

**THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**
ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013
Registered Number 08098007 (England and Wales)

MONDAY



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THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

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THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Trustees	<p>Dame D Smith (Chair of Trustees) (Appointed 19/07/12) C M Barker (Head Teacher and Accounting Officer) * (Appointed 19/07/12) M J Carson (Head Teacher) (Appointed 19/07/12) * G A Shillinglaw (Head Teacher) (Appointed 19/07/12) * H A Graham (Appointed 17/01/13) + M Little (Staff Trustee) (Appointed 10/07/13) V Milnes (Appointed 08/06/12) * M C Morris (Appointed 19/07/12) P Mulhern (Appointed 19/07/12) I Reed (Appointed 19/07/12) C Short (Appointed 17/01/13) + A Stores (Appointed 06/03/13) + J H Torgerson (Appointed 17/01/13) * D Elliott (Appointed 08/06/12 / Resigned 19/07/13)</p>
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* Finance and General Purposes Committee members

+ Audit Committee members

Company Secretary	Ward Hadaway Company Secretarial Services Limited
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Senior Management Team

Head Teacher (Barbara Priestman Academy)	C M Barker
Head Teacher (Portland Academy)	M J Carson
Head Teacher (Springwell Dene Academy)	G A Shillinglaw

Principal and Registered Office	<p>The Ascent Academies' Trust Portland Academy Weymouth Road Chapelgarth Sunderland SR3 2NQ</p>
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Company Registration Number	08098007 (England and Wales)
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Independent Auditor	<p>Baker Tilly Audit Limited Chartered Accountant Tenon House Ferryboat Lane Sunderland SR5 3JN</p>
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Bankers	<p>Lloyds TSB Bank Plc 102 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6AG</p>
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Solicitors	<p>Ward Hadaway 102 Quayside Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3DX</p> <p>Bond Dickinson LLP One Trinity Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2HF</p>
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THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period commencing on 8 June 2012 and ending on 31 August 2013

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Ascent Academies' Trust (the "Trust") was incorporated on 8 June 2012. It is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital (registration number 08098007) and an exempt charity under the Academies Act 2010. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The trustees of the Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. Trustees of the Charitable Company are nominated by either the Secretary of State for Education or by the members. The Ascent Academies' Trust is a single trust multi-academy sponsor. In that capacity, it acts as one employer across all Academies which it sponsors. The Academies forming part of the Trust during the financial period were

- Barbara Priestman Academy - Meadowside, Sunderland, SR2 7QN
- Portland Academy - Weymouth Road, Sunderland, SR3 2NQ
- Springwell Dene Academy - Swindon Road, Sunderland, SR3 4EE

Portland Academy and Barbara Priestman Academy converted to Academy status on 1 August 2012

Springwell Dene Academy converted to Academy status on 1 February 2013

Details of the trustees who served during the period 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 period 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

The Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees, Governors and staff from claims arising due to negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst carrying out Academy business. A Trustee may benefit from any indemnity insurance purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust. Provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees of the Trust.

Principal Activities

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of The Ascent Academies' Trust which consists of Barbara Priestman Academy, Portland Academy and Springwell Dene Academy.

The Trust's principal activities are in line with the mission statement of the Trust to provide outstanding education and support for young people with special needs.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Trustees are appointed under the rules contained within the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association and membership of the Board of Trustees is in accordance with the structure contained within it. The number of Trustees is not subject to any maximum and the appointments made are in line with the guidance in the Articles of Association.

The Trustees may appoint Staff Trustees through such process as they may determine, provided that the total number of Trustees (including the Head Teachers) who are employees of the Trust does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

The Trustees make the necessary arrangements for and determine all matters relating to the election of Parent Trustees. Parent Trustees must be a parent of a pupil at one of the Academies at the time they were elected or when the Trust was established.

The Head Teacher of each Academy in the Trust shall be a Trustee for as long as he or she remains in that position.

The Trustees may appoint up to 3 co-opted Trustees. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Trust as a co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

The Secretary of State may appoint additional Trustees as he thinks fit if he has given a warning notice and the Trustees have failed to comply, or secure compliance, with the notice to the Secretary of State's satisfaction, within the compliance period. The Secretary of State may also appoint additional Trustees following an inspection by the Chief Inspector of Schools (Ofsted) where the Trust receives a grading which amounts to a drop of two Ofsted grades.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

All new Trustees and/or Governors of each Local Governing Body will be given induction training by the Trust's governance partner that reflects his/her previous experience and expertise. The Trust purchases support that provides for individual and full Governing Body training through an annual Course Directory which is reviewed each year to reflect any changes in practice and legislation. The Trust will perform an annual skills audit of Trustees and Governors, should any gaps be identified training courses are offered to address these issues.

Organisational Structure

The leadership and management structure of the Trust consists of the Board of Trustees, three Local Governing Bodies (LGBs), the Executive Leadership Team and the Senior Leadership Teams of each Academy. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility and is ultimately accountable for all the Academies within the Trust. They will hold to account the Head Teachers and LGBs of each individual Academy. Powers are delegated from the Board via a scheme of delegation. This scheme is reviewed on an annual basis.

The Trustees are responsible for strategic planning, setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget monitoring, making major decisions about the direction of the Academies and the Trust and senior staffing appointments.

Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are responsible for the setting and review of the curriculum, monitoring the standards and performance of each of the individual Academies.

