

Company Registration No. 08240918 (England and Wales)

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**





SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mr N Solanki (Chairman)
Mr I Tomkin
Rev M Cowling
Ms L Havercroft (resigned January 2020)
Mr J Critchley

Directors

Rev P R Mason (Chairman)
Mr S Bramwell (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)
Mr M Whittle
Mr A Gibbons
Rev M Cowling
Mr P Deakin
Mr M Parkinson
Ms D Vaukins (Resigned 1 October 2020)
Mr R Dean

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	Mr S Bramwell
- Chief Finance Officer	Mrs K Stanford
- Director of Education	Mrs E Peacock
- Deputy Director of Education	Miss R Williams
- HR Lead Officer	Ms L Tait
- Estates Manager	Mr T Johnson
- Business Development Lead	Miss C Derbyshire
- Principal (SS Simon and Jude)	Miss K Jones
- Assistant Principal (SS Simon and Jude)	Mrs J Kelly
- Assistant Principal (SS Simon and Jude)	Mrs J Ashmore
- Principal (Knowsley Lane)	Miss L Rice
- Vice Principal (Knowsley Lane)	Mrs E Dilworth
- Principal (St James)	Mrs G Mangnall
- Vice Principal (St James)	Mrs E Dilworth
- Principal (St Augustine's)	Mrs J Murphy
- Vice Principal (St Augustine's)	Mr M Connolly
- Assistant Principal (St Augustine's)	Mrs M Marsland
- Principal (Gorton)	Miss R Williams
- Principal (St Barnabas)	Mrs C May
- Assistant Principal (St Barnabas)	Mrs C Nelson
- Principal (Willow Tree)	Mrs E Riley
- Assistant Principal (Willow Tree)	Mrs K Williams
- Principal (St Hilda's)	Miss C McCoy
- Assistant Principal (St Hilda's)	Mrs H James
- Principal (St Paul's)	Mrs K Simmons
- Principal (St Paul's)	Ms W Budsworth
- Vice Principal (St Paul's)	Mrs L Stuart

Company registration number

08240918 (England and Wales)

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered office

Newport Road
Great Lever
Bolton
BL3 2DT

Academies operated

Gorton Primary
St Barnabas
Willow Tree
SS Simon and Jude
Knowsley Lane
St James
St Augustines
St Hildas
St Pauls

Location

Manchester
Manchester
Knowsley
Bolton
Knowsley
Manchester
Manchester
Salford

Principal

Miss R Williams
Mrs C May
Mrs E Riley
Miss K Jones
Mrs E Dilworth
Mrs G Mangnall
Mrs J Murphy
Miss C McCoy
Ms W Budsworth

Independent auditor

MHA Moore and Smalley
Richard House
9 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3HP

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The directors present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Multi Academy Trust operates academies for pupils aged 2-11, serving the following catchment areas in Great Lever, Bolton, Huyton in Knowsley and Gorton and Openshaw in Manchester and Salford.

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.

SS Simon and Jude CE Primary School converted to SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust ("The Academy") on 1 November 2012 and opened as a Multi Academy Trust on 1st September 2014. The Academy 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.

The Academy was incorporated on 4 October 2012 and commenced its activities on transfer from the Local Authority on the conversion date stated above.

The governors act as the trustees for the charitable activities of the Academy and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as SS Simon and Jude Multi Academy Trust.

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

Members' liability

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

Directors' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy trust has taken out insurance, however this is under the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) from the ESFA. The academy trust has been advised that this insurance provides unlimited cover for directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance cost relating to directors is not separately identifiable and is included within the total cost for the RPA.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of directors

Trustees (Directors) are directly appointed by the members both to maintain the ethos of the Church led MAT, and to establish the correct skill set to ensure that the trust is compliant with the Academy Financial Handbook. The trustees complete a skills audit through the trust governor website which then highlights areas in which the trustees need to enhance the skills and capacity. The members use a variety of recruitment methods including School Governors One Stop Shop (SGOSS) and Academy Ambassadors to attract the correct skill set through local and national advert.

Parent Representatives are appointed through a nomination and then ballot system, the final decision then lies with the trustees who will appoint. Nominations are asked from both teaching staff and support staff, if there is more than one candidate then a ballot system is used. There are also community representatives that are recommended to the Local Advisory Board (LAB) body from the wider community. All hold a period of office of 4 years then re-election is sought.

The LAB with written consent of the Trustees may agree unanimously to appoint up to 2 additional governors as they think fit and may unanimously in writing agree to remove any such additional governors. Every LAB representative of the Academy Trust shall sign a written consent to become a governor. A governor shall cease to be one immediately on the receipt by the Academy Trust of a notice in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to remove them.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of directors

All governors are provided with copies of the following on appointment:

- Governor Declaration of Eligibility form
- Ethnicity monitoring form
- Register of Business Interests form
- List of education acronyms
- Latest LA Governor Newsletter
- LA Governor Training Programme
- Diocesan Governor Training Programme
- DFE Governors Handbook
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Governing Body Membership List
- Governing Body Code of Conduct
- Committee Structure and Terms of Reference
- Dates of future Meetings and school events
- School Prospectus (available on request via school - if applicable)
- School Improvement/Development Plan (available on request via school)
- School Self-Evaluation Information (available on request via school)
- Latest Ofsted Report (available via the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk)

The Academy Trust is governed by its Trust Board, whose members are Trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustee for the purposes of charity legislation. The organisational structure of the Academy consists of 6 levels:

Members
Trustees
Chief Executive Officer
Lead Officers
The Local Advisory Board
Principal

The Trustees delegate responsibilities to the Local Advisory Board dependent on the level of performance that the Local Advisory Board displays, this may include applying general and curriculum policies, adopting a school development plan for the school and then monitoring the school's performance, appointing junior staff.

The Chief Executive Officer is also the Accounting Officer and has responsibility for overseeing the setting of the budget within the educational priorities of the school

The Senior Leadership Teams within each school are as detailed on page 1.

The SLT controls the academy at a local level, implementing trust policies and those adopted locally by the LAB, reporting back to the Trustees and governors when required. The SLT are responsible for the authorisation of spending within the agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, through appointment panels. For positions within the SLT this always includes a member of the LAB. Some spending and budgetary control is devolved to the senior managers and subject co-ordinators. The limits for all spend are countersigned by the Chief Executive Officer or Principal.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Principal activities

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of schools to provide education for pupils of mixed abilities between the ages of 2 and 11. In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Academies, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the national curriculum.

The Academy Trust's object is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education primarily in the Diocese of Manchester, but otherwise in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing but establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools with a designated Church of England religious character, and others of no religious character, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The schools will be at the heart of the community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community. There will be assessments of pupils' performance as they apply to maintained schools and the opportunity to study for relevant qualifications. There will be an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupils including pupils with special educational needs (SEN), both those with and without statements of SEN.

To provide educational facilities and services to students and the wider community for the public benefit.

To carry out research into the development and application of new techniques in education in particular in relation to the areas of curricular specialisation of the Academy Trust and to its approach to curriculum development and delivery to publish results of such research, and to develop means of benefiting from application of the experience of industry, commerce, other schools and the voluntary sector to the education of pupils in academies.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure is set out in the Memorandum and Articles (M&A) of SS Simon and Jude Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and the aim of the structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. Trustees have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making at all levels. The Trustees also have overall responsibility for strategic planning and setting the Company policies as well as responsibility for all matters relating to finance and personnel.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the LAB fulfil their statutory obligations in a manner which will allow the academy trust to fulfil its aims, ensuring procedures are in place to ensure regularity, propriety and value for money, setting general policies, budget planning and monitoring.

Members and Trustees of the MAT are as detailed on page 1.

The Members then appoint any further Trustees in accordance with the M&A so that the Academy Trust maintains the minimum level of Director appointments. When appointing new Trustees the board will give consideration to the skills and experience of both new and existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute to the MAT's development. The Board of Trustees for the Academy Trust is the overarching Board of Trustees and Governing Body for all the schools within the MAT.

A Local Advisory Board (LAB) for each individual school has been set up post conversion to undertake the day to day running of the school in line with the Scheme of Delegation. The constitution of the LAB is also set out within the M&A and must include:

- A majority of LAB appointed by the MAT Board of Trustees
- At least one member of staff, that being the Principal
- Two elected parent governors

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All the members and the Trustees of the trust are volunteers and receive no direct or indirect payment for their services to the trust. The salary of the CEO is now subject to an annual pay review which occurs in Nov/Dec each year. It is also subject to an annual review of performance conducted by the Performance Management Trustees and facilitated by an independent professional. The outcome of that review is shared with the Trustees.

The CEO salary is based on total pupil numbers within the trust and was established by the Trustees with independent advice from an HR professional.

School principals are subject to a performance management review annually by the CEO, who then takes a recommendation to the Trustees for ratification and they weigh the performance of each school alongside the CEO recommendation and make a determination within the agreed range.

Staff below the level of Principal have annual performance management reviews, the principal then takes pay recommendations to the Local advisory board for each school, who consider the overall performance of the school alongside the Principals recommendation and make a pay determination within the agreed range for each member of staff

For school based staff, pay ranges are determined by the national agreed frameworks for teachers, and a locally agreed framework for officers, the latter agreement agreed with the major unions prior to implementation.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust is considered to be a related party on the grounds that the spouse of Mr S Bramwell, CEO and a director of the trust is the CEO and a director. Details of transactions between the SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust and Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust are detailed in note 25 to the accounts.

Staff governors are only remunerated as members of staff and in accordance with national Pay Scales.

Trade union facility time

The Trust does not have any relevant union officials, but currently contributes to local facilities time arrangements. The Trust has established a JCNC with unions and an independent advisor.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

'Our mission is to support and encourage the work of academies in our Trust through the excellent education of children and young people.'

Our Values are:

- Maintain a strong culture of professional development amongst our teaching staff as the quality of education in our academies can never exceed the quality of its teachers.
- Developing our academies to be centres of excellence with a focus on the social and spiritual nurture and achievement of all their members
- Allowing every person to be an active and valued member of our community and developed in their own spiritual journey
- To develop future and aspirational thinking based on our educational heritage and to make use of the latest research in pedagogy and child development, ensuring that our wider learning environment reflects the high aspirations and expectations we have for ourselves and one another
- To foster, maintain and celebrate individual distinctiveness in our schools
- To ensure our academies have a particular vocation to the least advantaged, to enable them, through education, to change their lives
- Encouraging pupils to be curious about the world around us and see their personal learning and growth as a continuous journey
- Not setting a limit on what is possible for ourselves, for one another, and for our community of schools.

Covid-19

The disruption and uncertainty caused by Covid-19 has dominated the work of the trust over the last eight months and will continue to have a wide-reaching impact on our schools as we move into the new academic year. The many and varied effects of the national situation, in addition to the impact on our community's health and well-being, has meant that we do not have any academic results by which to measure school performance for 2019/20, nor were the school Ofsted inspections, due for at least three of our academies, able to take place.

