

Company Registration No. 08852553 (England and Wales)

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

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NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Sir John Timpson CBE
C Penn - representative of Chester Diocesan BofE
B J Wignall
I Colledge

Trustees

B Wignall (Chairman)
S Docking (CEO & Accounting Officer)
K Cook
A Walmsley
D Jones
R Ollman
K Cobb
M Forber
J Roberts-Joyce (Resigned 2 January 2021)

Senior management team

- CEO & Accounting Officer	S Docking
- CFO (from 1 September 2021)	J Johnstone
- Exec Head - St Martin's Academy/Grosvernor Park CE Academy	W Smith
- Exec Head - Oak View Academy/Weaverham Primary Academy	F Whittaker
- Headteacher - Rudheath Senior Academy	L Barber (formally R Roslan)
- Headteacher - Delamere CE Primary Academy	J Clayton
- Headteacher - Acresfield Primary School	M Dixon
- Headteacher - Ellesmere Primary	S Roberts
- Head of School - Grosvernor Park CE Academy	R Clark
- Head of School - Weaverham Primary Academy	J Price
- Head of Human Resources	C Booth
- Interim CFO	S Jones

Company secretary Oliver & Co Secretarial Services Limited

Company registration number 08852553 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office
The Coach House
Union Street
Chester
CH1 1QP

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated	Location	Principal
Acresfield Primary Academy	Chester	M Dixon
Oak View Academy	Winsford	F Whittaker
Ellesmere Primary School	Ellesmere	S Roberts
St Martins Academy	Chester	W Smith
Delamere Church of England Academy	Tarporley	J Clayton
Grosvenor Park Church of England Primary	Chester	R Clark
Weaverham Primary	Northwich	J Price
Rudheath Senior Academy	Northwich	L Barber (formally R Roslan)
Independent auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP 24 Nicholas Street Chester CH1 2AU	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN	
Solicitors	Oliver & Co Solicitors Limited Oliver & Co Douglas House 117 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HE	

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates nine primary schools (Acton CofE Primary Academy and Calveley Primary Academy only joined the trust on 1 September 2021 and so are not listed on the Reference and Administrative Details page) with age ranges 2-11, and one secondary school with an age range of 11-16, in Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Shropshire, England. Its academies have a combined capacity of 2,579 pupils and had a roll of 2,167 in the school census on October 2021. An increase of 283 pupils since October 2020.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The charitable company operates as North West Academies Trust. All the names of the schools within are shown on the reference and administrative page.

The trustees of North West Academies Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Academy Trust maintains Directors' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its Directors. The Academy Trust has also granted indemnities to each of its Directors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Directors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Directors or officers of the Academy Trust.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Under the terms of our Articles:

- The members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 10 trustees.
- The total number of trustees, including the Chief Executive Officer, if they so choose to act as a trustee, who are employees of the Academy Trust, shall not exceed one third of the total number of trustees.
- In circumstance where the trustees have not appointed local governing bodies in respect of academies, there shall be a minimum of two parent trustees.
- Parent trustees and parent local governors shall be elected, or appointed by interview, if the number of parents or individuals exercising parental responsibility standing for election is less than the number of vacancies.
- The trustees may appoint co-opted trustees. The trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a co-opted trustee if thereby the number of trustees who are employees of the academy trust would exceed one third of the total number of trustees.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees depends on their previous experience. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as a trustee. New trustees may attend an induction if relevant and have access to a full programme of courses which they will choose to attend, based on their role and experience. Trustees can and do visit all academies within the trust and meetings can be held at any of the academies on a rota basis.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of three levels: the trustees, the local governing board (LGB) and the academy leadership team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. Responsibilities are delegated through our scheme of delegation.

The trustees are responsible for setting general policy and dealing with compliance. The LGB create an annual plan for their academy and budget accordingly. They monitor the academy using performance reports and budgets. They make major decisions about the direction of the academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments and this relationship is managed through the scheme of delegation. Overall responsibility for ensuring value for money and challenging the academies on how they spend their delegated budgets to improve outcomes for children rests with the CEO.

The senior leadership team is different in each academy. These managers direct the academies at senior level implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and the LGB then reporting back to them. As a group the senior leadership team are responsible for the authorisation of spending up to a level delegated to them, within agreed budgets, and the appointment of staff, although appointment boards for posts in the senior leadership team always contain a trustee. Some spending control is devolved to members of the middle management team, with limits, above which a member of the senior leadership team must countersign.

The middle management team includes curriculum area leaders and heads of year. Along with the senior management team these managers are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the academy, organising the teaching staff, facilities and students.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees, CEO, CFO, Head of Human Resources and senior leadership team as disclosed on the reference and administrative page.

The pay policy, setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the board of trustees, after taking advice from the CEO and Unions, plus following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies. The CEO is not involved in setting their own remuneration.

