 GMT)

Mrs C Sard

Chair of Trustees

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Ambitions Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met six times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Full Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs C Sard (Chair of Trustees)	6	6
Mr R Smith (Vice Chair of Trustees)	5	6
Mrs M Bramford	6	6
Mrs P Marchiori	0	6
Mrs L Parker	6	6
Mrs B Catling	6	6
Mrs R Scammel	2	6
Mr T Taylor (resigned 31 December 2020)	0	2

Following the external governance review in February 2019 the Trustees completed a strategic review. This has focused on the vision of the Trust and has led to the creation of a 2-year strategic plan incorporating all sectors of Trust business.

Initial work in the remainder of 2019-20 included the following:

- Publishing a Strategic Plan for the Trust clearly stating the Trust vision, mission and objectives to support and direct the ongoing success of the Trust.
- Improving communication between the Trustees and the Academy Advisory Committees.
- Further developing the role of Clerk to lead on governance support and challenge.
- Reviewing and refining key documentation - Scheme of Delegation, Academy Committee Terms of Reference, Governance Application Form and Induction Process.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

Despite the complications brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, further progress has been made in developing robust governance.

All usual business was carried out as required throughout the Covid-19 period using remote digital technology.

Following the external governance review the Trustees reflected on the committee structure and composition, with particular respect to holding the Educational Directors and each Academy to account.

A support and challenge cycle for the Trustees is now in place. This includes termly meetings for each Committee Chair to meet with the Trust's Directors.

The Finance and Human Resources Dashboard has been reviewed by the Trustees' Committees with work in progress to develop an enhanced Dashboard for the Education data.

The Chair of the Educational Strategy and Outcomes Committee meets each sector director to review outcomes and ensure school improvement plans are fit for purpose. Link Trustees for the Academies in that sector are also invited to attend these support and challenge meetings. The reports are reviewed each term at the Educational Strategy and Outcomes Committee meeting.

A Link Trustee is in place for each Academy. There are terms of reference of the expectations of a linked Trustee that include attending Academy Committee meetings at least once a year and reviewing all the minutes of all other meetings.

The Trust Board is accountable to the Members. Members provide challenge and direction to the Trustees on a regular basis. Following a recommendation from the external governance review a link Trustee to the Members has been established. The Chair of Trustees provides this link and is an appointed Member.

In addition to Full Trust Board meetings, all Trustees met three times to review the strategic plan and progress towards objectives.

The Trustees undertake an annual self-evaluation of governance. The results of this are linked to the annual 'Holding the Trust Board to Account' report that is presented to the Members.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Governance (continued)

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the Trust's finances over the year, including projected and actual levels of funding and review budgets. The Finance Committee is required to report back to the Board of Trustees and make recommendations as required for the Trustees' approval.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mrs L Parker (Committee Chair)	8	8
Mrs M Bramford	7	8
Mr T Taylor	0	8
Mrs C Sard	8	8

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its main purpose is to review the effectiveness of financial controls and risk management, and also to appoint and oversee the work of the internal and external auditors.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr R Smith (Committee Chair)	3	3
Mrs P Marchiori	0	3
Ms R Scammell	0	3
Mrs B Catling	2	3

The Trust held its first Annual General Meeting on 4 February 2021 in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The Trustees engaged with Academy Ambassadors to recruit new Trustees. This has successfully identified candidates that have the skills that the Trust Board were seeking. A recruitment process has been established with new Trustees joining the Board in September 2021.

A recruitment programme for the Academy Advisory Committees is in place to ensure a full complement of committee members to support and challenge appropriately and to ensure that meetings are quorate.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Review of Value for Money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year. The Trust prides itself on ensuring that value for money is achieved across all areas of the Trust. This can be evaluated through analysis of a variety of contracts that the Trust enters into, including: grounds maintenance, photocopiers, IT support, and MIS systems. It is relentless in its pursuit of excellence so an important aspect of assessing value for money is linked to the outcomes provided by the various contracts. The Trust has a robust Preventative Maintenance Plan (PMP), all contracts entered with regards to the compliance and maintenance of the estates are also considered alongside a value for money evaluation.

Education Reviews

On a termly basis each Academy's performance is reviewed. This is through the Academy Termly Accountability Review or the Academy Priority Support Committee. These are chaired by the Director of Outcomes and attended by the CEO, Sector Director of Education and the Academy Principal. These reviews ensure that the work and outcomes in each sector are aligned to the strategic vision of the Trust.

Trust Forums

Trust wide forums for safeguarding and SEND are now well established and provide key information and systems practice to all staff and governance across the Trust. Educational focused Trust Forums continue to be developed and embedded across the three sectors. These forums are key in providing staff professional development and ensuring all Academies are implementing best practice. We believe that collaboration between these teams is the key driving force in establishing effective working practices across the Trust.

Financial Effectiveness

The Trust has also used central procurement and economies of scale to make the best use of resources in respect of areas such as HR support, IT provision, telephony, and broadband throughout the year. For capital projects and general expenditure, the Trust aims to make the best use of local suppliers where appropriate, supporting small and medium-sized local businesses while securing the best value for money.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The primary purpose of internal controls is to help safeguard an organisation and further its objectives. Internal controls function to minimise risks and protect assets, ensure accuracy of records, promote operational efficiency, and encourage adherence to policies, rules, regulations, and laws.

