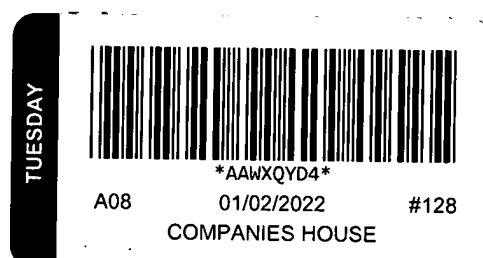


Excalibur Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)



Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2021



Company Registration Number:
08146633 (England & Wales)

Excalibur Academies Trust

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Excalibur Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	S Clarke W Dufour SDBE Corporate Member – Richard Curtis D Wilson
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Directors	<p>A Anthistle (resigned 19/11/20) E Butler J Butler S Clarke *# N Edmondson * (CEO & Accounting Officer) A Gould *# K Kelly L Lee J Longhurst A Parry *# N Swan * C Waldon # T Watson * (Chair)</p> <p>* members of the finance and general purposes committee # members of the audit committee</p>
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<p>Senior Management Team:</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer Chief Finance Officer Head of Strategic Development Head of Secondary Education Head of Primary Education Executive Principal of St John's, Marlborough & John O'Gaunt School Principal of Fairfield High School Principal of The Wren School Principal of May Park Primary School Principal of Liden Academy Principal of Great Bedwyn School Principal of Lambourn Primary School Principal of Nythe Primary School Principal of Burbage Primary School Principal of Ogbourne CofE Primary School Principal of St Katharine's CofE Primary School Principal of Easton Royal Academy Principal of Oare CofE Primary School</p>	<p>N Edmondson K Davis C Mangham L Reid A Normington I Tucker</p> <p>N Lewis J Salberg V Spence J Mason M Perrett R Perkins C El-Yorby Z Garbutt R Smith N Jones B Barber-Stubbs G Osborn</p>
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Excalibur Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details (Continued)

Company Name	Excalibur Academies Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Granham Hill Marlborough SN8 4AX
Company Registration Number	8146633 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Moore (South) LLP 33 The Clarendon Centre Salisbury Business Park Dairy Meadow Lane Salisbury SP1 2TJ
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 38 Market Place Devizes SN10 1JD
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards Orchard Court Bristol BS1 5WS

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report

The directors in their role as 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.

Excalibur Academies Trust operates 14 primary and secondary academies in clusters in Wiltshire, Bristol, Swindon, West Berkshire and Reading. It has a pupil capacity of 6974 and had a roll of 6130 in the school census of October 2021.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Excalibur Academies Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Excalibur Academies Trust. In addition, each individual academy trades using its own name.

Details of the directors who served during the year, and up to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

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

All schools within the Trust are members of the Government RPA scheme, which provides unlimited professional indemnity cover.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Directors

The arrangements for appointing new directors are set out in the articles of association. The articles allow for 2 parent directors, 25% up to a maximum of 4 foundation directors, up to 5 community directors, the CEO, the Chair of the Chairs Forum and up to 3 co-opted directors.

Parent directors are elected by elected parent governors who are members of the academy local governing bodies. Community directors are appointed by the members. Foundation directors are appointed in conjunction with Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education and co-opted directors are appointed by the board.

With regard to the appointment of directors, the full board gives consideration to the skills mix of the directors to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute to the development of all the academies.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors

The training and induction provided to new directors depends on their individual experience – often new directors are experienced governors. All new directors are trained in use of the Trust's governance website - this includes key documents, policies, minutes of meetings and other documents needed for directors and governors to discharge their duties. The CEO, CFO with the clerk to the directors undertake induction for new directors. Mentoring from existing directors is also available for new directors. During 2020/21 the Trust subscribed to NGA Learning Link who provide a broad programme of training including training on safeguarding. The Trust is a member of the National Governance Association.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

All governors and directors regularly receive guidance and information from the NGA. In October 2020, the Trust subscribed to Educare - a market-leading provider of high-quality safeguarding and duty of care e-learning services.

Organisational Structure

The Board of directors formally meets at least six times per academic year. Exceptional meetings can be called at any time if circumstances dictate. Quorum is one third of the membership, excluding vacancies.

The Annual General Meeting is held every year in December on the same date as the directors meeting.

There are a number of working committees: Local Governing Bodies at each academy; Education Scrutiny; Finance, Premises & ICT; Admissions; Staffing; Audit; plus the LGB Chairs Forum. The committees meet at least three times per year to review, evaluate and monitor the activities covered by their terms of reference. The local governing bodies meet at least six times per year and more often if priorities warrant additional time. The admissions committee meets as required.

Local Governing Bodies have delegated authority to ensure educational progression and compliance with Excalibur policies and procedures. Local Governing Bodies are specifically focused on the:

- standard and quality of education in the academy;
- welfare of the students at the academy;
- relationship between the academy and the local community.

The scheme of delegation has been revised and the financial scheme of delegation is reviewed and approved each year. Details of delegated powers from the Trust board to committees, the CEO and principals are set out in the scheme of delegation. The Chief Executive Officer is the accounting officer. The financial scheme of delegation sets out the financial delegations and responsibilities of the directors and the academies' management teams. Decisions reserved for the Board are set out in the master funding agreement and articles.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel comprise the directors and executive leadership team listed in the Reference and Administrative details on page 3. No directors are remunerated for their service as a trustee. The Board formally review Executive Pay each year. The Staffing Committee is responsible for approving trust pay and appraisal policies and keeping them under review. The Staffing Committee scrutinises and approves the organisational senior management structure, roles and responsibilities within that structure and the level of pay and remuneration for each role. The Staffing Committee considers and approves all pay recommendations related to performance of staff on the leadership scales. Salaries are determined using nationally recognised pay scales for both teaching and support staff. In addition, benchmarking data from similar schools and trusts is taken into account for determining salaries of senior staff.

Objectives for the CEO are set through an annual appraisal meeting between the CEO, Chair and other members of the Board each year. Objectives are aligned to the strategic plan, with a clear focus on school improvement. Reviews take place during the year and at the annual appraisal meeting. Decisions on whether to increase the salary within the agreed range are based on performance outcomes.

It is the Trust's policy that appointment to and performance of key management personnel is the responsibility of the CEO. In the case of the principal of each academy the CEO is supported by the chair or representative of the local governing body.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
9	8.7

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of Employees
0%	0
1%-50%	9
51%-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£22,773
Total pay bill	£19,897,634
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time,	0.11%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:	3.9%
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In addition £8,173 was paid in 2020/21 to Local Authorities for Union Facilities time.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Excalibur Academies Trust is an approved DfE sponsor. Burbage Primary School, John O'Gaunt School, Lambourn CoFE Primary School and May Park Primary School are sponsored academies. As a sponsor Excalibur has responsibility for raising educational standards, improving the quality of leadership and ensuring that the curriculum meets the needs of all pupils.

St John's Foundation Trust, Marlborough

St John's Foundation Trust operates independently of St John's, Marlborough. Its purpose is to manage and provide funds for major developments and educational projects which are not normally provided by public funding. They own and manage land, investments and a charitable fund for St John's. The assets are derived from donations and endowments, some dating back hundreds of years. The Trust Fund exists for the exclusive benefit of St John's, its students and their education in the community of Marlborough. The Trust owns the buildings and the land on which the buildings stand, both of which are leased to the Academy, the Trust paid £12,702 rent to the Foundation Trust in 2020/21. During 2020/21 St John's received £1,542.95 as a final payment for the refurbishment of the Sixth Form library. The Trust have committed to a grant of up to £400,000 for St John's for development of a new Sports Hall, playground and development of the surrounding outside space during 2021/2022.

Elmfield School for the Deaf, Bristol

Elmfield School is situated within Fairfield High School. Fairfield receives income for use of facilities from Elmfield. Some Elmfield students participate in lessons with students from Fairfield. Elmfield will be moving to new premises in the future, current expectations are that the new school buildings for Elmfield will be available from September 2023.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Montpelier High School (previously Colston's Girls' School, part of Venturers Trust)

Fairfield High School has a formal collaboration to deliver Post 16 qualifications, with Fairfield staff delivering some lessons until August 2022. The future relationship is being explored.

Lambourn Church of England School House Trust, Lambourn & The Lambourn School Sale Proceeds of Part Trust (administered by Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd)

The School House Trust operates independently of Lambourn Primary School. Its purpose is to enhance the education of children in the parish of Lambourn. The Trust makes donations to Lambourn school each year. In 2020/21 the school received £11,376.81 towards the costs of the nursery refurbishment, operating minibuses, swimming pool running costs and gifts for Year 6 leavers.

In addition, the school received £1,000 from the Lambourn School Sale Proceeds of Part Trust towards the costs of perimeter fencing. The trustees of this Trust are jointly The Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (ODBF) and the Incumbent & Churchwardens of Lambourn.

School Associations

The majority of our academies have independent parent & supporter organisations that raise money to support individual academies.

Trading Subsidiary

The Trust is in the process of creating a Trading Subsidiary – Excalibur Academies Services Ltd – to facilitate Liden Primary School providing school meals for a number of local schools.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust is an equal opportunities employer and works in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and supports disabled people including those with long term health conditions, learning disabilities and hidden disabilities such as dyslexia. If an applicant confirms they have a disability, we can make reasonable adjustments to ensure any selection processes are fair and equitable. We also support disabled employees through strong engagement with staff, and where appropriate working with occupational health and applying bespoke solutions to support employees with a disability.

The Trust prioritises the wellbeing of all of its employees. It has a strong focus on open and transparent communication. Staff views are captured through conducting staff surveys, evaluation forms following in-house training and gathering feedback from senior leaders.

The Trust has also maintained good relations with Unions and their representatives across the Trust with regular communication regarding processes and policies that require consultation prior to implementation. The Trust also acknowledges the contributions of volunteers whose efforts and commitment to our schools has a hugely positive impact on the success of our students.

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

Excalibur Academies Trust believes in putting students first and ensuring that all children irrespective of their background have access to a high level of education to support them in maximising their potential in later life

Engagement and involvement with our students are at the heart of everything we do. We aim to understand their needs, provide a safe and secure school life within an inclusive culture to enable them to develop the confidence, tools and skills necessary to succeed as global citizens of the next generation. School development plans, curriculum and policies provide a secure framework to engage and provide the services to our students.