Only staff trustees, including the relevant academy leader at each academy and the CEO, are remunerated, and these individuals are only received remuneration in respect of services they provide under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. Specific disclosures concerning staff trustees' remuneration is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The day to day running of the remuneration policy is delegated to the CEO and academy leaders at each academy and monitored by the LGB, finance and resources committee with oversight from Remuneration Committee. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the pay policy and appraisal policy which are reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking, market trends and advice on structuring of incentives. Senior management salaries are linked closely to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that everyone's remuneration is at an appropriate level. As such salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at the specific approved rates.

The board always bear in mind the charitable status of the academy trust and recognise the fact the trust receives funding under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensure the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the trust. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

Trade Unions

The Trust and our academies currently have one Trade Union Official on staff and recognises all employee rights to be a member of a trade union, respecting this accordingly.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	-
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Engagement with employees

We have good levels of communication with staff at all levels of the organisation. Each school uses the same schools management system ARBOR. Through this we are able to communicate regularly with all staff. Communication is largely delegated to the school's leaders with communication from the Trust limited to half termly newsletters from the CEO, weekly with Head teachers and regular correspondence from the central trust team.

Key policies are reviewed in partnership with the Head teachers and decisions made in relation to them are communicated up the structure of the organisation - not down. NWAT offer a number of employee benefit schemes including Medicash, a range of salary sacrifice options and also a free flu jab.

We have a number of disabled colleagues within the organisation and, where relevant, we adapt policy accordingly. Through lockdown we communicated directly with vulnerable staff and made sure all Head teachers were consistent in the delivery of shielding and dealing with all medical needs of staff.

As we have over 250 employees, induction is a key part of integration into each school with reference to specific trust related information. We also operate an employee intranet with access to all shared information that enables schools to work together effectively can be independent whilst being part of a larger educational trust.

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

We use a range of suppliers for the delivery of services across the organisation. Where it makes sense to do so, we share services for economies of scale. This is particularly beneficial in the delivery of premise-related services.

In addition to this, the trust employs a centrally-funded repair person who works with all the schools to save money on premises-related costs. We also share catering services in two of our schools, and we use the same best suppliers of utilities to minimise costs in this area

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Academy Trust benefits from discounted legal services from Oliver & Co Solicitors, based in Chester. Kay Cook is a Trustee of the Academy Trust and also a Director and shareholder of Oliver & Co.

All academies encourage parents to form active PTA's both to encourage parental involvement and raise academy funds. All academies within the Academy Trust have a PTA.

Impact of Covid-19

2020 was a year like no other for the management of schools, this continued in 2020/21. The ongoing impact of the world pandemic has not only meant that schools have had to think and behave differently, it has also meant all measurable benchmarks by which we judge our performance were removed.

All our schools have had to adapt to the ongoing effect of the pandemic. All were far better organised to do this in 2020/21 as we evaluated the effect of the previous year and had the opportunity to adapt effectively to constant change. Our online provision in all our school was excellent and this was supported by the proactive nature of the Trust in sourcing over 350 used ICT devices from local people and organisations, to ensure all children had access to devices on which online learning could take place.

Financially all our school managed to work through the effects of Covid with limited impact on their funding or cash reserves. They were well supported well from central Government and as such all were able to emerge from the pandemic financially sound.

Educationally we have found that those children who have the least parental support through the lockdown periods have not progressed as well as they would have done in school. Equally there is no substitute for human engagement and making sure that teachers have the opportunity to engage their pupils, and pupils have the opportunities that only school can provide.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Trust's object is specifically restricted in the Articles of Association to the following; to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom. In particular, but without prejudice, to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing our academies and those with a designated Church of England religious character by offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

We aim to ensure that all children who attend any of the academies have a right to an outstanding education. The trust is responsible for ensuring that each academy is compliant with their statutory obligations but in addition to this the trust staff offer support and challenge in equal measure to the individual academy leadership and Governors. This is delivered through a 'bottom up' approach not through 'top down' control.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main objectives of the MAT during the year ended 31 August 2021 are summarised below:

- To ensure that every child enjoys a high-quality education and has the best opportunity to achieve their potential.
- To continue to raise the standard of educational achievement and attainment of all pupils, ensuring that each child achieves to the best of their ability.
- To improve and maintain the effectiveness of each academy by keeping curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To maintain close links with the Diocese (in our Church Academies), the local community and other key stakeholders involved in supporting each of our academies.
- To conduct the business of the academy trust in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness following the seven principles of public life.

Public benefit

The trust strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the local area. Each academy within the MAT provides an extensive programme of educational and recreational activity - all designed to contribute to the overall education of our students in areas such as academic distinction, music, the arts and sport.

Wherever possible each academy also aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities. For example, to:

- Local sports clubs
- Local choirs
- After academy activities
- Third parties i.e. clubs, scouts, youth groups

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties under the Charities Act 2006.

The national lockdown of schools, adversely curtailed the wider public benefit of schools. While schools remained open for vulnerable and key worker children, all external activities in all our academies were cancelled during the lockdown period. We estimate the loss of income derived from these activities at over £10,000 in each lockdown period, more importantly though activities designed to bring people together could not take place. The subsequent impact this has on mental and personal health cannot be measured in financial terms.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Impact of Covid-19

The performance of our academies was not measured by statistical data in 2019/20, or 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At primary level all performance measures were abandoned by the Government and no external data will be published.