The Executive Leadership Team consists of the Head Teachers of each of the individual Academies and the Director of Corporate Services for the Trust. The team lead and manage the Trust at an executive level, steering the direction of the Academies in line with strategic plans and developing opportunities.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

The Senior Leadership Teams are responsible for the day to day operation of each individual Academy in addition to supporting the wider work and objectives of the Trust

The Board appointed C M Barker, Head Teacher of Barbara Priestman Academy, as Accounting Officer for the Trust

Risk Management

The Trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) approach to identifying and managing the risks of the Trust. The schedule of risks will be tabled at audit committee meetings and mitigating actions agreed as required. The full risk register will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Audit Committee and an internal audit and assurance work plan agreed to review the controls in place to mitigate and manage such risks effectively.

Where significant financial risks remain, the Trust have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Statement of Internal Control.

The Trust has fully implemented the requirements of the Safer Recruitment procedures and all staff have received the appropriate training and guidance.

Connected Organisations including related party relationships

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The principal objective of the Trust is the provision of outstanding education and support to young people with special educational needs.

Aims, objectives, strategies and activities

The Ascent Academies' Trust was founded with the aim of developing a vision and strategic plan for special educational needs in Sunderland. By collaboratively working together we are not only able to increase the opportunities we can offer to our own students and staff, but we are also able to offer our specialist knowledge to other schools and Academies through advice, consultancy and training.

The purpose of the Trust is to strengthen provision across all the Academies within the group. This is achieved through combining and developing expertise at all levels in order to achieve excellent outcomes for learners.

The Trust is outward looking to support the needs of SEN learners and providers in the locality, working together to enhance school improvement.

The Trust has set a number of guiding principles to adhere to and steer their objectives and activities.

Learning and Curriculum

The provision of the highest quality teaching is of paramount importance. Pupils need to experience a wide range of motivating and challenging, well-pitched learning opportunities. Teacher expertise will identify barriers to learning and plan ways to overcome these. There is a belief that all pupils can succeed whatever their individual circumstances.

Leadership

We provide an environment in which everyone is encouraged and supported to develop leadership and management competencies. This will enable Ascent to maximise the talent within the Trust and plan for succession. We will review the progress made by the Trust against the organisations overall investment. We will challenge any under-performance.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Collaboration and Partnership

The Trust is committed to the development of education practice by maximising collaboration across all Academies within the Trust. We will use partnerships, such as parents, multi-disciplinary teams, community links, teaching schools and businesses to enhance provision. The Trust will pursue opportunities for income generation.

Inclusivity and Equality

Ascent is an inclusive Trust – the skills and experience of staff are valued and utilised in striving for excellence. No groups are discriminated against. We value each person equally whilst being mindful of the needs of the whole Trust.

Investment and Opportunity

We will invest in our staff to provide them with the necessary training and support in order that the aims of the Trust can be met. We embrace and celebrate continuous learning and create a culture where all learning is valued. All staff are given the opportunity to make the most of their potential through fair and open access to training. We are committed to the most efficient and effective use of resources to support training needs.

Continuous Improvement

All staff and Governors clearly understand the core values of the Trust and the way it operates. Leaders across the Trust act in line with these values, encouraging people to work towards the aims of the organisation. Leaders ensure that the core values are at the heart of the organisation's strategy and govern the way it operates. Leaders of the Academies provide challenge and support for each other in order that improvement is central to our work.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. In particular, the Governors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set. The Trust has provided a fully comprehensive education to all pupils in its care. It fully complies with all statutory guidance and seeks to support its wider educational objectives via a strong community role.

Achievements and Performance

All three Academies within the Trust are all currently judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. The Trust offers a broad and relevant curriculum for all its students and over the last year has built strong partnership working to enable pupils, staff and other schools in the region to share Trust resources and expertise.

The Trust has a clear vision which is clearly communicated through signage, websites, and new a prospectus for each Academy.

By sharing posts across the Trust, we have been able to secure best value for money, reduce costs, spread expertise and reduce many of the bureaucratic demands on the leadership team.

Within the first period of Academy status, all Academies have achieved Investors In People Gold award. This recognises the well managed process of change and involvement of all staff.

A great achievement has been the development of the training and coaching offer across the Trust, the success of our first regional Trust conference and the quality of training offered across the Trust and to other institutions.

The executive leadership team has well-established protocols for evaluating and challenging standards within each Academy. In the first period this team has monitored lesson observations, standards of pupils work, behaviour and achievement and attainment. This ensures that Academy self-evaluation is well-moderated.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Barbara Priestman Academy

Numbers on roll continue to be around 120 Attendance for the last academic year was 91.4%

Progress and attainment across KS3 is outstanding. Benchmarked data with like cohorts demonstrate that the vast majority of students are making at least expected progress across core subjects and many exceeding expectations. On average attainment is a level 3.65 in English and Maths and 3.9 in Science.

Outcomes for students at the end of KS4 continue to be very strong in English and Science with the vast majority of students meeting and many exceeding FFT predictions. In Maths, this year students did less well and we have 6 students resitting the exam this academic year.

The quality of teaching is outstanding and the Academy continues to develop its practice through action research. The curriculum continues to develop and there have been key improvements in student well-being, PHSE and citizenship, dance education and PE provision. Arts provision continues to provide exciting and motivating provision that was recently recognised through Arts Mark Gold.