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. This has been achieved by commissioning an external review of internal controls. The system of internal control has been in place in Ambitions Academies Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and Financial Statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and Financial Statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and 12 periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Full Board of Trustees
- Regular reviews by the Finance & Resource Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance through the Trust dashboard
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Identification and management of risks through the risk register.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor. Trustees have appointed Filer Knapper, as the internal auditor, to perform additional checks.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement

The Risk and Control Framework (continued)

The internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. The checks carried out in the current period were:

- Budget monitoring
- Schools Resource Management Adviser

The Audit and Risk Committee determine the schedule of work to be carried out throughout the year by Filer Knapper. The internal auditor reports to the Board after the report has been completed. Due to Covid-19 only one internal control report was completed over the year. The Board would normally expect to have three internal control reports over the course of the year. Overall, no material control issues were found.

In addition to the review performed by Filer Knapper, the Chairs of the Finance, Audit and Personnel Committees have regular support and challenge meetings with the Business Director Estates Director and Finance Director to review the systems in place in the relevant area. The outcomes are then reported at the next committee meeting.

On a yearly basis the Trust will be preparing an Annual Internal Scrutiny review. This is reported to the Board through the Audit Committee. Its scope is to report on the operational systems of control and on the discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities. This is done annually by producing a summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations, and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess the year.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Governance Statement


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 external auditor
- the work of the internal auditor
- The School Resource Management Advisor's report
- the work of the Executive Managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- there has been an explicit Finance Planning Group at executive level, which has met on a fortnightly basis throughout the year to support the development and embedding of finance procedures across the Trust including the introduction of a new finance system

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place. The system has been deemed to be effective overall, however during the year issues have been identified that are being addressed in the form of internal audit reviews of processes and systems.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 9 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


CSSard (Dec 13, 2021 11:10 GMT)

Mrs C Sard
Chair of Trustees


Sian Thomas (Dec 13, 2021 12:33 GMT)

Ms S Thomas
Accounting Officer


Ambitions Academies Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Ambitions Academies Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the 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 2020.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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


Sian Thomas (Dec 13, 2021 12:33 GMT)

Ms S Thomas
Accounting Officer
9 December 2021

Ambitions Academies Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the group's and charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and 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 group and 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 group and charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable group'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 9 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



CSsard (Dec 13, 2021 11:10 GMT)

Mrs C Sard

Chair of Trustees

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Ambitions Academies Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ambitions Academies Trust ('the parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated and Company Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Ambitions Academies Trust

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report), and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Ambitions Academies Trust

Responsibilities of the Trustees

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

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019, the Academies Financial Handbook 2020, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Ambitions Academies Trust

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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

Use of our report

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

Michaela Johns

M Johns FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited
Statutory Auditor
Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date 13/12/2021

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ambitions Academies Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 February 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Ambitions Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Ambitions Academies Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Ambitions Academies Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Ambitions Academies Trust and the ESFA, 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 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ambitions Academies Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academies Financial Handbook (effective from 1 September 2020) (AFH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the AFH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the AFH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the AFH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the AFH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Ambitions Academies Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Michaela Johns

M Johns FCCA

Reporting Accountant

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Chartered Accountants

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

Date 13/12/2021

Ambitions Academies Trust

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and capital grants	3	16,080	-	-	10,022,738	10,038,818	1,697,397
Transfer from local authority on conversion	14	-	-	-	(710,000)	(710,000)	-
Charitable activities:							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	409,296	41,624,240	-	-	42,033,536	38,914,741
Teaching schools	31	-	242,725	-	-	242,725	196,189
Other trading activities	5	755,739	-	-	-	755,739	845,617
Investments	6	906	-	-	-	906	2,485
Total		1,182,021	41,866,965	-	9,312,738	52,361,724	41,656,429
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	675,746	-	-	-	675,746	662,501
Charitable activities:							
Academy trust educational operations	8	29,577	38,929,808	3,176,000	2,114,614	44,249,999	40,461,546
Teaching school	31	17,718	50,294	-	-	68,012	72,911
Total		723,041	38,980,102	3,176,000	2,114,614	44,993,757	41,196,958
Net income / (expenditure)		458,980	2,886,863	(3,176,000)	7,198,124	7,367,967	459,471
Transfers between funds	19	-	930	-	(930)	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):							
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	-	(3,548,000)	-	(3,548,000)	(6,017,000)
Net movement in funds		458,980	2,887,793	(6,724,000)	7,197,194	3,819,967	(5,557,529)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		1,846,161	2,216,613	(32,965,000)	87,070,690	58,168,464	63,725,993
Total funds carried forward		2,305,141	5,104,406	(39,689,000)	94,267,884	61,988,431	58,168,464
Academy Trust's net movement in funds		417,932	2,886,863	(6,724,000)	7,198,124	3,778,919	(5,521,350)