We prioritise communication with our parents – all academies have regular newsletters and provide opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress at school.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The Trust also has a range of customers through the lettings of its property to local communities and provide competitive rates for use. Our customers can range from community groups and clubs, private organisations and charities.

Our Suppliers

To enable us to achieve our aims and deliver services, we are supported by a large number of local, regional and national suppliers. The Trust has used procurement services provided by Crown Commercial Services and South West Buying Schools Hub to openly share opportunities for contracts.

Major services include catering, cleaning, utilities, building maintenance and ICT contracts, and relationships are managed at both Trust and local level. Positive engagement with suppliers enables us to develop and maintain long-term and sustainable relationships and helps ensure that the Trust purchase products and services competitively, responsibly and in line with policies. Regular contract review meetings, data and reporting, proof of best value and adhering to Government procurement processes is vital in maintaining these relationships and providing an optimum level of education for our students.

Others – Government Departments & Local Authorities

The Trust and its senior leaders maintain an open and productive working relationship with regulators such as Department for Education (DfE), Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Ofsted, HMRC and Local Authorities to ensure compliance to regulatory requirements.

Equal Opportunities

Equality and diversity statement

Excalibur Academies Trust recognises the benefits of a diverse workforce and is committed to equal opportunities for all staff, volunteers and job applicants. We aspire to an environment where all staff and students are equally valued and respected. We are committed to providing a fair, equitable and mutually supportive learning and working environment for students and staff.

The Trust endeavours to attract, recruit and retain staff of high calibre by ensuring that the best possible candidates are appointed. We support the principle of equal opportunities and oppose discrimination based on protected characteristics. The Trust aims to ensure no applicant receives less favourable treatment because of age, sex, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity.

The Trust has effective policies in place for equal opportunities, diversity, inclusion, dignity at work and code of conduct.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal objects are:

- to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and which shall include:
 - academies other than those designated Church of England, whether with or without a designated religious character; and
 - Church of England academies designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and in having regard to any advice and following any directives issued by the Diocesan Board of Education,

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

- in relation to each of the academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England; and
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

The vision of Excalibur Academies Trust is to provide an excellent education, empowering individuals to thrive and grow within a caring, aspirational and outward-looking culture.

Our aims are to:

- **Achieve educational excellence** so that every child receives high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities and fulfils their potential regardless of background or prior attainment.
- **Value and develop our people** ensuring every member of the Excalibur family is treated fairly and with respect and is empowered to develop and thrive as an individual and to make a positive difference in the world.
- **Ensure sustainability as we grow** with a relentless focus on improvement and providing the best education to as many children as possible within an organisation committed to environmental sustainability.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The overall strategic objective of the Trust is to provide an excellent education and a safe place to learn to as many children as possible within our hubs situated along the M4 corridor between Bristol and Reading. This includes developing their wellbeing, confidence and life skills to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution in the world.

Public Benefit

The directors have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

The Trust clearly states these public benefit credentials in its objects.

It provides education to children and young people that:

- is balanced and broadly based;
- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society;
- prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life;
- promotes, sustains and increases individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise.

The admissions policy of each school within Excalibur Academies Trust is fair and equitable. All academies within the Trust welcome students from all backgrounds. An individual's economic status, gender, ethnicity, race, religion or disability does not form part of our assessment processes. Priority is given to students who live within the designated catchment areas or areas of priority. Details of the admissions criteria are published on the Trust's and individual schools' websites.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

This year our focus has been on delivering on our strategic priorities and aims and supporting our schools through the Covid pandemic. Despite the cancellation of examinations for the second year due to the pandemic, our pupils achieved very well in teacher assessed external qualifications including at A Level, GCSE and in vocational qualifications. Most importantly, the vast majority of students secured their choice for the next stage of their education, training or employment, with high numbers going into sixth form and many taking up offers at Russell group universities.

In our primary schools we used internally administered but nationally recognised tests to enable us to assess pupils' learning and standards across the Trust in order to plan for the recovery curriculum and target its delivery.

School closures and pupil and staff absence due to the pandemic did cause disruption in our schools, although our remote learning offer was of a high quality and well received by pupils and parents and minimised the impact of the closures. All pupils had access to a device and internet connection to ensure they were able to continue learning throughout, and we were able to provide in school education for all our vulnerable learners and children of key workers throughout the lockdown periods. This has gone some way to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on children's learning and progress and although there are gaps for some pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged, many are already making rapid progress with the help of catch up and recovery funding.

We have made good progress in our sponsored academies and expect positive Ofsted judgements when they are inspected this year. All of our schools have in place a new curriculum which has been implemented this year and the impact on children's learning and knowledge is evident.

To meet our aim of achieving educational excellence we have:

- Continued to work with each school to implement and measure the impact of their curriculum in line with the Trust's overarching curriculum aim:
Our common aim is to teach our children to become excited, engaged learners, able to achieve excellence. All our academies provide our children with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for all our learners to be successful and able to realise their dreams. Within this framework, through a process of support and collaboration, each academy has been empowered to develop its own curriculum. As a mixed academy trust, we believe in a seamless, all-through curriculum for all our pupils. To achieve this aim, primary and secondary colleagues work together to ensure each academy has a curriculum that will provide our pupils with the learning and values they need to become well-balanced, caring and responsive learners, young people who have the resilience and self-belief to make a difference.
- Further developed collaboration and networking across the trust and supported staff in standardisation, moderation and assessment. This was particularly important in ensuring accuracy and consistency in awarding teacher assessed grades (TAGs) which was overseen and co-ordinated centrally for secondary schools in the trust.
- Implemented a new information management system in all of our primary schools enabling us to manage and share information seamlessly at school and trust level.
- Developed, supported and secured high quality remote provision across the trust which has been quality assured by the Academy Improvement Team and Directors. Feedback from parents has been very positive.
- Increased the capacity of our academy improvement team, seconding Principals and senior leaders from our academies to support with the delivery of our school improvement strategy.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

To meet our aim of valuing and developing our people we have:

- Delivered a high-quality programme of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) for all staff focusing on SEND (Special Education Needs & Disabilities), IT and getting students back on track. This has also been offered to other local schools as part of our Growth Strategy.
- Provided focused CPD to all senior leaders on talent management and diversity.
- Further developed our Talent Management group, appointing a Professional Learning Lead for two days a week focusing on the Early Careers Framework, Professional Development and Talent Management.
- Become a provider for the Early Careers Framework for North Wiltshire.
- Formed a partnership with the Swindon & Wiltshire Teaching School Hub to deliver a new suite of professional qualifications.
- Continued to deliver our successful and popular Leadership courses - two cohorts of teachers (17 in total) completed the Excalibur Middle Leaders and Senior Leaders.
- Conducted a Wellbeing survey of staff which indicated high levels of satisfaction compared with schools and other workplaces nationally. This has been followed up with trust and school level action plans to address any areas of concern and to promote further staff wellbeing.
- Added capacity to our back office team, including the recruitment of a Head of Business Operations.
- The Equalities Working Group has produced a strategy and action plan which is being implemented across the trust.

To meet our aim of growing sustainably we have:

- Led the Learning Set of Swindon and Wiltshire Multi Academy Trusts at the invitation of the Regional School's Commissioner.
- Welcomed Liden Academy, Swindon into the trust. Liden was judged by Ofsted in 2019 to require improvement and Excalibur Head of Primary Education has been working closely with the Principal, staff and governors to implement a plan for rapid improvement. This has already had a very positive impact on the quality of education and the standards achieved by pupils have improved significantly.
- Shared our Sustainability Strategy and action plan with stakeholders and continued the work of our sustainability group with every school required to have a plan for reducing carbon emissions
- Secured a grant of £49,000 from the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund to enable us to commission heat decarbonisation plans for all our schools.
- Commissioned a brand and marketing company to lead our marketing strategy, with a new logo, branding and website launched.

Other achievements in our schools

- The Guardian Good School's Guide has rated Fairfield High School as the best non-selective state school in Bristol, showcasing our continuous hard work, passion and dedication.
- Fairfield High School was featured as a case study in improving the performance of disadvantaged pupils in report by the Team South West Partnership.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Key Performance Indicators

Exam Results

Not reported in 2019/20 or 2020/21 due to cancellation of public exams.

Initial Teacher Training

In addition to providing placements for students studying for a PGCE, the Trust provides an Initial Teacher Training Programme – we continue to prioritise teacher training to address recruitment challenges.

	2020/21	2019/2020	2018/2019
Number of trainees starting programme	8	10	16
Number of trainees completing course			
- Primary	0	1	7
- Secondary	6	7	7
	+ 2 due to complete in 21/22		
Number of trainees recruited to Excalibur Schools	1	1	3
Number of Trainees specialising in English, Maths or Science	3	4	4
Trainees confirmed as employed as teachers	6	6	11
Number of trainees recruited for next academic year			
- Primary	0	0	2
- Secondary	8	10	8

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Key Financial Performance Indicators

Admissions

Excalibur schools continue to be popular in their communities, with sustained growth in many of our schools.

Year of entry	PAN+	Sept 2021		Sept 2020		Sept 2019	
		All Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted
St John's	263	453	261	290	249	379	263
Fairfield	216	604	202	571	216	554	216
Wren	168	599	164	589	168	676	196*
John O'Gaunt	120	98	88	89	76	104	92
		1 st Preference Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted
May Park	90	79	77	77	73	n/a	n/a
Liden	60	41	42	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Great Bedwyn	30	25	27	45	28	50	30
Lambourn	30	19	19	25	24	31	28
Nythe	30	19	19	21	20	n/a	n/a
Burbage	29	20	20	19	19	15	15
St Katharine's	15	22	15	17	15	16	15
Ogbourne	15	13	13	12	12	17	15
Oare	17	7	7***	6	6	5	5
Easton Royal	9**	15	14	2	2	7	7

+ Published Admission Number

*extra 28 pupils accepted on request of Reading Borough Council

** increased to 14 for academic year 2021/22 only

*** actual class size is 9 due to 2 pupils repeating reception year

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of directors has a reasonable expectation 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. In making this assessment the Trust board has considered

- pupil numbers, based on actual and forecast numbers
- medium term planning cycle and budgets
- the reliability of income streams from the ESFA and Local Authorities
- the requirements from the ESFA for the repayment of St John's deficit
- the financial plans at John O'Gaunt and May Park
- projected pupil numbers and financial plans at small rural primaries
- growth of the Trust and the impact of new academies joining the Trust
- educational standards in the academies
- financial impact of Covid 19 in 2020/21.