However, we do anticipate some significant future benefits to arise from this difficult situation, with regard to staff recruitment and retention, the development of our ICT provision and usage, the swift completion of building improvement works, enhanced staff communication, as well as the additional opportunity the period of partial closure provided staff for reflection, evaluation and planning. Covid-19 presented the Trust with a substantial and unanticipated challenge, affecting all departments and, most significantly, creating additional barriers to the effective safeguarding and teaching of our children. Our staff have met this challenge with positivity, common sense and courage, over what has been a very uncertain period, currently with no end in sight.

At the outset, our team of principals and lead officers successfully reacted to the unfolding situation, managing the transition to school closure, caring for keyworker and vulnerable families, later reopening for limited year groups and planning for the opening of whole schools for the 2020/21 school year. Trust leaders have worked ceaselessly to minimise the impact that Covid-19 restrictions might have on strategic plans and are proud to have completed the vast majority of projects, most especially our £4 million buildings development, often with time and expense to spare.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trust has implemented robust plans to address the impact of Covid-19 on staff and pupils, through providing extensive support to leaders personally, and within the Over the Rainbow Recovery Curriculum. We confronted also the reality that significant support would need to be in place to support mental health and well-being, for our employees to feel confident to come back to work and for parents to have the reassurance necessary to return their children to school, knowing that their nurture and support would be our first priority. Indeed, the feedback we have received from leaders has overwhelmingly reflected the clear benefit of belonging to the Vantage family of schools in unprecedented times such as these, when colleagues have been ready to act as a sounding board for new ideas, provide effective discussion and encouragement, as well as reassurance in interpreting the continual stream of new guidance.

We are very proud of the response we have seen across our schools to recent challenges and to see our schools receiving the recognition they deserve through excellent feedback and thanks from parents. In addition, staff at Gorton Primary had a virtual visit from the Mayor to thank them and their colleagues at STB and STJ for all of their hard work. The Mayor showed appreciation for the staff's commitment to providing care for the children of key workers, as well as support for all their families, even working through their bank holidays.

The trust has also enjoyed seeing the ways in which our schools engaged with their local communities through this difficult time and focused their children's activities around collaboration and caring. This can be summarised by a project at St Barnabas, where the children wrote thank you messages and prayers in a rainbow for all passing by, to encourage a moment of reflection. There have been so many fantastic examples of community engagement around the Trust, with schools writing messages to their local care homes to cheer up the residents (and practice their handwriting skills), encouraging outdoor exercise, showcasing collective worship, thanking local NHS staff, and even writing chalk messages on their playgrounds for passing planes! We would like to share with members the words of support to staff offered by our new Trust Patron, Sir John Jones: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbCjdzXryK4&feature=youtu.be>

Objectives, strategies and activities

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the directors have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Creating and maintaining centres of educational excellence

Due to the significant disruption prompted by Covid-19, we do not have any academic results for KS1, KS2 or phonic screeners for the 2019/20 academic year; these assessments did not take place due to school closure and subsequent limited re-opening.

The data table shows school KS2 attainment, as a combined % for reading, writing and maths, up to the 2018/19 academic year:

*2 children should be dis-applied

** Achieved during the support phase

School	2016	2017	2018	2019	Gain 2016-19
St Augustines	17%	47%	73%	48%	+31%
St James	39%	73%	73%	69%	+30%
Knowsley Lane	29%	59%	69%	58%	+29%
SSSJ	52%	57%	57%	74%	+22%
St Barnabas			23%	60%*	+37%
Willow Tree			69%	67%	-2%
St Hilda's			52%	84%**	+32%
St Paul's				37%	N/A
Trust Average	34%	59%	67%	66%	+26%
Nat Average	53%	61%	64%	65%	+12%
Diff Trust v Nat	-19%	-2%	+3%	+1%	+14%

There were some significant achievements within our schools prior to lockdown; for example, KL's Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review, as part of the Aspire Hub, recognised their Early Years provision as an Area of Excellence. External practitioners from the hub's partnership, alongside the school's senior leadership team, conducted the review, which highly praise the school's caring culture, team spirit and positive ethos. Reviewers were especially impressed with the Early Years provision, stating that *'the rate of children's progress is rapid, with a high emphasis on building a strong basis of language development inside and outside... one cannot fail to be impressed by the organisation, diversity, excitement and adaptability of the indoor and outdoor learning environments... Staff value the contribution that parents bring to school and they constantly strive to deepen links with the community.'* See Educate Magazine for the full article: https://issuu.com/educatemagazine/docs/educate_magazine_may_2020

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The focus for schools prior to March, had been effectively implementing a sequential and progressive curriculum, in line with the new Ofsted Framework, benchmarking against other examples of school curriculum plans and supporting leaders to role model this to staff. Of course, following C-19, the emphasis for our schools changed to pupil and staff welfare and access to home learning. During the period of school closure, with the exception of key worker children and vulnerable pupils, all schools in the trust maintained a high level of contact with parents and pupils. This was done via the texting service, calls, and home learning offered through school websites (tailored work was sent to children with EHCPs), with further advice and support signposted through the trust website. Our home learning offer was reviewed consistently, to give parents more access to materials to support learning at home for all age groups, as the situation evolved. This included a structured weekly plan for Maths, English and curriculum activities with supporting hyperlinks to teaching clips. There was also careful consideration to ensure a balance between online learning and activities that could be completed without needing access to an electronic device. Where requested, schools provided printed materials for parents to collect at a safe distance from school.

Learning Mentors for each school were available to support families where needed through weekly phone calls, as safeguarding remained a high priority for each of the schools and any concerns were reported and followed up as per policy. Attendance across the trust varied greatly over the spring and summer terms; during the lock-down period, averages of pupil numbers for key worker/vulnerable ranged from 6 pupils to 18 pupils per school. Since schools opening for certain year groups, uptake for school places increased and all schools welcomed pupils back into 'bubbles' consisting of approximately 9 pupils based on the classroom size, for reception, Y1 and Y6, plus the established 'bubbles' for the key worker/vulnerable pupils. Pupils across the trust settled quickly into the new routines and, overall, parents respect the social distancing rules. For those pupils not accessing school, home learning continued to be provided via the school website.

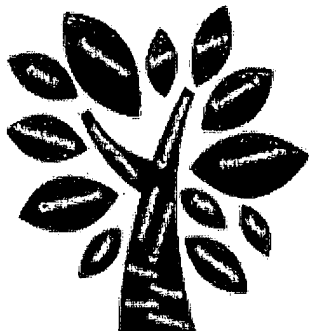
Over the last few weeks of term, staff made further efforts to mark children's achievements over the school year and provide some sense of the usual school celebrations. From socially distanced Sports Days to Year 6 Leavers Assemblies, staff have been creative about providing children with a safe and happy environment to enjoy their last few weeks of school before the summer. A fantastic example of this was St James' staff video, featuring staff singing to the Greatest Showman song, This is Me; despite everything, staff morale has remained high, as you can see by each member of the team filming themselves enthusiastically singing along, to create a wonderful collage of moments for their pupils to enjoy <https://youtu.be/CCMQkIYW17Q>. Schools also went above and beyond in communicating with parents of children who would be new to school in September, setting up online meetings and calls, sending out videos to introduce staff and classrooms, and introducing their Learning Mentors as well as class teachers, to ease transition for children with additional needs.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Aiding Children in their own spiritual journey



The Trust is a Mixed MAT which means that it services both Church based and Community schools. In relation to our church schools they are inspected by the diocese in relation to their religious character and their promotion of the spiritual values they purport. In our community schools this aspect is externally validated by Ofsted.

As a Trust we have not been subject to any SIAMS inspections. STA carries forward a Good SIAMS inspection outcome from its previous incarnation as does St Barnabas.

St James' most recent SIAMS inspectors noted that ***'The exceptional Christian leadership of the principal and her vision for the development of the school ensure that the school's Christian ethos is at the heart of daily life. The school is extremely successful in creating a loving, caring and inclusive Christian environment, which has a direct influence on children's well-being and academic success. Children become increasingly self-assured in their social skills, understanding of faith and appreciation of the diversity of the world around them.'***

KL has been inspected by Ofsted and they concluded that

"The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development very effectively. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain because of the school's emphasis on personal values and building a harmonious community in which everyone demonstrates thoughtfulness and respect. Pupils behave exceptionally well in lessons and around the school. Pupils say they feel completely safe in school and are very well looked after. Exemplary practice ensures that pupils are kept safe.

Knowsley Lane's Challenge Partners Review (2020) pointed out that: ***'When senior leaders talk about 'being a family, they describe it as being open and honest with each other... Team spirit is strong, and the positive ethos echoes the mutual respect that permeates throughout the school.'***

SSSJ	08/02/2017	Outstanding
St James	24/06/2016	Outstanding
St Barnabas	25/09/2015	Good
St Hilda's	14/03/2019	Good
St Augustine's	*Not inspected as new school	Good
St Paul's	*Not inspected as new school	Good

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The common use of the Values Tree, the IPC learning goals and Assemblies based on Christian values encourages pupils to reflect upon and then act upon these tenets. Behaviour and attitude towards others in our schools excels and is something of which the trust are rightly proud.

Each of our church schools is monitored by our Ethos and Ethics Committee to ensure the Christian Principles on which they are founded are adhered to. Clergy assemblies add to this distinctiveness.

SSSJ embarked on a diocesan program in relation to Chaplaincy in 2019 – “Children Changing Places” that involves work with the worship committee each week by external chaplains from the diocese and is currently on hold due to Covid-19, though they have remained in contact through prayers and messages sent via email and hope to resume in the 2021 academic year. Whole school worship has been a priority for our schools this academic year, with great efforts made by leaders to ensure that worship can take place virtually. This is generally happening weekly with the school's vicar/chaplain via Zoom, as well as weekly worship with school principals, streamed in each class; SSSJ are also looking into setting up webcams to enable children to engage with their principal in the same way as they might do in assembly.

We also have witnessed some exceptional examples of our pupil's individual dedication to promoting trust values, most significant of which has been the outstanding efforts of the St James' pupil, Ethan Beardow, who has now raised over £69,000, with his charity walk. Ethan has cerebral palsy and cannot walk unaided, but isn't fazed by the challenge he has taken on, saying on his crowdfunding page: *'My name is Ethan Beardow and I have cerebral palsy. I am 9 years of age and I really would like people to help in raising money for the victims of Covid-19 to pay for their funeral costs, as it's a big expense and quite a lot of their family members are not working at the moment, they can't afford to pay the full costs. I was inspired by Tom Moore, so I would like to try and raise £15,000 if possible by doing 100 25m laps before my 10th birthday, on the 18th of May. This is really going to be a challenge for me as I am a non-walker.'* The funds raised go to the Care Workers Charity, who have agreed to use this money to help the families of care workers with funeral costs. Ethan's impressive challenge appeared in both local and national news: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ethancovid-19funeralwalk>

In early 2020 Songs of Praise came to St Hilda's with children's author Michelle Sloan, who discussed her book about women of the Bible. Michelle introduced the children to her story and how she came to write it, after noticing how many wonderful stories in the Bible celebrated brave and courageous women, but who were not as well known as some other biblical figures. Pupils discussed which biblical women they found inspirational and acted out key elements of their stories together: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p085skvv>

The Trust engages with Aspirational Thinking

The Trust has a number of cross-school hubs operating in English, maths, IPC, leadership, NQTs, Learning Mentors and Early Years, which provide professional networking opportunities for staff and use the latest analysis of performance to offer improvement strategies to the whole trust. The benefit of this is an agreed strategy with a lead professional, including the trialling and then adoption of initiatives based on empirical data.