The notes on pages 40 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Group and Academy Balance Sheets as at 31 August 2021

Company Number 07977940

		Group		Academy	
	Note	2021	2020	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	13	1,598	2,588	1,598	2,588
Tangible assets	14	92,721,083	85,399,570	92,721,083	85,399,570
		92,722,681	85,402,158	92,722,681	85,402,158
Current assets					
Debtors	16	2,004,030	2,314,064	2,103,347	3,428,463
Cash at bank and in hand		10,457,472	6,969,651	10,234,542	5,776,270
		12,461,502	9,283,715	12,337,889	9,204,733
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(3,500,135)	(3,544,322)	(3,418,152)	(3,465,922)
Net current assets		8,961,367	5,739,393	8,919,737	5,738,811
Total assets less current liabilities		101,684,048	91,141,551	101,642,418	91,140,969
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(6,617)	(8,087)	(6,617)	(8,087)
Net assets excluding pension liability		101,677,431	91,133,464	101,635,801	91,132,882
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28	(39,689,000)	(32,965,000)	(39,689,000)	(32,965,000)
Total net assets		61,988,431	58,168,464	61,946,801	58,167,882
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	19	94,267,884	87,070,690	94,267,884	87,070,690
Restricted income fund	19	5,104,406	2,216,613	5,104,406	2,216,613
Pension reserve	19	(39,689,000)	(32,965,000)	(39,689,000)	(32,965,000)
Total restricted funds		59,683,290	56,322,303	59,683,290	56,322,303
Unrestricted income funds	19	2,305,141	1,846,161	2,263,511	1,845,579
Total funds		61,988,431	58,168,464	61,946,801	58,167,882

The financial statements on pages 37 to 70 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 9 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



CSSard (Dec 13, 2021 11:10 GMT)

Mrs C Sard

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 40 to 70 form part of these financial statements.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22	4,062,927	3,213,105
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(501,470)	(500,000)
Cash flows from investing activities	24	(73,636)	390,830
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		3,487,821	3,103,935
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2020		6,969,651	3,865,716
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2021	25	10,457,472	6,969,651

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of Ambitions Academies Trust and its wholly owned subsidiary, Ambers Group Limited, on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities for the charity itself is not presented. The registered office address of Ambers Group Limited is the same as the registered office address of the parent Academy Trust.

The Trust has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose a cash flow for the Trust alone as it is included within the consolidated cash flow.

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 company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

- **Donations**

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

- **Trading**

Income from trading activities includes income earned from trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Income (continued)

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- **Government Grants**

The following government grants have been received during the year:

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The accrual model has been used to recognise the grant on a systematic basis over the periods in which the related staff costs are incurred.

Coronavirus exceptional support

The accrual model has been used to recognise the grant when it is received or becomes receivable, as there are no future related costs or performance conditions.

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding Transfers on conversion/into the Academy Trust)**

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

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Expenditure

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

- **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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

- **Charitable Activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment. Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Purchased computer software	3 years straight line
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Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

Freehold Land and Buildings	Buildings 15, 25, and 50 years straight line; not provided on land
Leasehold Land and Buildings	Buildings 15, 25, and 50 years straight line; land 125 years straight line
Furniture and Equipment	25% reducing balance
Computer Equipment	3 years straight line
Motor Vehicles	5 years straight line

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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.

Liabilities

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

Concessionary loan

The Trust accounts for the ESFA loan as a concessionary loan. Concessionary loans are made to a public benefit entity at below market interest rates to advance the charitable purposes of the charity to which it is made. The loan is recognised on initial measurement at the amount advanced.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Provisions

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

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

Leased Assets

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

Investments

The academy's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, Ambers Group Limited, is included in the balance sheet at the cost of the share capital owned less any impairment. There is no readily available market value and the cost of valuation exceeds the benefit derived.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due from the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial liabilities

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

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

LeAF Studio moved to lagged funding in the 2020-21 academic year. Pupil numbers for the following year are estimated and are submitted to the ESFA. LeAF is then funded on this estimated pupil number. During the year actual pupil numbers are recorded during the October and January census. If the actual pupil numbers are above the estimated figure and meet the threshold for an adjustment, then the ESFA will top up the funding from May onwards. If the actual pupil numbers are below the estimate, then the ESFA will recover the overpayment in instalments from the following September.

St Aldhelm's Academy is currently being funded on a hybrid between lagged and estimate funding. Initially St Aldhelm's Academy is funded through lagged funding. If at the census dates it has reached 5% growth in pupils, it will trigger an additional payment from the ESFA. This payment normally happens in either August or September. Due to the timing this can create an accrued income balance at year end. Because it is initially funded on lagged pupil numbers there is no risk of a clawback from the ESFA. St Aldhelm's Academy has agreed with the ESFA to have funding hybrid for a further three year period, being 2020/21-2023/24.

Manorside Academy is funded on lagged funding however due to the increasing pupil numbers the Trust applies to have an in-year adjustment that creates an additional payment in the year.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 28.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 10% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

2 Comparative information

The following comparative information has been updated, and so is not consistent with the information disclosed in the prior year's financial statements:

- **Creditors - other taxation and social security**

Other taxation and social security included £539,831 in respect of pension deductions and £67,743 in respect of other payroll deductions, which have both been reallocated to other creditors.