At secondary level GCSEs were judged by Teacher Assessed Grades following a process published by Ofqual.

Overall, in 2020/21, based on internal and external moderation, our schools are performing well in relation to meeting the needs of the pupils in their care.

During the year the trust operated eight academies. They are:

Delamere CE Primary Academy, Delamere

- Delamere is rated outstanding, has consistently some of the highest performance data of all schools in Cheshire West and Chester and provides an excellent all-round education for all its pupils. The school is full at 168 pupils and oversubscribed on entry.

St Martin's Academy, Chester

- St Martin's opened in September 2013 and is rated outstanding. It has outstanding pupil performance in all years, a rich broad curriculum and is four times oversubscribed on entry. The school opened with one class of 25 pupils and is now full at 175 pupils in total, and oversubscribed on entry.

Oak View Primary Academy, Winsford

- Oak View joined the trust in April 2014 and was officially rated the second worst school in the country based on SATS results that year. The turnaround has been very successful. The school is now rated good. The school is full in most year groups with 27 children in each class, and has expanded its nursery provision and age range to cater for two-year-olds upwards.

Ellesmere Primary Academy, Ellesmere, Shropshire

- Ellesmere joined the Trust in September 2016. The school was Ofsted inspected in July 2019 and received a good rating. The school's pupil performance is good and this has improved consistently under the leadership and management of the current Headteacher and his team. In 2019/20 the school received a CIF Grant for the renovation of central heating and refurbishment of £750,000 from the ESFA. They have also been successful in two additional CIF bids totalling £1.6m which will be spent in academic year 2020/21

Acresfield Primary School, Chester

- Acresfield joined the Trust in October 2019. Acresfield is an Ofsted rated outstanding school. The school educates pupils aged 3-11 and was rated as the 75th best school in the country based on SATS results in 2018. The school enjoys a great reputation locally, is full and oversubscribed.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Rudheath Senior Academy, Northwich

- A secondary school for 11-16 year-olds, currently rated Ofsted good. This school has faced significant difficulties in recent years including a serious arson attack that destroyed two thirds of the school buildings. Rudheath is currently under subscribed at 505/840 pupils but is growing steadily. We are in the final stage of an £8m renovation of the school which will be completed in September 2022. Under the excellent leadership of the new Headteacher, the school standards have improved significantly and the school reputation in the area is now good.

Weaverham Primary Academy, Weaverham

- The school currently operates four classes and has mixed age teaching. On joining our trust, we undertook a restructure to both teaching and support staff which saw savings made to staffing costs. Standards at the school are below national averages in all areas but improving. In October 2019 the school opened a nursery on site which has seen a rise in pupil numbers and a much more successful intake of parents enlisting their children for places. The school has been awarded CIF bid of £250,000 for a new roof in academic year 2019/20, and a further bid totalling over £700,000 for the provision of new heating system.

Grosvenor Park Primary Academy, Chester

- This school opened as brand new free school at the same time as St Martin's in September 2013. The school has had inconsistent leadership and four Headteachers in five years. In addition to this, it only moved into permanent premises in September 2016 - three years after opening. The school was over-staffed with temporary support staff and has undergone a significant restructure to address its staffing difficulties. The school operates seven classes and is approximately one cohort short in terms of pupil numbers across the seven year groups. The school is rated Ofsted good and has been transformed since joining the trust.

Key performance indicators

The trust aims for all academies within the trust to achieve the annual agreed performance set by the LGB prior to the start of the financial year. Furthermore, the trust requires all academies to operate balanced budgets unless the deficit budget is required for investment and reserves are available to cover this budget.

The trust also requires each academy to maintain adequate reserves to cover the day to day running of each academy. This is usually set at one month's running costs.

The trustees have been pleased that expectations for all key performance indicators listed have been successfully met. All school operated within their means and were able to set balanced budgets for the next five years based on pupil numbers.

Going concern

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.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Protecting the success of the academy trust

The trust has a good reputation locally, regionally and nationally and we place a great deal of importance on promoting the activities of the academies in order to foster close links with wider communities and local businesses.

Our part time media manager implements a vast communications strategy which champions the achievements and high standards of our schools to the widest possible audience.

The importance of our strong links with our local communities are also highlighted in the multi-media marketing approach, which utilises our own network of websites, social media platforms, local and trade press, radio and TV to get the positive message out.

The impact of our operations on communities and the local environment is of the utmost importance, and the schools' campaigns to raise funds for charity, make facilities available to the public, become plastic-free and teach our children about the value of looking after our surroundings are placed front and centre of our communications strategy.

Impact of Covid-19 on Promoting the Success of the Company

Covid-19 has presented a series of significant challenges to our way of school life, although we are proud of the way we have ensured vital learning has continued in the best way possible.

Whilst schools were closed we ensured that all children were able to access online virtual school and all had a device to do so. We also audited the quality of online provision, with external validation, and made sure that the learning that took place was as close to the 'real thing' as possible.