The CEO is part of the writing and delivery team for Headship and Executive Leader modules of the NPQ qualifications, ensuring that the latest research is placed before candidates. Our IPC lead at SSSJ and our Chief School Improvement Officer have continued to inspect IPC schools globally. Our CSIO has spent time this year cultivating relationships with other trust, visiting both Redkite and Bradford Diocesan trusts for the benefit of our family of schools. Our staff are always willing to help colleagues from other trusts and educational groups, such as agreeing to host Ambition Institute's CEO dinner at Bolton Whites Hotel. Our principal at KL, Linda Lord, has done extensive work with the Challenge Partners group over the last year, gaining recognition for Knowsley Lane's Early Years department as an Area of Excellence and assisting in the assessment of other local schools.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

We would like to note the achievement of several members of staff across the trust, who have completed trust-sponsored qualifications this year as part of their ongoing professional development. We have this year seen six staff complete their middle leadership course, NPQML, two from SSSJ, two from St James and one each at St Augustine's and Gorton. Six staff across our schools completed their senior leadership course, NPQSL, and, reaching significant milestones, Gill Mangnall and Michael Connolly completed their headship course, NPQH, and our SIO team both completed their NPQEL.

The remodelling exercise that has been ongoing from 2018/19 will draw heavily on the Foundation for Educational Endowment's work on effective strategies to deliver a costed curriculum model that provides both curriculum depth and breadth, but is also financially stable: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/>. An analysis of this has been completed independently, in order to allow the Trust to move forward in an informed and stable way. We look forward to resuming engagement with other organisations and partners after Covid-19, as we value a forward thinking approach to continually improve our performance as a trust.

Celebrating Individual School Distinctiveness

Each of our schools has a differing makeup:

School	Age range	No on Roll	% Deprived Pupils	% English as an additional language	No of additional EHCP	% absence	Resourced Provision
SSSJ	2-11	567	26.7	61.1	13	4	No
ST J	3-11	435	56	28.1	12	5.2	Yes
KL	3-11	272	59.3	7.7	1	5.5	No
STA	3-11	196	47.4	8.2	2	4.3	No
STB	3-11	217	50.2	33.2	2	4.3	No
WT	4-11	146	62.2	8.4	3	5.5	No
Gor	3-7	134	42.1	60.2	2		No
STH	3-11	254	18.9	30.7	4	3.9	No
STP	4-11	223	53.4	30	3	5.5	No
Trust average 2018/19		306	50	22.5	4	4.72	
Trust average 2019/20		271	43.8	33.4	4.6	4.77	
National Average			25	21	3	4	

In keeping with our dedication to providing help and opportunities to disadvantaged pupils, all but one of our schools profile above average for deprivation. In addition, our schools face barriers to learning in having a much greater than average proportion of children with an EHCP; children with English as an additional language account for more than one third of our trust population, which is significantly greater than the national average. EAL group accounts for almost two thirds of the school population in two of our schools, with over twenty-five languages spoken in each. Pupil absence is a consistent area of improvement across our schools as we work to build trust with our families, broadening the role of Learning Mentors in helping families to achieve consistent attendance.

Inspectors at SSSJ noted "The school is a community of harmony. Respect and tolerance run as golden threads, permeating every aspect of school life. As one pupil stated, 'If someone is different we treat them the same, we accept differences because we are all unique.' Displays celebrating cultural difference, further embed pupils' understanding of a wide range of countries and cultures." In celebrating the individuality of each school, we consciously adapt the school improvement model to cater for the pupils and families that we serve. The engine and processes within the trust are by efficacy aligned, but the individuality of the context and the ingenuity of individual staff and leaders are the lifeblood of MAT-wide innovation.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

All our schools respond to their pupils and deploy their talents well to exploit the benefits of difference. We see this in the additional well-being support for pupils, promoting diversity and understanding through Emotionally Friendly Schools and Stonewall School Champions at St Augustine's; the much loved seasonal and charity events at KL, such as Breakfast with Santa; the outstanding choir at STJ; cultural experience days and the children's Eco Committee at St Hilda's. As a trust, we are proud to embrace our schools' unique strengths and passions. It has been a pleasure to see increasing collaboration over recent months with our newest school, St Paul's, working with St Augustine's to achieve a £10,000 bid through Salford Healthy Schools, thereby creating peaceful outdoor areas for our vulnerable pupils to take part in eco therapy workshops and for staff and pupils to learn and reflect for years to come. As we grow, we embrace the process of further diversification and cultural growth in our schools, looking forward to the new opportunities this brings to our staff and children, as well as the chance to tackle new challenges for the good of our children and wider communities.

A vocation to the least advantaged

As is evident from the profile of our school catchment where the deprivation is, on average, twice the national figure, we squarely place our efforts within communities that have more barriers to overcome. These schools, therefore, require high quality provision both educationally and within the work conducted by Learning Mentors, parental liaison and the school communities, in encouraging parents and carers to work alongside the school, as partners in their child's education.

Parental workshops are a regular feature of trust schools, parenting skills and education of parents and carers have proved vital in promoting attendance and engagement. The success of this is evident in the overall 90+% attendance at parents' evenings, large-scale engagement for IPC entry and exit point events and parent voice surveys, which show us that our parents overwhelmingly see school as an ally not a barrier to better lives for their children.

Throughout the Covid-19 period, our school leaders have worked hard to put additional support in place for those families who are most vulnerable in our school communities. In addition to providing school lunches daily for FSM families to collect, Learning Mentors have proved a lifeline of support for families either over the phone or on the doorstep. Where we have seen some parents struggling with supporting their children's behaviour under new circumstances as home schoolers, staff have offered individual appointments to discuss together the expectations for behaviour at home, highlighting to children how we expect them to embody our school values both in their home and in their classroom. In some cases, we have provided these children with a place among our support bubble at school to ensure the best chance of care. Indeed, our learning mentors this year have helped to find housing for parents, ensured all pupils have available clean uniform and ensured pupils can access the social help they have a right to. And, of course, the trust offers financial help in the face of real need, to ensure that our curriculum offer is not just for those who can afford it.

Trustees recently approved the hastening of our ICT rollout for a full complement of new devices across KS2, thereby cascading older down devices to KS1 and ensuring that every child and staff member in school has up to date ICT equipment upon which to work given the possibility of another national lockdown, or bubble closures. To which end, we have conducted a survey of all families to ensure that everyone has the essential connectivity required to make sure that children have the resources they need to learn at home.

In preparation for the full reopening of schools in September, our schools have exceeded their usual provision for transition by creating videos to introduce their new teachers, learning mentors and school leaders, show families virtually around their new classrooms and provided 1:1 opportunities to get to know school staff. These measures have worked so well that our schools have decided to continue these efforts annually, most particularly in providing vulnerable families the chance to meet and build bonds with our Learning Mentors well before their arrival in school, thereby setting children up for success and a seamless transition at the start of the term. For example, at SSSJ, where we have thirteen children with EHCPs, the SENCO has created a new form of transition by producing presentations to show children who are sensitive to change exactly how things will work in their new class; as a result, these children have settled in extremely quickly - in fact, better than school has seen before!

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Prior to Covid, many of our schools have set up successful projects working with local organisations to provide the best help for their children. Pupils from one of our newest trust schools at STH this year worked in partnership with the BBC's Tiny Happy People, to create Mother's Day poems to thank their mums for all their love and hard work throughout the year. Tiny Happy People was created to provide free online resources to parents in Manchester, to promote the development of children's early language skills. Their aim is to help children to start well and so feel prepared for the challenges of school; the BBC commented on *'just how special St Hilda's is due to its warm nature and wonderful, talented pupils.'*

Knowsley Lane Challenge Partners Review (2020) stated that: *'Staff enthusiasm is infectious. The understanding of each pupil's needs enables teachers to plan appropriate learning intentions. A purposeful, calm learning climate pervades the school, so pupils feel secure and happy. Pupils' positive attitudes to learning result in high levels of engagement in lessons and pride in their work.'*

Ofsted at KL quoted *"Parents who spoke to the inspectors said that they feel welcome in school. Most of those who responded to the questionnaire praised the principal, the staff and the curriculum. A few raised concerns, which were discussed with school leaders. The school is working hard to engage with parents and encourage them to be even more involved with their children's education. The local authority worked very effectively alongside the multi-academy trust to provide advice and support after the previous inspection when the school was judged to require improvement. Now Knowsley Lane is able to support other schools because of the progress it has made and the superb quality of education it provides."*

Encouragement of pupils personal learning

All of our Trust Schools offer a wide range of experiences outside of the classroom to spark our children's curiosity in the world around them. Unfortunately, Covid-19 curtailed these experiences in Spring term, and we do not anticipate this to be again available until the 2021/22 academic year. All trips have been cancelled for the new academic year and we are calling upon our staff to collaborate to create new experiences for our children to enjoy within the safety of their class bubbles, or virtually.

Though the work of our School Councils, Eco-Committees and other pupil organisations have been a positive move to make pupils look at their own responsibility through the lens of British values and international commitment, Covid-19 has postponed their usual involvement in school life for the foreseeable future. Our schools are working hard to provide pupils with the interaction they need for their own well-being and to have their voices heard as an essential element of our schools plans.

Our **Over the Rainbow Recovery Curriculum** recognises that, in order to rebalance our school communities as a result of the pandemic, initially, time needs to be dedicated to building the right conditions for learning. As a trust, we have highly skilled practitioners who understand that children will learn best when they are equipped mentally and the learning climate meets their needs. As shown with all of the trust schools, successful learning is built upon having a clear direction of travel where everyone understands their role on the journey; the systems and structures are there, it will just require time to allow pupils, staff and the community to settle back into the 'new norm' of school life. During the period of closure, our pupils have experienced many different events in their own personal lives. Some may have experienced close relatives dealing with grief whilst others that sense of loneliness as they are apart from family and friends. As a trust we pride ourselves on the home/school partnerships that we build – we recognise that every school is part of the community. When schools closed nationwide, many parents were forced into a world of online learning which for some, was unfamiliar territory. As a trust we have tried to balance home learning between online and developing real-life skills such as baking, den building, model-making, to encourage social interaction at home, as it is clear that pupil and teacher interaction is a crucial part of any child's development – and cannot be replaced by a machine.

