

Company Registration No. 08248830 (England and Wales)

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019



ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors	Susan Heap	Chair of the Board of Directors
	Adam Walsh	Chief Executive Officer
	Caroline Harris	Chair of St Nicholas Governors
	Andrew Deeks	St Nicholas Governor
	Vincent Foy	St Nicholas Governor
	Nicholas Moon	Chair of Coughton Governors
	Stuart Tilsley	Coughton Governor
	Catherine Barron	Chair of Temple Grafton Governors
	Helen Wood	Temple Grafton Governors
Members	Christopher Cocksworth	Bishop of Coventry
	Linda Wainscot	Diocesan Director of Education
	Adrian Guthrie	Rector of the Parish of Alcester
	Susan Heap	Chair of the Board of Directors
	Virginia Von Malachowski	Member of the local community
Leadership Team	Adam Walsh	Chief Executive Officer
	Louise Green	Chief Financial Officer
Company secretary	Susan Heap	
Company no.	08248830 (England and Wales)	
Registered office	St Nicholas Church of England Primary School St. Faiths Road Alcester Warwickshire B49 6AG	
Academies in MAT	St Nicholas C of E Primary School Coughton C of E Primary School Temple Grafton C of E Primary School	
Auditor	Ormerod Rutter Limited The Oakley Kidderminster Road Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 9AY	

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Actuary	Hymans Robertson LLP One London Wall London EC2Y 5EA
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 22 Bridge Street Stratford Upon Avon Warwickshire CV37 6AG
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The Directors present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

On 1 March 2018 the Academy converted to a Multi-Academy Trust and changed its name from St Nicholas' CofE School Alcester to Arden Forest C of E Multi-Academy Trust.

On 1 April 2018 Coughton C of E Primary School and Temple Grafton C of E Primary School joined the Multi-Academy Trust, both of which were previously operated by Warwickshire County Council.

The Multi-Academy Trust now operates 3 primary academies in and around Alcester, Warwickshire. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 665 and had a roll of 663 pupils.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust.

The Directors are the Trustees of Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Directors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Directors' indemnities

The Multi-Academy Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association includes a provision for qualifying third party indemnity for the benefit of its Directors and officers. These provisions remain in force at the reporting date.

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Multi-Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors and officers for claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on school business.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors

From 1 March 2018, the Memorandum & Articles requires that at least 5 Directors must be appointed by the members. The Directors can also appoint up to 2 Co-opted Directors, provided that they are not employees of the Multi-Academy Trust and that the number of Co-opted Directors does not exceed one third of the total number of Directors.

The Members have decided to appoint Directors as follows:

- The Chair of the Board of Directors;
- The Chief Executive Officer; and
- Representatives from the Board of Governors of each of the schools operated by the Multi-Academy Trust.

Prior to 1 March 2018, Governors were recruited and appointed as follows:

- Foundation Governors are appointed by the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education and the town parish of Alcester.
- Parent Governors are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he/she is elected.
- The Head Teacher is automatically appointed as a Staff Governor.
- Other Staff Governors are elected by the employees of the Academy.
- Co-Opted Governors are appointed by invitation from the existing Governors.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Directors

Training and induction for Directors will depend on their prior experience and/or knowledge. Most induction is carried out "in house", but external trainers may be brought in, or Directors may attend external training provision as appropriate. Directors are provided with access to copies of all the documents and policies that they will need to undertake their role.

Organisational structure

The Board of Directors meets formally at least three times per year. Discussions are held and decisions are made or ratified as appropriate.

The day to day running of the Multi-Academy Trust is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Leadership Team who report back to the Directors as appropriate.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel, as with all other employees of the Academy, have their salary set by reference to either the NASUWT teacher pay scales or NJC non-teacher pay scales and their job grading.

The Directors review all proposed changes to employee wages.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

During the year the Multi-Academy Trust did not have any connected organisations. Neither were there any related party relationships. Any related party relationships that may arise would be acknowledged at the Directors' meetings through the pecuniary interests forms.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Co-operation with other organisations in pursuit of charitable objectives

The Friends of St Nicholas School Alcester, Coughton School Parent Teacher Association and Temple Grafton Parent Teacher Association undertake fundraising activities as separate organisations, with the proceeds used for the betterment of the pupils who attend the schools operated by the Multi-Academy Trust.

During the year the Multi-Academy Trust provided a caretaker with the Parenting Project, Alcester, a Sure Start Children's Centre that acts as a hub for early learning, child and family health services, family support and links to training and employment advice.

In addition the Multi-Academy Trust continues to have a good working relationship with the Diocese of Coventry who provide support and guidance from both an educational and pastoral perspective.

The Multi-Academy Trust also lets out part of its premises to local organisations.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objectives of the charitable company are to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which shall include:

- Church of England schools designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and having regard to any advice issued by the Diocesan Board of Education; and
- other Academies whether with or without a designated religious character; but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main aim of the charitable company over the year has been to continue to provide a stable environment following operating as a Multi-Academy Trust to ensure that the very high standards set by the Multi-Academy Trust were maintained. Within this environment, our aim has been to continue to use the freedoms brought by Multi-Academy Trust status to lay down the foundations of new initiatives to further enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the Multi-Academy Trust, thereby maximising the opportunities for all students to realise their potential.