There are some very good improvements in behaviour for pupils over time, that is well-supported by the behaviour manager and outside agency teams.

Portland Academy

Numbers on roll continue to be around 150 Attendance for the last academic year was 92.4%

Progress between Y6 and Y11 is outstanding. Benchmarked data with national comparisons demonstrates that a higher percentage of pupils make 3 levels of progress than in the national sample in both Maths and English.

Recently the Academy has increased its accreditation offer for pupils at the end of KS4 and KS5 and pupils now have a wide range of accredited units to work towards.

The quality of teaching is good across the Academy and some teaching is outstanding. The Academy continues to raise the quality of teaching through focussed work around assessment for learning. The Academy is also working with individual teachers to improve their skills. The curriculum continues to develop and there has been a new curriculum written for KS3 and KS4 pupils, based around the development of learning skills and challenges. Drama and dance continue to be an area of strength and the Academy is once again working with The Birmingham Royal Ballet to motivate and inspire pupils.

The behaviour of the pupils is very good and in many cases outstanding. There are no reported cases of bullying and pupils show an enjoyment of school.

Springwell Dene Academy

At present we have 55 students on roll which is ten below our commissioned places. Attendance for the last academic year was 87.6%. Progress within KS3 is outstanding where, within a cohort of twelve students, five achieved their FFT predicted grade and seven exceeded it in English. Three achieved and eight exceeded their predicted grade in Maths and in Science eleven exceeded and one achieved their predicted grade. Average attainment levels were 4.25 in English, 4.42 in Maths and 4.61 in Science.

Outcomes for KS4 students continue to be strong with nine out of a cohort of nineteen gaining five or more GCSE pass grades including English and Maths and five gaining six or more GCSE passes. The majority of students achieved and some exceeded their predicted GCSE grades in Maths and Science. English results were less impressive and the development of literacy skills remains a key focus for the Academy. All staff have been given responsibilities, through appraisal targets, for developing students' literacy skills.

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There is a diverse range of external accreditation opportunities to students with ten GCSE's, nine Level 1 and 2 courses and thirteen Entry Level qualifications. We have continued the trend of students taking on greater challenge and have seen a reduction in numbers on Entry Level courses and an increase in those entered for GCSE's

Lesson observations continue to demonstrate that the vast majority of lessons are good or outstanding. A comprehensive generic and personalised CPD programme has been put in place to support staff to further develop their practise

Our students have worked hard to develop policy and practise and we are about to gain the Anti-bullying Gold award charter mark

Behaviour profiles demonstrate that the vast majority of students have made impressive progress and are far more able to manage their emotions and behaviours

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the 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 can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies

Key Financial Performance Indicators

The key financial performance indicators of the Trust relate to the effectiveness of the use of funds for the benefit of the education of children. The key non-financial performance indicators of the Trust relate to the achievements and performance of its students. Please see the Achievements and Performance section

Financial Review

Upon joining The Ascent Academies' Trust, each Academy brought income into the Trust as a resulting of their school surplus balance when they converted to Academy status. This income is shown as voluntary income on conversion in the financial statements and is classed as unrestricted funds to the trust as this is not conditional to spend on specific purposes, other than those as described in the governing documents

The majority of the Trusts' income for the period of account is obtained from either the EFA (Education Funding Agency) or Local Authorities as commissioners of pupil places, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants and funding received from these bodies for the period and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities

During the period 8 June 2012 to 31 August 2013 total expenditure of £6,528,612 (excluding net inherited liabilities) was more than covered by grant funding from the EFA and commissioned place income from Local Authorities together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure for the period (excluding inherited assets and liabilities, restricted fixed asset funds and before pension transfer) was £621,046

At 31 August 2013 the net book value of fixed assets was £20,167,245. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support to the pupils in the Academies within the Trust

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Under accounting standard FRS17, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided for support staff, to the restricted Fund. This resulted in the pension fund showing a deficit of £1,733,000 which has been carried forward to 2013-2014. It should be noted that this does not present a liquidity problem for the Trust and that we are reviewing contributions to the pension scheme in order to see a reduction in the pension deficit in future years.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust has developed a Risk Management Strategy and has a Risk Register for each Academy, including the financial risks potentially exposed to. As part of developing these registers the key risks to which the Trust may be exposed to were identified and reviewed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

Finances are reviewed every term by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, evaluating performance against budgets and overall expenditure.

At the period end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

The Trust recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in note 26 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, the Trust considers that as each individual Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised. Also, Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of Academy closure, outstanding local government pension scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are centred around on-going changes to High Needs Funding, the processes in which the Academies receive their primary source of income from the EFA/DfE and local commissioners of Special Educational Needs places. This is a key area that is being strictly monitored, reviewed and managed by the Trust to understand the financial implications and take action to address, if and when they may arise.

In addition, the Trust is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which results in the recognition of a significant liability on the Trusts' balance sheet.

Reserves Policy

The Finance Committee reviews reserve levels on a quarterly basis in line with the budget monitoring information and forecasts are presented to Trustees. At 31 August 2013 the value of reserves that were freely available to the Trust was £1,288,453.