- **Creditors - loans**

Other creditors included a Salix loan balance of £9,557 which has been reallocated to loans falling due within one year (£1,470) and loans falling due in greater than one year (£8,087).

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	3,369,297	3,369,297	1,680,135
Donated fixed assets	-	6,653,441	6,653,441	-
Other donations	16,080	-	16,080	17,262
	16,080	10,022,738	10,038,818	1,697,397
<i>Total 2020</i>	-	<i>1,697,397</i>	<i>1,697,397</i>	

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	30,719,346	30,719,346	29,073,664
Pupil Premium	-	2,235,202	2,235,202	2,217,180
Start Up Grants	-	-	-	600
UIFSM	-	150,500	150,500	123,508
Rates reclaim	-	168,725	168,725	187,229
PE and sports grant	-	150,640	150,640	153,517
Year 7 catch up grant	-	-	-	95,699
Teachers' pay grant	-	335,598	335,598	332,031
Teachers' pension grant	-	969,001	969,001	938,214
Pupil Number Adjustment	-	-	-	34,266
Other DfE grants	-	260,196	260,196	321,976
Teaching School Grants	-	241,275	241,275	185,450
	-	35,230,483	35,230,483	33,663,334
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	5,704,738	5,704,738	4,244,082
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium	-	490,080	490,080	-
Coronavirus exceptional support	-	-	-	69,452
	-	490,080	490,080	69,452
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	23,076	54,798	77,874	257,136
Other Coronavirus funding	-	176,020	176,020	-
	23,076	230,818	253,894	257,136
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations				
Trip income	38,484	-	38,484	259,522
Catering income	208,808	-	208,808	248,272
Other income	138,928	210,846	349,774	369,132
	386,220	210,846	597,066	876,926
	409,296	41,866,965	42,276,261	39,110,930
Total 2020	694,609	38,416,321	39,110,930	

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

Following the reclassification of some grants received from the Department for Education and the ESFA in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21, the Academy Trust's funding for Pupil Premium, UIFSM, Insurance, Rates reclaim, PE and sports grant, Year 7 catch up grant, Teachers' pay grant, and Teachers' pension grant are no longer reported under the Other DfE grants heading, but as separate lines under the DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

The Academy Trust received £490,080 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £239,032, with the remaining £251,048 to be spent in 2021/22.

The Academy Trust furloughed some of its minibus drivers, catering staff, tennis coaches, and midday supervisors under the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. The trading subsidiary (Ambers Group Limited) furloughed some of its nursery and community staff under the same scheme. The funding received related to staff costs in respect of 50 staff which are included within the staff note below.

The Academy Trust received other Coronavirus funding in respect of mass testing funding.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Hire of facilities	62,021	-	62,021	182,534
Other trading income	693,718	-	693,718	663,083
	<u>755,739</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>755,739</u>	<u>845,617</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>845,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>845,617</u>	

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	906	-	906	2,485
	<u>2,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,485</u>	
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>2,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,485</u>	

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds	627,740	-	48,006	675,746	662,501
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	27,448,480	-	3,515,685	30,964,165	27,930,137
Allocated support costs	7,483,686	2,407,432	3,394,716	13,285,834	12,531,409
Teaching School	43,745	-	24,267	68,012	72,911
	<u>35,603,651</u>	<u>2,407,432</u>	<u>6,982,674</u>	<u>44,993,757</u>	<u>41,196,958</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>32,575,674</i>	<i>2,144,631</i>	<i>6,476,653</i>	<i>41,196,958</i>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	94,956	92,283
Amortisation	990	412
Depreciation	2,066,697	1,853,665
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(930)	-
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	25,750	39,975
Other services	<u>11,700</u>	<u>55,270</u>

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

8 Charitable activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs	31,032,177	28,003,048
Support costs	13,285,834	12,531,409
	<u>44,318,011</u>	<u>40,534,457</u>

Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	7,483,686	7,483,686	7,230,413
Amortisation	990	990	412
Depreciation	475,340	475,340	426,438
Technology costs	505,841	505,841	358,968
Premises costs	2,407,432	2,407,432	2,144,631
Legal costs - conversion	-	-	12,058
Legal costs - other	20,671	20,671	62,241
Other support costs	2,327,175	2,327,175	2,200,852
Governance costs	64,699	64,699	95,396
Total support costs	<u>13,285,834</u>	<u>13,285,834</u>	<u>12,531,409</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>		<u>12,531,409</u>	<u>12,531,409</u>

Premises costs includes £37,375 (2020: £nil) in respect of expenditure on capital projects, which were funded by capital grants from the ESFA.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

9 Staff

a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Wages and salaries	24,184,496	22,681,590
Social security costs	2,260,722	2,197,915
Pension costs	7,754,633	6,389,633
	34,199,851	31,269,138
Agency staff costs	1,338,457	1,202,719
Staff restructuring costs	65,343	103,817
	35,603,651	32,575,674

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	18,951	30,213
Severance payments	17,414	73,604
Other restructuring costs	28,978	-
	65,343	103,817

b) Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £17,414 (2020: £73,604). Individually, the payments were: £4,495, £4,052, £3,467, £3,319, and £2,081.

c) Staff numbers

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	No.	No.
Teachers	375	364
Administration and support	530	442
Management	23	23
	928	829

d) Higher paid staff

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	12	14
£70,001 - £80,000	11	9
£80,001 - £90,000	4	1
£100,001 - £110,000	-	4
£110,001 - £120,000	4	-
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1
£160,001 - £170,000	1	-

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

9 Staff (continued)

e) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,111,965 (2020: £1,064,350).