Since the consultation period, we conducted due diligence to ensure that none of the schools presented a risk to the MAT. The areas that were considered were: finance, school effectiveness (quality of teaching, learning and leadership), governance, premises and health and safety. After careful consideration of each of the reports the governors of each school agreed to the formation of the MAT.

There are clear benefits of working in this way. The main benefit to collaborative working will be on teaching, learning and leadership. There are highly effective teaching strategies and engaging curriculums that we can share and develop and the MAT will guarantee a shared commitment to working together rather than in isolation. Working in this way will ensure the quality of teaching and learning remains high and children have the best possible primary school experience. Through committing to work together, there are also financial savings to be had in economies of scale and procurement.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Volunteers

A wide range of visitors are invited into the schools to contribute in a variety of ways. These include health professionals, artists, poets in residence, theatre in education groups, craftspeople, the rector, local historians, careers advisers, police officers, local secondary school students, parents and grandparents and other people with particular expertise, experience or knowledge. These visitors contribute to learning in a variety of settings, such as curriculum extension or enrichment activities, assemblies, extracurricular events and clubs, community projects, theatre in education, insight into industry days, in lessons, at school based conferences, as expert witnesses and accompanying pupils on school trips.

Care is needed when handling sensitive and/or controversial issues that may arise. Staff and pupils will be involved in the establishment of classroom rules which set the climate for the lesson and make clear how all involved in the lesson are expected to behave towards each other during the session, this will then enable everyone involved to feel safe. Part of that discussion will include consideration of what kind of information is for sharing beyond the classroom and how pupils would feel if something they have contributed to the lesson were talked about on the playground or in the staffroom. These rules apply equally to pupils, staff and visitors. Where visitors support the curriculum, they are made aware of and abide by the school's policy regarding disclosures and confidentiality. The boundary between providing individual advice and providing learning opportunities for groups of pupils is made clear to everyone.

A teacher is present during any session with an outside visitor.

Public benefit

The Directors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The schools in the Trust at end of EYFS exceeded the national average at a Good Level of Development (GLD). Results at Key Stage 1 were broadly in line with national averages with the exception of one school in writing and maths. Appropriate provision has been put in place to address this and ensure the children make the necessary progress in Key Stage 2.

Attainment at Key Stage 2 in was equal to or above national averages for Reading, Writing and Maths (combined).

The number of disadvantaged children within the Trust are lower than national averages and there are no clear performance trends for this group. There are also statistical differences between schools in the Trust. The Trust does put significance on the education of disadvantaged children and this will be a priority for the trust in 2019-20.

This year the MAT has introduced and implemented THRIVE across the three schools to ensure that all staff have a deep understanding of how the concept can benefit all children and specifically those who have had adverse childhood experiences.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Key performance indicators

As a charitable company the Multi-Academy Trust does not consider it suitable to measure its performance in terms of financial measurements. However, the Directors review net incoming/outgoing resources before actuarial pension movements, to ensure that the Multi-Academy Trust achieves a small surplus each financial year, unless the Multi-Academy Trust undertakes activities to be funded out of reserves with the agreement of the Directors, to balance the need for the Multi-Academy Trust to have sufficient reserves to continue operations against the desire to maximise the benefit that the pupils of the Multi-Academy Trust receive.

The Directors consider the non-financial key performance indicators of the Multi-Academy Trust to be:

the academic success of the pupils (as measured by National Statistics published by the Department For Education);
other statistical analysis;
each school within the Multi-Academy Trust's latest Ofsted inspection report grade and the Diocesan Board of Education section 48 inspections;
in-house qualitative reports prepared by the Senior Leadership Team.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the Multi-Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. 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 majority of the Multi-Academy Trust's income was obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ending 31 August 2019 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities. An additional Conditional Improvement fund grant was received from the ESFA to support the MAT to meet the safeguarding needs of the children on site.

During the year, no additional schools joined the Multi Academy Trust, however, discussions took place with a number of schools in the area and these will continue with the expectation that possibly two schools will join the MAT in 2019/20.

Total expenditure for the year was £3,213,394 (2018 - £2,472,554), which was more than covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources.

Total net surplus (before actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme) for the year was £108,541 (2018 - £3,262,218).

At 31 August 2019 the net book value of fixed assets was £9,684,650 (2018 - £9,674,546). The movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the students of the Multi-Academy Trust.

At the year end the Multi-Academy Trust had total net assets of £9,323,972 (2018 - £9,481,431), split into the following reserves:

- Unrestricted funds of £438,938 (2018 - £277,020)
- Restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) of £118,844 (2018 - £154,561)
- Restricted general funds - pension reserve of £999,000 in deficit (2018 - £633,000 in deficit)
- Restricted fixed asset funds of £9,765,190 (2018 - £9,682,850)

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Reserves policy

The level of unrestricted funds and GAG restricted funds are being built up out of operating surpluses as to create a reserve to cover the risks and uncertainties of operating the school and thereby ensuring the financial security of the Multi-Academy Trust.

The Directors have evaluated what should be a suitable reserves policy and have concluded that a value of 5% of the budget is an appropriate amount. This is needed to support subsequent years where pupil numbers may fluctuate.

The Multi-Academy Trust also, from time to time, accumulates funding in order to finance specific projects that requires higher than normal expenditure and could not otherwise be funded out of day to day operating income.

The fixed assets of the Multi-Academy Trust held in restricted fixed asset funds are considered necessary for the continued running of the school and such funds are therefore excluded from review. Restricted fixed asset funds held as cash are being accumulated until sufficient funds are available to finance the planned purchase of specific capital items.