Investment Policy

The Trust has a Treasury Management and Investment Policy which is reviewed annually by Trustees. The Trust currently operates interest-bearing bank accounts but at present does not have any funds invested.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust plans to continue to provide outstanding education to young people with special educational needs. Strategic improvement plans are being developed for each individual Academy that steer the direction of travel of the Trust. The current levels of reserves are being evaluated to ensure surplus funds are invested into resources (including buildings, equipment and staff training) in each Academy to achieve maximum return and meet our aims and objectives.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

There are no funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

Baker Tilly Audit Limited (formerly RSM Tenon Audit Limited) are deemed to be reappointed under Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 5 December 2013 and signed on their behalf by



Dame D Smith
Chair of Trustees

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the 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 Head Teacher of Barbara Priestman Academy, 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 the 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 5 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees were as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Member Appointed Directors,		
Dame Dela Smith (Chair)	3	5
June Torgersen	4	5
Helen Graham	1	5
Michael Little	1	1
Academy Directors and Special Academy Directors,		
Dorothy Elliott (Chair of Portland Academy, Local Governing Body)	5	5
Val Milnes (Chair of Barbara Priestman Academy, Local Governing Body)	4	5
Colin Short (Chair of Springwell Dene Academy, Local Governing Body)	4	5
Parent Directors		
Paula Mulhern	3	5
Amanda Stores	2	2
Maureen Morris	4	4
Principals		
Carolyn Barker (Head Teacher and Accounting Officer)	5	5
Melanie Carson (Head Teacher)	5	5
Graeme Shillinglaw (Head Teacher)	5	5
Co-opted		
Ian Reed	4	5

During the period resignations were tendered by Dorothy Elliott and Paula Mulhern. As at 31 August 2013 replacement trustees had not been appointed yet.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Trust by enabling more detailed consideration to be given, to ensure the sound management of the Trust's finances, staffing and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Attendance during the period at meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee were as follows

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Val Milnes (Chair)	2	4
June Torgersen	3	4
Carolyn Barker	4	4
Melanie Carson	4	4
Graeme Shillinglaw	2	2

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise the Trust on the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control and the arrangements for risk management, control and governance processes, and securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money) and that the systems are rigorous and constantly reviewed.

Attendance at meetings during the period was as follows

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Colin Short (Chair)	2	4
Helen Graham	2	4
Amanda Stores	1	2

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives, it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Trust for the period ended 31 August 2013 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 Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period commencing on 8 June 2012 ending 31 August 2013 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 ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit function and have decided to appoint Tait Walker as Internal Auditor

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Head Teacher of Barbara Priestman Academy has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period in question, the review has been informed by

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

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5 December 2013 and signed on its behalf by



Dame D Smith
Chair of Trustees



C M Barker
Accounting Officer

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

As Accounting Officer of The Ascent Academies' Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of trustees and the Education Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with EFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date.



C M Barker
Accounting Officer

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

The Trustees (who act as governors of The Ascent Academies' Trust and 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 Annual Accounts Requirements issued by the Education Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period. 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 statement of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgements and 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, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation, the Charitable Company applies financial and other controls which conform with the requirements of both propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the EFA/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 Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 5 December 2013 and signed on its behalf by



Dame D Smith
Chair of Trustees

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Board of Trustees of The Ascent Academies' Trust

We have audited the financial statements of The Ascent Academies' Trust for the period ended 31 August 2013 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

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.

Respective responsibilities of trustees' and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities the trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company, and 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [http://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Codes-Standards/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Scope-of-audit/UK-Private-Sector-Entity-\(issued-1-December-2010\).aspx](http://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Codes-Standards/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Scope-of-audit/UK-Private-Sector-Entity-(issued-1-December-2010).aspx)

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2013 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended,
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice,
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2013 issued by the Education Funding Agency

Opinion on other requirement of the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made, or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Kevin Rooney
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of

Baker Tilly Audit Limited

Baker Tilly Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Tenon House
Ferryboat Lane
Sunderland
SR5 3JN

Date 5 December 2013

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total 2013 £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	2	61,873	–	–	61,873
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion	28	1,041,322	(1,590,000)	20,512,217	19,963,539
Investment income	4	1,458	–	–	1,458
Activities for generating funds	3	240,885	–	–	240,885
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>					
Funding for the Academy's educational operations	5	50,921	6,332,236	22,766	6,405,923
Total incoming resources		1,396,459	4,742,236	20,534,983	26,673,678
Resources expended					
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>					
Cost of generating voluntary income		–	–	–	–
Fundraising trading	6	108,006	–	–	108,006
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Academy's educational operations	7	–	5,916,820	462,285	6,379,105
Governance costs	8	–	41,501	–	41,501
Total resources expended		108,006	5,958,321	462,285	6,528,612
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources before transfers		1,288,453	(1,216,085)	20,072,698	20,145,066
Gross transfers between funds		–	(94,547)	94,547	–
Net income/(expenditure) for the period		1,288,453	(1,310,632)	20,167,245	20,145,066
<i>Other recognised gains and losses</i>					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme		–	(129,000)	–	(129,000)
Net movement in funds		1,288,453	(1,439,632)	20,167,245	20,016,066
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds carried forward at 31 August 2013		1,288,453	(1,439,632)	20,167,245	20,016,066

All of the academy's activities derive from acquisitions in the current financial period

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

The notes on pages 20 to 40 form part of these financial statements

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2013
COMPANY NUMBER: 08098007