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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Promoting the success of the company

The directors continue to ensure the Trust achieves its charitable purposes – the achievements and performance of the Trust are clearly demonstrated in the Strategic Report section of the Annual Report. The directors take care to act in such a way as to promote the success of the Trust and in doing so take account of

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the Trusts' employees
- the need to foster the Trusts' relationships with families, suppliers, and other stakeholders
- the impact of the Trusts' operations on the community and environment
- maintaining our reputation for integrity and professionalism.

Financial Review

At the end of the academic year the Trust is in a strong financial position, the net current asset to income ratio is 12.9% compared to 7.4% in 2019/20. The increased level of reserves is primarily due expenditure on premises and educational supplies and services being less than anticipated. This was because premises projects were delayed due to capacity constraints within schools as staff were focused on managing the additional operational requirements to keep schools open; delays due to supply of materials and the reduced availability of service providers – all as a consequence of COVID-19.

The highlights for the year ending 31 August 2021 are:

	2020/2021 £	2019/2020 £
Total Income for the year (less conversion balances)	38,047,670	33,601,989
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	3,415,284	10,538,161
Adjustments for		
Remove fixed assets on conversion	(3,810,367)	(13,188,163)
Remove Capital Grant Income	(1,769,313)	(1,103,202)
Add back FRS 102 Pension Costs	1,414,000	1,178,000
Add back FRS 102 Liability on Conversion	378,000	1,660,000
Add back depreciation	2,197,191	2,071,522
Remove contributions from revenue to capital	(295,693)	(368,567)
Revenue Surplus	1,529,102	787,751

The detailed accounts are contained in Page 36 onwards and include the following statements:

- Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows.

The majority of the Trust's funding is received from the DfE and ESFA, with a smaller contribution from Local Authorities. During 2020/21 the Trust benefited from £626,205 of additional COVID-19 funding. Details of income can be found in Notes 4-6 of the Financial Statements. Details of the expenditure to support educational operations are available in Note 10; in line with the sector and best practice 76% of expenditure was on staffing.

In addition to Devolved Formula Capital (DfE funds ring fenced for capital projects), the Trust received funds from a number of sources that have been used to improve the buildings and facilities at our schools. In 2020/21 the Trust continued to utilise the School Condition Allocation capital funds, and the focus for use of these funds is on keeping students 'safe, warm and dry.'

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The impact of COVID-19 on staff absence and reduced income streams from lettings impacted a number of our schools. Expenditure on educational resources was less than budgeted during the year as schools were shut, and the capacity for staff to source and investigate new equipment and materials was restricted. The Trust received 610 laptops for disadvantaged students during the year, these were in addition to the 51 received in 2019/20.

Specific individual projects that have had a positive impact on pupils, staff and the wider school community include:

- refurbished annexe at Fairfield providing additional flexible teaching space.
- St John's has begun building a new Sports Hall and MUGA (multi-use games area) to be completed in Spring 2022.
- the DfE have approved the building of an Eco classroom at The Wren School.
- improvements to the outside learning and recreational spaces at Easton Royal, Burbage, Fairfield, May Park, Oare and Wren.
- the Trust provided external sinks at all primaries to encourage frequent handwashing to support with COVID-19 safety measures.
- further investment in IT to support remote learning.
- the opening of an IT suite at May Park.

Reserves Policy

The Academy Trust aims to carry forward a prudent level of funds to cover the costs of renewal and replacement of assets, for major unforeseen contingencies, to mitigate against falling grant income and to contribute to major developments of school facilities.

At the end of the period under review, the component balances held across the restricted and unrestricted funds were as follows:

Restricted General Grant funds	3,588,087
Restricted loan balance	(721,188)
Restricted funds	316,390
Unrestricted funds	70,133
Total	3,253,422
Revenue funds comprise:	
General Annual Grant (GAG) funding	3,588,087
COVID Catch-up Premium	100,471
PE Grant	95,623
Lambourn Sponsor Grant	15,742
May Park Sponsor Grant	11,303
Liden Conversion Grant	11,638
MAT Teaching School	3,125
Local Authority Grant	12,100
Other restricted	32,585
Pupil Premium	33,803
St John's conversion deficit	(721,188)
Unrestricted	70,133

The reserves policy within the Trust is for an overall level of revenue reserves of 3.5% of GAG, and in addition it aims for the following level of unrestricted revenue reserves:

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

£15,000 for an academy of 0-120 pupils
£25,000 for an academy of 120-300 pupils
£50,000 for an academy of 300-500 pupils
£100,000 for an academy of 500-1000 pupils
£150,000 for an academy of greater than 1,000 pupils.

At the end of the financial year the Trust met its overall reserves target. All schools with the exception of one secondary school (John O'Gaunt) and two primary schools (Burbage and Oare) met the reserves policy.

The value of tangible fixed assets, the majority of which is land and buildings is £95,576,712. Details are in Note 14.

Funds in Deficit

John O'Gaunt is a sponsored academy and the Trust has an agreed programme of school improvement, including seconding experienced leaders and teacher to the school. The reputation of John O'Gaunt is improving, and pupil numbers are increasing. The admissions behaviours of local schools have continued to be a concern and the Trust continues to be in conversation with the DfE and Local Authority regarding this. At the end of the academic year John O'Gaunt is in deficit, although the deficit was less than expected. The Board have agreed financial support for John O'Gaunt for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The Board recognises the defined benefit pension scheme deficit is a significant potential liability. The size and fluctuations of pension deficit is consistent with other academies and due to liabilities exceeding performance of assets and reducing mortality rates. The deficit is outside of the control of the Trust. The Trust is bound by its funding agreement to provide access to the Teacher Pension Scheme and the Local Government Scheme to staff. The Directors consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contributions for the foreseeable future.

2020/21 has seen the Trust maintain balanced budgets through tight fiscal management.

In the next academic year the Trust will continue to tightly control expenditure. The real terms decline in funding, expected increased wage inflation, higher energy costs, further expected increases in employer pension contributions for the LGPS, an increasing shortage of teaching staff across all subjects, (not just those who teach shortage subjects) will continue to challenge our capacity to build reserves without impacting on the quality of education delivered to our students. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic consequences of this leaves a greater uncertainty of government spend for education from 2022/23 beyond.

Investment Policy

The FP&I Committee review on a regular basis the financial position of the individual academies. As part of this review they assess the short, medium and long-term needs of the academies, balancing the need to reduce the deficit and continuing to invest. Decisions and statements relating to these regular reviews are contained in the minutes of the Finance Committee. The Trust has an approved Investment Policy. Investment is limited to use of a higher interest account provided by the Trust's bankers. Surplus funds may be held in a 32 day notice base rate linked account to maximise potential income from interest. Where cash flow allows reserves of over £100,000 are transferred to a higher interest account. Day to day management of surplus funds is delegated to the CFO & CEO. Current low interest rates are such that the additional income generated is low.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Directors have assessed the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust, relating to finance, teaching and the provision of facilities. Systems are in place (for example supervision of students when they are not in lessons, vetting of all new employees, and financial controls) to mitigate and minimise risk.

The Trust has appropriate insurance cover through the Risk Protection Arrangement to minimise financial risks to the Trust.

The Trust has a formal risk management process in place to assess risk and implement risk management strategies. A detailed risk register at both academy and trust level is maintained and reviewed by senior management and directors on a regular basis. The Audit Committee has specific responsibility for risk management. Directors review the financial health of the Trust monthly; reviewing financial performance against budgets and cash flow forecasts to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet all known and anticipated expenditure. The Audit Committee also receive regular external Health & Safety assessments.

The principal risks impacting the Trust are:

Educational

The continuing impact of disruption and closure of schools caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant level of face-to-face education to our pupils being lost. The impact of this on the pupils is considerable both in terms of their academic achievement and their wellbeing. The quality of remote education was high and well received by students and parents but was no substitute for classroom based delivery. Programmes funded by Catch Up funds are making a difference. There continues to be much uncertainty. Specific plans for utilisation of the Recovery Fund are already being implemented in October 2021.

Impact on pupil wellbeing

Being away from school during lockdown has led to a range of challenges for our students on their mental wellbeing. The lack of a daily school structure and opportunities to socialise with friends and peers has affected the general mental health of a high number of students.

Availability of staff

Despite the high level of vaccination, as COVID-19 continues to spread across the population the Trust is faced with staff shortages due to managing a higher number of staff absences due to sickness, self-isolation requirements and care of dependents. Clear plans and guidance documentation have been implemented across the Trust to support schools in managing staffing levels, absence and cover of lessons.

Our ongoing challenge particularly in our secondary schools is finding high quality teachers. Links with Universities, Teacher Training placements and the School Direct Programme all supports the development of teachers from within the Trust.

Financial

All the academies are significantly reliant on government funding through the ESFA and LA; and this is driven by numbers on roll. Demand for places within the majority of our academies is strong. The lack of certainty over levels of future funding and the fact that funding allocations are not confirmed in a timely manner mean that it is challenging to plan in the medium term to adjust staffing and curriculum provision.

The Trust is monitoring the reducing populations of school aged children in our communities which are likely to impact numbers on roll in some of our primary schools.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Employer pension contributions particularly for the LGPS are exceptionally high, in 2020/21 Wiltshire academies are paying 27.5% - this level of contribution will adversely impact the future level of staffing in schools. Employer contributions for the Teachers Pensions Scheme are 23.68%. The Board recognise the significant liability of the Pension Scheme, and the directors consider that the Trust will be able to meet the known contribution commitments for the foreseeable future.

Reputational

The continuing success of the Trust is reliant on the academies continuing to attract students and quality staff. To ensure the academies maintain the highest standards significant emphasis is placed on the monitoring of student success and achievements.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

The directors ensure that the Trust is compliant with all relevant legislation and the highest standards are maintained in safeguarding and health & safety, including online safety. All students, staff, governors and directors receive update training, and monitoring of uptake is closely tracked.