In the short term, for the new academic year, the trust have focused efforts on improving the quality and accessibility of home learning, after recognising that this was a skill gap when lockdown first was imposed. Leaders felt they could have better prepared students for a blended learning approach prior to closures and so this has been an absolute priority for our learners since coming back to school. We have been very pleased with the response from children and staff so far; we are looking forward to the positive change that the new ICT devices across our schools will bring to widen access to high quality learning at home, should this become necessary.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Ofsted 2019 (KL) noted *"Leaders have used the curriculum as a powerful tool for raising standards. The curriculum is coherent, well planned and challenging. Much time has gone into ensuring that pupils are challenged in their learning and that learning is built upon systematically. The current approach to developing pupils' language acquisition is having a hugely positive impact on raising standards. Assessment is built into curriculum delivery to ensure that pupils' knowledge and skills are progressing and being developed. Teachers use the curriculum to make pupils more globally aware and to ensure that they have an awareness of themselves and others. There are many enrichment opportunities, such as visits and after-school clubs. At present, there are clubs for reading, multi-sports, craft and film."*

Not setting a limit on what is possible

As a trust, we take every opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and staff; so often for our families, school is the primary source of support, motivation and confidence building for their children and we work hard to ensure that no child's education and development is limited by the socioeconomic barriers our society imposes. We encourage all of our children to respect and value themselves and others, and provide opportunities for them to recognise and explore their own unique talents and passions.

Despite the many interruptions to the 2019/20 academic year, we are proud to have helped many of our children to reach new milestones in their development. At STH and SSJ groups of students worked with MUFC and BWFC to achieve accreditation as play leaders, children at STH took part in the Young Voices National Choir at the MEN, at STP one of our Y5 pupils came 1st in the Salford Cross Country Championships in the first year that the school have entered the competition, SSSJ students in Years 3-6 won each of their football tournaments vs 10 local schools, as well as their KS2 cricket team who won their tournament after only 12 years of perseverance!

Excitingly, we have achieved national recognition for our staff through the Pearson National Teaching Awards, where Beth Ragget our Year 1 teacher at STH won the Silver Award for **Teacher of the Year in a Primary School**. *'Beth is adored by her pupils, their families, and her fellow staff members for her passion, commitment and warmth towards them all. She inspires a love of learning in her pupils which leads to them excelling academically, while always feeling valued as individuals.'* KL has also been shortlisted for the Primary School of the Year category in the 2020 TES Schools Awards, with the ceremony taking place in the next academic year.

We have also seen some incredible examples of role modelling to our students across our schools throughout this most difficult academic year; St Augustine's Primary became involved with Marcus Rashford's efforts to ensure that free school meals for children were extended over the summer holidays. It is encouraging to see them being shown some support and received some appreciation in return.

Ofsted Visit KL 2019: *'There is a whole-school focus on raising the aspirations of staff and pupils. Many displays around the school are focused on pupils' ambitions and successes. For example, a 'hopes and dreams' display includes pupils' aspirations to be doctors, nurses, librarians, footballers, teachers, designers and even a palaeontologist. Another display records the successes of past pupils in the fields of law and medicine.'*

St James inspection Report 2018: *'Leaders' passion for learning, and the unwavering commitment of the trustees, have been fundamental in driving forward rapid improvements at St James' Church of England Primary School since it became an academy in March 2015. Middle leaders have the same passion and determination as senior leaders to continually improve outcomes for pupils. They have developed a curriculum that is exciting and creative, igniting the interests of pupils through a range of opportunities provided.'*

SSSJ IPC Accreditation 2017: *'All teachers kept up to date with current research and told us they had shared articles and that the growth mindset focus had really brought neuroscience to the forefront for them. All teaching assistants engaged with neuroscientific research that was introduced through the 'Brainwave' units and they were able to extend this learning further. This means that they understand how children learn and provide high quality support in class and beyond.'*

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Going concern

Statement of Confirmation

The Trust has secured sufficient pupils, and been successful in application, within its operations to generate through Public grants (GAG, SEND, Early Years, CIF, Pupil premium, Sports premium, NLE/NLG Grant) and extraneous deployment of staff sufficient funds to generate at least revenue neutral budgets, and has maintained sufficient reserves, approximately £1.2m, to maintain Cash flow and liquidity, Investment and capital loans across the estate of schools.

The Charity therefore, has sufficient liquid resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and has resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trustees are happy to confirm that the Trust remains a going concern.

For this reason the board of directors continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

The Trust's total incoming resources during the period were £20,422,772 (2019: £11,481,585).

The majority of the Trust's income derives from central government funding via the Education Funding Agency, in the form of current grants. Total funding received for the Trust's educational operations in the period was £11,848,485 (2019: £8,706,947) and further details are provided in note 4 to the accounts.

Total outgoing resources for the period were £14,646,069 (2019: £9,635,944). This related to the direct provision of educational operations of £14,422,513 (2019: £9,635,944). In addition £223,556 relates to liabilities transferred to the Trust on conversion (2019: £1,829,219 income). The excess of income over expenditure (excluding the transfer of fixed assets and the pension scheme deficit on conversion) was £6,347,703 (2019: £111,391 income over expenditure).

At the period end the trust's total reserves were £6,184,594 (2019: £1,194,891), including unrestricted funds of £670,120 (2019: £619,797) and restricted funds of £5,514,474 (2019: £575,094). Restricted funds include fixed asset funds of £10,683,247 (2019: £4,042,697), less the LGPS pension's scheme deficit of £7,070,000 (2019: £4,996,000). The remaining balances on restricted funds relate to funding received in the period which is due to be spent in 2020/21 in accordance with the terms of funding. Further detail is provided in note 19.

At 31 August 2020 all assets shown in the accounts were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to students of the Schools.

Reserves policy

Restricted GAG reserves

At 31 August 2020 the trust held GAG reserves of £1,806,227 (2019: £1,480,806).

Restricted Capital reserves

At 31 August 2020 the school held Capital reserves of £1,166,000 (2019: £38,266). This is held various ongoing capital projects at the schools which had not been completed prior to 31 August 2020.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Unrestricted Reserves

Reserves are held at a level which is influenced by the Charities commission recommendation of 3 months' salaries. During the period of Growth as described in the Trust business plan the Trustees feel that a reserve of between 2-3 months salaries is appropriate (Salaries are approximately 75% of expenditure across the MAT as such it would require 12.5% - 18.75% of GAG funding) This provides sufficient funds in order to provide the trust with a backup fund in the event of an exceptional circumstance arising such as essential building works or significant changes to funding.

	£
Total reserves	6,184,594
Add back pension reserve	7,070,000
Less reserves attributable to fixed assets	(10,683,247)
Unrestricted and general restricted funds	2,571,347
Less other restricted funds	(1,901,227)
Free reserves	670,120

This equates to approximately 10.4% of GAG income for the year.

Restricted pension scheme reserve

On conversion, the trust inherited total deficits of £2,364,000 (SS Simon and Jude, £208,000; Knowsley Lane, £591,000; St James, £486,000; St Augustine's, £215,000; Willow Tree, £455,000; St Barnabas, £409,000; St Hilda's, £237,000; St Paul's, £334,000) in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which many of the non-teaching staff belong to. This deficit had increased to £7,070,000 by 31 August 2020, mainly due to changes in actuarial assumptions regarding future returns on investments and the present value of future liabilities. The level of any deficit payments will be reviewed following the next actuarial valuation in 2017 and any changes in the required level of payment will be included in the School's annual budget from the date they take effect. The School does not have an obligation to settle this liability immediately and there are no indications that it will crystallise in the foreseeable future. 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.

Investment policy

All investments are agreed by the Trustees, which has regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to charity investment policy. The school does not currently hold any investments other than cash, which is held for its normal operations. The Governing Body has adopted a low risk strategy to its cash holdings. Surplus cash is held in an instant access deposit account to ensure that there is always access to sufficient cash to meet short and medium term requirements, whilst earning a competitive rate of interest on any surplus balances

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Principal risks and uncertainties

Three schools in the trust were expected to have their Ofsted inspection in the academic year 2019/2020: St Barnabas, St Augustine and Gorton Free, which did not take place. It has been suggested that, due to the impact of Covid-19, it is unlikely that inspections will resume until 2021. There will be no end-of-phase data available for inspections that take place in 2020/2021.

Ensuring financial stability into the medium and longer term is key to school improvement. Trustees are aware of the financial constraints that will continue to operate within the next 3-5 years, as government policy focusses on recovery from Covid-19 and Brexit. In addition the introduction of a national funding Formula creates further turbulence and uncertainty in forecasting.

Recruitment to the Free School was slower than expected initially, following this, a major housing expansion in close proximity to the school and a longer lead in time gave confidence that recruitment for Sept '19 would be stronger; however, Covid-19 has hampered efforts to re-launch the school around the new build this year. We were given an earlier completion date than expected for the build, but were not able to take advantage of this to best effect, as it happened during the period of national lockdown. A significant advertising campaign through the early summer has broadened the public awareness of school locally and we will capitalise on this with a follow up campaign towards the end of the autumn term, as we prepare for the deadline for Reception places in mid-January.

In answer to a request from the LA, the trust has undertaken to fund a £1.6 million project at SSSJ to create a large expansion across Reception and KS2, in order to fill a local need, creating 150 additional places across school. Reception places were filled quickly to the new capacity of 90 children and 73 children have already been added to KS2. After a slight delay, building work has now been completed, providing the school with enough temporary classrooms to cater for the new starters.

Trustees tasked the CEO to restructure the business to gain a 10% real terms reduction in expenditure by 2022, including a whole MAT staffing restructure, and gains in reduction of non-staffing expenditure, of approximately 1% of total spend per annum year on year - this has been consolidated into the CEO performance targets. The trust already uses staff across schools and this will continue and develop; the growth of the Hubs will make this a more practical and cost effective strategy. We have this year taken on an Estates Manager and Business Development Lead to continue to grow our infrastructure and expertise within the central team.

A change in the methodology for the paying of the GAG in 2020/21 presents a real risk as some of the recent complicated grants (teachers' pay, NI rises) are to be rolled into a single payment and this will mean some schools will lose out. The recent promise to raise salaries to £30,000 as a starting salary is likely to mop up any increase in funding and there is a danger that the pressure for the wage rise will outstrip the funding and leave schools worse off.

Fundraising

The Trust has undertaken fundraising during 2019/20. Funds have been raised to support local and national charities such as 'Action Aid', Macmillan Cancer and Children in Need. Prior to Covid-19, traditional approaches to fundraising have been used, including Christmas Fairs, non-uniform days, cake sales, colour runs and sports weeks. All funds are collected by the Finance Department and paid to the relevant charity via BACS/Cheque.

