

Company Registration No. 08689696 (England and Wales)

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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



**Haines Watts**

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
Bridge House  
157A Ashley Road  
Hale  
Altrincham  
Cheshire  
WA14 2UT

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Trustees

Mr K Newton  
Mr K Simpson (Accounting officer)  
Mrs K Egdell  
Miss K L Harrop (Resigned 28 August 2020)  
Mrs S Bowen (Chair of trustees)  
Mrs M R Coppenhall  
Mr C Dean  
Mr M Elliott  
Mrs J Tomlinson (Appointed 30 September 2020)

### Members

Mrs D Morrison  
Mr J R Ashmore  
Mrs S Bowen  
Mr G van Enk-Bones  
Mrs J Tomlinson (Appointed 20 September 2019, resigned 30 September 2020)

### Senior management team

- Executive Principal
- Director of Maths & ITE
- Director of Teaching School & Education
- Director of Literacy and Research & Development
- Chief Finance Officer
- Business Operations Manager
- HR Manager
- Principal of Ash Grove Academy
- Deputy Head of Ash Grove Academy
- Deputy Head of Ash Grove Academy
- Head of Peover Superior Endowed Primary School
- Vice Principal of Peover Superior Endowed Primary School
- Head of Sandbach Primary Academy
- Principal of The Wilmslow Academy
- Vice Principal of The Wilmslow Academy
- Principal of Underwood West Academy
- Deputy Principal of Underwood West Academy
- Assistant Principal of Underwood West Academy
- Head of Victoria Road Primary School
- Assistant Head of Victoria Road Primary School
- Assistant Head of Victoria Road Primary School
- Head of Puss Bank School and Nursery
- Deputy Head of Puss Bank School and Nursery
- Principal of Wilbraham Primary School
- Vice Principal of Wilbraham Primary School
- Head of Holmes Chapel Primary School
- Deputy Head of Holmes Chapel Primary School
- Deputy Head of Holmes Chapel Primary School
- Deputy Head of Holmes Chapel Primary School
- Head of Parkroyal Community School
- Deputy Head of Parkroyal Community School
- Head of Hollinhey Primary School
- Deputy Head of Hollinhey Primary School
- Assistant Head of Hollinhey Primary School

Mr K Simpson  
Mr M Avis  
Mrs J Ashcroft (Resigned 31 August 2020)  
Mrs M Dixon  
Mrs H Mason  
Mrs K Stanier  
Mrs N Zissler  
Mrs L Finnegan  
Mrs S Veale  
Mrs J Ceuppens  
Mrs L Hesmondhalgh  
Miss E Crumbleholme  
  
Mrs C Caldwell  
Mrs C Clowes  
Mrs J White  
Mrs L Jones (Appointed 1 September 2019)  
Miss R Ollier  
Miss K Bond  
Mrs C Lord  
Mrs J Munro  
Mrs K Clarke  
Mrs K Nichols  
Mrs R Hammond  
Mr S Wheeldon  
Mr A Marchant  
Mrs F Gresty  
Mrs R Morrison (Resigned 24 January 2020)  
Mr J Lavin (Resigned 31 December 2019)  
Mrs L Brown (Appointed 01 January 2020)  
Mrs C Beaumont  
Mr M Ransom  
Mrs S Clough  
Mrs C Massey  
Miss L Whitehead

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)

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**Company registration number** 08689696 (England and Wales)

**Registered office** Ash Grove Academy  
Belgrave Road  
Macclesfield  
SK11 7TF

**Academies operated**

The Wilmslow Academy  
Underwood West Academy  
Victoria Road Primary School  
Ash Grove Academy  
Peover Superior Endowed Primary School  
Sandbach Primary Academy  
Puss Bank School  
Wilbraham Primary School  
Holmes Chapel Primary School  
Parkroyal Community School  
Hollinhey Primary School

**Location**

Cheshire East  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire West  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire East  
Greater Manchester  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire East  
Cheshire East

**Independent auditor**

Haines Watts  
Bridge House  
Ashley Road  
Hale  
Altrincham  
WA14 2UT

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank  
223 Finney Lane  
Heald Green  
Cheshire  
SK8 3PY

**Solicitors**

Browne Jacobson LLP  
Mowbray House  
Castle Meadow Road  
Nottingham  
NG2 1BJ

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

The trust operates 11 academies for pupils aged 2 to 11 serving catchment areas in Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Manchester. The schools' census at October 2019 detailed the following pupil numbers:

- Ash Grove has a pupil capacity of 204 and has a roll of 218 (including nursery)
- Peover has a capacity of 77 and has a roll of 94
- Sandbach Primary Academy has a capacity of 105 and has a roll of 116 (including nursery)
- The Wilmslow Academy has a capacity of 420 and has a roll of 333
- Victoria Road has a capacity of 203 and a roll of 155
- Underwood West Academy has a capacity of 442 and a roll of 431
- Puss Bank Primary School has a capacity of 420 and a roll of 454 (including nursery)
- Wilbraham Primary has a capacity of 720 and a roll of 650 (including nursery)
- Holmes Chapel Primary School has a capacity of 420 and a roll of 424
- Parkroyal has a capacity of 420 and a roll of 411
- Hollinhey has a capacity of 210 and a roll of 203

#### Structure, governance and management

##### Constitution

The 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 trust.

The trustees of The Aspire Educational Trust are also the trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as The Aspire Educational Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year and to the date of these accounts are approved are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

##### Members' liability

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

##### Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, every trustee and officer is indemnified against any liability incurred by them in their capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour of or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the trust.

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees' and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

##### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

There are 8 trustees who are selected for their skills and knowledge. They are independent of the LAC's and the Members

##### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

From conversion on 1 December 2013 we have held regular meetings which have formed the basis of our induction and training. We have also liaised with other MATs in order to learn from their experiences.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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#### Organisational structure

The management structure consists of:

- A board of members;
- a board of trustees;
- a board of trustees with the oversight for standards;
- a board of trustee Resources/Audit Committee; and
- the schools' Local Academy Committee.