The Directors regularly monitor the level of reserves and report to the ESFA any unspent funds expected to be carried forward.

The Directors consider the level of reserves at the period end to be sufficient but not excessive.

The Multi-Academy Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £438,938 (2018 - £277,020).

The Pension Reserve relates to the provision for the Academy's share of the actuarial deficit on the Warwickshire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme and is accounted for in a separate restricted general fund in accordance with Academies Accounts Direction issued by the ESFA.

Excluding the Pension Reserve fund, the Academy is not carrying a deficit on any restricted general funds.

Investment policy

The Academy does not hold either any short term or long term investments.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors confirming that the major risks to which the Multi-Academy Trust is exposed, as identified by themselves, have been reviewed, and that systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

The principal financial risks facing the Multi-Academy Trust is that funding is dependent upon pupil numbers and upon the Government's policies for education. Pupil numbers have continued to increase in the current financial year. However Directors are aware that pupil numbers would be affected by changes to the reputation of the school or by significant developments within the local area, although the Directors do not consider the risk of such changes occurring to be high. The Directors review for any significant changes in Government funding policies that may affect the funding received by the school.

The Multi-Academy Trust is a participating employer of the Warwickshire County Council Local Government Pension scheme, a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme which is currently in deficit. The ongoing contributions payable to this scheme is considered manageable within the Academy's ongoing budgets.

The principal non-financial risks facing the Multi-Academy Trust are the protection of pupils, staff and assets, as well ensuring that the school continues to obtain favourable Ofsted inspection results. The Multi-Academy Trust has policies in place to manage all these risks.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Fundraising

Separately from the matter of charging, the Multi-Academy Trust on occasion seeks voluntary contributions in order to offer a wide variety of experiences to pupils. All requests for voluntary contributions will emphasise their voluntary nature and the fact that pupils of parents who do not make such contributions will be treated no differently to those who have. If we do not receive sufficient voluntary contributions, we may cancel the trip. This will be made clear to parents in the letter advising details of the activity.

If a parent wishes their child to take part in a school trip or event, but is unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution, we do allow the child to participate fully in the trip or activity. Sometimes the Multi-Academy Trust pays additional costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The Multi-Academy Trust provides this information on request.

The following is a list of additional activities organised by the Multi-Academy Trust, which require voluntary contributions from parents. These activities are known as "optional extras". This list is not exhaustive:

- visits to museums;
- sporting activities which require transport expenses;
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to the theatre;
- school trips; and
- musical events.

The Multi-Academy Trust does not engage in any other fundraising activities.

Plans for future periods

The Multi-Academy Trust will take every opportunity to improve the school environment to enhance the atmosphere for students. However the Directors are aware that funding for significant capital projects has to be applied for through the ESFA.

The main focus of the Trust for 2019-20 is to make significant progress against the Trust's Improvement Plan. The identified priorities include: curriculum review to ensure the needs of all learners are met including those with SEND and disadvantaged children; embedding the restorative approach to behaviour; carefully considered geographical growth.

Ensure all children are working at age related expectations and given opportunities to work at greater depth in all core subjects;

To further develop children's spiritual and personal development, behaviour and welfare; and

Relevant staff training to ensure that all staff are well informed of 2019-20 initiatives, have strong subject knowledge and successfully meet the needs of individual pupils.

Identify across the trust and more widely with other local schools, the opportunities for joint CPD initiatives

To continue to build and develop an effective leadership structure to allow the Trust to effectively support and work collaboratively with schools and trusts within the geographical area.

To work closely with members of each school's local community.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Multi-Academy Trust does not hold any funds as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

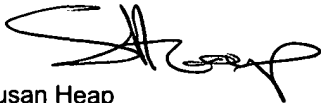
Auditor

In so far as the Directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are 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 auditors are aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Ormerod Rutter Limited 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 12 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Susan Heap
Chair of the Board of Directors

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Scope of responsibility

As Directors we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Arden Forest C of E 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 Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

The Board of Directors of the Multi Academy Trust formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance at these meetings was as follows:

Directors		Meetings attended	Out of possible
Susan Heap	Chair of Directors	6	6
Adam Walsh	Chief Executive Officer	6	6
Catherine Barron		4	6
Andrew Deeks		5	6
Vincent Foy		6	6
Caroline Harris		6	6
Nicholas Moon		5	6
Stuart Tilsley		5	6
Helen Wood		3	6

The Directors of the Multi-Academy Trust have been appointed based on their relevant skills portfolio and ensuring sufficient representation from the Local Governing bodies. A scheme of delegation has been created that covers the new reporting structure from Directors, Executive Head, Local Governing bodies and local school staff. This is monitored and supported by the Chief Financial Officer.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Multi-Academy Trust's budget along with the Resources sub-committee at each school, monitoring expenditure and addressing financial matters.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Multi-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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Areas where the trust's activities have contributed to achieving value for money:

- The trust's collaborative school improvement approach includes regular meetings for leaders. These meetings build the leadership capacity and facilitate the sharing of best practice. During 2018-19, other schools were invited to attend these meetings resulting in a total of 9 primary schools and one secondary school attending these meetings, sharing idea and building a support network.
- The THRIVE approach was embedded across the schools with a number of staff trained in the delivery of interventions. This work supports children with significant gaps in their emotional development and enables them to regulate themselves and ultimately interact well with others and access learning. The work in this area led to a complete review of behaviour policy, as a result the amount of time spent with dealing with behaviour has reduced.
- The Directors have implemented a consistent senior leadership team structure across the three schools. Talent management and succession planning is considered and reviewed. Following a resignation, a new head of school was appointed at Coughton from within the Trust which, in turn, led to a number of internal appointments including two Assistant Heads and a phase leader. This was further evidence that the Trust's succession plan was feasible and able to be implemented across the MAT.
- The Leadership Team conducted a more distributive and rigorous schedule of monitoring activities including book trawls, lesson observations and focused pupil discussions. Local governing bodies reviewed the impact of their staffing structures through the commissioning of an independent School Improvement Partner to verify the judgements of the Leadership Team and assess the impact against the School's priorities.
- The school continues to apply for capital grants and were fortunate to receive a CIF grant to replace the exterior fencing and pathways at the front of St. Nicholas school.
- Over the course of the year, contract and services were reviewed as they came to an end. This was the first full academic year of the trust and we were able to realise a number of cost savings.

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 Multi-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 Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Directors has reviewed the key risks to which the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Directors.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The risk and control framework

The Multi-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 from the HCSS Finance system, which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Directors;
- regular reviews by the Resources 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; and
- identification and management of risks are reviewed on a regular basis at Board of Directors level.

The Board of Directors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However the Board of Directors has appointed the services of Warwickshire County Council Schools Finance team to conduct regular internal audits of the key processes.

This service provider's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a regular basis, they report to the Directors and local schools' Boards of Governors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities.

The school's system of internal policies and financial controls is subject to periodic review and revision by the Board of Governors.

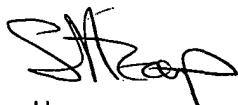
Review of effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Board of Directors and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of Directors on 12 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Susan Heap
Chair of the Board of Directors



Adam Walsh
Executive Head Teacher

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

As accounting officer of Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Multi-Academy Trust Board of Directors and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Multi-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 2018.

I confirm that I and the Multi-Academy Trust's Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Multi-Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Multi-Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

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.



Adam Walsh
Accounting Officer

12 December 2019

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The directors (who also act as trustees for Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust) are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the 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:

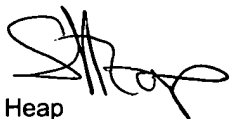
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting 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 12 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Susan Heap
Chair of the Board of Directors

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2019 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 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education & 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 2019 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 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019.

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 Multi-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 Multi-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.

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. 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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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 have 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 Multi-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 Multi-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.

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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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.



Colm McGrory FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Ormerod Rutter Limited

12/12/19

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Oakley
Kidderminster Road
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 9AY

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 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 Arden Forest C of E 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 Arden Forest C of E 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 Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2018, 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 2018 to 2019. 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 2018 to 31 August 2019 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 2018 to 2019 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 Multi-Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

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 2018 to 31 August 2019 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Reporting Accountant

Ormerod Rutter Limited
The Oakley
Kidderminster Road
Droitwich
Worcestershire
WR9 9AY

Dated:12/12/19.....

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	18,130	-	210,302	228,432
Donations - Transfer of schools into MAT from Local Authority	-	-	-	-	3,323,436
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,945,956	-	2,945,956
Other trading activities	5	147,176	-	-	147,176
Investments	6	371	-	-	371
Total		165,677	2,945,956	210,302	3,321,935
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	3,759	3,044,492	165,143	3,213,394
Total	7	3,759	3,044,492	165,143	3,213,394
Net income/(expenditure)		161,918	(98,536)	45,159	108,541
Transfers between funds	17	-	(37,181)	37,181	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(266,000)	-	(266,000)
Net movement in funds		161,918	(401,717)	82,340	(157,459)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		277,020	(478,439)	9,682,850	9,481,431
Total funds carried forward		438,938	(880,156)	9,765,190	9,323,972

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2018	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General	Fixed asset £	Total 2018 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	3,117	-	22,039	25,156
Donations - Transfer of schools into MAT from Local Authority		-	(202,037)	3,525,473	3,323,436
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,238,621	-	2,238,621
Other trading activities	5	108,279	39,050	-	147,329
Investments	6	230	-	-	230
Total		<u>111,626</u>	<u>2,075,634</u>	<u>3,547,512</u>	<u>5,734,772</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	3,897	2,311,085	157,572	2,472,554
Total	7	<u>3,897</u>	<u>2,311,085</u>	<u>157,572</u>	<u>2,472,554</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		107,729	(235,451)	3,389,940	3,262,218
Transfers between funds	17	(49,961)	46,849	3,112	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	134,000	-	134,000
Net movement in funds		<u>57,768</u>	<u>(54,602)</u>	<u>3,393,052</u>	<u>3,396,218</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>219,252</u>	<u>(423,837)</u>	<u>6,289,798</u>	<u>6,085,213</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>277,020</u>	<u>(478,439)</u>	<u>9,682,850</u>	<u>9,481,431</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	2019		2018	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		9,684,650		9,674,546
Current assets					
Debtors	14	93,993		190,210	
Cash at bank and in hand		847,869		448,039	
		<u>941,862</u>		<u>638,249</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(303,540)		(198,364)	
Net current assets			<u>638,322</u>		<u>439,885</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>10,322,972</u>		<u>10,114,431</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(999,000)		(633,000)
Net assets			<u><u>9,323,972</u></u>		<u><u>9,481,431</u></u>
Funds of the Multi-Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			9,765,190		9,682,850
- Restricted income funds			118,844		154,561
- Pension reserve			(999,000)		(633,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>8,885,034</u>		<u>9,204,411</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		<u>438,938</u>		<u>277,020</u>
Total funds			<u><u>9,323,972</u></u>		<u><u>9,481,431</u></u>