10 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the period ended 31 August 2021, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020: none).

During the period ended 31 August 2021, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2020: none).

11 Trustees and officers insurance

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

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

12 Central Services

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

- Human resources
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Educational support services
- IT

The Trust charges for core services as an equal share across all Academies. Tregonwell Academy has the equivalent of two Academies, as it is split across multiple campuses. In the year ended 31 August 2020, the recently converted academies (Wey Valley, All Saints and Kinson) were charged at a lower rate.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
All Saints' Church of England Academy	151,980	96,491
Bayside Academy	151,980	151,980
Elm Academy	151,980	151,980
King's Park Academy	151,980	151,980
Kinson Academy	151,980	96,491
LeAF Studio	151,980	151,980
Longspee School	151,980	151,980
Manorside Academy	151,980	151,980
Oak Academy	151,980	151,980
Queen's Park Academy	151,980	151,980
St Aldhelm's Academy	151,980	151,980
Tregonwell Academy	300,540	300,540
Wey Valley Academy	151,980	96,491
	2,124,300	1,957,833

The Trust runs a system of amalgamating the GAG funding for all its Academies to form one central fund, which is used to meet the running costs of the Academies within the Trust, through a budgeting process.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

13 Intangible fixed assets

Group and Academy	Computer software £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2020	50,495	50,495
At 31 August 2021	50,495	50,495
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2020	47,907	47,907
Charged in year	990	990
At 31 August 2021	48,897	48,897
Net book values		
At 31 August 2020	2,588	2,588
At 31 August 2021	1,598	1,598

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

14 Tangible fixed assets

Group and Academy	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Leasehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 September 2020	20,531,691	70,582,556	1,576,775	1,716,317	215,365	94,622,704
On conversion	-	(710,000)	-	-	-	(710,000)
Acquisitions	114,227	8,858,677	302,305	723,020	99,981	10,098,210
At 31 August 2021	20,645,918	78,731,233	1,879,080	2,439,337	315,346	104,010,914
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2020	1,051,504	5,503,344	1,097,827	1,451,865	118,594	9,223,134
Charged in year	354,980	1,254,804	138,906	280,004	38,003	2,066,697
At 31 August 2021	1,406,484	6,758,148	1,236,733	1,731,869	156,597	11,289,831
Net book values						
At 31 August 2020	19,480,187	65,079,212	478,948	264,452	96,771	85,399,570
At 31 August 2021	19,239,434	71,973,085	642,347	707,468	158,749	92,721,083

The Trust has made an adjustment of £710,000 to the value of leasehold land and buildings at Tregonwell Academy as the value included in respect of the amounts transferred to the Trust on conversion to an academy on 1 April 2012 was overstated by this amount. As a consequence, the depreciation charge for the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 August 2021 was overstated by £161,850. The depreciation charge for the year ended 31 August 2021 has been reduced by £161,850 to correct this. No prior year adjustment has been made as the overall effect on the financial statements was not material.

Acquisitions of leasehold land and buildings include £6,269,616 in respect of the estimated fair value of two additional sites provided to the Trust by the local authority in respect of satellite provision at Longspee School.

15 Investments

The academy is the sole member of Ambers Group Limited, registered in England & Wales (no. 10861330). The results of Ambers Group Limited are included within the consolidated financial statements.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

16 Debtors

	Group		Academy	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	207,104	232,762	200,615	218,707
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	106,924	1,128,453
VAT recoverable	478,895	547,141	478,895	547,141
Other debtors	35,656	37,934	35,656	37,935
Prepayments and accrued income	1,282,375	1,496,227	1,281,257	1,496,227
	2,004,030	2,314,064	2,103,347	3,428,463

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Academy	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	326,868	560,638	323,980	482,238
Other taxation and social security	544,272	516,013	544,272	516,013
Loans falling due within one year	1,470	501,470	1,470	501,470
Other creditors falling due within one year	745,919	880,970	745,897	880,970
Accruals and deferred income	1,881,606	1,085,231	1,802,533	1,085,231
	3,500,135	3,544,322	3,418,152	3,465,922

	Group		Academy	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	462,766	291,907	462,766	291,907
Released from previous years	(462,766)	(291,907)	(462,766)	(291,907)
Resources deferred in the year	564,989	462,766	496,101	462,766
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	564,989	462,766	496,101	462,766

Deferred income arises from grants paid in advance, covering the first seven months of the forthcoming financial year. These include UIFSM, Rates Relief, and other grants.

