REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08882544 (England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

for

Wistaston Academy Trust

UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

WEDNESDAY
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A17 30/12/2020 #102
COMPANIES HOUSE

Wistaston Academy Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

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Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

MEMBERS:	E Crowe I Biddington D Osborne
TRUSTEES	D J Brooks (resigned 1.1.20) G S Douglas A M Wells D Jones P J Monk C Muller D Osborne M Podsiedlik D Griffiths Principal & Accounting officer J Stafford-Watson P Allen L McMulkin Chairman R Urquhart (resigned 20.10.20)
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:	A Elsmore (Business Manager) F Shaw (Assistant Principal) S Joy (Assistant Principal) A Dewsbury (Assistant Principal) D Griffiths (Principal)
REGISTERED OFFICE	Wistaston Academy Trust Moreton Road Wistaston Crewe CW2 8QS
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	08882544 (England and Wales)
AUDITORS	UHY Hacker Young St John's Chambers Love Street Chester Cheshire CH1 1QN
BANKERS	Lloyds TSB Bank Plc 13 Victoria Street Crewe CW1 2JQ

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 3 to 11 serving a catchment area in Crewe. It has a pupil capacity of 420 in Reception to Year 6 and a 52 place Nursery. The number of children on roll in the Summer school census was 443.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The main objectives of the academy during the year are summarised below:

- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils
- to improve the effectiveness of the academy by keeping the 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 conduct the academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness

Significant activities

The academy's main strategy is encompassed in its mission statement which is 'Aiming high - Achieving Success Together'. This is articulated in our belief that education is preparation for life and we seek to prepare each child to face life beyond the Academy with confidence. We aspire to set high standards for personal behaviour and self-discipline, with consideration, courtesy and respect for other people of all ages, races and cultures. We endeavour to provide exciting and quality learning experiences in a safe, secure and happy environment. High standards are visible in every aspect of Academy life with careful targeting of resources to achieve these ends.

Each year the Strategic School Development Plan sets out the detailed actions and timescales and intended impact required to deliver the short-term objectives. The whole school priorities covering the period up to 31st August 2020 focused on:

- Developing Effective Subject Leadership
- To establish SEND provision in order to meet the additional needs of children in EYFS and KS1
- To continue to raise attainment and secure good progress in reading across all year groups.

Subject leaders develop their own Action Plans which support the school development plan. Subjects are grouped and staff work collaboratively in 'pods' to develop effective subject leadership and drive initiatives. As part of this process, experienced staff support recently qualified teachers.

Wistaston Academy have a significant number of pupils with global development delay and/or autism, have EHCPs or are on the pathway towards one. These children find accessing mainstream education challenging and therefore alternative provision within our setting is necessary for their safety, happiness and development. Creating an environment where their needs, above those of the reception and KS1 cohort, such as toileting, self-care and speech, can be a priority, enabling us to meet their needs more effectively.

Reading has been a priority due to low attainment and progress in the KS2 end of year assessments in 2017-18. In 2018-19 there was a significant improvement after new processes of teaching beyond year 1 were implemented. In-year data has been positive and year 6 achieved 78% at the national standard and 27% at greater depth. Progress increased from -2.4 in 2018 to +2.3 in 2019. The Academy continues to drive high standards and upward trend in those achieving the required standard and above.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. The key public benefit delivered by the trust is the provision of a high quality of education to its students.

Over and above this, at Wistaston Academy we offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced and which builds on knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each key stage. The curriculum incorporates the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the pupils in our school. The aim for our curriculum is for pupils to have the requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivational learners in readiness for the next stage of their education and their future lives.

The Academy aims to offer an education for the whole individual providing exceptional opportunities for personal as well as academic success. Wistaston Academy ensures that spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects are endemic within lessons and in the wider curriculum. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including after-school clubs, school trips; both day and residential from Nursery upwards.

We provide support for families in difficulties through engaging with other stakeholders to ensure responses are tailored to individual needs.

The trust strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the local area. The school 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. For example the school works with:

- specialists to provide bespoke approaches to art and PE
- sports coaches for the enhancement and breath of sports provided
- forest skills coach
- A local secondary school where DT lessons are taught using enhanced facilities

Wherever possible the school 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:

- After school activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

In 2019-20 the attendance rate of 96.2% was higher than the national average of 96%. Levels of persistent absence are decreasing. Punctuality to school and to lessons is very good. Only a small minority of pupils arrive late. This reflects the fact that children want to come to school and find it a place of safety and happiness where they are engaged and interested in learning.

The Academy carefully monitored the implementation of the 2019-20 school development plan. The plan was routinely reviewed by the Trust Board and the school engages with a School Improvement Partner who confirms the school's judgements.