Fraud & mismanagement of Funds

The Trust has appointed an internal auditor to review compliance with the Academy Handbook and monitor financial systems and processes. A trust officer, Head of Finance and Compliance adds a further level of scrutiny. Finance staff attend network and training opportunities on a regular basis to keep abreast of best practice and ensure the Trust has staff with the financial knowledge and skills required.

Fundraising

Each school undertakes fundraising locally. Schools will raise money for local or national charities - usually the students themselves will choose the charities they support. Fund raising for school projects is often led and managed by the independent Parent, Teacher and Friends Associations local to each school. As was the case in 2019/20, the level of fundraising activities undertaken in 2020/21 continued to be lower than normal due to the restrictions due to Covid 19.

Income from fundraising projects and requests run by the schools are used to benefit students directly and support the costs of resources, educational visits, activities, and improvements to educational facilities at individual schools. Publicity for fundraising events is measured and is restricted to students at the school, their family members and the local community. The Trust is mindful of the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and guidance from the Charities Commission to protect the wider public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonable, intrusive or persistent fundraising and undue pressure to donate. Any fundraising complaints would be reported to the Trust Board.

For trips that occur during the school day, parents are requested to make a voluntary donation towards the costs of the trip. Parents are made aware that there is no obligation to contribute and no student will be omitted from the trip if their parents do not contribute, but the trip may not take place if sufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.

The Trust does not work with any third-party commercial participators or professional fundraisers to raise funds. There have been no fundraising complaints during 2020/21.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data	2020/2021	2019/2020
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	6,568,606	5,568,995
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	652.772	514.594
Oil consumption (kerosene)	51.456	5.805
Oil consumption (gas oil)	124.811	122.762
Oil consumption (propane)	0.423	1.409
LPG consumption	13.843	17.519
Owned transport – mini-buses	20.010	16.359
Total scope 1	863.310	678.458
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	456.770	480.630
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	3.010	13.466
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	1,323.090	1,172.553
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.218	0.211

The Trust has retained its commitment to our sustainability strategy. Our sustainability working groups with representatives from across the Trust successfully maintain a focus on energy saving projects and awareness with staff and students.

The challenge during the past year was the need for classrooms and offices to be well ventilated, with windows and doors open to keep spaces COVID19 secure. This has inevitably resulted in an increase in energy consumption for heating whilst schools were fully open. We are beginning to see the impact of investment in LED lighting, and were pleased to see the reduction in electricity usage.

The Trust has recently been awarded a grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Skills Fund to support us with developing heat decarbonisation plans for all our schools.

The Trust has continued to prioritise projects that will reduce carbon consumption. Examples of projects that are making a difference include:

- LED lighting at St John's for the Sports Hall and external areas
- Water stations for students to fill reusable water bottles
- Continued low levels of travelling and business miles due to the embedded use of remote training and on-line meetings
- Replacement of LPG heating with electric heaters at Burbage
- Upgrade to the Building Management System at Fairfield enabling more efficient energy use
- Investment in electrical infrastructure at John O'Gaunt in preparation for a move away from fossil fuel heating systems.

Plans for Future Periods

We will continue to build on our previous success, with a core focus on ensuring excellence in all we do. We are working closely with Cabot Primary School and expect them to join the Trust during 2021/22.

We have three key aims of educational excellence, valuing and developing our people, and growing sustainably.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

To meet our aim of educational excellence, and ensuring every child receives high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities and fulfils their potential regardless of background or prior attainment we will focus on:

- Improving pupils' writing
- Further developing cross-phase curriculum progression
- Refining our inclusion strategy

To meet our aim of valuing and developing our people, and ensuring every member of the Excalibur family is treated fairly and with respect and is empowered to develop and thrive as an individual and to make a positive difference in the world we will focus on:

- Promoting equalities through delivering on our action plan
- Developing our talent management strategy
- Reviewing our appraisal processes
- Implementing our wellbeing action plans

To meet our aim of growing sustainably, with a relentless focus on improvement and providing the best education to as many children as possible within an organisation committed to environmental sustainability we will:

- Grow our Bristol and Swindon hubs
- Implement our sustainability plan
- Reduce our carbon emissions through school-based action plans

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Trust and its directors do not act as the custodian directors of any other charity.

May Park Primary school hold a staff gift fund for wellbeing purposes, funded by donations from staff; and St Katharine's hold funds for the Marlborough Music Cluster on behalf of local primary schools.

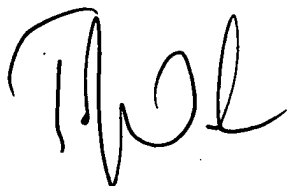
Auditor

Insofar as the directors are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Moore (South) LLP be reappointed as auditor of the academy trust will be put to the members.

The directors' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of directors, as the company directors, on **10 December 2021** and signed on the Board's behalf by:



Toby Watson

Chair

10 December 2021

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As directors we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Excalibur 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 directors have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 agreements between Excalibur Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board of directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The Board of directors has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of directors was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Antwhistle	1	1
E Butler	5	6
J Butler	6	6
S Clarke	6	6
N Edmondson	6	6
A Gould	6	6
K Kelly	4	6
L Lee	6	6
J Longhurst	6	6
A Parry	6	6
N Swan	6	6
C Waldon	6	6
T Watson	6	6

The composition of the Board has remained stable over the past two academic years, although there was a slight change in November 2020 because A Antwhistle resigned.

The Trust Board and its committees have continued to meet online throughout the academic year. COVID-19 dominated school life particularly in the first half of the academic year and this is reflected in the Board's monitoring of its impact on student learning, and staff and student wellbeing. The financial implications of meeting the needs of the Trust's schools communities were a key focus for the Board. A well-being survey of all staff had a high level of participation and informed decisions and targeting of resources. Staff felt their wellbeing is taken seriously. Towards the latter part of the year the impact of catch-up and recovery funds to support academic, mental and emotional recovery has been a key area of focus.

Discussions at Board and Education Scrutiny Committee meetings about educational standards continue to take into account the added pressures of the pandemic. The Board through exception reporting, closely monitors the performance of schools that require additional school improvement support. It

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

continues to be in discussion with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the local authority where admissions policies are adversely impacting the level of admissions for John O'Gaunt. In July, our Significant Change to an Academy request to allow St John's to increase capacity was approved by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

During the last reporting period the Board undertook a self-evaluation using the review framework from the National Governors Association (NGA) and engaging with Local Governing Bodies (LGB) through the Annual Excalibur Governance Conference and the Chairs Forum. A key outcome was the publication in April 2021 of a document called the Framework for Governance that clarified the role of LGBs.

The Scheme of Delegation, reviewed annually, was significantly amended to be consistent with the LGB Framework for Governance.

The Board identified succession planning and widening the diversity of the Board as areas for greater focus and further action. Excalibur joined the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) and it is intended to use the CST Assurance Framework for MAT Governance to drive improvements across the Trust, in particular to support effective engagement from local level to Board.

COVID-19 restrictions meant that it was not feasible to host the Annual Governor Conference in 2020/21; with restrictions lifted the 2021/22 conference was held in October 2021 and was a great success with representatives from all our schools attending and contributing to the conversation on effective governance and how to make a difference

Excalibur has been recognised as one of the most successful MATs in the South West region by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). The Chair & CEO were invited by the RSC to participate in a new Trust to Trust Support Programme to provide mentoring to developing trusts in the Wiltshire & Swindon area and to lead collaborative Learning Sets for Chairs and MAT Leaders.

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the Trust and Board. To better inform decision making and improve understanding directors and governors current level of training in safeguarding was assessed and a new provider chosen. The Board agreed that directors and local governors should be required to undertake training provided by Educare. The Board was briefed about Ofsted's Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges, June 2021. The Board was assured that all schools were addressing this issue and that action was being taken, with a particular focus on peer-on-peer abuse, to support and educate students and staff to prevent such behaviours in our schools.

The Trust has adopted a Sustainability Strategy and action plan to harness the enthusiasm and intent of whole school communities. The Board appointed a lead director on sustainability to ensure it is considered in both our strategic and operational decisions from curriculum to premises. In respect of the latter not only reducing our CO2 emissions but also delivering on value for money by reducing energy costs.

At the heart of the Excalibur Academies Trust is equality of opportunity, fairness and inclusion and we strive to deliver this through everything we do, in the classroom, as an employer and in all aspects of how we operate as a Trust. The killing of George Floyd in April 2021 prompted protests and conversation about racism around the world. The Board has listened to the students and staff receiving a number of reports about how we, as an organisation, are listening and adjusting our behaviours to remove bias and to achieve our aspiration of equality of opportunity, fairness and inclusion.

The Finance, Premise & ICT (FP&I) committee is a committee of the main board of directors. Its primary purpose is to monitor and review the financial health and resources of the Trust to ensure long term viability.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Clarke	4	6
N Edmondson	6	6
A Gould	6	6
A Parry	6	6
N Swan	6	6
T Watson	5	6

The Audit committee is also a committee of the main Board. Its primary purpose is to assist the directors in ensuring that suitable internal financial controls are in place and adhered to; to receive and recommend the Annual Report and Financial Statements to the Board ; oversee the risk management process, including considering the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and ensuring compliance of Health & Safety and GDPR legislation.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Clarke	3	3
A Gould	3	3
A Parry	3	3
C Waldon	2	3

In addition to committee members N Swan attended 3 Audit committee meetings and T Watson attended 1 meeting.

Review of Value for Money

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

The impact of COVID-19 on procurement was lessened in 2020/21 when compared to 2019/20. The Trust continued to work with suppliers, particularly catering suppliers to ensure future provision was not at risk.

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

- Improving educational outcomes
 - The primary focus remains on student achievement and wellbeing – academic standards are high and continuously improving. Safeguarding and the wellbeing of our pupils is paramount, and an awareness of procedures, continuous training and specialist support is available in addition to schools working closely with other providers and local authorities.
 - Prioritising providing a remote learning offer that supported students who were learning from home.
- Robust governance and financial performance
 - Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning, including the use of key performance indicators, is embedded within the schools.
 - All academies are operating within agreed budgets.
 - Officers are held to account through committees of the Board.
 - Clear delegated authority levels are in place and all staff have been trained in the need for best value and financial processes.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

- Maximising income streams
 - Facilities are let to local organisations and clubs in the evening and at weekends. As well as being a being a much-valued community resource, the academies benefit from the letting income.
- Tight fiscal controls
 - The tendering policy ensures that quotes are obtained to ensure we obtain value for money with any major contract or purchase.
 - Academies are required to operate within their available cash resources – preventing school-based deficits building.