	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13		20,167,245
Current assets			
Stock	14	2,000	
Debtors	15	307,072	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,789,824</u>	
		2,098,896	
Liabilities			
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(517,075)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,581,821</u>
Total assets less current liabilities and net assets excluding pension liability			21,749,066
Pension scheme liability			<u>(1,733,000)</u>
Net assets including pension liability			<u>20,016,066</u>
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted income funds			
Fixed asset fund	17	20,167,245	
General fund	17	293,368	
Pension reserve	26	<u>(1,733,000)</u>	
Total restricted funds			18,727,613
Unrestricted income funds			
General fund	17	<u>1,288,453</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,288,453</u>
Total funds			<u>20,016,066</u>

The financial statements on pages 17 to 40 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 5 December 2013 and are signed on their behalf by


Dame D Smith
Chair of Trustees


Colin Short
Chair of Audit Committee

The notes on pages 20 to 40 form part of these financial statements

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

	Notes	2013 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	21	864,357
Returns on investment and servicing of finance	22	1,458
Capital expenditure	23	(117,313)
Cash transferred on conversion to academy trust	28	<u>1,041,322</u>
Increase in cash in the period		1,789,824
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		<u> </u>
Net funds at 31 August 2013		<u><u>1,789,824</u></u>

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

The notes on pages 20 to 40 form part of these financial statements

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, the Charity Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('SORP 2005'), the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education Funding Agency and the Companies Act 2006

A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below

Conversion to an Academy Trust

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

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Portland College, Barbara Priestman School and Spingwell Dene School to the Trust have been valued at their fair value being a reasonable estimate of the current market value that the Trustees would expect to pay in an open market for an equivalent item. Their fair value is in accordance with policies set out for The Ascent Academies' Trust. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in voluntary income as net income in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds

The school buildings were transferred from the Council of the City of Sunderland to the Trust under a 125 year lease and have therefore been recognised at fair value as an asset on conversion. The land values are considered to be immaterial to the results for the period and have not therefore been recognised on that basis

Going concern

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

Incoming resources

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

• **Grants receivable**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued

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

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

- **Donations**

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

- **Other income**

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

- **Donated services and gifts in kind**

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

Resources expended

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

- **Cost of generating funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the trust's educational operations

- **Governance costs**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the Government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

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

Long leasehold buildings and modifications	- 50 years
Plant and Machinery	- 5 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10 years
Computer equipment and software	- 3 years
Motor Vehicles and Minibuses	- 5 years

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

Land is not depreciated.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Leased Assets

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

Stock

Stationery stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Taxation

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

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 26, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as they are paid each year.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
Happy Talk income	2,262	–	2,262
School fund income	7,479	–	7,479
Donations and other voluntary income	<u>52,132</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>52,132</u>
	61,873	–	61,873
	<u>61,873</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>61,873</u>

3. Activities for Generating Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
Hire of facilities	36,757	–	36,757
Catering income	70,805	–	70,805
Swimming lessons income	14,870	–	14,870
Home to school transport income	9,093	–	9,093
Educational visits income	19,985	–	19,985
School uniform sales	1,198	–	1,198
Extended school facilities / summer school income	<u>88,177</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>88,177</u>
	240,885	–	240,885
	<u>240,885</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>240,885</u>

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
Short term deposits	<u>1,458</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,458</u>

5 Funding for Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
DfE/EFA Revenue Grants			
• General Annual Grant (GAG)	—	5,146,164	5,146,164
• Capital grants	—	22,766	22,766
• Other DfE/EFA Grants	<u>—</u>	<u>145,139</u>	<u>145,139</u>
	—	5,314,069	5,314,069
Other Government Grants			
• Local Authority grants	—	1,007,491	1,007,491
• Other Government income	<u>—</u>	<u>4,433</u>	<u>4,433</u>
	—	1,011,924	1,011,924
Non-Government Grants and Other Income			
• Other income	<u>50,921</u>	<u>29,009</u>	<u>79,930</u>
	50,921	29,009	79,930
	<u>50,921</u>	<u>6,355,002</u>	<u>6,405,923</u>

6 Resources Expended

	Staff costs £	Non pay expenditure Premises costs £	Other costs £	Total 2013 £
Costs of generating voluntary income	—	—	—	—
Costs of activities for generating funds	18,076	—	89,930	108,006
Academy's education operations				
• Direct costs	4,325,109	448,987	458,570	5,232,666
• Allocated support costs	<u>526,418</u>	<u>315,581</u>	<u>304,440</u>	<u>1,146,439</u>
	4,869,603	764,568	852,940	6,487,111
Governance costs including allocated support costs	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>41,501</u>	<u>41,501</u>
	4,869,603	764,568	894,441	6,528,612

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

Incoming/outgoing resources for the period include:

	2013 £
Operating leases	6,315
Fees payable to auditor	
• Audit	9,914
• Other services	2,895
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>462,285</u>

7 Charitable Activities – Academy Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
Direct costs:			
Teaching and educational support staff costs	–	4,325,109	4,325,109
Depreciation	–	448,987	448,987
Technology costs	–	64,680	64,680
Educational supplies	–	312,110	312,110
Examination fees	–	16,805	16,805
Staff development	–	63,827	63,827
Educational consultancy	–	1,148	1,148
Other direct costs	–	–	–
	–	5,232,666	5,232,666
Allocated support costs.			
Support staff costs	–	526,418	526,418
Depreciation	–	13,298	13,298
Technology costs	–	46,239	46,239
Recruitment and support	–	8,859	8,859
Maintenance of premises and equipment	–	134,532	134,532
Cleaning	–	41,976	41,976
Rent and rates	–	13,338	13,338
Energy costs	–	125,735	125,735
Insurance	–	93,086	93,086
Security and transport	–	26,595	26,595
Catering	–	–	–
Bank interest and charges	–	–	–
FRS 17 finance charges	–	5,000	5,000
Other support costs	–	111,363	111,363
	–	1,146,439	1,146,439
Total	–	6,379,105	6,379,105