Whilst there is no substitute for school, our approach to online learning across the trust was second to none and when schools did reopen, all children were in a position to start again with the minimum of lost learning. The social and emotional damage of Covid was harder to address and what we have found is that vulnerable families were the hardest hit by prolonged school closure and we are still adapting our approaches for a number of families who struggled with the effects of lockdown.

Financial review

Most of the trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statements of financial activities. The principal accounting policies adopted during the year are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

During the year ending 31st August 2021, 'Covid costs' have broadly been covered by income received with funding from both the DfE & Local Authority totalling £264,000 across all the schools – Emergency funding, Catch-up plus Mass testing at Rudheath

During the year ended 31st August 2021, total expenditure of £12,218,000 (2020: £12,491,000) was fully covered by grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources. The excess of income over expenditure (excluding actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme) was £3,179,000 (2020: £3,947,000), this does include assets transferred upon conversion.

As at the 31st August 2021, the net book value of fixed assets was £28,175,000 (2020: £24,279,000), including the value of the land and building which are lease on a 125-year lease. The assets are used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the pupils.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to one month's cost. The reason for this is to provide enough working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long-term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

The trustees will monitor the level of reserves to ensure that they are maintained at the required level. If they are partly used the trust will strive to rebuild free reserves up to the level needed.

The trust has overall reserves of £24,992,000 (2020: £23,358,000). Excluding pension and fixed asset reserves; restricted general reserves amount to £NIL (2020: £NIL) and unrestricted reserves amount to £231,000 (2020: £31,000). The total free reserves (excluding pension & fixed asset reserves) amount to £231,000 (2020: £31,000).

The pension scheme liability as at 31st August 2021 was £8,253,000 (2020: £6,122,000). The vast majority of the movement of the pension scheme liability is due to actuarial assumptions and does not have a direct cash impact.

Whilst certain individual school's reserves are currently in deficit these are constantly reviewed and monitored with budgets set and actions plans put in place to ensure budgets are balanced in future.

Investment policy

The trust does not have any long-term investments with the cash reserves of the trust being held in bank accounts. The trust has no plans for any long-term investment purchases that would produce a financial input into the trust. The trust does have several on-going capital building projects which will improve the quality of the trust's estate.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The key risks that the charity are facing are financial, premises, academic performance and safeguarding.

Financial

- The key risk is that DfE levels of funding do not increase in line with costs. In order to mitigate this risk the academy trust has robust financial planning to react to the financial climate.

Premises

- The key risk is that there are insufficient funds to repair aging buildings within the Academy Trust. This has been mitigated by Capital Improvement Fund bids in the last two years.

Academic Performance

- The key risk is that academic performance suffers and this has an impact on pupil numbers and financial resources. The academy trust has robust policies to ensure excellent academic progress for all including external assessors and regular benchmarking.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

- The key risk is that the academy trust fails to comply with Safeguarding regulations. The academy trust has robust policies and procedures to ensure that this does not happen including the employment of a designated Safeguarding officer.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Risk in relation to the LGPS Pension Scheme

The pension scheme deficit, as shown within notes to the financial statements, is a financial risk to the trust. The balance is a large and material deficit amount, however, this risk is managed by the way the scheme is controlled and administered. The scheme undergoes a tri-annual review, when each school's individual liabilities to the scheme is assessed and the next 3 years contributions rates calculated. This allows the trust to plan and manage the cost of future increases in advance, thus helping to mitigate the risk the liability poses.

Fundraising

The Trust does not do any fundraising. All schools within the trust operate Parent Teacher Associations or equivalent parent support bodies, who fundraise on behalf of each individual school. Funds raised are donated directly to the school in question.

As a result of Covid-19 we estimate that the schools in the Trust lost approximately £30,000 in PTA donations during the period March to September. This is income that can never be raised again.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

	2021 kWh	2020 kWh
<i>Energy consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year	1,466,070	1,654,231
	2021 metric tonnes	2020 metric tonnes
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>		
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	44.51	38.87
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	5.00	-
	49.51	38.87
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	268.14	371.22
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the academy trust	46.89	-
	364.54	410.09
Total gross emissions		
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.15	0.22

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 CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have installed smart meters across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.

Plans for future periods

The trust is proactively looking at expansion with plans in place to bring other schools into the Trust, open more schools through the free school program and work closely with the RSC to look at supporting schools when the need arises.

Impact of Covid-19

We are in pre-opening for our free school, Ledsham Manor. The funding for this is dependent on house numbers sold in the development it will serve. The lockdown period affected the construction timeline and this could equally alter the development and opening of the school.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Trust does not hold any fund as custodian for others.

Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 12/14/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Brendan Wignall

.....
B Wignall
Chairman

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that North West Academies Trust Limited has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, 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 North West Academies Trust Limited and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
B Wignall (Chairman)	4	4
S Docking (CEO & Accounting Officer)	4	4
K Cook	4	4
A Walmsley	4	4
D Jones	3	4
R Ollman	4	4
K Cobb	4	4
M Forber	4	4
J Roberts-Joyce (Resigned 2 January 2021)	2	2

There have been no major changes to the make up of the board in the last 12 months, although incredibly sadly and unexpectedly Julie Joyce-Roberts sadly passed away in January 2021. During lockdown it was necessary to cancel to face-to-face meetings but we held fortnightly update meetings via zoom and in addition to this the CEO wrote weekly updates for all Trustees. Communication and oversight throughout this period was good.

The Finance and Premises Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the academy effectively, and to ensure the academy provides a safe educational environment. One of the Committee's responsibilities is routine budget setting and monitoring. In addition to this the committee receives feedback on the improvements to the school's estates and make sure that the facilities in which education is delivered are fit for purpose. The membership of this committee has not changed since our last audit.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
B Wignall (Chairman)	3	3
S Docking (CEO & Accounting Officer)	3	3
K Cook	3	3
D Jones	3	3

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, Mr S Docking 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- sharing key staff
- utilising effective contract negotiations
- employing a centrally-funded maintenance person,
- sharing of catering facilities
- contracting in all cleaning staff.

The employment of the maintenance person alone has saved the schools within the Trust over £50,000 in 2019/20.

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 North West Academies Trust Limited for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. 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 premises 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;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided:

- not to appoint an auditor for this service. However, the trustees have appointed Mr David Jones, a trustee, to carry out a programme of internal checks.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of control accounts/bank reconciliations

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

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the principal 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 reviewer;
- 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 board of trustees on 12/14/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Brendan Wignall

B Wignall
Chairman

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

As accounting officer of North West Academies Trust Limited, 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 2020.

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 2020.

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.

S Docking
Accounting Officer



.....
12/14/2021

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees (who are also the directors of North West Academies Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 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 2020 to 2021;
- 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 12/14/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Brendan Wignall

B Wignall
Chairman

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting, irregularities including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the schools' own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the board of governors of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the schools' documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the schools' Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the trust's accounting policy for revenue recognition (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs (iv) the assumptions used in the calculation of the valuation of the surplus or deficit on the defined benefit pension scheme and the movements for the year. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act, the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body, along with the Academies Financial Handbook and Accounts Direction 2020-21 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the academy's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. This includes regulations concerning Data Protection and Safeguarding.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the academy's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the board concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant;

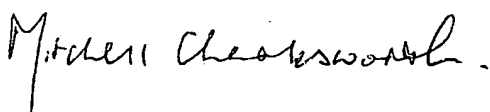
in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls we carried out testing of the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

Use of our report

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



Robert Hall (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

15/12/2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 June 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by North West Academies Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of North West Academies Trust Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Reviewing the activities to ensure they are in keeping with the charitable objectives and framework.
- Reviewing declarations of interest and seeking further representations.
- Reviewing the control environment and considering potential weaknesses.
- Reviewing minutes of various committees, management accounts and holding discussions with key personnel.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Reporting Accountant

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP
24 Nicholas Street
Chester
CH1 2AU

Dated: 15/12/2021

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	46	6	3,925	3,977	4,129
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		-	-	-	-	1,889
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	760	10,610	-	11,370	10,386
Other trading activities	5	50	-	-	50	34
Total		<u>856</u>	<u>10,616</u>	<u>3,925</u>	<u>15,397</u>	<u>16,438</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	55	-	55	28
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	651	11,146	366	12,163	12,463
Total	7	<u>651</u>	<u>11,201</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>12,218</u>	<u>12,491</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		205	(585)	3,559	3,179	3,947
Transfers between funds	18	(6)	-	6	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(1,545)	-	(1,545)	611
Net movement in funds		199	(2,130)	3,565	1,634	4,558
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		31	(6,122)	29,449	23,358	18,800
Total funds carried forward		<u>230</u>	<u>(8,252)</u>	<u>33,014</u>	<u>24,992</u>	<u>23,358</u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2020		funds	General	Fixed asset	2020
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	38	63	4,028	4,129
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion		-	34	1,855	1,889
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	577	9,809	-	10,386
Other trading activities	5	33	-	-	33
Investments	6	1	-	-	1
Total		649	9,906	5,883	16,438
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	-	28	-	28
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	1,334	10,774	355	12,463
Total	7	1,334	10,802	355	12,491
Net income/(expenditure)		(685)	(896)	5,528	3,947
Transfers between funds	18	-	(17)	17	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	611	-	611
Net movement in funds		(685)	(302)	5,545	4,558
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		716	(5,820)	23,904	18,800
Total funds carried forward		31	(6,122)	29,449	23,358

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	28,175	24,279
Current assets			
Debtors	14	6,546	4,887
Cash at bank and in hand		1,807	2,105
		8,353	6,992
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,917)	(791)
Net current assets		6,436	6,201
Total assets less current liabilities		34,611	30,480
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(1,366)	(1,000)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability		33,245	29,480
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	(8,253)	(6,122)
Total net assets		24,992	23,358
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	18		
- Fixed asset funds		33,014	29,449
- Pension reserve		(8,253)	(6,122)
Total restricted funds		24,761	23,327
Unrestricted income funds	18	231	31
Total funds		24,992	23,358