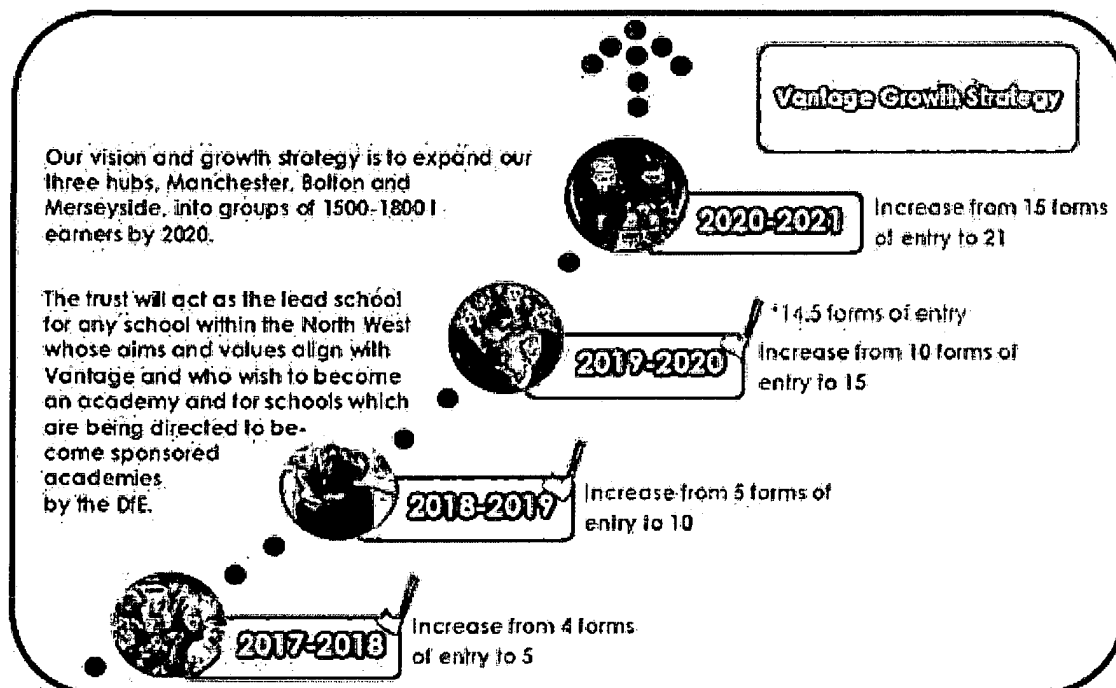
All fundraising activities are monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and are undertaken in accordance with regulations. The Academy does not work with professional fundraisers or commercial participators and has received no complaints in relation to its fundraising activities.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Plans for future periods



The Trust has grown in 2019/20 by two additional schools, St Hilda's and St Paul's and trustees have decided to take a moratorium on growth until the new schools are embedded. This is provisionally until Easter 2021, when the Great Lever Free School will be in the planning phase.

The Trust will be undergoing a remodelling exercise across its existing schools in the 2021/22 academic year. We believe that any staff changes will be achieved by internal movement and the natural changes that occur within a larger workforce. The Trust expects to continue with its adherence to Teachers and JCC pay rises to remain competitive with pay on the increasingly competitive market. This is particularly the case in relation to teaching staff and to bolster the 3 Hubs we have; we will be launching ITT programmes in partnership with Cumbria University in the Manchester and Knowsley areas.

Known as Teach Merseyside and Teach East Manchester, these 2 hubs will be based at St James and Knowsley Lane Primary Schools, alongside Teach Bolton, under the banner of **Teach North West**. They compliment the highly successful Teach Bolton programme, this year reaching our strongest recruitment of trainees yet.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

A testimonial from Louise, one of our 2019/20 cohort, who will begin as an NQT with STA in September: *'I was lucky enough to gain teaching experience in two very welcoming and supportive schools during my placements and whilst visiting other schools for subject specific training. This has helped me gain the confidence to stand up in front of a class of thirty. The course is tailored around you and goes at your pace. I received so much support and guidance from not only my mentor but all staff within the school, this enabled me to build positive relationships with staff and children. I can't recommend this course enough!'*

'The support from both the schools and the mentors were second to none. This route into teaching fully equipped me with the knowledge and skills I needed in order to progress with my teaching career. This practical, hands-on experience full prepared me for my NQT year and I felt confident walking into my first classroom ready to teach my own class.' Hannah Murphy, Teach Bolton Graduate and Vantage employee.

'I thoroughly enjoyed my School Direct experience, I had previously done a primary education degree without QTS and I can honestly say I learnt far more from this course. I felt so prepared and excited to teach, a feeling I hadn't had from my previous course. I love my job now as a Year 6 teacher and wouldn't consider training any other way!' Amy Jones, Teach Bolton Graduate.

Our buildings project over the 2019/20 academic year has seen a £4million investment in the physical infrastructure of our school buildings. In addition to this, the expansion work at SSSJ is part of a £1.6m project to which we have no capital liability, and the additional £110k from the condition improvement grant attached to the sponsor Grant on conversion.

School	Area	Cost
Knowsley Lane Primary School	Roof	£243,138
Ss Simon & Jude Academy	Roof	£308,747
St Augustine CE Primary, Swinton	Toilets	£122,719
St Hilda	Electrical	£372,182
St Hilda	Heating	£405,062
St Pauls	Roof	£349,716
St Pauls	Electrical	£214,170
Willow Tree	Mechanical	£196,658
Willow Tree	Roof	£427,232
		£2,639,624

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As our new and returning pupils come to Gorton Primary in September, not only do they have a brand new school building to learn in, they also have a fantastic new playground. Working with playground contractor ESP Play, we aimed to create an outdoor space that equalled the quality of the new buildings and which demonstrated our ambition to deliver the highest standard provision for our children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6nLP5kt3Ww&feature=youtu.be>

We have also secured additional funding for school based projects through individual bids and grants.

Awarded	Name	Purpose	Schools
£9977.50	Salford Healthy Schools Grant	Garden improvements and environmental workshops for vulnerable children	St Paul's St Augustine's
£2200	Ford Britain Trust	Contribution to St Hilda's library – book corner and furniture	St Hilda's
£1,439.76	DPD Eco Fund	Garden planters at St Hilda's	St Hilda's
£500 plus training per school	Learning through Landscapes	Grow to Cook Kit, Gardening Kit, Cooking Essentials Pack, Den Building Kit/ Small Spaces Planters/Insect Study Centre. Training: How to bring gardening into your school curriculum KS1/2	Gorton St Augustine's St Barnabas
Total Awarded = £15,117.26			

Employee consultation and disabled employees

Covid-19 has allowed the trust to develop communication strategies across all sites at an accelerated rate and the comprehensive use of technology to keep employees and schools connected has brought closer together staff, governors and trustees. Trust representatives at Local Advisory Board meetings has also created channels for effective communication between trustees and leaders. The new questions@ inbox has created a direct line of communication to trust leadership and for other Trusts wishing to seek advice/ collaboration, the streamlining of email groups through Office365 has eased trust-wide communication and our allstaff@ group enables direct conversations with the CEO and the new staff directory allows staff to get in touch with the relevant person quickly and efficiently. The new trust website leads with our mission and values and features a prominent section for advertising trust news, to enable schools to hear about examples of best practice and promote where our schools have been active in their community, which has received strong feedback from staff and stakeholders. Our new termly trust newsletter enables staff to make contributions that highlight their school/colleague's achievements, learn about new initiatives and connect with leaders and trustees; the newsletter is sent to governors at all levels to encourage further engagement.

The Joint Consultation and Negotiation Committee (UK) (JCNC) provides an additional platform for communication between the trust and it's staff and for queries/issues to be raised effectively. Our new trust training programme is embedded through our school improvement strategy, used regularly by staff and leadership to ensure clarity of direction and delivery on trust priorities; Principals have been further upskilled to enforce their own detailed individual budgets and to engage staff to make responsible financial decisions. Our trust-wide surveys have encouraged staff to become involved with the decision making process on matters that directly affect them, leading to the creation of a new staff benefits package, VantagePlus, which has been created by staff, for staff.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Auditor

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- 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 MHA Moore and Smalley be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company 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 21/12/2020..... and signed on its behalf by:

Philip R Mason

.....
Rev P R Mason
Chairman

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees and governors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy 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 Trustees have 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 agreement between SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Local Governing Bodies any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

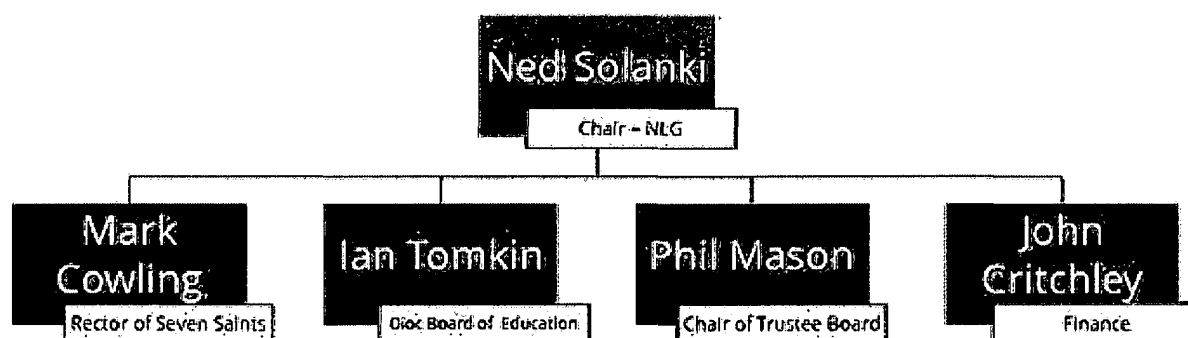
The Trustees' main purpose is to:

- approve the budget, monitor the budget position and any purchase related items
- review and approve staffing and salaries; and
- devise academy policies.
- monitor and challenge the CEO, Lead Officers and Principals

The Trustees have formally met 3 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Trustees was as follows:

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Rev P R Mason (Chairman)	3	3
Mr S Bramwell (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	3	3
Mr M Whittle	2	3
Mr A Gibbons	3	3
Rev M Cowling	0	0
Mr P Deakin	3	3
Mr M Parkinson	3	3
Ms D Vaukins (Resigned 1 October 2020)	2	3
Mr R Dean	3	3

The Trust has remodeled its Governance structure at Member and Trustee level in line with Good practice guidelines and the RSC requirements. The members representing the Mission of the Trust are led by an NLG and now contains a policy accountant alongside Foundation Members in the majority.

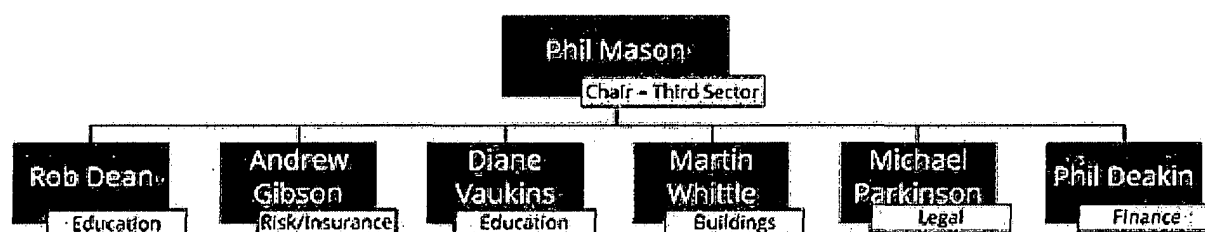


SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In turn members have appointed a revamped set of Trustees who both share the moral purpose and vision of the members but also have the business skills and acumen to lead the trust well into the next 5 year phase of its growth



Trustees continue to monitor their own performance through skills audits, and have identified key areas where the skill set needs improving. The Trustees contracted SAS to work with the CEO in the construction of a new central structure, providing capacity for future growth, this resulted in the appointment of an Estates Manager and Business Development Lead and the separation of the Finance and HR functions. The COO left the business in July 2019.