The governance of the trust is at two levels; the board of trustees (and its committees) and the individual Local Academy Committee. The board of trustees is responsible for the strategic decision making of the trust and the board of members is responsible for ensuring that high quality standards of corporate governance are maintained.

The main responsibilities of the trustees are:

- approving statutory policies;
- adopting the annual budget and medium term financial plan;
- making major decisions about the direction of the trust;
- approving significant contractual or capital expenditure;
- senior staff appointments;
- the appointment of auditors; and
- risk management.

The day to day running of the schools is delegated to the senior leadership teams of the academies. These comprise of the principals and their respective teams. The SLT implement the policies laid down by the trustees and report back to them.

The SLT of the trust comprises of the CEO, CFO, deputy CEO, director of education, director of teaching school, director of research school, director of ITE, principals, director of maths and english, the MAT business manager and the HR manager.

The CEO of the trust has been appointed as accounting officer. All funds received by the trust are paid directly into The Aspire Educational Trust bank account.

#### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel's performance management reviews are held on an annual basis. The pay ranges for the principal, vice principal and assistant principals will be determined in accordance with the criteria specified in the 2017 STPCD and ensuring fair play relativities. The CEO and all other trust staff will be remunerated on a scale decided upon by the AET Board. The CEO will make annual recommendations to the pay and remuneration committee on their salary progression as determined by the Trust Performance Management and Appraisal Policy. When the pay and remuneration committee has considered the recommendations for the CEO and any comment from the individual employee, its decision will be provided in writing, made by the third month of the new academic year at the latest.

#### Pupil admissions

The Aspire Educational Trust is the Admissions Authority for all its academies and determines the admission arrangements and criteria in agreement with our local authorities. The admission arrangements are published on the trust's and academies websites and notified to the Local Authorities.

Applications are made between September and January of the previous year to which a pupil commences school entry. Applications are made to the trust's local authorities. Applications are ranked in accordance with the trust's admission criteria and notifying the Local Authority Admissions Team of the ranked applications.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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#### Disabled persons

The trust aims to recruit employees and retain talent, skills and experience and ensure disabled staff, as far as reasonably practicable, can fulfil their employment potential. The trust aims to provide equity in access to the full range of recruitment, career development, promotion, training and other employment opportunities for all staff. To ensure that there is no unfair discrimination on grounds of disability and that access to employment and promotion is based on merit. The trust observes good equalities practice for employees regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

#### Employee consultation

The trust respects employee consultation and acknowledges that this is a two way process between the trust and all employees of the trust. The trust offers transparency and openness including listening to employees concerns and seeks to share views and information on a timely basis with all employees on all matters relating to the trust. The trust holds an annual event with all employees which involves interaction with employees from different schools. This is an opportunity to meet other staff and governors.

#### Trade union facility time

The trust currently purchases the trade union facility time service from the local authority through a pooled facility time arrangement which is undertaken by the local association division branch officers.

#### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The CEO of The Aspire Educational Trust is a National Leader of Education and Head of a Teaching School Alliance and National Research School. As part of this role he takes a lead in organising Pupil Premium reviews. The members, directors, trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definitions in the Charities SORP.

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

The Aspire Educational Trust engages with suppliers through supporting local suppliers within the community where possible. This in turn supports parents, families and the wider community.

Our stakeholders are at the heart of our purpose. We are focused on responding to the needs of, and building long-term relationships with; our suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship. Other key stakeholders are the producers and suppliers who we purchase goods and services from and the communities in which we operate.

The trust supports a range of local charitable and community activities, based on pupil and parent input which are coordinated through different schools and academies.

#### Objectives and activities

- To advance, for the public benefit, education in the UK in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering broad and balanced curriculums.
- To ensure that all trust academies are at the forefront of international standards of excellence in educational provision and learning.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities:

**A passion for ALL of our pupils to be confident, happy learners that go onto live successful, healthy lives in their community. We will have a commitment to:**

- Adhere to the trust policy of: "All pupils/students and adults are expected to behave in a responsible manner, both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times."
- Deliver an evidenced based bespoke local curriculum, which meets the needs of all learners.
- Listen to pupil voice, empowering and involving young people in the development and delivery of their own education in order to be the best, not just nationally but internationally.
- Secure the achievement, personal development and well-being of children, young people and adults.
- Promote and support parents' and carers' engagement in the children's learning.
- Understand and work with our local community.
- Build professional networks, within our group and beyond, providing school to school support, opportunities for pupils, and sharing professional development.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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The trust has currently identified the following short-term objectives:

To maximise potential of technology to grow the capacity of the trust for:

Teaching and Learning: To create an effective 'blended' approach to in school and home learning, enabling school to revert to full time home learning if required for individuals or bubbles and addressing inequality gaps in access to technology.

CPD: To develop and improve online collaboration and sharing of resources

Business Team: To build capacity through a shared network, accessible remotely for all aspects of trust work

- To ensure all children 'catch up' any missed learning in English due to Covid19
- To ensure all children 'catch up' any missed learning in Maths due to Covid19
- To improve quality of teaching and learning across the foundation subjects

To further develop the effectiveness of leadership and management through maximising our capacity through:

Embed peer enquiry/peer deep dive – to share expertise and capacity between leaders and schools

Further developing mechanisms for self-evaluation to include biennial school reviews by trust

Coaching – to develop capacity within our leaders themselves

- To ensure that a new HR and payroll is put in place across the trust
- To continue to strengthen the Teaching School offer for 2020-2021

Strategies and activities for achieving the objectives

The strategies for achieving the above objectives include:

- Holding governance reviews at all levels
- Consultation with staff in schools
- Development of the trust's website
- Development of our support of other school providing development opportunities for all staff
- Developing leadership at trust level using the government grant
- Developing the Research School into Manchester and Stockport

The quality of teaching and learning:

We will raise achievement through a relentless drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning, employing outstanding teachers and leaders to model outstanding practice and to coach our people in best practice in planning, assessment and the use of data. The systems in the schools will ensure consistency, and the climate is one of high expectations and aspirations for both staff and pupils.