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 Excalibur 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 directors has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of directors 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 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 directors.

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 monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of directors
- regular reviews by the Finance, Premises and ICT 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 considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided in 2020/21:

- to undertake a procurement process for a new internal auditor
- to appoint One West to undertake additional procedural checks.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- review of key posts within the Trust
- testing of purchasing, payroll and controls at May Park Primary School
- testing of purchasing, payroll and controls at Fairfield High Schools
- testing the purchasing, payroll and controls at St John's Marlborough
- testing the purchasing, payroll and controls at Nythe Primary School.

During 2020/21, the internal auditors were only able to conduct audits remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown. This approach was successful and it is envisaged that in the future some internal audits will follow this method.

Reports were provided to the audit committee. No material control issues were identified, and all recommendations have been reviewed and implemented if appropriate.

Assurance of Health & Safety compliance is provided by external H&S Advisors and regular H&S self-evaluations using the Trust framework. GDPR compliance has been reviewed using a programme of internal audit conducted by a member of the central team.

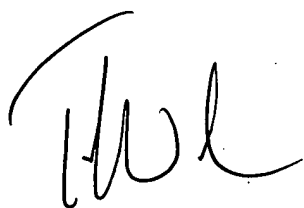
Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, the CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- 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 address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of directors on **10 December 2021** and signed on its behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair



Nicky Edmondson
Accounting Officer

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of Excalibur 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 directors 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 2019.

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.



Nicky Edmondson
Accounting Officer
10 December 2021

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

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

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

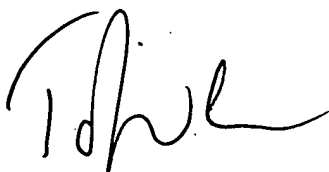
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards 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 company will continue in business

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on **10 December 2021** and signed on its behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Excalibur Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes the directors' report (incorporating the strategic report and the trustees' report) the governance statement and the statement of regularity, propriety and compliance. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the directors' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the directors' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or directors' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of directors

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the accounts due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Academy Trust.

Our approach was as follows:

- The engagement partner selected staff for the audit, led by persons who it was deemed had sufficient experience and who had the required competence and skills to be able to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We assessed the risk of irregularities as part of our audit planning, and ongoing review, including those due to fraud, management override was identified as a significant fraud risk. This is due to the ability to bypass controls through inappropriate expenditure and accounting policies adopted.
- Completeness of income was identified as a significant risk to the audit, as grant income may not be recognised in accordance with the SORP.
- The completeness and valuation of land and buildings in the financial statements is deemed a significant risk due to the material nature of the assets and the judgements required over the control of Diocesan church properties, especially in relation to a newly converted school

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and we considered the most significant to be the Academies Accounts Direction, the Charity SORP, UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Taxation legislation. We considered how the Academy Trust complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Consideration was also made of the internal controls in place to mitigate the identified risks.
- We assessed the control environment, documenting the systems, controls and processes adopted. The audit approach incorporated a combination of controls where appropriate, analytical review and substantive procedures involving tests of transactions and balances. Any irregularities noted were discussed with management and additional corroborative evidence was obtained as required.
- We obtained an understanding and assessed the impact of Covid-19 on the operations of the Academy Trust and adapted our audit approach accordingly. We enquired and obtained evidence to support the going concern assumption and reviewed support received through the Coronavirus support schemes, dovetailed with work undertaken on management override.

To address the risk of fraud through management override we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify any unusual transactions;
- tested items of expenditure to ensure that they were valid and appropriate;
- confirmed monthly management accounts were reviewed by the board;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- reviewed the disclosures within the accounts to ensure they meet the requirements of the accounting standards and relevant legislation.

In response to the risk of irregularities with regards to completeness of income we:

- completed analytical work, to include comparison with prior periods;
- agreed a sample of income from source documentation to the accounting records to ensure that income is complete and recognised in the correct accounting period; and
- reviewed minutes of directors' meetings and confirmed income sources mentioned were included correctly within the accounts.

In response to the risk of material misstatement with regards to valuation and recognition of land and buildings we;

- reviewed the ESFA portal to ensure any new desktop valuations are considered and the appropriateness of the valuations properties currently included at directors' estimate;
- obtained a land registry report, and where applicable the church supplementary agreement, for each of the properties held to agree legal ownership and control;
- reviewed property documents, land registry charges and lease agreements in relation to the conversion of Liden Primary School to understand the control and ownership over the property
- reviewed assumptions used by directors of the valuation of Linden Primary School to deem whether the methodology used was appropriate;

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 academy trust and the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ann Mathias

**Ann Mathias (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore (South) LLP**

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

16 DECEMBER 2021

33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

Excalibur Academies Trust

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

For the year ended 31 August 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 August 2019 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 Excalibur 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 Excalibur Academies Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Excalibur Academies Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Excalibur Academies Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Excalibur Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Excalibur Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 15 February 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Excalibur Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;
- analytical procedures on the general activities of the academy trust;
- a review of minutes of committees and board meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel including the accounting officer and governing body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity;
- substantive testing of individual transactions

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, 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.

Moore (South) LLP
Reporting Accountant
Moore (South) LLP

Dated: *16 December 2021*

Excalibur Academies Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
Including Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	65,289	1,769,313	1,834,602	1,115,310
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	29	-	(239,589)	3,810,367	3,570,778	11,802,425
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational	4	-	34,603,994	-	34,603,994	30,685,716
- Funding for teaching school	28	-	43,125	-	43,125	34,054
Other trading activities	5	1,515,879	49,006	-	1,564,885	1,761,361
Investments	6	1,064	-	-	1,064	5,548
Total		<u>1,516,943</u>	<u>34,521,825</u>	<u>5,579,680</u>	<u>41,618,448</u>	<u>45,404,414</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Grants	9	-	50,982	-	50,982	126,844
- Educational operations	10	1,522,572	34,312,513	2,197,191	38,032,276	34,645,688
- Teaching school	28	-	119,906	-	119,906	93,721
Total	7	<u>1,522,572</u>	<u>34,483,401</u>	<u>2,197,191</u>	<u>38,203,164</u>	<u>34,866,253</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(5,629)	38,424	3,382,489	3,415,284	10,538,161
Transfers between funds	19	-	(295,693)	295,693	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	(2,658,000)	-	(2,658,000)	(906,000)
Change in Reported Value of Assets	14	-	-	(5,836,760)	(5,836,760)	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(5,629)</u>	<u>(2,915,269)</u>	<u>(2,158,578)</u>	<u>(5,079,476)</u>	<u>9,632,161</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		75,762	(9,668,442)	99,264,646	89,671,966	80,039,805
Total funds carried forward		<u>70,133</u>	<u>(12,583,711)</u>	<u>97,106,068</u>	<u>84,592,490</u>	<u>89,671,966</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust
Statement of Financial Activities (Continued)
Including Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2020	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	14,585	55,443	1,045,282	1,115,310
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	29	-	(1,443,656)	13,246,081	11,802,425
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	30,685,716	-	30,685,716
- Funding for teaching school	28	-	34,054	-	34,054
Other trading activities	5	1,723,832	37,529	-	1,761,361
Investments	6	5,548	-	-	5,548
Total		1,743,965	29,369,086	14,291,363	45,404,414
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Grants	9	-	63,422	63,422	126,844
- Educational operations	10	1,724,288	30,913,300	2,008,100	34,645,688
- Teaching school	28	-	93,721	-	93,721
Total	7	1,724,288	31,070,443	2,071,522	34,866,253
Net income/(expenditure)		19,677	(1,701,357)	12,219,841	10,538,161
Transfers between funds	19	-	(368,567)	368,567	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	(906,000)	-	(906,000)
Net movement in funds		19,677	(2,975,924)	12,588,408	9,632,161
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		56,085	(6,692,518)	86,676,238	80,039,805
Total funds carried forward		75,762	(9,668,442)	99,264,646	89,671,966

Excalibur Academies Trust

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	95,576,712	98,407,907
Current assets			
Debtors	15	1,204,524	1,029,560
Cash at bank and in hand		7,182,779	5,608,792
		8,387,303	6,638,352
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,974,621)	(3,274,236)
Net current assets		5,412,682	3,364,116
Total assets less current liabilities		100,989,394	101,772,023
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(629,904)	(783,057)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability		100,359,490	100,988,966
Defined benefit pension scheme	21	(15,767,000)	(11,317,000)
Total net assets		84,592,490	89,671,966
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	19		
- Fixed asset funds		97,106,068	99,264,646
- Restricted income funds		3,183,289	1,648,558
- Pension reserve		(15,767,000)	(11,317,000)
Total restricted funds		84,522,357	89,596,204
Unrestricted income funds	19	70,133	75,762
Total funds		84,592,490	89,671,966

The accounts on pages 36 to 72 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 10 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair

Company Number 08146633

Excalibur Academies Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating	22	1,176,898	1,854,851
Cash funds transferred on conversion		187,614	274,263
		<u>1,364,512</u>	<u>2,129,114</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		1,064	5,548
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,182,641	913,130
Capital funding received from sponsors and		279,572	132,152
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,095,656)	(1,382,575)
		<u>367,621</u>	<u>(331,745)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
New long term bank loan		(33,173)	-
Repayment of long term bank loan		(100,246)	(204,155)
Repayment of other loan		(16,025)	(37,616)
Finance costs		(8,702)	(9,214)
		<u>(158,146)</u>	<u>(250,985)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,573,987	1,546,384
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the		<u>5,608,792</u>	<u>4,062,408</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the		<u>7,182,779</u>	<u>5,608,792</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

I Accounting policies

Excalibur Academies Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 4 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Directors' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the 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.

1.2 Going concern

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

The Trust board has considered a number of factors in reaching its conclusion and these are set out in the Director's Report in the going concern statement.

1.3 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.

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

I Accounting policies (continued)

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

Donations

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

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 accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

Transfer of assets on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred on conversion is recognised within donations and capital grant income. See the basis of valuation of land and buildings in the critical accounting estimates and assumptions in note 2.