The accounts on pages 21 to 48 were approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 12 December 2019 and are signed on their behalf by:



Susan Heap
Chair of the Board of Directors

Company Number 08248830

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Notes	2019 £	£	2018 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		361,998		148,966
Cash received from schools joining the MAT			-		27,740
			<u>361,998</u>		<u>176,706</u>
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		371		230	
Capital grants from DfE and ESFA		210,302		22,039	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		<u>(172,841)</u>		<u>(51,722)</u>	
			37,832		(29,453)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period					
			<u>399,830</u>		<u>147,253</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2018			448,039		300,786
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2019			<u><u>847,869</u></u>		<u><u>448,039</u></u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales.

The address of the registered office and its principal place of business is St Nicholas' Church of England Primary School, St. Faiths Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 6AG.

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 Multi-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 2018 to 2019 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Directors make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the Multi-Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Multi-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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.3 Income

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

Grants receivable

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of 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.

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 Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust's accounting policies.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of 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 Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Multi-Academy Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 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:

Leasehold land	- not depreciated
Leasehold buildings	- 2% on cost
Leasehold improvements	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	- 20% on cost

Leasehold property includes property held under 125 year lease agreements issued by both Warwickshire County Council and Coventry Diocesan Board of Education.

In accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2015 this property is recognised in the financial statements, representing the 'right to use' the property. The property is recognised as a leasehold tangible fixed asset at fair value of the asset (being the right to use the property rather than the freehold) at the date of conversion less accumulated depreciation.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Leasehold property also includes property held under the terms of the Church Supplemental Agreement to the Funding Agreement whereby the trustees of the Church of England Parish of Alcester have made leasehold property available indefinitely to the Multi-Academy Trust, subject to either the termination of the Funding Agreement or on receipt of no less than two years written notice from the following 31st August from the trustees of the Church of England Parish of Alcester.

In accordance with FRS 102, this property was recognised in the financial statements, on the basis that the Academy has effective control over the future economic benefits relating to the property, is able to restrict the access of others to those benefits and is responsible for the maintenance of the property for the foreseeable future, on the assumption that it is improbable that notice to vacate the property will be issued within the foreseeable future. The property is recognised as a leasehold tangible fixed asset at fair value of the asset (being the right to use the property rather than the freehold) at the date of conversion less accumulated depreciation.

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

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

1.8 Financial instruments

The Multi-Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Multi-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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Taxation

The Multi-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 Multi-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.

1.10 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Multi-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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Multi-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 operating surplus 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.

1.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Multi-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 Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, 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 31st March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31st 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

The carrying value of tangible fixed assets is dependent on both the annual depreciation charge. The annual depreciation charge for tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in useful economic lives. The accounting policies for depreciation of tangible fixed assets can be found in note 1 and the carrying value of tangible fixed assets can be found in note 13.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
ESFA Capital Grants:				
- Devolved Formula Capital	-	50,258	50,258	19,538
- Condition Improvement Fund	-	160,044	160,044	2,501
Other donations	18,130	-	18,130	3,117
	<u>18,130</u>	<u>210,302</u>	<u>228,432</u>	<u>25,156</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

4 Funding for the Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	2,505,343	2,505,343	1,873,189
Rates Relief	-	12,547	12,547	12,428
Start up grants	-	-	-	50,000
MAT Development & Improvement Fund	-	38,008	38,008	39,092
Pupil Premium	-	125,007	125,007	110,015
PE & Sports Premium	-	53,890	53,890	33,732
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	108,158	108,158	83,776
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	3,002	3,002	-
	-	2,845,955	2,845,955	2,202,232
Other government grants				
Special Educational Needs	-	56,219	56,219	28,674
Pupil Premium Looked After Children	-	6,784	6,784	7,715
Local authority grants	-	36,998	36,998	-
	-	100,001	100,001	36,389
Total funding	-	2,945,956	2,945,956	2,238,621

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Hire of premises	9,239	-	9,239	7,434
Catering income	51,697	-	51,697	56,621
Contributions towards music lessons	9,240	-	9,240	7,131
Contributions towards school trips and extra-curricular activities	48,781	-	48,781	34,144
Other income	28,219	-	28,219	41,999
	147,176	-	147,176	147,329

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Bank interest	371	-	371	230

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,002,400	125,406	255,476	2,383,282	1,797,820
- Allocated support costs	311,146	219,990	298,976	830,112	674,734
	<u>2,313,546</u>	<u>345,396</u>	<u>554,452</u>	<u>3,213,394</u>	<u>2,472,554</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2019 £	2018 £
Operating lease rentals	9,278	10,503
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	162,737	148,512
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	18,000	15,000

Fees payable to the auditor:

	2019 £	2018 £
Audit of financial statements	5,350	4,345
Audit of ESFA annual return	1,540	1,300
Audit of TPS end of year certificate	1,075	515
Due diligence on MAT conversion	-	5,000
Preparation of financial statements	1,850	1,190
ESFA Regularity Audit	1,900	1,050
	<u>11,715</u>	<u>13,400</u>

8 Central services

The Multi-Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year time of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, centralised legal and professional costs, Directors' training and maintaining the website of the Multi-Academy Trust.