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

8 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2013 £
Legal & professional fees	—	24,535	24,535
Auditor's remuneration			
Audit of financial statements	—	9,914	9,914
Responsible officer audit	—	3,882	3,882
Costs incurred relating to conversion	—	3,170	3,170
Support staff costs	—	—	—
Governors reimbursed expenses	—	—	—
	—	41,501	41,501

9. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were

	Total 2013 £
Wages and salaries	3,911,091
Social security costs	279,463
Pension costs	<u>618,349</u>
	4,808,903
Supply teacher costs	53,864
Compensation payments	<u>6,836</u>
	<u>4,869,603</u>

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

	2013 No
Charitable activities	
Teachers	54
Administration and support	82
Management	<u>13</u>
	149

The number of employees whose annual emoluments fell within the following band was

	2013 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2

The employees noted above participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the period ended 31 August 2013, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £25,633

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

10. Central Services

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

- Human Resources,
- Financial Services,
- Governance Services,
- Education and Support Services, and
- Technology Support Services

The Trust charges for these services on an agreed percentage basis. Each school pays the Trust 2.1% of their school budget to fund central services.

The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows

- Portland Academy - £54,600
- Barbara Priestman Academy - £42,000
- Springwell Dene Academy - £13,475

11. Related Party Transactions – Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

Principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Principal and staff and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration paid in respect of their teaching duties is disclosed for the period that they were Trustees and the value of this remuneration is shown below. We do however draw your attention to the fact that this is a 13 month period of account and therefore this disclosure is for a 13 month period.

C Barker (Principal and Trustee)	£70,000 - £75,000
M Carson (Principal and Trustee)	£75,000 - £80,000
G Shillinglaw (Principal and Trustee)	£35,000 - £40,000
M Little (Staff Trustee)	£5,000 - £10,000

During the period ended 31 August 2013, no expenses were reimbursed to governors.

Related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 27.

12. Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, each Academy within the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. Each insurance policy provides cover up to the limit as follows on any one claim:

- Portland Academy - £5,000,000
- Barbara Priestman Academy - £5,000,000
- Springwell Dene Academy - £10,000,000

The cost for the period ended 31 August 2013 was £3,659. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Long leasehold buildings £	Furniture and equip- ment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost						
Transfer on conversion	20,348,000	60,057	—	42,785	61,375	20,512,217
Additions	14,367	33,847	26,309	42,790	—	117,313
Disposals	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 August 2013	20,362,367	93,904	26,309	85,575	61,375	20,629,530
Depreciation						
Charged in period	412,032	6,686	2,582	27,687	13,298	462,285
Disposals	—	—	—	—	—	—
At 31 August 2013	412,032	6,686	2,582	27,687	13,298	462,285
Net book values						
At 31 August 2013	<u>19,950,335</u>	<u>87,218</u>	<u>23,727</u>	<u>57,888</u>	<u>48,077</u>	<u>20,167,245</u>

14 Stock

	2013
	£
Stationery stocks	<u>2,000</u>

15 Debtors

	2013
	£
Trade debtors	26,713
VAT recoverable	87,984
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>192,375</u>
	<u>307,072</u>

All amounts shown within debtors fall due for repayment within one year

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2013
	£
Trade creditors	370,176
Tax and social security	56,618
Accruals and deferred income	<u>90,281</u>
	517,075
Deferred income	<u><u> </u></u>
Resources deferred in the period	<u>12,977</u>
	12,977
Deferred Income at 31 August 2013	<u><u> </u></u>

At the balance sheet date the Trust holds funding received in advance in respect of swimming lessons and school uniforms

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

17. Funds

	Transfer on conversion £	Income resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2013 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	–	5,146,164	(4,758,249)	(94,547)	293,368
Other DfE/EFA grants	–	145,139	(145,139)	–	–
Local Authority grants	–	1,007,491	(1,007,491)	–	–
Other income	–	33,442	(33,442)	–	–
	–	6,332,236	(5,944,321)	(94,547)	293,368
Pension reserve	<u>(1,590,000)</u>	–	<u>(14,000)</u>	<u>(129,000)</u>	<u>(1,733,000)</u>
	<u>(1,590,000)</u>	<u>6,332,236</u>	<u>(5,958,321)</u>	<u>(223,547)</u>	<u>(1,439,632)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE/EFA capital grants	–	22,766	(9,992)	94,547	107,321
Assets transferred from Local Authority	<u>20,512,217</u>	–	<u>(452,293)</u>	–	<u>20,059,924</u>
	<u>20,512,217</u>	<u>22,766</u>	<u>(462,285)</u>	<u>94,547</u>	<u>20,167,245</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>18,922,217</u>	<u>6,355,002</u>	<u>(6,420,606)</u>	<u>(129,000)</u>	<u>18,727,613</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>1,041,322</u>	<u>355,137</u>	<u>(108,006)</u>	–	<u>1,288,453</u>
Total funds	<u>19,963,539</u>	<u>6,710,139</u>	<u>(6,528,612)</u>	<u>(129,000)</u>	<u>20,016,066</u>

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2013.