Transfer of assets from existing academies

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred is recognised within donations and capital grant income.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

I Accounting policies (continued)

I.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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.

I.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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 required continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Land and buildings	50 years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated until asset has been brought into use
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	9 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

I Accounting policies (continued)

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

1.6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the 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.

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

The only financial instruments held by the school are debtors and creditors. These are categorised as "basic" in accordance with section 11 of FRS 102 and are initially recorded at transaction price. These are subsequently measured at their transaction price less any impairment.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

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

1.9 Taxation

The 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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

I Accounting policies (continued)

I.10 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 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. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

I.11 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 directors.

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, 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.

On conversion to an academy trust, the assets and liabilities of the School are measured at fair value. This includes any buildings. The valuation of the buildings involves a significant degree of estimation, refer to note 14 for further detail of this estimation. The trust policy has been to adopt the ESFA desktop valuations for the land and buildings introduced. In absence of an ESFA valuation then the directors make an educated estimate based on the price per square metre of educational property in the local area. Once the ESFA valuation has been received that valuation is adopted and amended as a prior year adjustment.

Critical areas of judgement

On conversion to an academy trust and transfer of an existing academy trust, the asset and liabilities of the Trust are measured at fair value. This includes any land and buildings. The valuation of the land and buildings involves a significant degree of estimation refer to note 14 for further detail of this estimation.

The value of the donation of occupying Diocese property rent free has also been considered. A notional rental value has not been included as it cannot be reliably measured.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Capital grants	-	1,441,016	1,441,016	973,130
ESFA donated assets	-	307,100	307,100	21,600
Other donations	-	86,486	86,486	120,580
	-	1,834,602	1,834,602	1,115,310

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	29,276,080	29,276,080	26,235,973
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
UIFSM	-	198,541	198,541	206,221
Pupil premium	-	1,358,478	1,358,478	1,276,391
Teacher pay grant	-	369,184	369,184	337,872
Teacher pension grant	-	1,080,969	1,080,969	1,015,696
Others	-	313,256	313,256	291,236
	-	32,596,508	32,596,508	29,363,389
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,371,209	1,371,209	1,283,858
Other government grants	-	10,072	10,072	15,650
	-	1,381,281	1,381,281	1,299,508
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Catch-up premium	-	432,040	432,040	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	153,204	153,204	-
Non-DfE/ESFA				
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	11,093	11,093	22,819
Other COVID-19 funding	-	29,868	29,868	-
	-	626,205	626,205	22,819
Teaching School	-	43,125	43,125	34,054
Total funding	-	34,647,119	34,647,119	30,719,770

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations (continued)

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department for Education and ESFA, the academy trust's funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals, Teacher Pay and Pension grants and Pupil Premium is no longer reported under the Other DfE group grants heading, but as separate lines under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

- The academy trust received £432,040 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £331,509, with the remaining £100,471 to be spent in 2021/22.
- The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £9,148 of cleaning and additional health and safety costs. These costs are included in notes 7 and 10 below as appropriate.
- The academy trust furloughed some of its after school staff under the government's Coronavirus job retention scheme. The funding received of £11,093 relates to staff costs in respect of 3 staff, which are included within note 11 below as appropriate.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hire of facilities	137,539	-	137,539	211,082
Catering income	560,436	-	560,436	601,411
Parental contributions	191,805	-	191,805	391,516
Teaching School	-	49,006	49,006	37,529
Other income	626,099	-	626,099	519,823
	<u>1,515,879</u>	<u>49,006</u>	<u>1,564,885</u>	<u>1,761,361</u>

Parental contributions are for trips, activities, exams re-marks and educational resources.

Other income includes income from other schools, income from trading activities, insurance claim income and nursery fee income.

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Other investment income	<u>1,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,064</u>	<u>5,548</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	19,467,392	2,197,191	2,451,051	24,115,634	22,455,175
- Allocated support costs	9,390,129	2,422,404	2,104,109	13,916,642	12,190,513
Grants - support costs	-	50,982	-	50,982	126,844
Teaching school					
- Direct costs	76,837	-	6,241	83,078	53,268
- Allocated support costs	36,228	-	600	36,828	40,453
	<u>28,970,586</u>	<u>4,670,577</u>	<u>4,562,001</u>	<u>38,203,164</u>	<u>34,866,253</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to statutory auditor for:		
- Audit	20,000	18,900
- Other services	8,250	8,250
- Internal scrutiny	-	3,050
- Consultancy	1,250	-
Operating lease rentals	108,830	123,720
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,182,207	2,071,522
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	14,984	-
Bank and loan interest	8,702	9,214
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	<u>198,000</u>	<u>164,000</u>

8 Central services

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

- School and Education Support
- Governance Support
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Premises Management

The trust charges all schools 4.5% of GAG income.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

8 Central services (continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Excalibur Academies Trust	-	-
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	20,028	18,675
Oare CofE Primary School	14,448	13,913
Fairfield High School	264,124	256,157
Burbage Primary School	21,265	22,277
Easton Royal Academy	14,041	15,190
St John's Marlborough	365,173	350,000
John O'Gaunt School	98,023	92,242
St Katharine's CofE Primary School	19,320	18,731
Great Bedwyn CofE School	34,425	33,015
Lambourn CofE Primary School	34,498	33,284
The Wren School	238,059	192,496
May Park Primary School	100,668	121,716
Nythe Primary School	34,526	18,850
Liden Academy	37,100	-
	<u>1,295,698</u>	<u>1,186,546</u>

9 Analysis of grant expenditure

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Improvements to Diocesan property occupied by the academy trust		50,982	50,982	126,844

Maintenance of premises and equipment includes the following costs relating to improvements to Diocesan property:

- St Katharine's CofE Primary School - £4,236 installation of new radiators
- Ogbourne CofE Primary School - £25,057 installation of fencing, toilet refurbishment and LED lights
- Lambourn CofE Primary School - £7,616 installation of LED lights
- Great Bedwyn CofE Primary School - £13,983 RGC build costs

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

10 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	1,522,572	22,593,062	24,115,634	22,455,175
Teaching school	-	83,078	83,078	53,268
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	13,967,624	13,967,624	12,317,357
Teaching school	-	36,828	36,828	40,453
	<u>1,522,572</u>	<u>36,680,592</u>	<u>38,203,164</u>	<u>34,866,253</u>

Analysis of costs	Teaching school £	Educational operations £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	76,837	19,469,923	19,546,760	17,913,371
Staff development	1,300	84,789	86,089	90,557
Depreciation	-	2,197,191	2,197,191	2,071,522
Technology costs	100	267,874	267,974	286,526
Educational supplies and services	-	707,579	707,579	603,942
Examination fees	-	272,054	272,054	285,539
Educational consultancy	3,236	645,399	648,635	579,317
Other direct costs	1,605	470,825	472,430	677,669
	<u>83,078</u>	<u>24,115,634</u>	<u>24,198,712</u>	<u>22,508,443</u>
Support costs				
Support staff costs	36,228	9,390,129	9,426,357	8,224,426
Technology costs	-	331,825	331,825	276,689
Recruitment and support	-	50,696	50,696	58,291
Maintenance of premises and	-	1,187,718	1,187,718	1,095,956
Cleaning	-	457,226	457,226	370,486
Energy costs	-	435,218	435,218	424,129
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	-	287,578	287,578	266,230
Insurance	-	105,646	105,646	99,666
Security and transport	-	123,661	123,661	179,341
Catering	503	1,082,790	1,083,293	978,793
Finance costs	-	206,702	206,702	173,214
Legal costs - conversion	-	9,500	9,500	6,615
Legal costs - other	-	102,932	102,932	83,534
Other support costs	97	161,175	161,272	87,444
Governance costs	-	34,828	34,828	32,996
	<u>36,828</u>	<u>13,967,624</u>	<u>14,004,452</u>	<u>12,357,810</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

II Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	20,601,863	18,532,970
Social security costs	1,950,315	1,820,661
Pension costs	5,881,548	5,321,495
Staff costs - employees	28,433,726	25,675,126
Agency staff costs	532,160	404,874
Staff restructuring costs	4,700	52,633
	28,970,586	26,132,633
Staff development and other staff costs	88,620	95,721
Total staff expenditure	29,059,206	26,228,354
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Settlement payments	4,700	52,633
	4,700	52,633

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	367	365
Administration and support	530	457
Management	18	17
	915	839

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	326	310
Administration and support	266	256
Management	17	15
	609	581

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

11 Staff (continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	19	12
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£80,001 - £90,000	2	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	2
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,705,132 (2020: £1,416,898).

12 Directors' remuneration and expenses

The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of CEO, and not in respect of their services as a director. Other directors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as directors. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £613 (2020: £1,951) were reimbursed to 1 director (2020: 1 director).

The value of directors' remuneration was as follows:

Nicola Edmondson (CEO)

Remuneration £120,000 - £125,000 (2020: £115,000 - £120,000)

Employer's pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2020: £25,000 - £30,000)

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

13 Directors' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. 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. The Department for Education's RPA scheme provides unlimited professional indemnity cover.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 September 2020	102,429,310	320,931	1,326,887	2,375,375	46,641	106,499,144
Transfer on conversion	3,800,000	-	-	-	-	3,800,000
Reclassification	337,735	(337,735)	-	-	-	-
Additions	82,477	379,246	687,261	253,772	-	1,402,756
Change in Reported Value of Assets	(5,932,205)	-	-	-	-	(5,932,205)
Disposals	(16,649)	-	-	-	-	(16,649)
At 31 August 2021	100,700,668	362,442	2,014,148	2,629,147	46,641	105,753,046
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2020	6,411,016	-	568,799	1,065,441	45,981	8,091,237
Change in Reported Value of Assets	(95,445)	-	-	-	-	(95,445)
On disposals	(1,665)	-	-	-	-	(1,665)
Charge for the year	1,493,503	-	373,617	314,427	660	2,182,207
At 31 August 2021	7,807,409	-	942,416	1,379,868	46,641	10,176,334
Net book value						
At 31 August 2021	92,893,259	362,442	1,071,732	1,249,279	-	95,576,712
At 31 August 2020	96,018,294	320,931	758,088	1,309,934	660	98,407,907

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

14 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

The St John's Marlborough land and buildings were valued on the depreciated replacement cost method in an exercise undertaken by the ESFA as at the 31 March 2013. The total site land at St John's Marlborough was valued at £8,873,000 and the buildings at £20,347,000. At St John's Marlborough the buildings and the land in which it occupies are owned by St John's Foundation Trust Marlborough and leased to the multi academy trust on a peppercorn basis. The remaining site is owned by Excalibur Academies Trust as a freehold. The land valuation was split between leasehold and freehold based on the proportion of land area, the leasehold element is valued at £1,420,000 and the freehold element is valued at £7,453,000. In 2016 St John's Marlborough completed the build of a sixth form on the freehold land which has been included at cost of construction of £1,194,855 and the corresponding project management fees of £28,350. There is an asset in construction this year amounting to £362,442 as at the year end in relation to the construction of sports facilities at St John's Marlborough.