The Multi-Academy Trust charges for these services on the basis of 3.5% of General Annual Grant income.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
St Nicholas C of E Primary	48,714	20,883
Coughton C of E Primary	21,166	8,872
Temple Grafton C of E Primary	15,712	6,569
	<u>85,592</u>	<u>36,324</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Direct costs - educational operations	3,759	2,379,523	2,383,282	1,840,820
Support costs - educational operations	-	830,112	830,112	631,734
	<u>3,759</u>	<u>3,209,635</u>	<u>3,213,394</u>	<u>2,472,554</u>

Analysis of costs

	2019 £	2018 £
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	1,988,744	1,529,813
Staff development	13,656	8,995
Depreciation	125,406	106,807
Computer costs	27,709	14,600
Educational supplies	115,055	59,482
Educational professional services	64,520	76,507
School trip expenses	48,192	44,616
	<u>2,383,282</u>	<u>1,840,820</u>
Support costs		
Support staff costs	311,146	200,522
Depreciation	37,331	41,705
Computer costs	9,628	8,043
Legal, professional and staff recruitment	78,799	102,384
Maintenance of premises and equipment	67,311	39,397
Cleaning	16,528	9,301
Energy costs	37,186	27,526
Rent and rates	22,080	16,458
Insurance	39,554	33,631
Catering costs	168,276	122,168
LGPS deficit provision net interest charge	18,000	15,000
Office licences, telephone and stationery	12,558	7,199
Auditor's remuneration	11,715	8,400
	<u>830,112</u>	<u>631,734</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

10 Staff costs

	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	1,767,708	1,332,362
Social security costs	137,505	96,265
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	385,629	284,420
Staff costs	2,290,842	1,713,047
Supply staff costs	9,048	17,288
Total staff expenditure	2,299,890	1,730,335

Staff numbers

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

	2019 Number	2018 Number
Teachers	41	27
Teaching assistants	29	26
Midday supervisors	26	16
Caretakers and cleaners	10	5
Administration staff	13	5
	119	79
Arden Forest MAT	3	-
St Nicholas C of E Primary School	68	64
Coughton C of E Primary School	21	7
Temple Grafton C of E Primary School	27	8
	119	79

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

10 Staff costs

(Continued)

Staff numbers (continued)

The annual average number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent ("FTE"), was as follows:

	2019	2018
Teachers	27.1	22.9
Teaching assistants	14.8	14.7
Midday supervisors	3.8	3.1
Caretakers and cleaners	2.9	3.1
Administration staff	5.4	3.4
	<u>54.0</u>	<u>47.2</u>
Arden Forest MAT	0.4	-
St Nicholas C of E Primary School	35.2	37.6
Coughton C of E Primary School	9.8	5.8
Temple Grafton C of E Primary School	8.6	3.8
	<u>54.0</u>	<u>47.2</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2019 Number	2018 Number
£80,000 - £85,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Total employer pension contributions for these employees were £13,107 (2018 - £nil).

Staff redundancy costs

Included within staff costs is redundancy payments totalling £8,449 (2018: £nil). There was just the one individual payment of £8,449.

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Multi-Academy Trust comprise of the leadership 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 Multi-Academy Trust was £125,677 (2018 - £97,455).

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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 Multi-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:

Adam Walsh (Chief Executive Officer)

- Remuneration £80,000 - £85,000 (2018: £55,000 - £60,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2018: £5,000 - £10,000)

The amounts shown above as a comparative is only the element of salary paid by Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust and excludes the element of salary paid by Coughton C of E Primary School prior to Coughton C of E Primary School joining Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust. A proportion of this years salary has been recharged to another local school but the amount shown above is the total cost to the Multi Academy Trust.

During the year Directors were reimbursed expenses relating to travel costs totalling £414 (2018 - 4 Staff Governors were reimbursed expenses totalling £178).

12 Directors and officers insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Multi-Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. This insurance is included in a schools combined insurance policy which includes cover for multiple other types of insurance and the cost of insurance to protect Directors and officers cannot be easily determined as an individual element of the total cost of this combined insurance policy.

With effect from 1 September 2019 the Multi-Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement ("RPA"), an alternative to insurance where the UK Government funds cover losses that arise.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land & buildings £	Leasehold improvements £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2018	9,840,800	87,285	196,949	55,254	10,180,288
Additions	-	104,330	32,222	36,289	172,841
At 31 August 2019	9,840,800	191,615	229,171	91,543	10,353,129
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2018	330,700	9,325	131,061	34,656	505,742
Charge for the year	100,637	8,728	37,331	16,041	162,737
At 31 August 2019	431,337	18,053	168,392	50,697	668,479
Net book value					
At 31 August 2019	9,409,463	173,562	60,779	40,846	9,684,650
At 31 August 2018	9,510,100	77,960	65,888	20,598	9,674,546

Included in cost or valuation of land and buildings is leasehold land of £4,808,949 (2018 - £4,808,949)

14 Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade debtors	12,068	6,585
VAT recoverable	33,232	25,951
Other debtors	-	25,683
Prepayments	18,155	53,291
Accrued income	30,538	78,700
	93,993	190,210