Links with partners

We have formed links with several schools in Cheshire East as part of the Teaching School Alliance. In addition, we are close partners with the Research School Network and Sheffield Hallam University.

Communication and decision making

Our scheme of delegation allows schools a high degree of autonomy for local boards, where this is merited through academy performance. Where performance is lower than expected the scheme of delegation will reflect this position.

Public benefit

The trust will promote for the benefit of the local inhabitants, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.



# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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### Strategic report

#### Aspire Educational Trust

##### Achievement and performance

Due to the Covid pandemic no tests took place in the summer term

##### Key performance indicators

In line with the high aspirations of the trust, a range of key performance indicators are used to regularly monitor the progress and success of each academy.

##### All academies good or better in Ofsted inspections

- (96% plus) good or better teaching (within 2 years of joining the trust).
- Working towards no student exclusions using the skills across the trust.
- Student attendance at least 96% plus.

##### Pre 11 targets

- 85% of children achieve Age Related Expectations and expected progress measure.
- Pupil Premium children making as good or better progress than non-pupil premium children in order to close the gap rapidly.

##### Leadership

All academies to have a talent management plan in place to recognise and celebrate the skills and talents of trust staff.

##### Going concern

##### The effects of the coronavirus pandemic

The trust schools have all incurred additional expenditure due to the Covid19 outbreak which includes the purchase of vouchers for parents for free school meals during the period of school closure, PPE equipment, additional cleaning materials including sanitisation products.

Lost income due to the lockdown period closure of all trust schools in the form of Before and After Schools Club income and lettings income

For all our trust schools, budgets and forecasts were initially prepared based on the previous normal activity and did not reflect the most recent developments of Covid19. In light of this our trust schools are now preparing updated forecasts to reflect the changed circumstances, this is difficult given the current level of uncertainties in relation to what actions and restrictions will be necessary going forward and the possible impact of these on the trust schools' future income and expenditure and day to day operations. Our trust schools are also extending the preparation of budgets and forecasts to a period exceeding one year from the sign off of the financial statements, to properly reflect the on-going challenges arising from addressing the pandemic challenges. Hopefully clarity will continue to emerge as time progresses, but the continual update of our trust schools' budgets and forecast will allow our trustees to continue to review our financial position as developments occur and the impacts on the trust schools becomes clearer

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

##### Promoting the success of the company

The trust takes reasonable steps to minimise any adverse impact that our schools' operations may have on the surrounding environment.

The trust strives to conduct all its business relationships with integrity and courtesy, and to honour every business agreement, always acting fairly. All employees share an obligation to continuously improve the trust to safeguard its longevity and to maintain the high standards of teaching for our pupils.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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The long-term sustainability of the trust is at the forefront of decision-making, particularly in response to the challenging conditions of the current covid19 pandemic.

#### **Financial review**

Excluding the net assets acquired on conversion, most of the trust's income is obtained from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

During the year to 31 August 2020 £19,515k of recurrent grant funding from the ESFA and other incoming resources (excluding net assets gifted on conversion) were offset by total expenditure of £20,038k, resulting in a net in-year surplus/deficit of £523k before actuarial gains on pensions of £1,150k.

The net surplus/deficit represents a £724k operational surplus in the period.

After adjusting for actuarial gains on the pension scheme of £1,150k, the movement in funds during the period was £1,673k.

The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the trust.

We have a support system in place for finance officers in individual academies, and an internal finance committee which aims are to ensure compliance.

The Aspire Educational Trust has a pension liability of £10,962,000 as at 31 August 2020 which is included in restricted reserves. The disclosure does not mean that the liability is already committed and is no longer available to the trustees to further the academy trust's objectives. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013. In the short term, the cash flow impact of having a pension scheme liability may be that employer contributions may increase to reduce the liability. The Aspire Educational Trust will always pay the employer contribution rates set by the pension scheme administrators. Each year the trustees review the resource requirements and income that is forecast for future years through a detailed budget plan which is formulated, challenged and approved before submitting to the ESFA.

Investment Policy: There are no investments held beyond cash deposits retained in The Aspire Educational Trust bank accounts.

The trust schools have implemented the government and local authority guidance for the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus, which includes increasing the frequency of hand washing and surface cleaning. Using screens and barriers, wearing of face masks, keeping the recommended safe distance from each other. Sanitisation stations.

Keeping parents and the local community updated and restricting the flow of persons entering our school premises.

The trust received additional funding from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for two schools during the period to 31 August 2020.

#### Reserves policy

In establishing a reserves policy, the trust considers and balances the following principles:

- sufficient funds should be immediately available to meet urgent or emergency requirements;
- the trust has an obligation to meet its liabilities as they fall due ensuring sufficient cash balances to smooth short-term cash deficit issues whether arising from adverse timing or from permanent reductions in income;
- the trustees have an obligation to protect the assets of the trust, predominantly leasehold land and buildings; and
- the income of the trust should be spent for the benefit of current pupils.

The trustees will review reserve levels of the trust annually.

At 31 August 2020 the value held in restricted general funds and unrestricted funds was £2,045k.

The level of restricted and unrestricted reserves that the Trust holds has increased by £112k in the year.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

#### Investment policy

The trustees' investment powers are governed by the memorandum and articles of association, which permit the trust's funds to be held in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time be imposed or required by law.

The policy is to invest surplus funds as to achieve the optimum return against an acceptable level of risk. The trust's investments will be managed in conformity with our policy and the memorandum and articles of association.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The trust has a risk register and risk review processes. The objectives will be to determine an approach, and where it is considered necessary put in place measures of control and mitigation in order to manage the risks.

The principle risks are the loss of reputation through falling standards, falling student rolls and failure to safeguard the students.