The Trust undertook a full review of the functions and the relevant skills of the Members Board and the Trustees board. Recommendations from the RSC were acted upon and a new member's board led by an NLG with 4 additional members was constituted from 1/1/18. They then in turn selected 3 new Trustees with expertise in Legal, Building and Finance to supplement the existing Trustees with particular skills in Charity, HR, Training, Insurance & risk and educational performance. The overlap between the boards was reduced to 1 person, the Chair of the Trustees to improve accountability. The members Board is now constituted as a 5 person board and the Trustees as a 7 person board.

The Trustees have continued to monitor the trust mission statement and business plan, it was decided that the mission statement would remain the same as this still aligned with the key elements of the trust vision and values.

The Governance lead started to report a summary document drawn from the LAB meetings, this reports against the Trust governance KPIs, any risks or common patterns as well as attendance and effectiveness.

The LABs main focus within the schools are:

- approve and monitor all curriculum based policies within school;
- monitor standards across school in all areas;
- review attendance and exclusions;
- distribute and review pupil and parent questionnaires; and
- set school targets, including attendance and KS1 and KS2 targets.

LABs will be given a required level of autonomy which has been discussed within the Trustees meetings and is set out in the trust Scheme of Delegation.

The audit committee is a sub-committee of the main board of directors. Its purpose is to oversee the preparation of the statutory accounts, review reports from the auditors and ensure any recommendations are actioned.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Directors	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr S Bramwell (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer)	2	2
Mr P Deakin	2	2
Mrs L Havercroft	2	2

Review of value for money

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

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

1. Monitoring and reviewing the trust central service team to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver services effectively and that the top slice taken from the academies to fund this represents value for money.
2. Encouraging collaborative working between schools to ensure that they share best practice and centralise training to minimise costs.
3. The trust has undertaken a review of the provision of school meals and cleaning supplies to schools, resulting in an annual saving of £157,000.
4. The trust has undertaken an extensive exercise to look at the current provision of the MIS systems across the trust to ensure that they not only give us value for money but support the growth and needs of the trust. By moving to a cloud based system for the MIS this will allow the management of returns to be more efficient.
5. As the trust and staff within the trust grows significantly, the procurement of a cloud-based HR management system has been looked at to streamline HR processes and systems and will also allow us to manage the payroll function in house at a later period; the transition to the PSPeople online portal is now complete.
6. The trust purchased Parago, an online Estates Management tool, to ensure that Site Managers were able to conduct their role efficiently.

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 SS Simon And Jude Church Of England Multi Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Capacity to handle risk

The board of directors has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of directors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of directors.

Statement on the system of internal finance control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of directors have considered the management points within the accounts report for August 2019 and have agreed that there is now a requirement for a more independent review, and therefore have appointed MHA Moore and Smalley to undertake this function.

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

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems including purchase cards
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations
- cash book and petty cash review
- revenue and income testing
- testing of VAT
- review and testing of tenders and quotes

On a termly basis internal audit reports to the board of trustees, through the Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. 2 RO inspections have been carried out over the financial year and reports delivered to the Trustees as agreed. No significant issues or actions were reported.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Governance meetings took place remotely over the period affected by Covid-19 via video conferencing tools; a finance sub-committee was set up to ensure particular attention was paid to trust funds throughout this difficult period, which has to date met twice and fed back findings at trustees meetings. Consequently, full oversight has been maintained in the same way as usual, but utilising different methods.

Review of effectiveness

The school has a robust and externally monitored system of checks and balances. The RO role alongside Accountancy Auditors and an ESFA visit has ensured compliance with the regulations in relation to ESFA, Companies House and the Charities Commission.

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

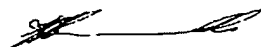
- the Board who received a presentation and approved the school budget and receives termly reports including the relevant management reports
 - the Audit Committee, made up of senior Governors who oversee the Audit process and Outcomes
 - the financial management and governance self-assessment process including a governance self-review;
 - the Responsible Officer/internal audit function
 - external audit provided by Moore and Smalley
 - the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework with clear levels of delegation and separation of duties
-

21/12/2020

Approved by order of the board of directors on and signed on its behalf by:

Philip R Mason

Rev P R Mason
Chairman



Mr S Bramwell
Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

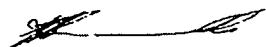
STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As accounting officer of SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of directors and the Education and 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 2019.

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



Mr S Bramwell
Accounting Officer

24/12/2020

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The directors (who also act as trustees for SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 published 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the directors must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the directors 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 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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 that 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of directors on ^{21/12/2020}..... and signed on its behalf by:

Philip R Mason

Rev P R Mason
Chairman

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 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 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 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 2019 to 2020.

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

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

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

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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 Reference and Administrative details, Trustees Report incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors Report, the Governance Statement, the Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance and the Trustees Responsibility Statement. 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 directors' report, including the incorporated strategic 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

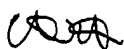
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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.

Use of our report

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



Christine Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of MHA Moore and Smalley
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Richard House
9 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3HP

13/01/2021
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SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 15 August 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 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 SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy 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 SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 May 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, 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 2019 to 2020. 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 2019 to 31 August 2020 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 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.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes an evaluation of the control environment of the School together with enquiry, analytical review, substantive testing of transactions and consideration of governance issues.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

MHA Moore and Smalley

Reporting Accountant
MHA Moore and Smalley

Richard House
9 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3HP

13/01/2021
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SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	8,514,446	8,514,446	906,187
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	28	-	-	-	-	1,641,757
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust	28	-	-	-	-	187,462
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	171,153	11,677,332	-	11,848,485	8,706,947
Other trading activities	5	58,732	-	-	58,732	38,012
Investments	6	1,109	-	-	1,109	1,220
Total income and endowments		<u>230,994</u>	<u>11,677,332</u>	<u>8,514,446</u>	<u>20,422,772</u>	<u>11,481,585</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	230,995	13,842,095	349,423	14,422,513	9,635,944
Charitable expenditure - transfer from local authority on conversion	28	(347,444)	571,000	-	223,556	-
Total expenditure	7	<u>(116,449)</u>	<u>14,413,095</u>	<u>349,423</u>	<u>14,646,069</u>	<u>9,635,944</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		347,443	(2,735,763)	8,165,023	5,776,703	1,845,641
Transfers between funds		(297,120)	1,821,593	(1,524,473)	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(787,000)	-	(787,000)	(1,651,000)
Net movement in funds		50,323	(1,701,170)	6,640,550	4,989,703	194,641
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		619,797	(3,467,603)	4,042,697	1,194,891	1,000,250
Total funds carried forward	18	<u>670,120</u>	<u>(5,168,773)</u>	<u>10,683,247</u>	<u>6,184,594</u>	<u>1,194,891</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		9,517,247		4,004,431
Current assets					
Debtors	14	3,359,608		979,138	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,725,538		2,524,038	
		<u>6,085,146</u>		<u>3,503,176</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(2,115,531)</u>		<u>(1,240,872)</u>	
Net current assets			3,969,615		2,262,304
Total assets less current liabilities			13,486,862		6,266,735
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		<u>(232,268)</u>		<u>(75,844)</u>
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability			13,254,594		6,190,891
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		<u>(7,070,000)</u>		<u>(4,996,000)</u>
Total net assets			<u>6,184,594</u>		<u>1,194,891</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			10,683,247		4,042,697
- Restricted income funds			1,901,227		1,528,397
- Pension reserve			<u>(7,070,000)</u>		<u>(4,996,000)</u>
Total restricted funds			5,514,474		575,094
Unrestricted income funds	18		670,120		619,797
Total funds			<u>6,184,594</u>		<u>1,194,891</u>

The accounts on pages 37 to 69 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 21/12/2020 and are signed on their behalf by:

Philip R Mason

Rev P R Mason
Chairman

Company Number 08240918

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	21	(2,956,809)		(266,787)	
Cash funds transferred on conversion		347,444		81,334	
		(2,609,365)		(185,453)	
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		1,109		1,220	
Capital grants from DfE Group		2,985,346		806,255	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		-		99,000	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(333,139)		(227,064)	
Net cash provided by investing activities		2,653,316		679,411	
Cash flows from financing activities					
New other loan		170,197		9,006	
Repayment of other loan		(12,648)		(8,091)	
Net cash provided by financing activities		157,549		915	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		201,500		494,873	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		2,524,038		2,029,165	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		2,725,538		2,524,038	

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

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

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 2019 to 2020 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. The directors have considered the impact of the Government response to Covid-19 on the activity of the academy trust in terms of both increased costs of compliance with guidelines and catch up in learning and also reduced income 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.

1.3 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to an academy trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £nil consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Willow Tree Primary School (formerly Mosscroft Primary School) to the academy trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Charitable activities – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

The school land and buildings are leased to the Trust under a 125 year lease from Knowsley Council. These have been valued using the most recent valuation provided by the local authority and depreciated in line with the accounting policies to the date of conversion.

Fixtures and fittings acquired on conversion had been held for a significant period of time and were fully depreciated. An estimate of the current fair value was not readily available and the cost of obtaining a valuation was considered to be disproportionate to the value of the including such a valuation in the accounts. No value has therefore been included in the accounts for these assets.

Further details of the transaction are set out in note 28.

1.4 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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

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 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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. 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	2 - 10% straight-line, land is depreciated over 125 years
Computer equipment	20 - 33.3%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10 - 25%
Motor vehicles	20%

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

The assets and liabilities initially transferred on conversion to an academy trust have been valued at their fair value being a reasonable estimate of the current market value that the governors would expect to pay in an open market for an equivalent item. Their fair value is in accordance with the accounting policies set out for the Academy. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in voluntary income as net income in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

SS Simon and Jude Church of England Primary School, St James Church of England Primary School, St Augustine's Primary School, St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, St Hilda's Church of England Primary School and St Paul's Church of England Primary School

The school playing fields are leased to the Schools under a 125 year lease from the Local Authority.

The remainder of the land and buildings occupied by the Schools are the subject of a deed from the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education, which grants the Schools the use of these land and buildings until the earlier of the termination of the funding agreement or the Board giving the School two years notice to leave.

Land and buildings occupied under license are not recognised in the accounts including any subsequent improvements made to these land and buildings. The alternative treatment where the Academy Trust's occupation for the period may therefore be recognisable as a notional donation has also not been adopted as the donated amount cannot be reliably measured.

The value of the school playing fields at SS Simon and Jude, St James and St Augustines was not separately identifiable from the value of land owned by the Diocese and therefore this land is not recognised in the accounts. The land transferred in at St Barnabas had been subject to a professional valuation by WT Gunson Chartered Surveyors as at 19 September 2013. This valuation has been adjusted to take account of depreciation in the period since conversion, to arrive at an estimate for the value of land transferred in from St Barnabas CofE Primary Academy Trust.

Knowsley Lane Primary School

On conversion the school acquired the land and buildings from which it operates under a 125 year lease. No value was paid for the land and buildings, which have been incorporated into the accounts as a donated asset, based on a depreciated replacement cost valuation carried out as at 31 August 2015 on behalf of the Department for Education by DTZ. This valuation has been adjusted to take account of depreciation in the period since conversion, to arrive at an estimate for the value of land and buildings acquired on conversion.