The accounts on pages 26 to 53 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 12/14/2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Brendan Wignall

B Wignall
Chairman

Company Number 08852553

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

		2021		2020	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	21		(371)		(1,270)
Cash funds transferred on conversion & from existing academies			-		342
			(371)		(928)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, Interest and rents from investments		-		1	
Capital grants from DfE Group		3,925		3,987	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		-		41	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,261)		(2,432)	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(336)		1,597
Cash flows from financing activities					
New other loan		413		653	
Repayment of other loan		(4)		(57)	
Net cash provided by financing activities			409		596
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(298)		1,265
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,105		840
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			1,807		2,105

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 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 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the 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.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets with an estimated useful economic life of two years or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Leasehold land and buildings	Straight line over 125 year, 60 year and 50 year periods
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% on reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% on cost

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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 funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in the notes, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Private sponsorship	-	-	-	25
Capital grants	-	3,925	3,925	3,987
Other donations	46	6	52	117
	<u>46</u>	<u>3,931</u>	<u>3,977</u>	<u>4,129</u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	8,342	8,342	7,811
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
UFSM	-	201	201	212
Pupil premium	-	503	503	459
Others	-	669	669	641
	-	9,715	9,715	9,123
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	577	577	589
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up premium	-	129	129	30
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	54	54	67
Other Coronavirus funding	-	135	135	-
Other incoming resources	760	-	760	577
Total funding	760	10,610	11,370	10,386

The academy received £129k of catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £129k.

The academy furloughed some of its staff under the governments CJRS. The funding received of £54k relates to staff costs in respect of the staff which are included within note 10 as appropriate.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Hire of facilities	50	-	50	32
Other income	1	-	1	1
	51	-	51	33

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	1

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	55	55	28
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	6,893	203	462	7,558	7,542
- Allocated support costs	2,284	1,158	1,163	4,605	4,921
	<u>9,177</u>	<u>1,361</u>	<u>1,680</u>	<u>12,218</u>	<u>12,491</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7	8
- Other services	9	9
Operating lease rentals	30	53
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	365	350
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	5
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	108	116

8 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services;

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

- Flat percentage of income;
- 3.2% to 6.5% based on GAG

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Central services

(Continued)

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Acresfield Primary Academy	29	26
Oak View Academy	38	34
Ellesmere Primary School	76	82
St Martins Academy	22	24
Delamere Church of England Academy	23	24
Grosvenor Park Church of England Primary	44	37
Weaverham Primary	29	31
Rudheath Senior Academy	144	133
	<u>405</u>	<u>391</u>

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	651	6,907	7,558	7,542
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	4,605	4,605	4,921
	<u>651</u>	<u>11,512</u>	<u>12,163</u>	<u>12,463</u>

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	2,314	2,201
Depreciation	162	92
Technology costs	370	281
Premises costs	996	1,595
Legal costs	64	68
Other support costs	644	623
Governance costs	55	61
	<u>4,605</u>	<u>4,921</u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Wages and salaries	6,640	6,144
Social security costs	564	548
Pension costs	1,947	1,868
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Staff costs - employees	9,151	8,560
Agency staff costs	26	148
Staff restructuring costs	-	327
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	9,177	9,035
Staff development and other staff costs	67	56
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total staff expenditure	<u>9,244</u>	<u>9,091</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	-	314
Severance payments	-	13
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	-	327
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	104	95
Administration and support	180	199
Management	14	11
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	298	305
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Staff

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	3	1
£70,001 - £80,000	1	3
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1
	<u> </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 the reference and administrative page. 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 £904,491 (2020: £864,206).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

S Docking (CEO, Accounting Officer & Trustee)

- Remuneration £110,000 - £115,000 (2020: £110,000 - £115,000)

- Employers pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2020: £25,000 - £30,000)

Trustees' expenses

During the year ended 31 August 2021, travel and subsistence expenses totaling £3,118 (2020: £3,217) were reimbursed to 1 trustee.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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 trust 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.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	25,383	1,220	20	26,623
Additions	4,238	23	-	4,261
At 31 August 2021	29,621	1,243	20	30,884
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	1,456	868	20	2,344
Charge for the year	270	95	-	365
At 31 August 2021	1,726	963	20	2,709
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	27,895	280	-	28,175
At 31 August 2020	23,927	352	-	24,279

14 Debtors

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade debtors	37	25
VAT recoverable	708	377
Other debtors	5,661	4,348
Prepayments and accrued income	140	137
	6,546	4,887

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Government loans	63	20
Trade creditors	1,008	250
Other taxation and social security	141	139
Other creditors	167	159
Accruals and deferred income	538	223
	1,917	791

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Government loans	1,366	1,000
	<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Analysis of loans	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Wholly repayable within five years	1,429	1,020
Less: included in current liabilities	(63)	(20)
	<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Amounts included above	<u>1,366</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	63	20
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	689	631
Due in more than five years	677	369
	<u>1,429</u>	<u>1,020</u>

Two legal charges in favour of The Secretary of State for Education are secured over two properties held by North West Academies Trust Limited. Both charges contain a negative pledge.