Key controls in place include:

- An organisational structure with defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels.
- Terms of reference for the committees.
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting areas of financial risk.
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

#### **Fundraising**

Due to the pandemic, fundraising has slowed in all schools. We do anticipate that some fundraising will take place over the next year, but the amounts will be much smaller than in previous years. All schools abide by the Code of Fundraising Practice when fundraising to include the legal aspects, openness and honesty and being respectful to the public. All schools raise funds for a number of registered charities. These funds are raised through sponsorship and donations; there is no obligation for any child/parent or member of public to donate. All funds/donations collected are given to the relevant charity in a timely manner. Any complaints that the trust may receive regarding our methods of fundraising will be dealt with in a timely manner referring to the Code of Fundraising Practice.

#### **Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

<b>UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020</b>	
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	<b>3,678,017</b>
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• gas,</li><li>• electricity,</li><li>• transport fuel</li></ul>	
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Gas consumption Owned transport - mini-buses <u>Total scope 1</u>	 510.18 0.18 510.36
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Purchased electricity	 207.45
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Business travel in employee owned vehicles	 3.08
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	<b>720.89</b>
<u>Intensity ratio</u> Tonnes CO2e per pupil	<b>0.21</b>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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#### Quantification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

#### Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

#### Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites. We have and are replacing halogen lighting with LED lighting and we have replaced aged kitchen appliances with efficient appliances.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The main aim of the year is to embed the policies and procedures and establish a clear vision for the trust to move forward. This is clearly set out in the MAT Business Plan.

Children have come back happy and eager to learn. The main effects of the pandemic on staff has been the added pressure to offer digital learning for the children in self-isolation. All meetings between trustees, members, LAC's and staff are held on a virtual platform. Obviously all children missed 6 months of their learning due to the pandemic – this does affect the objectives of the trust i.e. we can no longer expect standards to be as high as in previous years. Our main aim is to get the children to 'catch up' during the next year, with a view to starting 2021-2022 on track.

#### **Auditor**

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

This trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2020 and signed on the board's behalf by:



.....  
**Sue Bowen**  
**Chair of trustees**

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### Scope of responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Aspire Educational 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.

As trustees we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in the DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, Mr Kevin Simpson, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Aspire Educational Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The members met twice during the year and the board of trustees of the MAT met five times during the year. Attendance during the year at these meetings was as follows:

Members	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Morrison (Chair)	2	2
S Bowen (Chair of trustees)	1	2
R Ashmore	2	2
J Tomlinson	2	2
Greg van Enk-Bones	2	2

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Bowen (Chair)	5	5
K Simpson (CEO and accounting officer)	5	5
K Newton	4	5
K Harrop	3	5
M Coppenhall	4	5
C Dean	4	5
K Egdell	3	5
M Elliott	4	5

Resource/Audit Committee Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
K Harrop (Chair)	3	6
K Simpson (CEO and accounting officer)	6	6
K Newton	6	6
K Egdell	2	6
M Elliott	6	6

Standards Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Coppenhall (Chair)	2	2
S Bowen	2	2
C Dean	0	2

Academy Schools Hub 1	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H Parkinson-Sykes	1	2
J Chadwick	1	2
A Harris	2	2
H Marsh	2	2
T Hailwood	2	2
W Montgomery	1	2

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

<b>Academy Schools Hub 2</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
K Goodridge	0	2
P Stoddard	0	2
S Boyd	2	2
R Salt	2	2
K Siddall	2	2

**Governance reviews:**

Each term the board of trustees and the local academy committees carry out a self-review, alongside a skills audit, to focus on actions and impact. This is reviewed by the SLT of the MAT and trustees and appropriate actions are taken.

This was limited in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic.

**Review of value for money**

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

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

Set out below is how the accounting officer has ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The local academy committee is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans.

Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services governors will apply the four principles of best value:

- Challenge - Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?
- Compare - How does the school's pupil performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with LEA schools? How does it compare with similar schools?
- Consult - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- Compete - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The governors' and trustees' approach

The governors/trustees and school managers will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school;
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision; and
- the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

Governors, and the school managers, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. benchmarking tools, quality of teaching and learning, levels of expenditure;
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets;
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup; and
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, OFSTED, Finance consultant, LA, Energy Unit.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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This will apply in particular to:

- staffing;
- use of resources;
- quality of teaching;
- quality of learning;
- purchasing;
- pupils' welfare; and
- health and safety.

#### Governors and school managers:

- will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved;
- will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs;
- will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services; and
- the pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

#### Staffing

Governors and school managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

#### Use of premises

Governors/trustees and school managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

#### Use of resources

Governors and school managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

#### Teaching

Governors/trustees and school managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum;
- agreed RE Syllabus, and the needs of pupils; and
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

#### Learning

Governors/trustees and school managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and striving to improve on or maintain previous years' exam results and attendance.

#### Purchasing

Governors/trustees and school managers will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £25,000);
- three quotes for goods and services in excess of £3,000;
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship); and
- procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

#### Pupils' welfare

Governors/trustees and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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#### Health & safety

Governors/trustees and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

#### Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the headteacher/principal and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling.
2. Termly target setting meetings between the headteacher/principal and curriculum managers.
3. Staff appraisal.
4. Annual budget planning.
5. Headteacher's/principal's regular finance review.
6. Analysis of school pupil performance data against similar LA schools and analysis of LA financial data against benchmark data for similar schools.
7. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data.
8. OFSTED inspection reports.
9. Governors' termly committee meetings.
10. Governors' full termly meetings.
11. Governors' annual finance review.
12. Governors' annual SATs target setting meeting.

#### In the next three years the trustees will:

- Hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
- Hold an annual development plan meeting at its first meeting of the Autumn Term.
- Discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
- Review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
- Consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts

#### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Aspire Educational Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The risk and control framework**

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

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



# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Haines Watts as internal auditors.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. On a termly basis the auditors report direct to the audit committee who act on its findings and report the outcomes to the board of trustees, reflecting upon the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and no material control issues have been identified. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of the payroll
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations

On a termly basis the auditors report to the board of trustees, through the audit committee on the operation of the systems control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year in year progress.