In order to ensure that standards continue to rise, the Academy operates a rigorous monitoring and evaluation schedule which focuses weekly mentoring, book and planning scrutinies as well as discussions with pupils. Through lesson observations and one-to-one mentoring, teachers improve their own practice and this is enhanced with carefully targeted CPD. Weekly meetings focus on pedagogy and improving classroom practice. At the last inspection and in the period after, the majority of teaching that has been observed has been outstanding with nothing less than good.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all national assessments for this academic year were cancelled.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Key financial performance indicators

The Governors consider that the following are key performance indicators for the Academy Trust:

- Pupils numbers (leading directly to the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") funding level);
- General financial stability - aim for income to match expenditure each year taking into account any carry forward reserves;
- Percentage of income received from ESFA spent on total staff costs;
- Income per pupil
- Staff costs as a percentage of grant income;
- Staff costs as a percentage of total costs;
- Ofsted inspection results;
- Capital expenditure per pupil;
- Reception pupil intake;

The Trustees have been pleased that expectations for all key performance indicators listed have been successfully met during the period.

Financial review

Financial position

Most of the academy's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent 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 Statement of Financial Activities.

During the year ended 31st August 2020, total expenditure of £2,457,968 was more than covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA/DfE together with other income resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £109,433. At 31st August 2020, the net book value of fixed assets was £4,742,665 and movement in tangible fixed assets are shown in the notes to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

The academy held fund balances at 31st August 2020 of £3,798,385 restricted funds (inc fixed asset fund of £4,742,665 and a pension deficit of £1,110,000) and £361,793 of unrestricted funds.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Investment policy and objectives

The academy aims to manage its cash balances to provide for the day-to-day working capital requirements of its operations, whilst protecting the real long-term value of any surplus cash balances against inflation. In addition, the academy aims to invest surplus cash funds to optimise returns, but ensuring the investment instruments are such that there is no risk to the loss of these cash funds.

Our aim is to spend the public monies with which we are entrusted for the direct education benefit of students as soon as is prudent. The school does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather it is the result of good financial management as and when circumstances allow.

Purposes
- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current account to cover day-to-day working capital requirements
- To ensure there is no risk of loss in the capital value of any cash funds invested
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation
- To optimise returns on invested funds

Guidelines
- Regular cash flows are to be prepared and monitored to ensure there are adequate liquid funds to meet all payroll related commitments and outstanding supply creditors that are due for payment.
- Where the cash flow identifies a base level of cash funds that will be surplus to requirements these may be invested in an interest bearing account in a UK regulated bank.
- Where the surplus is deemed to be significant and long-term, funds may be invested in Treasury deposits, with maturity dates which do not result in the cash funds being unavailable for longer than 12 weeks upon agreement of the Governing Body.

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 sufficient 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. In the event that they are partly used the trust will strive to rebuild free reserves up to the level needed.

The balance on the restricted general fund (excluding fixed asset & pension reserve fund) plus the balance on the unrestricted fund at 31st August 2020 amounted to £527,512.

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.

Fundraising

The trust does not have any fundraising policies.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Trust are documented and managed using a Risk Management Policy and Register that is reviewed annually.

The mains risks are seen as the loss of reputation through failing standards at the Academy, falling student numbers, failure to safeguard our students, failure on high profile school to school support commissions and the financial impact of our Transfer of Control Agreement (TOCA) following the loss of funding from the Local Authority.

Key controls in place to mitigate these risks are:

- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels
- Documented terms of reference of the committees of the Trust
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting key areas of financial risk
- Formal written and published policies for employees
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable
- Robust due diligence procedures for new contracts and commissions
- Continuing negotiations with the Local Authority and the TOCA arrangement

The main financial risk relates to the per pupil funding; the Trust resides in Cheshire East which is one of the lowest funded authorities, as such the Trust's overall funding is considerably lower than almost all other local authorities. Notwithstanding the grant made available to those in the lowest funded authorities in the year ending 31st August 2020, pupil funding rates continue to be lower than some of our closest neighbours and therefore remains the Trust's most significant risk. The Trust continues to make representations where appropriate in a bid to increase the profile of this inequality of funding and has taken part in the Local Authority's consultation regarding this.

The other main financial risks are mitigated through the employment of sound financial and internal control processes. Balanced budgets are set by the Trust and limited budgets are further delegated to departments and faculties. Actual performance against agreed budgets is closely monitored by the Trust's Finance Team and via regular meetings of the Trust Board.

Bank and cash reconciliations are carried out routinely and signed by the authorised officers of the Trust's Finance Team. All orders and payments are signed off by the Finance Team with appropriate segregation of the duties in place. Fixed asset registers are in place and there are process in place for the acquisition and disposal of assets. Payroll is outsourced and checked by more than one individual each month. The appropriateness and integrity of internal controls is assessed and reported to the Directors/Trustees by the Responsible Officer and external auditors.

The security of data is administered by an in house team of IT professionals.