Easton Royal Primary School land and buildings were valued on the depreciated replacement cost method in an exercise undertaken by the ESFA as at the 31 March 2013. The land was valued at £483,000 and the building was valued £789,000 by the ESFA.

An ESFA valuation was obtained as at 31 March 2014 for Burbage Primary School, the land was valued at £303,000 and the buildings were valued at £966,000. Burbage Primary School lease was effective from 1 June 2018, the new lease agreement includes the land from the nursery which was transferred from the council. The original lease was surrendered on 1 June 2018. The new lease was agreed with Wiltshire Council for a term of 125 years.

The Fairfield High School land and building were valued based on an ESFA valuation obtained as at 1 September 2019 and valued the buildings at £13,270,000 and land at £3,820,000. The asset in construction had been finalised this year and transferred to the land and building cost, the total project amounted to £337,735. The project related to construction and refurbishment of classrooms.

The John O'Gaunt School land and building were valued based on an ESFA valuation obtained as at 1 September 2019 and valued the buildings at £2,715,000 and land at £1,520,000.

Great Bedwyn CofE School playing field land was gifted from Wiltshire County Council on 1 April 2018 under a 125 year lease. The value brought into the financial statements was based on the price of education property per student in the local area in the absence of ESFA valuation. The land was valued at £301,528.

Land and buildings at The Wren School were transferred into the Trust on 1 February 2019 at net book value. The land had previously been valued at the ESFA valuation of the purchase price and the buildings had been valued at construction cost.

Nythe Primary School and May Park Primary School were introduced at directors' valuation based on the price of education property per square metre in the local area in the absence of ESFA valuation. During the year the ESFA desktop valuations were received and the properties were revalued. Nythe Primary School's building is valued at £725,000 and the land is valued at £885,000. May Park Primary School's building is valued at £3,625,000 and the land is valued at £1,940,000.

Liden Academy was introduced at directors' valuation based on the price of education property per square metre in the local area in the absence of an ESFA valuation. The building was valued at £1,300,000 and land was valued at £2,500,000. The academy's land and building is under a 125 year lease with Swindon Borough Council.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

15 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	75,695	21,707
VAT recoverable	251,069	245,803
Accrued income	521,057	386,794
Prepayments	356,703	375,256
	<u>1,204,524</u>	<u>1,029,560</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Government loans	167,968	164,261
Other loans	26,283	26,281
Trade creditors	951,873	1,087,694
Other taxation and social security	501,723	434,643
ESFA creditors - abatement of GAG	96,090	-
Other creditors	516,879	483,980
Deferred income	320,992	355,483
Accruals	392,813	721,894
	<u>2,974,621</u>	<u>3,274,236</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Government loans	573,809	710,935
Other loans	56,095	72,122
	<u>629,904</u>	<u>783,057</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysis of loans		
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	17,136	49,114
Wholly repayable within five years	807,019	924,485
	<u>824,155</u>	<u>973,599</u>
Less: included in current liabilities	(194,251)	(190,542)
	<u>629,904</u>	<u>783,057</u>
 Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	194,251	190,542
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	185,411	181,528
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	427,357	552,414
Due in more than five years	17,136	49,114
	<u>824,155</u>	<u>973,598</u>

Included within the government loans is a balance of £534,309 from the ESFA on the following terms: £123,302 was repaid during 2020/21, followed by 4 annual instalments of £123,302 from 2021/22 to 2024/25, with a final payment of £41,101 to be made in 2025/26.

Also within the government loans is a balance of £176,625 from Wiltshire Council repayments of £47,551 are to be made annually until 2024. Interest is charged of 3.03% with interest recognised during 2021/22 of £6,593.

The other loan balance includes £10,254 from St Johns Foundation Trust. A balancing payment of £10,254 is due in 2021/22, interest is charged on the loan of 1%.

All the above loans relate to agreements prior to the conversion of St John's School & Community College on 1 September 2012.

Two new loans have been introduced during the year, both Liden Academy and Nythe Primary School converted with loan balances payable to Swindon Borough Council, the balance on conversion amounted to £21,479 and £11,693 respectively. These loan balances are to be repaid over 20 years from borrowing in 2010. Annual repayments of £2,445 and £1,331 will be made respectively. Interest will be charged at 4.93% for both loans. The final repayment will be made in the year ending 31 August 2031.

Finally, within the other loans balance is £72,122 from Salix Finance Ltd to be repaid in half yearly instalments of £8,014 from March 2020 to September 2025.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

18 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	320,992	355,483
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	355,483	306,163
Released from previous years	(355,483)	(306,163)
Resources deferred in the year	320,992	355,483
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	320,992	355,483
Deferred income relates to the following:	£	
Trips relating to 2021/22	54,682	
Free School Meals Grant (UFSM)	131,247	
Rates Grant rebate	69,976	
Fairfield Elmfield Occupation	23,325	
Other	41,762	
Total	320,992	

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted general					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,299,410	29,276,080	(27,520,857)	(466,546)	3,588,087
UIFSM	-	198,541	(198,541)	-	-
Pupil premium	22,408	1,358,478	(1,347,083)	-	33,803
Catch-up premium	-	432,040	(331,569)	-	100,471
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	153,204	(153,204)	-	-
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	11,093	(11,093)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	29,868	(29,868)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	167,239	1,763,409	(1,796,342)	3,125	137,431
Other government grants	5,044	1,381,281	(1,374,225)	-	12,100
Teaching school	30,900	92,131	(119,906)	(3,125)	-
Other restricted funds - loans	(885,448)	-	(6,593)	170,853	(721,188)
Other restricted funds	9,005	203,700	(180,120)	-	32,585
Pension reserve	(11,317,000)	(378,000)	(1,414,000)	(2,658,000)	(15,767,000)
	<u>(9,668,442)</u>	<u>34,521,825</u>	<u>(34,483,401)</u>	<u>(2,953,693)</u>	<u>(12,583,711)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	13,188,163	3,810,367	-	(16,998,530)	-
DfE group capital grants	85,965,256	1,748,116	(2,197,191)	11,505,253	97,021,434
Capital donations	111,227	21,197	-	(47,790)	84,634
	<u>99,264,646</u>	<u>5,579,680</u>	<u>(2,197,191)</u>	<u>(5,541,067)</u>	<u>97,106,068</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>89,596,204</u>	<u>40,101,505</u>	<u>(36,680,592)</u>	<u>(8,494,760)</u>	<u>84,522,357</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>75,762</u>	<u>1,516,943</u>	<u>(1,522,572)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,133</u>
Total funds	<u>89,671,966</u>	<u>41,618,448</u>	<u>(38,203,164)</u>	<u>(8,494,760)</u>	<u>84,592,490</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted General Funds are those which are supplied for a specific duty and the funds spent only in accordance with the agreement or restriction placed upon each. Prior to conversion to academy status St John's School & Community College had an agreed licensed deficit with Wiltshire Council of £1.4 million. At conversion there was an agreed undertaking with the ESFA for this to continue. This has been reduced year on year with payments made to the Wiltshire Council and St John's Foundation Trust.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds are those which have been capitalised as a result of a donation from the original school on conversion to an academy or assets purchased from one of the other funds since gaining academy status and transferred.

Unrestricted Funds are all other sources of income generated by the academy through trading or fundraising and to which no restrictions apply regarding the way they are spent.

A transfer has been made between Restricted General Funds and Restricted Fixed Asset Funds to fund capital additions in excess of capital income received.

Excalibur Academies Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
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 £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,562,714	26,235,973	(24,888,755)	(610,522)	2,299,410
UIFSM	-	206,221	(206,221)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,276,391	(1,253,983)	-	22,408
Other DfE/ESFA grants	183,126	1,644,804	(1,660,691)	-	167,239
Other government grants	169,708	1,322,327	(1,486,991)	-	5,044
Teaching school	53,038	71,583	(93,721)	-	30,900
Other restricted funds - loans	(1,119,207)	-	(8,196)	241,955	(885,448)
Other restricted funds	31,103	271,787	(293,885)	-	9,005
Pension reserve	(7,573,000)	(1,660,000)	(1,178,000)	(906,000)	(11,317,000)
	<u>(6,692,518)</u>	<u>29,369,086</u>	<u>(31,070,443)</u>	<u>(1,274,567)</u>	<u>(9,668,442)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	-	13,246,081	-	(57,918)	13,188,163
DfE group capital grants	86,583,468	994,730	(2,071,522)	458,580	85,965,256
Capital donations	92,770	50,552	-	(32,095)	111,227
	<u>86,676,238</u>	<u>14,291,363</u>	<u>(2,071,522)</u>	<u>368,567</u>	<u>99,264,646</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>79,983,720</u>	<u>43,660,449</u>	<u>(33,141,965)</u>	<u>(906,000)</u>	<u>89,596,204</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>56,085</u>	<u>1,743,965</u>	<u>(1,724,288)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,762</u>
Total funds	<u>80,039,805</u>	<u>45,404,414</u>	<u>(34,866,253)</u>	<u>(906,000)</u>	<u>89,671,966</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:		
Excalibur Academies Trust	294,825	233,897
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	127,782	101,302
Oare CofE Primary School	12,478	39,391
Fairfield High School	1,118,076	826,131
Burbage Primary School	9,576	54,941
Easton Royal Academy	25,600	33,632
St John's Marlborough	296,752	(350,617)
John O'Gaunt School	(143,448)	(23,482)
St Katharine's CofE Primary School	36,163	37,194
Great Bedwyn CofE School	106,893	52,221
Lambourn CofE Primary School	159,873	141,435
The Wren School	739,034	186,541
May Park Primary School	152,574	239,595
Nythe Primary School	264,954	152,139
Liden Academy	52,290	-
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	3,253,422	1,724,320
Restricted fixed asset fund	97,106,068	99,264,646
Pension reserve	(15,767,000)	(11,317,000)
Total funds	84,592,490	89,671,966