Other DfE/EFA grants, Local Authority grants and other income include Pupil Premium, sickness insurance income, 16-18 Bursary funding and PE teachers grant.

The costs and income associated with the defined benefit pension scheme have been recorded in the restricted fund. Staff costs are paid from this fund, including contributions to LGPS, and the pension liability has therefore been aligned with these funds.

The transfer from the Local Authority reflects the fixed assets, the pension deficit, the surplus GAG and any surplus capital grants acquired on conversion.

The restricted funds are in deficit as a result of the deficit on the LGPS pension scheme alone.

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17. Funds (continued)

Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose at the discretion of the Academy

Analysis of Academies' by fund balance

Final balances as at 31 August 2013 were allocated as follows

	Total £
Portland Academy	491,912
Barbara Priestman Academy	913,627
Springwell Dene Academy	161,434
Central Services	<u>14,848</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,581,821
Restricted fixed asset fund	20,167,245
Pension reserve	<u>(1,733,000)</u>
Total	<u>20,016,066</u>

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the period was as follows

	Teaching & Educational Support staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total £
Portland Academy	2,257,018	288,464	115,599	412,339	3,073,420
Barbara Priestman Academy	1,586,868	145,291	171,762	321,724	2,225,645
Springwell Dene Academy	481,223	73,201	18,751	68,765	641,940
Central Services	<u>—</u>	<u>37,538</u>	<u>5,998</u>	<u>81,786</u>	<u>125,322</u>
Academy Trust	<u>4,325,109</u>	<u>544,494</u>	<u>312,110</u>	<u>884,614</u>	<u>6,066,327</u>

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
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18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2013 are represented by

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	—	—	20,167,245	20,167,245
Current assets	1,288,453	810,443	—	2,098,896
Current liabilities	—	(517,075)	—	(517,075)
Pension scheme liability	—	(1,733,000)	—	(1,733,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,288,453</u>	<u>(1,439,632)</u>	<u>20,167,245</u>	<u>20,016,066</u>

19. Capital Commitments

	2013 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>—</u>

20. Financial Commitments

Operating Leases

At 31 August 2013 the Trust had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows

	2013 £
Other	
Expiring within one year	979
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	4,549
Expiring in over five years	<u>—</u>
	<u>5,528</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2013
	£
Net incoming resources for the period	20,145,066
Depreciation (note 13)	462,285
Interest receivable	(1,458)
Transfer from Local authority on conversion	(19,963,539)
FRS pension finance cost	14,000
Increase in stock	(2,000)
(Increase) in debtors	(307,072)
Increase in creditors	<u>517,075</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>864,357</u>

22. Returns on investments and servicing of finance

	2013
	£
Interest received	<u>1,458</u>

23 Capital expenditure and financial investment

	2013
	£
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<u>117,313</u>

24. Analysis of changes in net funds

	Cash flows	31 August
	£	2013
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>1,789,824</u>	<u>1,789,824</u>

25. Members' Liabilities

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

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26 Pension and similar obligations

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes – the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff which is managed by The Tyne & Wear Pension Fund. Both are defined-benefit schemes.

As described in note 28 the LGPS obligation relates to employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor schools and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2004 and of the LGPS 31 March 2010.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010). These regulations apply to teachers in schools that are maintained by local authorities and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales. In addition teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership.

Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and from 1 January 2007 automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act (1972) and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis – these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pension Regulations require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pensions' increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26. Pension and similar obligations (*continued*)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

At the last valuation, the contribution rate to be paid into the TPS was assessed in two parts. First, a standard contribution rate (SCR) was determined. This is the contribution, expressed as a percentage of the salaries of teachers and lecturers in service or entering service during the period over which the contribution rate applies, which if it were paid over the entire active service of these teachers and lecturers would broadly defray the cost of benefits payable in respect of that service. Secondly, a supplementary contribution is payable if, as a result of the actuarial review, it is found that accumulated liabilities of the Account for benefits to past and present teachers, are not fully covered by standard contributions to be paid in future and by the notional fund built up from past contributions. The total contribution rate payable is the sum of the SCR and the supplementary contribution rate.

The last valuation of the TPS related to the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2004. The Government Actuary's report of October 2006 revealed that the total liabilities of the Scheme (pensions in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) amounted to £166,500 million. The value of the assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at that valuation date) was £163,240 million. The assumed real rate of return was 3.5% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth was assumed to be 1.5%. The assumed gross rate of return was 6.5%. From 1 January 2007, the SCR was assessed at 19.75%, and the supplementary contribution rate was assessed to be 0.75% (to balance assets and liabilities as required by the regulations within 15 years). This resulted in a total contribution rate of 20.5%, which translated into an employee contribution rate of 6.4% and employer contribution rate of 14.1% payable.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, the design of benefits and many other factors. Many of these assumptions are being considered as part of the work on the reformed TPS, as set out below. Scheme valuations therefore remain suspended. The Public Service Pensions Bill, which is being debated in the House of Commons, provides for future scheme valuations to be conducted in accordance with Treasury directions. The timing for the next valuation has still to be determined, but it is likely to be before the reformed schemes are introduced in 2015.