Grosvenor Park and Weaverham Academy were transferred into the trust with accumulated deficits of £170,000 and £150,000 respectively, resulting in a total deficit of £320,000. A repayment plan has yet to be agreed with the ESFA, other than it is to be fully repaid by 2024.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

(Continued)

During the year North West Academies Trust acquired CIF funding to the value of £405,300. This funding is subject to repayment term and interest as detailed below for the individual schools:

CIF Loan 1

During the year Ellesmere Primary were successful in their CIF Loan application for a classrooms project. The amount of £107,000, is repayable over 10 years.

CIF Loan 2

During the year Rudheath Senior were successful in their CIF Loan application for a roof project. The amount of £160,000, is repayable over 10 years.

CIF Loan 3

During the year Grosvenor Park Academy were successful in their CIF Loan application for a windows project. The amount of £48,000, is repayable over 10 years.

CIF Loan 4

During the year St Martins Academy were successful in their CIF Loan application for a weather tight project. The amount of £52,300, is repayable over 10 years.

CIF Loan 5

During the year Delamere Academy were successful in their CIF Loan application for a roof project. The amount of £38,000 is repayable over 10 years.

During the year North West Academies Trust acquired Salix funding to the value of £8,136. This funding is subject to repayment term, however the loans bear no interest as detailed below for the individual schools:

Salix Loan 1

During the year Rudheath Academy were successful in their Salix Loan application for a roofing project. The amount of £8,136, is repayable over 8 years.

17 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	140	161
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	161	140
Released from previous years	(161)	(140)
Resources deferred in the year	140	161
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	140	161
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Nursery Income, Universal Infant Free School Meals and Trips.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,342	(8,342)	-	-
UIFSM	-	201	(201)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	503	(503)	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	129	(129)	-	-
Other Non-DfE/ESFA Covid-19 funding	-	189	(189)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	351	(351)	-	-
Other government grants	-	895	(895)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	6	(6)	-	-
Pension reserve	(6,122)	-	(586)	(1,545)	(8,253)
	<u>(6,122)</u>	<u>10,616</u>	<u>(11,202)</u>	<u>(1,545)</u>	<u>(8,253)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on transfers and conversions	21,678	-	(268)	-	21,410
DfE group capital grants	7,669	3,925	(76)	-	11,518
Capital expenditure from GAG	63	-	(17)	6	52
Private sector capital sponsorship	39	-	(5)	-	34
	<u>29,449</u>	<u>3,925</u>	<u>(366)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>33,014</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>23,327</u>	<u>14,541</u>	<u>(11,568)</u>	<u>(1,539)</u>	<u>24,761</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	31	857	(651)	(6)	231
	<u>31</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>(651)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>231</u>
Total funds	<u>23,358</u>	<u>15,398</u>	<u>(12,219)</u>	<u>(1,545)</u>	<u>24,992</u>

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal costs of the Academy. The Academy is allowed to carry forward up to 12% of the GAG. Of the carried forward amount up to 2% of the GAG can be used for general purposes at the discretion of the Academy but any balance over 2% must be used for capital purposes.

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund comprises the deemed gifting of the school premises against which depreciation will be charged over the 125 year term of the lease. Also contained in the fund are grants for the extension on a school building against which depreciation is charged over the remainder of the lease term. Fixtures and fittings are also included within the fund and depreciated in accordance with the Trust's policy.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,811	(7,794)	(17)	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	1,409	(1,409)	-	-
Other government grants	-	589	(589)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	405	(405)	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,820)	(308)	(605)	611	(6,122)
	<u>(5,820)</u>	<u>9,906</u>	<u>(10,802)</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>(6,122)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on transfers and conversions	20,114	1,855	(291)	-	21,678
DfE group capital grants	3,723	3,987	(41)	-	7,669
Capital expenditure from GAG	67	-	(21)	17	63
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	41	(2)	-	39
	<u>23,904</u>	<u>5,883</u>	<u>(355)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>29,449</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>18,084</u>	<u>15,789</u>	<u>(11,157)</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>23,327</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	716	649	(1,334)	-	31
	<u>716</u>	<u>649</u>	<u>(1,334)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>
Total funds	<u>18,800</u>	<u>16,438</u>	<u>(12,491)</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>23,358</u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:		
Acresfield Primary Academy	234	297
Oak View Academy	(66)	(17)
Ellesmere Primary School	(28)	21
St Martins Academy	13	39
Delamere Church of England Academy	26	67
Grosvenor Park Church of England Primary	39	(10)
Weaverham Primary	4	(61)
Rudheath Senior Academy	(121)	(288)
Central services	130	(17)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	231	31
Restricted fixed asset fund	33,014	29,449
Pension reserve	(8,253)	(6,122)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	24,992	23,358
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

(Continued)