Loans falling due within one year relate to an interest-free deficit funding totalling £nil (2020: £500,000) provided by the ESFA to St Aldhelm's Academy, which was repayable in monthly instalments from September 2017 to August 2021, and an interest free Salix loan of £1,470 (2020: £1,470) which is repayable in instalments.

18 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	Group		Academy	
	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Loans falling due in greater than one year	6,617	8,087	6,617	8,087

Loans comprise of an interest free Salix loan which is repayable in instalments.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	5,754,419	30,719,346	(28,490,269)	(8,329)	-	7,975,167
Pupil premium	-	2,235,202	(2,235,202)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	150,500	(150,500)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	168,725	(168,725)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	150,640	(150,640)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	335,598	(335,598)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	969,001	(969,001)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	48,367	260,196	(308,563)	-	-	-
Teaching School Grants	112,539	241,275	(50,294)	(303,520)	-	-
Local authority grants	199,286	5,704,738	(5,904,024)	-	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	490,080	(239,032)	-	-	251,048
Coronavirus Job Ret'n Scheme	-	54,798	(54,798)	-	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	176,020	(176,020)	-	-	-
Transfer on conversion	22,306	-	(22,306)	-	-	-
Sponsored academy deficit	(3,434,588)	-	-	312,779	-	(3,121,809)
Sponsored academy loan	(500,000)	-	500,000	-	-	-
Other educational activities	14,284	210,846	(225,130)	-	-	-
	2,216,613	41,866,965	(38,980,102)	930	-	5,104,406
Pension reserve	(32,965,000)	-	(3,176,000)	-	(3,548,000)	(39,689,000)
	(30,748,387)	41,866,965	(42,156,102)	930	(3,548,000)	(34,584,594)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	85,402,158	(710,000)	(2,066,757)	10,097,280	-	92,722,681
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	74,653	225,352	(37,375)	(244,674)	-	17,956
ESFA capital grants (SCA/CIF)	1,567,918	1,432,107	-	(1,489,068)	-	1,510,957
Other capital grants	25,961	1,711,838	(10,482)	(1,711,027)	-	16,290
Donated fixed assets	-	6,653,441	-	(6,653,441)	-	-
	87,070,690	9,312,738	(2,114,614)	(930)	-	94,267,884
Total restricted funds	56,322,303	51,179,703	(44,270,716)	-	(3,548,000)	59,683,290
Total unrestricted funds	1,846,161	1,182,021	(723,041)	-	-	2,305,141
Total funds	58,168,464	52,361,724	(44,993,757)	-	(3,548,000)	61,988,431

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

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

General annual grant

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and pre-16 high needs funding streams.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

Teaching School

Teaching schools are outstanding schools that work with others to provide high quality training and development to new and experienced school staff. This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA for this purpose.

Local authority grants

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

Other educational activities

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

Sponsored academy deficit

This represents the carried forward and ongoing deficit within GAG and concessionary loan with the ESFA at St Aldhelm's Academy

Pension reserve

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion.

Fixed asset fund

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
All Saints' Church of England Academy	1,338,927	888,528
Bayside Academy	545,338	405,625
Elm Academy	2,677,820	2,345,487
King's Park Academy	1,883,256	1,542,846
Kinson Academy	(105,088)	34,370
LeAF Studio	(803,656)	(978,747)
Longspee School	1,452,205	1,119,293
Manorside Academy	200,298	35,053
Oak Academy	(462,236)	(50,191)
Queen's Park Academy	1,668,908	1,408,280
St Aldhelm's Academy	(3,121,809)	(3,592,627)
Tregonwell Academy	280,490	(214,326)
Wey Valley Academy	921,117	351,525
Central services	933,977	767,658
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	7,409,547	4,062,774
Restricted fixed asset fund	94,267,884	87,070,690
Pension reserve	(39,689,000)	(32,965,000)
Total	61,988,431	58,168,464

The following academies are carrying a net deficit on their portion of the funds as follows:

	£
Kinson Academy	105,088
LeAF Studio	803,656
Oak Academy	462,236
St Aldhelm's Academy	3,121,809

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academies to surplus:

Kinson Academy has declining pupil numbers. In the BCP area there is an overall reduction in reception pupils forecasted currently and for the following five years. To address this we are currently undertaking a promotional and publicity campaign. The school has also had additional curriculum areas to enhance the curriculum offer. We have an nursery provision opening on the site that will work closely with the school. It is envisaged this will increase the uptake of reception places within the school. The staffing structure has been reviewed to ensure there is a more streamlined staffing.