Teachers' Pension Scheme Changes

Lord Hutton published his final report in March 2011 and made recommendations about how pensions can be made sustainable and affordable, whilst remaining fair to the workforce and the taxpayer. The Government accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as the basis for consultation and Ministers engaged in extensive discussions with trade unions and other representative bodies on reform of the TPS. Those discussions concluded on 9 March 2012 and the Department published a Proposed Final Agreement, setting out the design for a reformed TPS to be implemented from 1 April 2015.

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

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

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26. Pension and similar obligations (*continued*)

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. All funds are included in the Tyne and Wear Pension fund, a combined valuation for all schools in the trust has been obtained and details noted below relate to the Trust collectively. The total contribution made for the period ended 31 August 2013 was £389,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £307,000 and employees' contributions totalled £82,000. The agreed contributions to the fund for the year ending 31 August 2014 are £296,000.

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

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2013	At 1 August 2012
Rate of increase in salaries	4.7%	4.1%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	2.8%	2.2%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.5%	4.2%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8%	2.2%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums		
• past service pension entitlements	50%	50%
• future service pension entitlements	75%	75%

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

	At 31 August 2013	At 1 August 2012
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.7	21.6
Females	23.9	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.5	23.4
Females	25.8	25.7

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	Expected return at 31 August 2013	Fair value at 31 August 2013 (£)	Expected return at 1 August 2012	Fair value at 1 August 2012 (£)
Equities	7.9%	2,325,672	7.5%	1,727,898
Government bonds	3.4%	125,712	2.5%	191,406
Corporate bonds	4.1%	405,072	3.2%	317,262
Property	7.4%	310,788	7.0%	235,980
Cash	0.9%	80,316	1.4%	49,818
Other	7.9%	244,440	7.5%	99,636
 Total market value of assets		 3,492,000		 2,622,000
Present value of scheme liabilities		<u>(5,225,000)</u>		<u>(4,118,000)</u>
 Deficit in the scheme		 <u>(1,733,000)</u>		 <u>(1,496,000)</u>

The Ascent Academies' Trust employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principals. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is set out within this note. The overall expected rate of return on assets is then derived by aggregating the expected return for each class over the actual assets allocation for the Fund at 31 August 2013.

The actual return on scheme assets was £401,000

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2013 £
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	316,000
Past service cost	<u>—</u>
Total operating charge	<u>316,000</u>
 Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)	
Expected return on pension scheme assets	196,000
Interest on pension liabilities	<u>(201,000)</u>
Net return / (charge)	<u>(5,000)</u>

The actuarial gains and losses for the current period are recognised in the statement of financial activities. The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the statement of financial activities since the adoption of FRS 17 is £129,000 loss.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2013

26. Pension and similar obligations (*continued*)

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

	2013
	£
Transfer on conversion Portland College / Barbara Priestman School	4,118,000
Increase from acquisitions – transfer on conversion Springwell Dene School	304,000
Current service cost	316,000
Employee contributions	82,000
Actuarial loss	334,000
Interest cost	201,000
Net benefits paid out	<u>(130,000)</u>
At 31 August	5,225,000

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

	2013
	£
Transfer on conversion Portland College / Barbara Priestman School	2,622,000
Increase from acquisitions – transfer on conversion Springwell Dene School	210,000
Expected return on assets	196,000
Actuarial gain	205,000
Employer contributions	307,000
Employee contributions	82,000
Net benefits paid out	<u>(130,000)</u>
At 31 August	3,492,000

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2014 is £296,000

Springwell Dene Academy joined the Trust on 1 February 2013. The movement in the pension fund has been accounted for in the Actuary's reports as a increase in assets and liabilities from acquisition. The liabilities have been calculated on assumptions at 1 August 2012, and the notional transfer of assets has been calculated from the funding level of Springwell Dene Academy at 1 February 2013. This has resulted in an increase to the net liability of £94,000.

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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26. Pension and similar obligations (*continued*)

The five year history of experience adjustments is as follows:

	As at 31 August 2013 £	As at 1 August 2012 £
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(5,225,000)	(4,118,000)
Fair value share of scheme assets	<u>3,492,000</u>	<u>2,622,000</u>
Deficit in the scheme	(1,733,000)	(1,496,000)
Experience adjustments on share of scheme assets		
Amount £	<u>205,000</u>	
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities		
Amount £	—	

27. Related Party Transactions

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

THE ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST
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28. Conversion to an academy trust

The following schools converted to Academy Trust status under the Academies Act 2010 on the following dates

Predecessor School	Conversion Date	Local Authority
Portland College	01/08/2012	Sunderland City Council
Barbara Priestman School	01/08/2012	Sunderland City Council
Springwell Dene School	01/02/2013	Sunderland City Council

All the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Ascent Academies' Trust from Sunderland City Council for £nil consideration

The transfer has been accounted for using the acquisition method. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net income in the Statement of Financial Activities as voluntary income.

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	–	–	20,512,217	20,512,217
Budget surplus on LA funds	867,177	–	–	867,177
Budget surplus on school fund	174,145	–	–	174,145
LGPS pension deficit	–	(1,590,000)	–	(1,590,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	1,041,322	(1,590,000)	20,512,217	19,963,539

The above net assets include £1,041,322 that was transferred as cash

All leasehold properties transferred from the local authority were transferred on 125 year lease agreements