Willow Tree Primary School

On conversion the school acquired the land and buildings from which it operates under a 125 year lease. No value was paid for the land and buildings, which have been incorporated into the accounts as a donated asset, based on a the most recent valuation carried out by the local authority. This valuation has been adjusted to take account of depreciation in the period since conversion, to arrive at an estimate for the value of land and buildings acquired on conversion.

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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 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.

1.8 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

1.9 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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.

1.10 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.

1.11 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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

1.12 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 with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Useful economic life of tangible fixed assets

The useful economic life of tangible fixed assets is judged at the point of purchase. As standard, the assets are depreciated over their useful economic life based on the depreciation policy stated above..

Impairment of fixed assets

At each balance sheet date, management undertake an assessment of the carrying value of tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that the value has been impaired. Where necessary, an impairment is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment of trade debtors

At each balance sheet date, management undertake a review of outstanding debtor balances and consider whether there is any indication of impairment or any balances requiring provision.

This calculation is based on the financial position of the customers, the payment history and any ongoing discussions.

Valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability

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 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. 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.

Critical areas of judgement

Classification and valuation of long leasehold land and buildings owned by the Diocese

Some of the buildings occupied by the trust, and the land on which the buildings are situated are the subject of a deed from the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education, which grants the school the use of these land and buildings until the earlier of the termination of the funding agreement or the Board giving the school two years notice to leave. The land and buildings are not included in the accounts.

Classification of finance and operating leases

At the inception of each lease, management undertake an assessment of the terms of the lease including the payments to be made over the life of the lease, the fair value of the asset subject to the lease, the length of the lease and whether the terms of the lease transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.

Based on this assessment, management will determine whether the lease should be classified as a finance or operating lease.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donated fixed assets	-	5,529,100	5,529,100	-
Capital grants	-	2,985,346	2,985,346	905,255
Other donations	-	-	-	932
	-	8,514,446	8,514,446	906,187

The income from donations and capital grants was £8,514,446 (2019: £906,187) of which £- was restricted (2019: £932) and £8,514,446 was restricted fixed assets (2019: £905,255).

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,395,340	8,395,340	5,849,663
Start up grants	-	-	-	50,000
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	2,103,569	2,103,569	1,167,778
	-	10,498,909	10,498,909	7,067,441
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,150,807	1,150,807	1,336,823
Other funds				
Other incoming resources	171,153	27,616	198,769	302,683
Total funding	171,153	11,677,332	11,848,485	8,706,947

The income from funding for educational operations was £11,848,485 (2019: £8,706,947) of which £171,153 was unrestricted (2019: £265,274) and £11,677,332 was restricted (2019: £8,441,673).

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Hire of facilities	41,519	-	41,519	14,746
Other income	17,213	-	17,213	23,266
	<u>58,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,732</u>	<u>38,012</u>

The income from other trading activities was £58,732 (2019: £38,012) of which £58,732 was unrestricted (2019: £38,012).

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Short term deposits	1,109	-	1,109	1,220

The income from funding for investment income was £1,109 (2019: £1,220) of which £1,109 was unrestricted (2019: £1,209) and £- was restricted (2019: £11).

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	7,494,438	67,874	944,220	8,506,532	6,084,599
- Allocated support costs	2,007,784	2,876,368	1,031,829	5,915,981	3,551,345
	<u>9,502,222</u>	<u>2,944,242</u>	<u>1,976,049</u>	<u>14,422,513</u>	<u>9,635,944</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	18,720	16,400
- Other services	9,725	9,485
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	349,423	176,684
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	104,000	72,000

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services;
- others as arising.

The academy trust charges for these services based on 5% of each academy's General Annual Grant funding.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Gorton Primary	35,969	17,760
St Barnabas	58,274	29,137
Willow Tree	30,925	15,909
SS Simon and Jude	88,586	86,088
Knowsley Lane	56,169	53,521
St James	75,541	75,138
St Augustines	45,482	45,138
St Hildas	45,513	-
St Pauls	23,168	-
	<u>459,627</u>	<u>322,691</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	86,094	8,420,438	8,506,532	6,084,599
Support costs				
Educational operations	144,901	5,771,080	5,915,981	3,551,345
	<u>230,995</u>	<u>14,191,518</u>	<u>14,422,513</u>	<u>9,635,944</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £14,422,513 (2019: £9,635,944) of which £230,995 was unrestricted (2019: £304,495), £13,842,095 was restricted (2019: £9,154,765) and £349,423 was restricted fixed assets (2019: £176,684).

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 Charitable activities (Continued)

	2020 £	2019 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,007,784	1,439,004
Depreciation	281,549	134,507
Premises costs	2,542,470	1,212,334
Legal costs	156,823	118,981
Other support costs	898,910	620,634
Governance costs	28,445	25,885
	<u>5,915,981</u>	<u>3,551,345</u>

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	6,709,903	4,923,528
Social security costs	593,178	431,708
Pension costs	2,087,819	1,260,613
Staff costs - employees	<u>9,390,900</u>	<u>6,615,849</u>
Agency staff costs	106,322	119,890
Staff restructuring costs	5,000	17,939
Total staff expenditure	<u>9,502,222</u>	<u>6,753,678</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>5,000</u>	<u>17,939</u>
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Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £5,000 (2019: £17,939). Individually, the payment was: £5,000.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Teachers	111	74
Administration and support	238	156
Management	30	19
	<u>379</u>	<u>249</u>

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Teachers	111	71
Administration and support	99	107
Management	30	19
	<u>240</u>	<u>197</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 1.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £457,379 (2019: £1,057,021).

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Directors' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Chief Executive Officer and other staff directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Chief Executive Officer and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as directors.

The value of directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

S Bramwell (Chief Executive Officer and Trustee)
 Remuneration £115,000 - £120,000 (2019: £95,000 - £100,000)
 Employer's pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2019: £15,000 - £20,000)

During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £369 (2019: £nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 directors (2019: no directors).

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

12 Insurance for directors and officers

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy trust has taken out insurance, however this is under the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) from the EFA. The academy trust has been advised that this insurance provides unlimited cover for directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance cost relating to directors is not separately identifiable and is included within the total cost for the RPA.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2019	3,728,225	347,501	514,475	4,000	4,594,201
Transfer on conversion	5,529,100	-	-	-	5,529,100
Additions	-	182,329	144,860	5,950	333,139
At 31 August 2020	9,257,325	529,830	659,335	9,950	10,456,440
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	130,912	232,632	225,891	335	589,770
Charge for the year	178,741	67,874	101,014	1,794	349,423
At 31 August 2020	309,653	300,506	326,905	2,129	939,193
Net book value					
At 31 August 2020	8,947,672	229,324	332,430	7,821	9,517,247
At 31 August 2019	3,597,313	114,869	288,584	3,665	4,004,431

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

13 Tangible fixed assets (Continued)

The net book value of land and buildings comprises:

	2020 £	2019 £
Long leaseholds (over 50 years)	8,947,672	3,597,313

14 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
VAT recoverable	382,401	201,543
Other debtors	19,644	43,487
Prepayments and accrued income	2,957,563	734,108
	3,359,608	979,138

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Other loans	13,772	12,647
Trade creditors	1,405,901	433,583
Other creditors	5,980	584,039
Accruals and deferred income	689,878	210,603
	2,115,531	1,240,872

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Other loans	232,268	75,844

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		(Continued)	
	2020	2019	
	£	£	
Analysis of loans			
Wholly repayable within five years	246,040	88,491	
Less: included in current liabilities	(13,772)	(12,647)	
	<u>232,268</u>	<u>75,844</u>	
Amounts included above			
	<u>232,268</u>	<u>75,844</u>	
Loan maturity			
Debt due in one year or less	13,772	12,647	
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	35,047	13,772	
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	98,343	41,317	
Due in more than five years	98,878	20,755	
	<u>246,040</u>	<u>88,491</u>	
	<u>246,040</u>	<u>88,491</u>	

Included within other loans are Salix loans of £88,491 which are interest free loans to be deducted biannually from the General Annual Grant.

17 Deferred income			
	2020	2019	
	£	£	
Deferred income is included within:			
Creditors due within one year	164,537	109,872	
	<u>164,537</u>	<u>109,872</u>	
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	109,872	93,843	
Released from previous years	(109,872)	(93,843)	
Resources deferred in the year	164,537	109,872	
	<u>164,537</u>	<u>109,872</u>	
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	<u>164,537</u>	<u>109,872</u>	

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance of the related expenditure of:

- £145,630 (2019: £100,314) for Universal Infant Free School Meals received from the ESFA
- £18,907 (2019: £9,558) for Rates grant received from the ESFA

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,480,806	8,395,340	(9,891,512)	1,821,593	1,806,227
Start up grants	25,000	-	(25,000)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	2,103,569	(2,008,569)	-	95,000
Other government grants	-	1,150,807	(1,150,807)	-	-
Other restricted funds	22,591	27,616	(50,207)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,996,000)	-	(1,287,000)	(787,000)	(7,070,000)
	<u>(3,467,603)</u>	<u>11,677,332</u>	<u>(14,413,095)</u>	<u>1,034,593</u>	<u>(5,168,773)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited & Donated assets	3,594,943	5,529,100	(178,345)	-	8,945,698
DfE group capital grants	38,266	2,985,346	-	(1,857,612)	1,166,000
Capital expenditure from GAG	409,488	-	(171,078)	333,139	571,549
	<u>4,042,697</u>	<u>8,514,446</u>	<u>(349,423)</u>	<u>(1,524,473)</u>	<u>10,683,247</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>575,094</u>	<u>20,191,778</u>	<u>(14,762,518)</u>	<u>(489,880)</u>	<u>5,514,474</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>619,797</u>	<u>230,994</u>	<u>116,449</u>	<u>(297,120)</u>	<u>670,120</u>
Total funds	<u>1,194,891</u>	<u>20,422,772</u>	<u>(14,646,069)</u>	<u>(787,000)</u>	<u>6,184,594</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running expenses of the School and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at the period end.

Other DfE/ESFA grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Other government grants includes Local authority and Central government funding for educational purpose which includes Special Educational Needs, Nursery grants and other smaller grants for specific projects.

Other restricted funds include contributions received for school trips and non-public donations and the related expenditure.

The pension reserve represents the value of the School's share of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Restricted fixed asset funds include funds invested in fixed assets and unspent capital grants. Depreciation is charged against the fund.

Total funds analysis by academy

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:		
Gorton Primary	(101,339)	147,714
St Barnabas	383,372	227,520
Willow Tree	25,507	14,075
SS Simon and Jude	93,161	244,991
Knowsley Lane	930,699	744,682
St James	741,232	515,747
St Augustines	(64,064)	(43,366)
St Hildas	186,738	-
St Pauls	279,532	-
Central services	96,509	296,831
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	2,571,347	2,148,194
Restricted fixed asset fund	10,683,247	4,042,697
Pension reserve	(7,070,000)	(4,996,000)
Total funds	6,184,594	1,194,891

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Funds

(Continued)

Gorton Primary records a deficit over 2020 due to a claw back of funding from the Local Authority, relating to pupil numbers. We had anticipated this shortfall between our predicted and recruited pupil numbers and, therefore, kept funds in reserve at Trust level to address this in the previous year.