LeAF Studio had a £1m brought forward deficit from the predecessor trust. In 2020-21 it had a surplus of £175k. Since it has been part of AAT the historical deficit has reduced to £804k. LeAF has a settled staff structure with many staff at the top of their grade points. It is a small studio school with a PAN of 500 therefore it is difficult to grow the site. LeAF will be a break-even site when looked at over several years.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

Oak Academy has built up a deficit due to declining pupil numbers. The curriculum offer has been reviewed to offer a broader curriculum to encourage more pupils to attend Oak, but this has led to an in year deficit 2020-21 of £412k. Oak also carries a number of TUPE staff that are on pay grades greater than and not aligned to the AAT pay grades. Looking forward, Oak is projected to have increasing pupil numbers - the October 2021 census has 26 additional students when compared with the same census last year. Oak has been selected to be a part of the DfE's new build project - the positive impact of brand new school buildings on the site due for completion in August 2024 will help raise the profile of Oak Academy. In conjunction with these works we are currently undertaking a promotional and publicity campaign.

St Aldhelm's Academy had a surplus in 2019-20, has a surplus for 2020-21 of £471k, and has set a surplus in-year budget for 2021-22 which is reducing the historic deficit. The historic deficit is linked to the £1.25m fraud incident that resulted in a loan from the ESFA prior to AAT taking the academy on. There has been four years of increasing pupil numbers. This has been balanced against a broad curriculum needed to ensure pupil numbers continued to grow.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excl. dep- reciation) £	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
All Saints' C of E Academy	3,648,012	584,095	230,256	605,657	5,068,020	4,748,169
Bayside Academy	1,124,520	454,013	47,783	238,687	1,865,003	1,815,934
Elm Academy	1,546,082	447,975	82,301	318,941	2,395,299	2,219,648
King's Park Academy	2,115,664	531,266	119,351	450,305	3,216,586	3,004,663
Kinson Academy	1,078,953	408,774	(203)	214,910	1,702,434	1,642,115
LeAF Studio	1,324,241	603,414	597,881	309,563	2,835,099	2,713,364
Longspee School	1,475,494	540,827	59,128	234,613	2,310,062	1,742,082
Manorside Academy	1,484,358	459,879	42,813	306,197	2,293,247	1,945,398
Oak Academy	2,494,781	596,622	136,887	606,291	3,834,581	3,609,728
Queen's Park Academy	1,489,512	425,253	69,170	237,325	2,221,260	2,180,345
St Aldhelm's Academy	3,180,695	666,072	196,424	754,136	4,797,327	4,216,399
Tregonwell Academy	2,895,148	1,467,132	94,112	470,231	4,926,623	4,720,772
Wey Valley Academy	3,634,765	926,104	272,692	626,968	5,460,529	4,784,264
	27,492,225	8,111,426	1,948,595	5,373,824	42,926,070	39,342,881

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	3,257,061	25,763,372	(23,435,714)	169,700	-	5,754,419
Pupil premium	-	2,217,180	(2,217,180)	-	-	-
Start Up Grants	8,706	600	(600)	(8,706)	-	-
UIFSM	-	123,508	(123,508)	-	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	187,229	(187,229)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	153,517	(153,517)	-	-	-
Year 7 catch up grant	-	95,699	(95,699)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	332,031	(332,031)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	938,214	(938,214)	-	-	-
Pupil Number Adjustment	-	34,266	(34,266)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	282,154	321,976	(341,290)	(214,473)	-	48,367
Teaching School Grants	-	185,450	(72,911)	-	-	112,539
Local authority grants	-	4,244,082	(4,044,796)	-	-	199,286
Coronavirus exceptional supt.	-	69,452	(69,452)	-	-	-
Coronavirus Job Ret'n Scheme	-	257,136	(257,136)	-	-	-
Transfer on conversion	22,306	-	-	-	-	22,306
Sponsored academy deficit	(2,861,778)	3,310,292	(3,213,102)	(670,000)	-	(3,434,588)
Sponsored academy loan	(1,170,000)	-	-	670,000	-	(500,000)
Other educational activities	(5,988)	199,579	(179,307)	-	-	14,284
	(467,539)	38,433,583	(35,695,952)	(53,479)	-	2,216,613
Pension reserve	(24,750,000)	-	(2,198,000)	-	(6,017,000)	(32,965,000)
	(25,217,539)	38,433,583	(37,893,952)	(53,479)	(6,017,000)	(30,748,387)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed asset fund	85,964,445	-	(1,854,077)	1,291,790	-	85,402,158
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	124,937	-	(50,284)	-	74,653
ESFA capital grants (SCA/CIF)	1,225,603	1,147,873	-	(805,558)	-	1,567,918
Other capital grants	4,041	407,325	(2,936)	(382,469)	-	25,961
	87,194,089	1,680,135	(1,857,013)	53,479	-	87,070,690
Total restricted funds	61,976,550	40,113,718	(39,750,965)	-	(6,017,000)	56,322,303
Total unrestricted funds	1,749,443	1,542,711	(1,445,993)	-	-	1,846,161
Total funds	63,725,993	41,656,429	(41,196,958)	-	(6,017,000)	58,168,464

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,598	1,598
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	92,721,083	92,721,083
Current assets	2,305,141	8,611,158	-	1,545,203	12,461,502
Current liabilities	-	(3,500,135)	-	-	(3,500,135)
Non-current liabilities	-	(6,617)	-	-	(6,617)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(39,689,000)	-	(39,689,000)
Total net assets	2,305,141	5,104,406	(39,689,000)	94,267,884	61,988,431