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	131,918	47,459
Other taxation and social security	42,379	38,961
Accruals	52,280	36,990
Deferred income (see note 16)	76,963	74,954
	303,540	198,364

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

16	Deferred income	2019	2018
		£	£
	Deferred income is included within:		
	Creditors due within one year	76,963	74,954
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 1 September 2018	74,954	41,926
	Released from previous years	(74,954)	(41,926)
	Resources deferred in the year	76,963	74,954
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Deferred income at 31 August 2019	76,963	74,954
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deferred income relates to UIFSM received early relating to the next financial year and contributions from parents towards future school trips and extracurricular activities.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	126,316	2,626,048	(2,623,894)	(37,181)	91,289
Other government grants	-	40,000	(36,998)	-	3,002
Pupil Premium	14,247	131,791	(146,038)	-	-
Special Educational Needs	-	56,219	(56,219)	-	-
PE & Sport Premium	13,998	53,890	(43,335)	-	24,553
MAT Development and Improvement Fund	-	38,008	(38,008)	-	-
	<u>154,561</u>	<u>2,945,956</u>	<u>(2,944,492)</u>	<u>(37,181)</u>	<u>118,844</u>
Funds excluding pensions	(633,000)	-	(100,000)	(266,000)	(999,000)
	<u>(478,439)</u>	<u>2,945,956</u>	<u>(3,044,492)</u>	<u>(303,181)</u>	<u>(880,156)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
General fixed asset funds	9,674,546	-	(162,737)	172,841	9,684,650
Devolved Formula Capital	8,304	50,258	(2,406)	(31,330)	24,826
Condition Improvement Fund	-	160,044	-	(104,330)	55,714
	<u>9,682,850</u>	<u>210,302</u>	<u>(165,143)</u>	<u>37,181</u>	<u>9,765,190</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>9,204,411</u>	<u>3,156,258</u>	<u>(3,209,635)</u>	<u>(266,000)</u>	<u>8,885,034</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	273,261	165,677	-	-	438,938
Library Fund	3,759	-	(3,759)	-	-
	<u>277,020</u>	<u>165,677</u>	<u>(3,759)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>438,938</u>
Total funds	<u>9,481,431</u>	<u>3,321,935</u>	<u>(3,213,394)</u>	<u>(266,000)</u>	<u>9,323,972</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

Unrestricted funds

General unrestricted funds relate to funds that are expendable at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the charity's aims and objectives.

The Library Fund related to donations received from the Alcester Trade and Labour Club and the Friends of St Nicholas that were earmarked to be spent on converting an existing classroom into the new school library. These funds have now been fully expensed.

Restricted Revenue Funds

The General Annual Grant (GAG) fund relates to income received from the ESFA in order to cover the normal running costs of the Academy. It also includes the surplus of funds received on conversion from Local Authority control not relating to capital fixed assets. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2019.

The Pupil Premium fund relates to additional funding from the ESFA to support the disadvantaged pupils of the school and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

The Special Educational Needs fund relates to income received from Warwickshire County Council to assist pupils with special educational needs.

The PE & Sports Premium fund relates to additional funding from the ESFA to help primary schools improve the quality of the PE and sport activities they offer their pupils.

The MAT Development and Improvement Fund relates to ESFA funding which can be used to cover legal and professional costs associated with improving or expanding the Multi-Academy Trust, wages and training of the leadership team and costs of establishing methods of monitoring pupil performance.

The Pension Reserve relates to the provision for the Academy's share of the actuarial deficit on the Warwickshire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme and is accounted for in a separate restricted general fund in accordance with Academies Accounts Direction issued by the ESFA.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Restricted fixed asset funds relate to the tangible fixed assets owned by the Academy.

Devolved Formula Capital fund relate to funding received for the purposes of purchasing fixed assets.

Conditional Improvement Fund relates to a specific grant received to fund new school fencing and electric gates at St Nicholas.

Transfers

During the year the following transfers between funds were made:

- £31,330 transferred from DFC fund to general fixed asset funds due to tangible fixed asset additions funded out of DFC funds;
- £104,330 transferred from Condition Improvement Fund to general fixed asset funds due to tangible fixed asset additions funded out of Condition Improvement Fund;
- £37,181 transferred from GAG to general fixed asset funds due to tangible fixed asset additions funded out of GAG.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2017 £	Schools joining the MAT £	Other Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses & transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2018 £
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	37,963	2,008,443	(1,966,939)	46,849	126,316
Pupil Premium	23,163	-	117,730	(126,646)	-	14,247
Special Educational Needs	-	-	28,674	(28,674)	-	-
PE & Sport Premium	-	-	33,732	(19,734)	-	13,998
MAT Start Up	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
MAT Development and Improvement Fund	-	-	39,092	(39,092)	-	-
Funds excluding pensions	23,163	37,963	2,277,671	(2,231,085)	46,849	154,561
Pension reserve	(447,000)	(240,000)	-	(80,000)	134,000	(633,000)
	<u>(423,837)</u>	<u>(202,037)</u>	<u>2,277,671</u>	<u>(2,311,085)</u>	<u>180,849</u>	<u>(478,439)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
General fixed asset funds	6,261,323	3,510,013	-	(148,512)	51,722	9,674,546
Devolved Formula Capital	-	15,460	19,538	(9,060)	(17,634)	8,304
Condition Improvement Fund	28,475	-	2,501	-	(30,976)	-
	<u>6,289,798</u>	<u>3,525,473</u>	<u>22,039</u>	<u>(157,572)</u>	<u>3,112</u>	<u>9,682,850</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>5,865,961</u>	<u>3,323,436</u>	<u>2,299,710</u>	<u>(2,468,657)</u>	<u>183,961</u>	<u>9,204,411</u>
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	211,596	-	111,626	-	(49,961)	273,261
Library Fund	7,656	-	-	(3,897)	-	3,759
	<u>219,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,626</u>	<u>(3,897)</u>	<u>(49,961)</u>	<u>277,020</u>
Total funds	<u>6,085,213</u>	<u>3,323,436</u>	<u>2,411,336</u>	<u>(2,472,554)</u>	<u>134,000</u>	<u>9,481,431</u>