The internal scrutiny work for the year to 31 August 2020 has been delayed due to the Covid19 pandemic and is expected to be completed by January 2021.

Following the newly revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors, the academy trust will continue to appoint internal auditors to carry out the academy trust's internal scrutiny from 1 September 2020.

To enable compliance with the revised FRC Ethical standards and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 the trust is looking to appoint a new internal auditor for the academic year 2020/21.


#### Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditors
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
**Sue Bowen**  
Chair of trustees

  
.....  
**Kevin Simpson**  
Accounting officer

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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As accounting officer of The Aspire Educational Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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



.....  
**Kevin Simpson**  
**Accounting officer**

Date 10/12/20

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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The trustees (who are also the directors of The Aspire Educational Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees 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 trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the 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 trustees 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 trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 16/12/20 and signed on its behalf by:



Sue Bowen  
Chair of trustees

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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### Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

### Other information

The trustees 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.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020*

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

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' 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 trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 trustees 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees 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.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

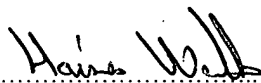
## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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### 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.



**John Whittick BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of Haines Watts**

**Chartered Accountants**

**Statutory Auditor**

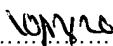
Bridge House

Ashley Road

Hale

Altrincham

WA14 2UT

Date 

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 August 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Aspire Educational Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Aspire Educational Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Aspire Educational 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 The Aspire Educational Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of The Aspire Educational Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Aspire Educational Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 January 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

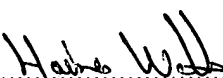
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The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

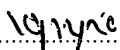
- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

### Conclusion

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

  
.....

**Haines Watts**  
**Reporting Accountant**

Date:  .....



# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	104	474	578	352
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		-	-	-	-	1,472
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		-	-	-	-	6,435
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	3	-	18,193	-	18,193	16,609
- Teaching schools	26	46	35	-	81	273
Other trading activities	4	379	281	-	660	1,210
Investments	5	3	-	-	3	3
<b>Total</b>		<u>428</u>	<u>18,613</u>	<u>474</u>	<u>19,515</u>	<u>26,354</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	6	53	-	-	53	48
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	889	18,876	220	19,985	18,720
- Teaching schools	26	-	177	-	177	231
<b>Total</b>	6	<u>942</u>	<u>18,876</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>20,038</u>	<u>18,999</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(514)	(263)	254	(523)	7,355
Transfers between funds	17	(139)	1	138	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(1,150)	-	(1,150)	(2,605)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(653)	(1,412)	392	(1,673)	4,750
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,552</u>	<u>(8,404)</u>	<u>33,897</u>	<u>27,045</u>	<u>22,295</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>899</u>	<u>(9,816)</u>	<u>34,289</u>	<u>25,372</u>	<u>27,045</u>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2019	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General    Fixed asset £'000    £'000	Total 2019 £'000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Donations and capital grants	2	-	138	214
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		65	(283)	1,690
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust		294	(1,310)	7,451
Charitable activities:				
- Funding for educational operations	3	-	16,609	-
- Teaching schools		233	40	-
Other trading activities	4	597	613	-
Investments	5	3	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,192</u>	<u>15,807</u>	<u>9,355</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	6	48	-	-
Charitable activities:				
- Educational operations	8	669	17,923	128
- Teaching schools		-	231	-
<b>Total</b>	6	<u>717</u>	<u>18,154</u>	<u>128</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		475	(2,347)	9,227
Transfers between funds	17	(398)	(122)	520
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>				
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(2,605)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		77	(5,074)	9,747
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,475</u>	<u>(3,330)</u>	<u>24,150</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,552</u>	<u>(8,404)</u>	<u>33,897</u>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	33,888	33,843
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	514	662
Cash at bank and in hand		3,402	2,809
		<u>3,916</u>	<u>3,471</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(1,401)</u>	<u>(1,403)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>2,515</u>	<u>2,068</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>36,403</u>	<u>35,911</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	<u>(69)</u>	<u>(81)</u>
<b>Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability</b>		<u>36,334</u>	<u>35,830</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19	<u>(10,962)</u>	<u>(8,785)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>25,372</u>	<u>27,045</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17		
- Fixed asset funds		34,289	33,897
- Restricted income funds		1,146	381
- Pension reserve		<u>(10,962)</u>	<u>(8,785)</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		<u>24,473</u>	<u>25,493</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17	<u>899</u>	<u>1,552</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>25,372</u>	<u>27,045</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 10/12/20 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sue Bowen  
Chair of trustees

Company Number 08689696

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	390	(234)
Cash funds transferred on conversion		-	460
		<u>390</u>	<u>226</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		3	3
Capital grants from DfE Group		472	214
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		2	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(265)	(698)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<u>212</u>	<u>(481)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of long term bank loan		(9)	(9)
Repayment of other loan		-	52
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities</b>		<u>(9)</u>	<u>43</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<u>593</u>	<u>(212)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		<u>2,809</u>	<u>3,021</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>		<u><u>3,402</u></u>	<u><u>2,809</u></u>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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#### 1 Accounting policies

The Aspire Educational Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

##### 1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

##### 1.3 Associated undertakings

On 1 November 2018 the trust acquired Parkroyal Academy Trading Limited, a subsidiary trading company of Parkroyal Academy Trust. The accounts of the subsidiary company were not consolidated in the year to 31 August 2019 due to the fact they were immaterial to the group. Individual accounts for the subsidiary were submitted to Companies House in accordance with company law.

On 31 August 2019 Parkroyal Academy Trading Limited ceased to trade. All assets, liabilities and trade were transferred to the trust.