St Augustine's primary records a deficit over 2020 due to maternity leave being taken by four members of staff over the year whilst the school was in the process of paying back a legacy debt of £130,000, to cover the cost of physical improvement to school from 2017/18.

The Trust has committed to provide financial support to these schools until such time as the deficits are recovered.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	739,840	5,961,408	(6,048,718)	828,276	1,480,806
Start up grants	80,000	50,000	(105,000)	-	25,000
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	1,167,778	(1,167,778)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,336,823	(1,336,823)	-	-
Other restricted funds	22,685	(258,903)	258,809	-	22,591
Pension reserve	(2,023,000)	(864,000)	(458,000)	(1,651,000)	(4,996,000)
	<u>(1,180,475)</u>	<u>7,393,106</u>	<u>(8,857,510)</u>	<u>(822,724)</u>	<u>(3,467,603)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	1,041,568	3,082,967	(529,592)	-	3,594,943
DfE group capital grants	118,511	911,887	(4,510)	(987,622)	38,266
Capital expenditure from GAG	309,723	-	(127,299)	227,064	409,488
	<u>1,469,802</u>	<u>3,994,854</u>	<u>(661,401)</u>	<u>(760,558)</u>	<u>4,042,697</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>289,327</u>	<u>11,387,960</u>	<u>(9,518,911)</u>	<u>(1,583,282)</u>	<u>575,094</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>710,923</u>	<u>281,087</u>	<u>(304,495)</u>	<u>(67,718)</u>	<u>619,797</u>
Total funds	<u>1,000,250</u>	<u>11,669,047</u>	<u>(9,823,406)</u>	<u>(1,651,000)</u>	<u>1,194,891</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gorton Primary	425,506	96,935	152,852	121,478	796,771	313,619
St Barnabas	738,178	283,472	89,668	236,558	1,347,876	1,105,989
Willow Tree	591,842	119,466	54,666	304,754	1,070,728	424,604
SS Simon and Jude	1,561,461	321,062	144,653	1,181,089	3,208,265	2,277,159
Knowsley Lane	807,288	190,761	75,525	386,970	1,460,544	1,293,880
St James	1,384,472	447,164	112,867	246,513	2,191,016	1,918,818
St Augustines	698,580	118,321	71,151	297,384	1,185,436	1,579,490
St Hildas	637,483	133,434	54,243	455,920	1,281,080	-
St Pauls	373,348	61,736	16,215	198,591	649,890	-
Central services	276,280	235,433	172,380	197,391	881,484	537,705
	<u>7,494,438</u>	<u>2,007,784</u>	<u>944,220</u>	<u>3,626,648</u>	<u>14,073,090</u>	<u>9,451,264</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,517,247	9,517,247
Current assets	670,120	4,249,026	1,166,000	6,085,146
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(2,115,531)	-	(2,115,531)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(232,268)	-	(232,268)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(7,070,000)	-	(7,070,000)
Total net assets	<u>670,120</u>	<u>(5,168,773)</u>	<u>10,683,247</u>	<u>6,184,594</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,004,431	4,004,431
Current assets	619,797	2,845,113	38,266	3,503,176
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,240,872)	-	(1,240,872)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(75,844)	-	(75,844)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(4,996,000)	-	(4,996,000)
Total net assets	619,797	(3,467,603)	4,042,697	1,194,891

20 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Greater Manchester Pension Fund (for SS Simon and Jude, St James, St Augustines, Gorton, St Barnabas, St Hilda's and St Pauls) and Merseyside Pension Fund (for Knowsley Lane and Willow Tree). 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 2016.

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

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.

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £875,587 (2019: £416,523).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 13.2% to 19.1% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

As described in note 28 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	2020 £	2019 £
Employer's contributions	496,000	352,000
Employees' contributions	144,000	108,000
Total contributions	<u>640,000</u>	<u>460,000</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.2	3.2
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.2	2.2
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.9
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.3	2.0

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

	2020 Years	2019 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.6	21.1
- Females	23.3	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.1	22.9
- Females	25.2	25.7

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 55% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre April 2008 and 80% of the maximum tax-free cash for post April 2008 service.

The following schedule provides an analysis of the sensitivity of results of the calculations to changes in the actuarial assumptions used:

SS Simon and Jude:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
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0.5% decrease in real discount rate	17	456
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	3	75
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	14	371

St James:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
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0.5% decrease in real discount rate	15	354
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	2	59
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	12	287

St Augustines:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
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0.5% decrease in real discount rate	12	129
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	1	13
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	10	113

Gorton:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
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0.5% decrease in real discount rate	29	10
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	-	-
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	29	10

St Barnabas:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
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0.5% decrease in real discount rate	15	276
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	3	64
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	11	204

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2020 Fair value £	2019 Fair value £
Equities	4,326,000	3,524,000
Bonds	1,039,000	815,000
Cash	568,000	447,000
Property	463,000	416,000
Other assets	89,000	109,000
Total market value of assets	6,485,000	5,311,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(218,000) (2019: £265,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	1,106,000	600,000
Past service cost	-	137,000
Interest income	(114,000)	(120,000)
Interest cost	218,000	192,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	(2,000)	(1,000)
Administration expenses	2,000	1,000
Total operating charge	1,210,000	809,000

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Knowsley Lane:	Central £000	Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. discount rate £000	Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. inflation £000	Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. pay growth £000	Sensitivity 4 1 yr increase in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	1,359	1,327	1,392	1,364	1,384
Assets	(288)	(288)	(288)	(288)	(288)
Deficit	1,071	1,039	1,014	1,076	1,096

Projected service cost for next year	100	96	103	100	101
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Projected net interest cost for next year	19	19	19	19	19
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Willow Tree:	Central £000	Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. discount rate £000	Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. inflation £000	Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. pay growth £000	Sensitivity 4 1 yr increase in life expectancy £000
Liabilities	869	847	891	875	884
Assets	(231)	(231)	(231)	(231)	(231)
Deficit	638	616	660	644	653

Projected service cost for next year	68	66	70	68	69
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Projected net interest cost for next year	11	11	12	11	11
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St Hildas:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	18	109
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	2	14
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	15	92

St Pauls:	Approximate increase to employer liability %	Approximate monetary amount £000
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	13	155
0.5% increase in the salary increase rate	1	16
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	11	136

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2020 £
At 1 September 2019	10,307,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	1,384,000
Current service cost	1,106,000
Interest cost	218,000
Employee contributions	144,000
Actuarial loss	455,000
Benefits paid	(59,000)
At 31 August 2020	13,555,000

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets

2020
£

At 1 September 2019	5,311,000
Assets acquired on conversion	813,000
Interest income	114,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(332,000)
Employer contributions	496,000
Employee contributions	144,000
Benefits paid	(59,000)
Administration expenses	(2,000)
At 31 August 2020	6,485,000

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	5,776,703	1,845,641
Adjusted for:		
Net deficit/(surplus) on conversion to academy	223,556	(1,641,757)
Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust	-	(187,462)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(8,514,446)	(905,255)
Investment income receivable	(1,109)	(1,220)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	612,000	386,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	104,000	72,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	349,423	176,684
(Increase) in debtors	(2,380,470)	(639,021)
Increase in creditors	873,534	613,968
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	-	13,635
Net cash used in operating activities	(2,956,809)	(266,787)

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2020 £
Cash	2,524,038	201,500	2,725,538
Loans falling due within one year	(12,647)	(1,125)	(13,772)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(75,844)	(156,424)	(232,268)
	<u>2,435,547</u>	<u>43,951</u>	<u>2,479,498</u>

23 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2020 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts due within one year	7,029	3,077
Amounts due in two and five years	7,487	3,077
	<u>14,516</u>	<u>6,154</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

24 Capital commitments

	2020 £	2019 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	1,592,039	35,348

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations 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 academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. The following related party transaction took place in the period of account.

Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust is considered to be a related party on the grounds that the spouse of Mr S Bramwell, the Chief Executive Officer and a director of the trust is the Chief Executive Officer and a director.

During the year, the trust raised invoices totalling £700 (2019: £1,992) and paid amounts totalling £nil (2019: £100) to Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust as reimbursement for expenses incurred:

There were no amounts due to or from Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust at the year end (2019: £nil).

Mrs A Mason, the wife of Rev P R Mason (Chairman) is an employee of the Trust. Mrs A Mason commenced employment with the Trust prior to the appointment of Rev P R Mason as the Chairman.

Rev P R Mason is not involved in any discussions regarding the employment of Mrs A Mason.

The value of remuneration and benefits received by Mrs A Mason in the period was as follows:

Remuneration - £10,000 - £15,000 (2019: £10,000 - £15,000)
Employer's pension contributions - £nil - £5,000 (2019: £nil - £5,000)

Mrs SA Whittle, the wife of Mr M Whittle (Director) is an employee of the Trust. Mrs SA Whittle commenced employment with the Trust prior to the appointment of Mr M Whittle as a Director.

Mr M Whittle is not involved in any discussions regarding the employment of Mrs SA Whittle.

The value of remuneration and benefits received by Mrs SA Whittle in the period was as follows:

Remuneration - £25,000 - £30,000 (2019: £25,000 - £30,000)
Employer's pension contributions - £nil - £5,000 (2019: £nil - £5,000)

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

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

26 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.

27 Agency arrangements

The trust distributes Schools Direct funds to other schools in the area as an agent for the University of Cumbria. During the year the trust received £19,800 (2019: £23,400) and disbursed £18,233 (2019: £23,400) from the fund. At the year end, an amount of £1,567 (2019: £nil) is included in other creditors.

28 Conversion to an academy

The schools noted below converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust from the relevant Local Authorities 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 loss in the statement of financial activities as charitable activities – 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	
St Hildas	Manchester	1 December 2019	
St Pauls	Salford	1 April 2020	

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2020
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Net assets transferred:				
Cash	347,444	-	-	347,444
Pension scheme deficit	-	(571,000)	-	(571,000)
	<u>347,444</u>	<u>(571,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(223,556)</u>

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2020
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:				
LA budget funds	347,444	-	-	347,444
LGPS pension funds	-	(571,000)	-	(571,000)
	<u>347,444</u>	<u>(571,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(223,556)</u>

SS SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

29 Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust

St Barnabas CE Primary Academy Trust joined SS Simon and Jude Church of England Multi Academy Trust with effect from 1 February 2019.

In the accounts of the Academy prepared to 31 January 2019, net assets of £601,904 were recorded. This figure included fixed assets capitalised in relation to property improvements on the property occupied under a 2 year license agreement, with a Net book value of £392,527. For this reason, a fair value adjustment has been processed on the reported figure to reduce the value of net assets transferred in.

In addition, the land which is held under a 125 year lease from the local authority had not been depreciated since it was valued on conversion at £478,085 and therefore a fair value adjustment was processed on the reported figure to reduce the value of net assets transferred in by £21,915, being depreciation to the point of transfer.

The value of net assets transferred in on conversion was therefore reduced from the reported figure by £414,442 to £187,462.