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

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-	2,588	2,588
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	85,399,570	85,399,570
Current assets	1,846,161	5,769,022	-	1,668,532	9,283,715
Current liabilities	-	(3,544,322)	-	-	(3,544,322)
Non-current liabilities	-	(8,087)	-	-	(8,087)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(32,965,000)	-	(32,965,000)
Total net assets	1,846,161	2,216,613	(32,965,000)	87,070,690	58,168,464

21 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	141,736	103,295
Amounts due between one and five years	285,673	154,913
	427,409	258,208

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period	7,367,967	459,471
Adjusted for:		
Amortisation	990	412
Depreciation	2,066,697	1,853,665
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(930)	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(10,022,738)	(1,680,135)
Interest receivable	(906)	(2,485)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	2,645,000	1,893,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	531,000	305,000
Transfer from local authority on conversion	710,000	-
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	310,034	(312,422)
Increase in creditors	455,813	696,599
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>4,062,927</u>	<u>3,213,105</u>

23 Cash flows from financing activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(501,470)	(500,000)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(501,470)</u>	<u>(500,000)</u>

24 Cash flows from investing activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	906	2,485
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	930	2,935
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	-	(3,000)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,444,769)	(1,291,725)
Capital grants from DfE Group	3,369,297	1,680,135
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	<u>(73,636)</u>	<u>390,830</u>

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

25 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	10,457,472	6,969,651

26 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2020	Cash flows	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries	New finance leases	Other non-cash changes	At 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash	6,969,651	3,487,821	-	-	-	10,457,472
Loans falling due within one year	(501,470)	500,000	-	-	-	(1,470)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(8,087)	1,470	-	-	-	(6,617)
Total	6,460,094	3,989,291	-	-	-	10,449,385

27 Members liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/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.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

28 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 Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £596,649 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020: £539,831) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every four years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy).
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million.
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £3,449,343 (2020: £3,173,500).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Employer's contributions	1,691,000	1,476,000
Employees' contributions	493,000	452,000
	<u>2,184,000</u>	<u>1,928,000</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.0% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021	2020
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9%	3.3%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9%	2.3%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7%	1.6%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.9%	2.3%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<u>50.0%</u>	<u>50.0%</u>

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

	2021	2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	23.1	23.3
Females	<u>24.6</u>	<u>24.8</u>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.4	24.7
Females	<u>26.1</u>	<u>26.2</u>

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(1,689,000)	(1,359,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	1,736,000	1,396,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	2,622,000	1,928,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(2,520,000)	(1,860,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	1,566,000	1,259,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(1,525,000)	(1,226,000)

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Equities	13,794,000	9,845,000
Gilts	3,010,000	2,294,000
Corporate bonds	1,505,000	1,510,000
Property	2,257,000	1,892,000
Cash	502,000	191,000
Other	4,012,000	3,384,000
Total market value of assets	25,080,000	19,116,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £4,239,000 (2020: -£915,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Current service cost	4,319,000	3,369,000
Past service cost	17,000	-
Interest income	(303,000)	(366,000)
Interest cost	834,000	820,000
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	(149,000)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	4,867,000	3,674,000

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

28 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
At 1 September	52,081,000	43,251,000
Current service cost	4,319,000	3,369,000
Interest cost	834,000	820,000
Employee contributions	493,000	452,000
Actuarial loss	7,484,000	4,736,000
Benefits paid	(459,000)	(284,000)
Past service cost	17,000	-
Effect of non-routine settlements	-	(263,000)
At 31 August	64,769,000	52,081,000

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
At 1 September	19,116,000	18,501,000
Interest income	303,000	366,000
Actuarial gain / (loss)	3,936,000	(1,281,000)
Employer contributions	1,691,000	1,476,000
Employee contributions	493,000	452,000
Benefits paid	(459,000)	(284,000)
Effect of non-routine settlements	-	(114,000)
At 31 August	25,080,000	19,116,000

Ambitions Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

29 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

30 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2021 the Academy Trust received £20,598 and disbursed £20,183 from the fund. An amount of £nil is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ending 31 August 2020 are £27,463 received, £26,798 disbursed and £nil included in other creditors.

31 Teaching school trading account

	2020/21 £	2020/21 £	2019/20 £	2019/20 £
Income				
Direct Income	241,275		185,450	
Other income	<u>1,450</u>		<u>10,739</u>	
Total Income		242,725		196,189
Expenditure				
Direct costs	19,202		20,000	
Other direct costs	<u>17,718</u>		<u>13,000</u>	
Total direct costs		36,920		33,000
Other costs				
Support staff costs	24,543		20,000	
Other support costs	<u>6,549</u>		<u>19,911</u>	
Total other costs		<u>31,092</u>		<u>39,911</u>
Total Expenditure		68,012		72,911
Transfers between funds excluding depreciation		<u>(401,069)</u>		-
Surplus/(Deficit) from all sources		(226,356)		123,278
Teaching school balances at 1 September 2020		<u>226,356</u>		<u>103,078</u>
Teaching school balances at 31 August 2021		<u>-</u>		<u>226,356</u>