##### 1.4 Income

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

###### 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.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Sponsorship income

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

##### Donations

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

##### Other income

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

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

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

On conversion to an academy Cheshire East Borough Council donated, on a 125 year lease, the land and property of the schools. The buildings were over 50 years old so on the basis of depreciable replacement value no value was given to them. The land transferred at £nil was valued at the date of transfer according to local land prices.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. 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 and buildings	Buildings have been fully depreciated before conversion
Leasehold improvements	20 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	8 years
Assets under construction	nil until brought into use

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review of impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed assets 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.

##### 1.7 Liabilities

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

##### 1.8 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

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

##### 1.9 Taxation

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

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### 1.10 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

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

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

##### 1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

##### 1.12 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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



# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 1 Accounting policies

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 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. 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.

### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Capital grants	-	472	472	214
Other donations	-	106	106	138
	-	578	578	352

### 3 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	14,301	14,301	13,053
Start up grants	-	-	-	25
Other DfE group grants	-	2,599	2,599	2,251
National College grants	-	181	181	10
	-	17,081	17,081	15,339
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	1,100	1,100	1,220
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	10	10	-
	-	1,110	1,110	1,220
<b>Other funding</b>				
Research grant income	-	-	-	50
Other incoming resources	-	2	2	-
	-	2	2	50
<b>Total funding</b>	-	18,193	18,193	16,609

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

#### 3 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

The academy trust received £1,100,000 from the local authority in the year being split as follows:

- £4,000 of Pupil Premium funding
- £560,000 of Early Years funding
- £636,000 of High Needs Top Up funding

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies relating to the grants in the year.

#### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Hire of facilities	-	15	15	39
Catering income	-	185	185	276
Recharged wages	-	-	-	21
Parental contributions	-	81	81	298
Other income	379	-	379	576
	<u>379</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>1,210</u>

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Short term deposits	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

#### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
		Premises £'000	Other £'000		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	53	53	48
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	12,371	195	868	13,434	12,532
- Allocated support costs	4,105	808	1,461	6,374	6,188
- Teaching school (note 26)	<u>161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>231</u>
	<u>16,637</u>	<u>1,003</u>	<u>2,398</u>	<u>20,038</u>	<u>18,999</u>

#### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	32	29
- Other services	10	18
Operating lease rentals	9	22
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	220	128
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	<u>172</u>	<u>152</u>

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**7 Central services**

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

- financial services;
- educational support services; and
- others as arising.

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- flat percentage of GAG income (5%).

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Holmes Chapel Primary School	76	73
Parkroyal Community School	75	62
Hollinhey Primary School	41	17
The Wilmslow Academy	65	63
Underwood West Academy	104	106
Victoria Road Primary School	41	40
Ash Grove Academy	47	47
Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	19	16
Sandbach Primary Academy	22	22
Puss Bank School	70	67
Wilbraham Primary School	141	141
	<u>701</u>	<u>654</u>

**8 Charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>	<b>funds</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	889	12,545	13,434	12,532
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	6,374	6,374	6,188
	<u>889</u>	<u>18,919</u>	<u>19,808</u>	<u>18,720</u>

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**8 Charitable activities**

<b>Analysis of costs</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	12,371	11,072
Staff development	29	58
Depreciation	195	109
Technology costs	74	74
Educational supplies and services	668	1,019
Other direct costs	97	200
	<u>13,434</u>	<u>12,532</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	4,105	3,752
Depreciation	25	19
Technology costs	75	44
Maintenance of premises and equipment	215	248
Cleaning	69	66
Energy costs	248	230
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	169	183
Insurance	65	126
Security and transport	57	116
Catering	675	755
Interest on defined benefit pension scheme	172	152
Legal costs	20	4
Other support costs	437	440
Governance costs	42	53
	<u>6,374</u>	<u>6,188</u>

**9 Staff**

**Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Wages and salaries	11,944	11,317
Social security costs	1,056	987
Pension costs	3,586	2,628
	<u>16,586</u>	<u>14,932</u>
Staff costs - employees	16,586	14,932
Agency staff costs	23	53
Staff restructuring costs	28	20
	<u>16,637</u>	<u>15,005</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	29	58
	<u>16,666</u>	<u>15,063</u>
Total staff expenditure	16,666	15,063

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**9 Staff**

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	14
Severance payments	28	6
	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>

**Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are two non-contractual severance payments totalling £15,939 (2019 £nil). Both payments were paid on 17 August 2020, broken down as £939 and £15,000.

**Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	173	164
Administration and support	354	366
Management	32	43
	<u>559</u>	<u>573</u>

**Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	10	6
£70,001 - £80,000	2	3
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

**Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £2,078,921 (2019: £2,320,995).

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

#### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £1,596 (2019: £1,689) were reimbursed to 1 trustee (2019: 1 trustee).

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

K Simpson (Executive Principal and trustee)  
Remuneration: £140,001 - £145,000 (2019: £135,001 - £140,000)  
Employer's pension contributions: £5,001 - £10,000 (2019: £nil)

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

#### 11 Insurance for trustees and officers

The academy trust has opted into the Department of Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Assets under construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 September 2019	32,487	1,005	252	349	75	34,168
Transfer between classes of asset	-	75	-	-	(75)	-
Additions	-	115	87	33	30	265
At 31 August 2020	32,487	1,195	339	382	30	34,433
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2019	-	123	113	40	49	325
Transfer between classes of asset	-	49	-	-	(49)	-
Charge for the year	35	53	86	46	-	220
At 31 August 2020	35	225	199	86	-	545
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2020	32,452	970	140	296	30	33,888
At 31 August 2019	32,487	882	139	309	26	33,843

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

The net book value of land and buildings comprises:

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Long leaseholds (over 50 years)	32,452	32,487

**13 Debtors**

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Trade debtors	13	200
Amounts owed by group undertakings	20	-
VAT recoverable	146	182
Prepayments and accrued income	335	280
	<u>514</u>	<u>662</u>

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Government loans	9	9
Other loans	26	26
Trade creditors	236	346
Other taxation and social security	240	241
Other creditors	286	371
Accruals and deferred income	604	410
	<u>1,401</u>	<u>1,403</u>

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Government loans	43	52
Other loans	26	26
Accruals and deferred income	-	3
	<u>69</u>	<u>81</u>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
<b>Analysis of loans</b>		
Wholly repayable within five years	104	113
Less: included in current liabilities	(35)	(35)
	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>
Amounts included above		
	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>
<b>Loan maturity</b>		
Debt due in one year or less	35	35
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	35	35
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	30	31
Due in more than five years	4	12
	<u>104</u>	<u>113</u>

The Government loan is part of the funding approved by the ESFA for the improvements to schools within the Trust. The funding was delivered as a combination of capital grant and a 0% "Salix" loan.