John O'Gaunt is a sponsored academy and the Trust has an agreed programme of school improvement, including seconding experienced leaders and teacher to the school. The reputation of John O'Gaunt is improving, and pupil numbers are increasing. The admissions behaviours of local schools have continued to be a concern and the Trust continues to be in conversation with the DfE and Local Authority regarding this. At the end of the academic year John O'Gaunt school is in deficit, although the deficit was less than expected. The Board have agreed financial support for John O'Gaunt for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Excalibur Academies Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

19 Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Excalibur Academies Trust	589,160	457,323	20,186	301,556	1,368,225	1,359,159
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	299,968	72,401	37,560	77,176	487,105	458,822
Oare CofE Primary School	210,860	100,010	34,322	62,048	407,240	392,225
Fairfield High School	3,511,873	1,682,063	567,561	764,045	6,525,542	6,076,502
Burbage Primary School	335,126	212,531	44,006	98,445	690,108	616,303
Easton Royal Academy	177,273	107,519	29,333	44,278	358,403	397,072
St John's Marlborough	5,613,045	1,819,799	704,844	1,019,145	9,156,833	9,100,974
John O'Gaunt School	1,543,844	535,468	155,860	368,924	2,604,096	2,442,886
St Katharine's CofE Primary School	279,069	108,587	44,813	70,483	502,952	490,322
Great Bedwyn CofE School	511,321	235,269	50,835	145,474	942,899	957,113
Lambourn CofE Primary School	492,049	396,817	64,895	112,014	1,065,775	1,017,636
The Wren School	3,319,266	880,802	401,147	694,643	5,295,858	4,662,502
May Park Primary School	1,675,227	896,472	82,903	359,900	3,014,502	3,109,408
Nythe Primary School	509,309	246,038	56,687	118,395	930,429	535,808
Liden Academy	565,457	459,256	73,721	143,568	1,242,002	-
	<u>19,632,847</u>	<u>8,210,355</u>	<u>2,368,673</u>	<u>4,380,094</u>	<u>34,591,96</u>	<u>31,616,73</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	95,576,712	95,576,712
Current assets	70,133	6,715,692	1,601,478	8,387,303
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(2,958,594)	(16,027)	(2,974,621)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(573,809)	(56,095)	(629,904)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(15,767,000)	-	(15,767,000)
Total net assets	70,133	(12,583,711)	97,106,068	84,592,490

	Unrestricted Funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	98,407,907	98,407,907
Current assets	75,762	5,617,702	944,888	6,638,352
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(3,258,209)	(16,027)	(3,274,236)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(710,935)	(72,122)	(783,057)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(11,317,000)	-	(11,317,000)
Total net assets	75,762	(9,668,442)	99,264,646	89,671,966

21 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. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £530,282 (2020: £485,834) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 and are included within creditors.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The TPS valuation for 2016 determined an employer rate of 23.68%, which is payable from September 2019. The next valuation of the TPS will be at March 2020 and will be based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2023.

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £3,243,715 (2020: £3,024,315)

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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years for employers are disclosed below and for employees are between 5.5 - 12.5%. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £720,000 (2020: £589,000) for the Wiltshire Scheme, £426,000 (2020: £406,000) for the Avon Scheme and £272,000 (2020: £228,000) for the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund.

The Academy has agreed to pay the default contributions rates using contribution rate relief, these future rates are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Employer Contribution Rate</u>
Wiltshire Pension Fund	
2021/22	27.5%
Avon Pension Fund	
2021/22	18%
Royal County of Berkshire Fund	
2021/22	20.6%

As described in note 29 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Total contributions made	2021	2020
	£	£
Employer's contributions	1,409,000	1,229,000
Employees' contributions	337,000	294,000
Total contributions	1,746,000	1,523,000

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.30 - 4.05	2.6 - 3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65 - 2.90	2.2 - 2.4
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65 - 1.75	1.7 - 1.8

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.3	22.6
- Females	14.7	25.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.6	22.9
- Females	26.4	25.4

Changes in assumption at 31 August 2021

	Approximate % increase in employer liability	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
Wiltshire Pension Fund		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	345
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	623
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	20
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	2%	320
Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate		147
1 year increase in member life expectancy		207
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate		10
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate		135
Avon Pension Fund		
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate		247
1 year increase in member life expectancy		318
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate		30
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate		247

Excalibur Academies Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability	2021	2020
	£	£
Scheme assets	15,230,000	11,300,000
Scheme obligations	(30,997,000)	(22,617,000)
Net liability	<u>(15,767,000)</u>	<u>(11,317,000)</u>
The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2021	2020
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	8,042,700	6,050,840
Bonds	4,199,020	2,768,480
Cash	199,940	211,000
Other	1,269,000	968,000
Property	1,519,340	1,301,680
Total market value of assets	<u>15,230,000</u>	<u>11,300,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,684,000 (2020: £(99,000)).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Current service cost	1,216,000	1,014,000
Past service cost	-	1,000
Interest income	(214,000)	(194,000)
Interest cost	412,000	358,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	-	(1,000)
Total operating charge	<u>1,414,000</u>	<u>1,178,000</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2021 £
At 1 September 2020	22,617,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	1,059,000
Current service cost	2,613,000
Interest cost	412,000
Employee contributions	337,000
Actuarial loss	4,140,000
Benefits paid	(181,000)
At 31 August 2021	<u>30,997,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2021 £
At 1 September 2020	11,300,000
Assets acquired on conversion	681,000
Interest income	202,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	1,482,000
Employer contributions	1,409,000
Employee contributions	337,000
Benefits paid	(181,000)
At 31 August 2021	<u>15,230,000</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	3,415,284	10,538,161
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion to academy	(3,570,778)	(11,802,425)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,769,313)	(1,045,282)
Investment income receivable	(1,064)	(5,548)
Finance costs payable	8,702	9,214
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	1,216,000	1,014,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	198,000	164,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,182,207	2,071,522
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	14,984	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(174,964)	294,358
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(303,324)	616,851
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	(38,836)	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,176,898	1,854,851

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020	Cash flows	31 August 2021
	£	£	£
Cash	5,608,792	1,573,987	7,182,779
Loans falling due within one year	(190,542)	(3,709)	(194,251)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(783,057)	153,153	(629,904)
	4,635,193	1,723,431	6,358,624

24 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:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	86,362	86,080
Amounts due in two and five years	119,912	104,102
	206,274	190,182

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

25 Capital commitments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	1,583,095	35,623

Capital commitments of £1,583,095 are in relation to construction of the sports facility at St John's Marlborough. This will be part funded by section 106 grant from Wiltshire Council where up to £1,000,000 has been made available and a capital donation from St John's Foundation Trust Marlborough which have committed up to £400,000 to be made available from 1 September 2021. (2020: Capital commitments of £35,623 were in relation to construction of an Annex at Fairfield High School.)

26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of directors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the directors have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure related party transaction

SALED Ltd provide services to the trust. This company is controlled by the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education and provided services related to the training of staff, trustees and governors, SIAMS inspections and annual partnership service agreement subscriptions. The Salisbury Diocese Board of Education is a related party of the Trust due to its power to appoint a corporate member and approve the appointment of Foundation Directors. The total services invoiced in the period were £3,510 (2020: £930). There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

Callia Web Ltd have provided website creation and hosting services to St Katharine's School during the year. The wife of a Local Governor at St Katharine's School is a Director of Callia Web Ltd. The total services invoiced in the period were £642 (2020: £642). There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

In entering into these transactions, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

There were no other related party transactions.

27 Members' liability

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

28 Teaching school trading account

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Direct income				
Other income		43,125		34,054
Other income				
Fundraising and other trading activities		49,006		37,529
Direct costs				
Direct staff costs	76,837		42,046	
Technology costs	100		100	
Educational supplies and services	-		278	
Staff development	1,300		2,615	
Educational consultancy	3,236		7,727	
Other direct costs	1,605		502	
	<u>83,078</u>		<u>53,268</u>	
Other costs				
Support staff costs	36,228		39,669	
Technology costs	-		45	
Transport	-		84	
Catering	503		655	
Other support costs	97		-	
	<u>36,828</u>		<u>40,453</u>	
Total operating costs		(119,906)		(93,721)
Transfers between funds excluding depreciation		(3,125)		-
Deficit from teaching school		<u>(30,900)</u>		<u>(22,138)</u>
Teaching school balances at 1 September 2020		<u>30,900</u>		<u>53,038</u>
Teaching school balances at 31 August 2021		<u>-</u>		<u>30,900</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

29 Conversion to an academy

On 01 February 2021 the Liden Primary and Nursery School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Excalibur Academies Trust from the Swindon Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

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.

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
Liden Academy	Swindon	1 February 2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2021
	£	General	Fixed	£
Net assets transferred:				
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	3,800,000	3,800,000
Cash	-	159,890	10,367	170,257
Borrowing obligations	-	(21,479)	-	(21,479)
Pension scheme deficit	-	(378,000)	-	(378,000)
	-	(222,232)	3,810,367	3,570,778
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2021
	£	General	Fixed	£
Funds surplus/(deficit)				
Fixed assets funds	-	-	3,810,367	3,810,367
LA budget funds	-	138,411	-	138,411
LGPS pension funds	-	(378,000)	-	(378,000)
	-	(239,589)	3,810,367	3,570,778

Liden Academy converted with a loan to Swindon Borough council amounting to £21,479 payable over the next ten years in annual instalments of £2,445 and interest charged at 4.93% pa.

The land and buildings which Liden Academy occupy are under a 125 year lease with Swindon Borough Council. The assets were introduced at directors' valuation based on the price of education property per square metre in the local area in the absence of ESFA valuation. The building was valued at £1,300,00 and land was valued at £2,500,000.