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

17 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2019 £	2018 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 were allocated as follows:		
St Nicholas C of E Primary	324,313	280,316
Coughton C of E Primary	125,881	81,745
Temple Grafton C of E Primary	56,869	43,916
Central services	50,719	25,604
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	557,782	431,581
Restricted fixed asset fund	9,765,190	9,682,850
Pension reserve	(999,000)	(633,000)
Total funds	9,323,972	9,481,431

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 2019 £	Total 2018 £
St Nicholas C of E Primary	1,201,946	144,535	56,984	353,847	1,757,312	1,706,330
Coughton C of E Primary	429,826	54,417	25,219	133,411	642,873	249,966
Temple Grafton C of E Primary	322,804	43,011	32,852	77,444	476,111	187,928
Central services	20,491	14,516	-	39,354	74,361	99,818
	1,975,067	256,479	115,055	604,056	2,950,657	2,244,042
Depreciation					162,737	148,512
Pension reserve movements					100,000	80,000
					3,213,394	2,472,554

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,684,650	9,684,650
Current assets	438,938	315,648	187,276	941,862
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(199,210)	(104,330)	(303,540)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(999,000)	-	(999,000)
Total net assets	438,938	(882,562)	9,767,596	9,323,972

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2018 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	9,674,546	9,674,546
Current assets	277,020	352,925	8,304	638,249
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(198,364)	-	(198,364)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(633,000)	-	(633,000)
Total net assets	277,020	(478,439)	9,682,850	9,481,431

19 Pensions and similar obligations

The Multi-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 Warwickshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31st March 2012, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31st 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 full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

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. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%

The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The TPS employer contributions will increase to 23.6% from September 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £196,788 (2018 - £138,639).

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 Multi-Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Multi-Academy Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below.

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.6% for employers, as well as additional lump sum payments of £8,000 for the year ended 31st March 2019 and £11,000 for the year ended 31st March 2020, and between 5.5% and 12.5% depending on the level of salary earned for employees.

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

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of LGPS provision

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(2,075,000)	(1,530,000)
Fair value of the Academy's share of scheme assets	1,076,000	897,000
Academy's share of LGPS net deficit	(999,000)	(633,000)

Total contributions made

	2019 £	2018 £
Employer's contributions	103,000	79,000
Employees' contributions	26,000	21,000
Total contributions	129,000	100,000

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2019 %	2018 %
Rate of increases in salaries	2.9	3.0
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	2.3	2.4
Discount rate	1.8	2.8

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

	2019 Years	2018 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	22.5
- Females	23.6	24.7
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.4	24.3
- Females	25.0	26.7

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

The Multi-Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2019 Fair value £	2018 Fair value £
Equities	656,360	565,000
Bonds	279,760	197,000
Cash	10,760	27,000
Property	129,120	108,000
Total market value of assets	1,076,000	897,000
Actual return on scheme assets - gain/(loss)	59,000	40,000
Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2019 £	2018 £
Current service cost	54,667	22,000
Interest cost	18,000	15,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	27,333	43,000
Total operating charge	100,000	80,000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2019 £	2018 £
Obligations at 1 September 2018	1,530,000	1,022,000
Obligations acquired with schools joining the MAT (see note)	-	427,000
Current service cost	185,000	144,000
Interest cost	45,000	32,000
Employee contributions	26,000	21,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses:		
- changes in financial assumptions	414,000	(69,000)
- changes in demographic assumptions	(116,000)	(11,000)
- other experience adjustments	-	(31,000)
Benefits paid	(9,000)	(5,000)
At 31 August 2019	2,075,000	1,530,000

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Assets at 1 September 2018	897,000	575,000
Share of scheme assets acquired with schools joining the MAT (see note)	-	187,000
Interest income	27,000	17,000
Actuarial gains/(losses):		
- return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	32,000	23,000
Employer contributions	103,000	79,000
Employee contributions	26,000	21,000
Benefits paid	(9,000)	(5,000)
At 31 August 2019	1,076,000	897,000

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	108,541	3,262,218
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus in regard to schools joining the MAT	-	(3,323,436)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(210,302)	(22,039)
Investment income receivable	(371)	(230)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	82,000	65,000
Defined benefit pension net finance cost	18,000	15,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	162,737	148,512
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	96,217	(116,156)
Increase in creditors	105,176	94,414
Debtors received from schools joining the MAT	-	25,683
Net cash provided by operating activities	361,998	148,966

21 Capital commitments

	2019 £	2018 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	67,920	17,837

22 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain Directors' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

ARDEN FOREST C OF E MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

23 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.