### 16 Deferred income

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	<u>320</u>	<u>237</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	237	173
Released from previous years	(237)	(173)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>320</u>	<u>237</u>
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2020</b>	<u>320</u>	<u>237</u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy trust was holding income in relation to 2020/21 as follows:

- £245,000 Universal Infant Free School Meals grant income
- £64,000 SEN funding
- £11,000 Other amounts



# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	272	14,301	(13,574)	(16)	983
Other DfE / ESFA grants	109	2,815	(2,803)	17	138
Other government grants	-	1,110	(1,110)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	387	(362)	-	25
Pension reserve	(8,785)	-	(1,027)	(1,150)	(10,962)
	<u>(8,404)</u>	<u>18,613</u>	<u>(18,876)</u>	<u>(1,149)</u>	<u>(9,816)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	28,633	-	-	-	28,633
DfE group capital grants	1,676	472	(178)	(17)	1,953
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,873	-	(6)	16	2,883
LA capital grants	78	-	(2)	-	76
Big Lottery fund	8	-	(2)	-	6
Groundworks	9	-	-	-	9
Expenditure from unrestricted	620	2	(32)	139	729
	<u>33,897</u>	<u>474</u>	<u>(220)</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>34,289</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>25,493</u>	<u>19,087</u>	<u>(19,096)</u>	<u>(1,011)</u>	<u>24,473</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>1,552</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>(942)</u>	<u>(139)</u>	<u>899</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>27,045</u>	<u>19,515</u>	<u>(20,038)</u>	<u>(1,150)</u>	<u>25,372</u>

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objectives of the academy trust.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objectives of the academy trust.

Unrestricted funds are those funds to which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy trust's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

The transfer from General Annual Grant restricted general fund to restricted fixed asset funds is to meet the cost of fixed asset additions for which there was no specific capital funding in the year.

The transfer from unrestricted general funds to restricted fixed asset funds is to meet the cost of fixed asset additions for which there was no specific grant funding received in the year.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

#### 17 Funds

The transfer from restricted funds GAG to restricted funds is to meet the cost of fixed asset additions for which there was no specific capital funding in the year.

The transfer from other DfE/ESFA restricted fixed asset funds to other DfE/ESFA restricted general funds relates to DFC monies received which have not been spent on capital items.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the {#cy3} was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	280	13,025	(13,021)	(12)	272
Start up grants	-	25	(25)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	493	2,301	(2,575)	(110)	109
Other government grants	-	1,220	(1,220)	-	-
Other restricted funds	1	722	(723)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,104)	(1,486)	(590)	(2,605)	(8,785)
	<u>(3,330)</u>	<u>15,807</u>	<u>(18,154)</u>	<u>(2,727)</u>	<u>(8,404)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Transfer on conversion	22,954	5,691	(13)	-	28,632
DfE group capital grants	966	687	(83)	105	1,675
Capital expenditure from GAG	43	2,826	(10)	17	2,876
LA capital grants	82	-	(4)	-	78
Big Lottery fund	12	-	(4)	-	8
Groundworks	9	-	-	-	9
Expenditure from unrestricted	84	151	(14)	398	619
	<u>24,150</u>	<u>9,355</u>	<u>(128)</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>33,897</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>20,820</u>	<u>25,162</u>	<u>(18,282)</u>	<u>(2,207)</u>	<u>25,493</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>1,475</u>	<u>1,192</u>	<u>(717)</u>	<u>(398)</u>	<u>1,552</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>22,295</u>	<u>26,354</u>	<u>(18,999)</u>	<u>(2,605)</u>	<u>27,045</u>

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**17 Funds**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:		
Holmes Chapel Primary School	348	357
Parkroyal Community School	(48)	(114)
Hollinhey Primary School	30	23
The Wilmslow Academy	114	38
Underwood West Academy	213	207
Victoria Road Primary School	44	4
Ash Grove Academy	507	514
Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	36	81
Sandbach Primary Academy	105	73
Puss Bank School	96	187
Wilbraham Primary School	242	123
Central services	358	440
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	2,045	1,933
Restricted fixed asset fund	34,289	33,897
Pension reserve	(10,962)	(8,785)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	25,372	27,045
	<hr/>	<hr/>

As shown above Parkroyal Community School was in deficit at the year ended 31 August 2020 as well as 31 August 2019.

The Aspire Educational Trust are working closely with Parkroyal Community School to improve their financial position.

The trust is utilising staff members at the school to work across the Trust to allow the school to earn additional income where possible.

The trust is also working with the school to reduce all expenditure costs and where possible utilise the Trust buying power to achieve economies of scale.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 17 Funds

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2020 £'000	Total 2019 £'000
Holmes Chapel Primary School	829	520	58	283	1,690	1,562
Parkroyal Community School	832	671	85	203	1,791	1,658
Hollinhey Primary School	503	313	30	154	1,000	423
The Wilmslow Academy	874	441	39	224	1,578	1,656
Underwood West Academy	1,270	973	61	255	2,559	2,644
Victoria Road Primary School	461	345	35	131	972	1,035
Ash Grove Academy	692	455	70	147	1,364	1,412
Peover Superior Endowed Primary School	287	106	30	80	503	444
Sandbach Primary Academy	264	177	63	85	589	587
Puss Bank School	1,099	727	53	244	2,123	2,043
Wilbraham Primary School	1,939	1,142	141	363	3,585	3,675
Central services	(11)	902	3	143	894	953
	<u>9,039</u>	<u>6,772</u>	<u>668</u>	<u>2,312</u>	<u>18,648</u>	<u>18,092</u>