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 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Acresfield Primary Academy	827	247	86	164	1,324	1,062
Oak View Academy	987	231	33	180	1,431	1,205
Ellesmere Primary School	1,213	380	47	243	1,883	1,739
St Martins Academy	587	169	62	154	972	872
Delamere Church of England Academy	625	142	50	191	1,008	917
Grosvenor Park Church of England Primary	565	137	53	167	922	870
Weaverham Primary	364	139	15	92	610	724
Rudheath Senior Academy	1,569	568	136	701	2,974	3,602
Central services	156	271	34	159	620	539
	<u>6,893</u>	<u>2,284</u>	<u>516</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>11,744</u>	<u>11,530</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	28,175	28,175
Current assets	259	1,128	6,966	8,353
Creditors falling due within one year	(29)	(867)	(1,021)	(1,917)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(260)	(1,106)	(1,366)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(8,253)	-	(8,253)
Total net assets	<u>230</u>	<u>(8,252)</u>	<u>33,014</u>	<u>24,992</u>

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	General £'000	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	24,279	24,279
Current assets	31	1,091	5,870	6,992
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(771)	(20)	(791)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(320)	(680)	(1,000)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(6,122)	-	(6,122)
Total net assets	31	(6,122)	29,449	23,358

20 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by The Cheshire Pension Fund & The Shropshire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £163,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020: £156,000) 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.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £904,000 (2020: £889,000).

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 pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% - 33.1% for employers and 5.5% - 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Employer's contributions	578	536
Employees' contributions	134	126
Total contributions	712	662
Principal actuarial assumptions	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.64	2.20
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.89	3.00
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.66	1.70

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.6	21.4
- Females	24.1	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.6	22.2
- Females	25.8	25.2

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

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Discount rate - 0.1%	390	308
Mortality assumption + 1 year	620	92
CPI rate + 0.1%	352	274
Salary increase rate +0.1%	34	-

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability

Scheme assets	7,849	6,351
Scheme obligations	(16,102)	(12,473)
Net liability	(8,253)	(6,122)

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

	2021 Fair value £'000	2020 Fair value £'000
Equities	3,650	2,875
Bonds	3,121	2,500
Cash	154	242
Property	734	603
Other assets	190	131
Total market value of assets	7,849	6,351

The actual return on scheme assets was £883,000 (2020: £115,000).

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	1,056	1,017
Past service cost	-	8
Interest income	(114)	(111)
Interest cost	222	227
Total operating charge	1,164	1,141
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2020	12,473	11,081
Transferred in on existing academies joining the academy trust	-	706
Current service cost	1,056	1,017
Interest cost	222	227
Employee contributions	134	126
Actuarial loss/(gain)	2,314	(607)
Benefits paid	(97)	(85)
Past service cost	-	8
At 31 August 2021	16,102	12,473
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2020	6,351	5,261
Transferred in on existing academies joining the academy trust	-	398
Interest income	114	111
Actuarial gain	769	4
Employer contributions	578	536
Employee contributions	134	126
Benefits paid	(97)	(85)
At 31 August 2021	7,849	6,351

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	3,179	3,947
Adjusted for:		
Net surplus on conversion to academy	-	(1,889)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(3,925)	(4,028)
Investment income receivable	-	(1)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	478	489
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	108	116
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	365	354
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	5
(Increase) in debtors	(1,659)	(215)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,083	(48)
Net cash used in operating activities	(371)	(1,270)

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020 £'000	Cash flows 31 August 2021 £'000	
Cash	2,105	(298)	1,807
Loans falling due within one year	(20)	(43)	(63)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,000)	(366)	(1,366)
	1,085	(707)	378

23 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

At 31 August 2021 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Amounts due within one year	56	39
Amounts due in two and five years	75	44
	131	83

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

24 Capital commitments

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	4,736	3,562

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure related party transactions

Sir John Timpson CBE - Member

During the year Timpson Ltd, a company in which Sir John Timpson is a director, granted a bursary of £nil (2020: £25,000) to the trust.

The trust also purchased goods amounting to £3,493 (2020: £288) from Timpson Ltd.

B Wignall - Member & Trustee

During the year Ellesmere College Ltd, a company in which B Wagnall is Chief Executive, provided support to the trust in return for the use of facilities. This amount to £25,797 (2020: £5,000).

K Cook - Trustee

During the year Oliver & Co Solicitors, a firm in which K Cook is a Partner, provided professional services amounting to £29,818 (2020: £13,093). At the year end the amount of £nil (2020: £4,620) was liable for services provided to the trust. These services were provided by a separate Partner within the firm and thus compliance with the academies financial handbook.

M Forber - Trustee

During the year Somerville Federation, in which M Forber is a Ex Officio, received £225 (2020: £Nil) for services provided to the trust.

S Roberts - Senior Management

During the year Lia Roberts Counselling, a business related party of S Roberts, provided services amounting to £nil (2020: £5,863).

K Cobb - Trustee

During the year DWF Group Solicitors, in which K Cobb is a Partner, provided professional services amounting to £nil (2020: £19,788). These services were provided by a separate Partner within the firm and thus compliance with the academies financial handbook.

NORTH WEST ACADEMIES TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

26 Members' liability

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