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	33,888	33,888
Current assets	2,369	1,146	401	3,916
Creditors falling due within one year	(1,401)	-	-	(1,401)
Creditors falling due after one year	(69)	-	-	(69)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(10,962)	-	(10,962)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>899</u>	<u>(9,816)</u>	<u>34,289</u>	<u>25,372</u>

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	33,843	33,843
Current assets	1,581	1,836	54	3,471
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,403)	-	(1,403)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(81)	-	(81)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(8,785)	-	(8,785)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>(8,433)</b>	<b>33,897</b>	<b>27,045</b>

### 19 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which are managed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (on behalf of Wilbraham Primary School) and Cheshire West and Chester Council (for all other academies in the trust). All are defined-benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £294,931 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019: £146,675) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

#### 19 Pension and similar obligations

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,618,000 (2019: £1,037,000).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit 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 18.2 - 26.6% for employers and 5.5 - 9.9% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £956,000.

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

Total contributions made	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Employer's contributions	1,076	1,122
Employees' contributions	250	242
Total contributions	1,326	1,364

Principal actuarial assumptions	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.9 - 3.0	2.6 - 3.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.2	2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.8 - 1.9

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**19 Pension and similar obligations**

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

	<b>2020 Years</b>	<b>2019 Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	20.5 - 21.5	20.6 - 21.2
- Females	23.1 - 23.6	23.1 - 23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.9 - 22.0	22.1 - 22.2
- Females	25.0	24.8 - 25.0

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are as set out below:

**Sensitivity analysis – Ash Grove Academy**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	288
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	29
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	254

**Sensitivity analysis – Peover Superior Endowed Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	12%	48
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	1
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	11%	47

**Sensitivity analysis – Sandbach Primary Academy**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	94
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	6
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	13%	87

**Sensitivity analysis – The Wilmslow Academy**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	250
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	11
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	235

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**19 Pension and similar obligations**

**Sensitivity analysis – Underwood West Academy**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	583
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	88
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	11%	482

**Sensitivity analysis – Victoria Road Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	176
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	18
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	154

**Sensitivity analysis – Puss Bank School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	220
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	17
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	200

**Sensitivity analysis – Wilbraham Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	635
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	92
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	530

**Sensitivity analysis – Holmes Chapel Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	239
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	1%	24
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	210

**Sensitivity analysis – Parkroyal Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	449
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	53
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	387



**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**19 Pension and similar obligations**

**Sensitivity analysis – Hollinhey Primary School**  
**Changes in assumptions at 31 August 2020**

	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount (£000)</b>
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	14%	90
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	12
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	12%	76

**The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme**

	<b>2020 Fair value £'000</b>	<b>2019 Fair value £'000</b>
Equities	5,962	6,132
Bonds	4,182	3,299
Cash	611	328
Property	1,105	927
Total market value of assets	<u>11,860</u>	<u>10,686</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £11,000 (2019: £689,000).

**Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities**

	<b>2020 £'000</b>	<b>2019 £'000</b>
Current service cost	1,931	1,469
Past service cost	-	91
Interest income	(215)	(249)
Interest cost	387	401
Total operating charge	<u>2,103</u>	<u>1,712</u>

**Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations**

	<b>2020 £'000</b>	<b>2019 £'000</b>
At 1 September 2019	19,471	10,691
Obligations acquired on conversion	-	3,557
Current service cost	1,931	1,469
Interest cost	387	401
Employee contributions	250	242
Actuarial loss	946	3,045
Benefits paid	(163)	(25)
Past service cost	-	91
At 31 August 2020	<u>22,822</u>	<u>19,471</u>

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**19 Pensions and similar obligations**

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
At 1 September 2019	10,686	6,587
Assets acquired on conversion	-	2,071
Interest income	215	249
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(204)	440
Employer contributions	1,076	1,122
Employee contributions	250	242
Benefits paid	(163)	(25)
	<u>11,860</u>	<u>10,686</u>
At 31 August 2020	11,860	10,686

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(523)	7,355
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion to academy	-	(1,472)
Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust	-	(6,435)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(474)	(214)
Investment income receivable	(3)	(3)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	855	438
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	172	152
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	220	128
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	148	(292)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(5)	300
Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	-	(191)
	<u>390</u>	<u>(234)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>(234)</b>

**21 Analysis of changes in net funds**

	<b>1 September 2019</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Cash	2,809	593	3,402
Loans falling due within one year	(35)	-	(35)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(78)	9	(69)
	<u>2,696</u>	<u>602</u>	<u>3,298</u>

**THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**22 Commitments under operating leases**

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

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Amounts due within one year	7	11
Amounts due in two and five years	15	2
	<u>22</u>	<u>13</u>

**23 Capital commitments**

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	742	-

During the year the following projects were agreed with the local authority although neither commenced until post year end:

Puss Bank Primary School - New classroom building to accommodate increased SEN pupils. The project will be fully funded by the local authority to the value of £511k.

Ash Grove Primary School - New nursery classroom building. The project is projected to cost £231K. Again this funding will be provided by the local authority.

**24 Related party transactions**

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

**25 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.

# THE ASPIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

### 26 Teaching Schools

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Direct Income</b>		
- Teaching school – grant	35	40
- Other income	46	233
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	81	273
<b>Total Income</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Direct Costs</b>		
- Direct staff costs	134	161
- Travel costs	1	2
- Other direct costs	14	45
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total direct costs</b>	(149)	(208)
<b>Other costs</b>		
- Support staff costs	27	20
- Food & provisions	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total other costs</b>	(28)	(23)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	(177)	(231)
Transfers between funds excluding depreciation	54	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) from all sources	(42)	42
<b>Teaching school balances at 1 September 2019</b>	42	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Teaching school balances at 31 August 2020</b>	-	42