Remaining risks are mitigated to a large extent via membership of the ESFA's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

Future plans

The academy will continue striving to provide the best possible education for all its students and to enable all children to achieve their full potential.

The trust's core purpose is to deliver its strategic vision of providing exceptional opportunities for personal and academic success for its students and community.

The academy's plans (set out above) will ensure that its quality of provision of education and results both continue to be outstanding in the next few years.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Charity constitution
The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of Wistaston Academy Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company is known as Wistaston Academy.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details.

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

Trustees' Indemnities
The academy trust purchases indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the trustees. This is currently with the DfE through the RPA scheme and has Governors' liability indemnity insurance to the level of 2 million pounds. The Academy Trust has also granted indemnities to each of its Governors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 236 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Governors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Governors or officers of the Academy Trust.

Details of the insurance cover are provided in the notes to the financial statements.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
Members of the trust are nominated by either the Secretary of State for Education (DfE), or the Academy Trust. The articles of association require the members of the trust to appoint at least three trustees to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the academy.

Under the terms of its Articles:

- The member may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 17 Trustees

- The total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act as Trustee who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

- Parent Trustees and Parent Local Governors shall be elected or, if the number of parents or individuals exercising parental responsibility, standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed.

- The Governors may appoint Co-opted Governors. A 'Co-opted Governor' means a person who is appointed to be a Governor by being Co-opted by Governors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Governors may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Governor if thereby the number of Governors who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Governors (including the Principal).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The management structure for the Academy consists of the Trustees and Senior Leadership Team (Principal, Deputy Principal and two Assistant Principals (1.6)). The Business Manager (0.4) and the SENDCo (0.6) are the other members of the Senior Leadership Team. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility, increase accountability and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Principal is the Accounting Officer..

The Board of Trustees, in order to ensure robust governance and effective financial management, meet six times a year and all board members oversee Business, Finance and HR and the Quality of Education. During the year, the Trust Board oversee The Business, Finance, HR element that responsible for all financial and human resources matters related to the trust. It also carries out tasks on strategic and capital expenditure projects. This committee is also responsible for audit and compliance, performance management of teachers, the pay policy and health and safety.

The Quality of Education committee is responsible for all matters related to the education of the children including safeguarding, behaviour and attendance. It monitors attainment and progress scrupulously ensuring that the curriculum plan, policies and procedures meet the Academy's aims and objectives.

The Senior Leadership Team of the Academy is responsible for the day to day management of the academy, for carrying through the strategic decisions of the Board and committees, ensuring an annual development plan is set out, monitored and carried out successfully.

Induction and training of new trustees

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity, educational legal and financial matters. All new trustees will be given a tour of the academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. 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 trustees. Induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

Key management remuneration

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on the Reference and Administrative page.

The remuneration 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 Headteacher and following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies. The Headteacher is not involved in setting their own remuneration package.

Only staff trustees, including the Headteacher, are remunerated, and these individuals are only receive 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 notes to the financial statements.

The day to day running of the remuneration policy is delegated to the Headteacher and monitored by the finance and resources 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 to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual is remuneration 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 specific approved rates.

The board always bear in mind the charitable status of the academy trust and in 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 an reasonable amount that provide value for money to the trust. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

There are no related parties to disclose.

Trade union facility time

The trust had no employees who were relevant Trade Union Officials during the year.

COVID-19 POLICIES

The specific policies adopted in connection with COVID19 can be found on our school website. In the opinion of the trustees, we have implemented all recommendation of the government and continue to monitor this and will update these policies if required.

AUDITORS

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 26 November 2020 and signed on the board's behalf by:

L McMulkin - Trustee

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

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

The board of the 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 Wistaston Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance
The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.
In appointing new governors, the trustees, having reviewed its skills and experience base, and has appointed additional governors with experience in HR and Business.

The Strategic Leadership Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to oversee other committees with a wider strategic view and is responsible for all financial and general governance matters related to the trust.

Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Osborne	4	6
L McMulkin	5	6
D Griffiths	6	6
G S Douglas	2	6
C Muller	3	6
A M Wells	6	6
D Jones	0	6
P J Monk	5	6
J Stafford-Watson	5	6

Business, Finance and HR is a committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the school effectively, and to ensure the school provides a safe educational environment. One of the Committee's responsibilities is routine budget setting and monitoring.

Standards is also a committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to oversee teaching and learning and school improvement as set out in the Academy's Governance Terms of Reference.

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

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

The Academy has a higher than average number of teachers who teach whole classes and smaller groups. In Years 5 and 6, children are set in maths groups according to their current achievement. Highly trained Teaching Assistants are deployed to delivery small groups Read, Write Inc phonics sessions. Any child who is still struggling to learn to read is given individual interventions in the afternoon linked specifically to their learning needs. Specialist teachers deliver P.E. lessons and coach teams. This maintains our high performance in a wide range of sporting tournaments. The Academy has a specialist art teacher who delivers quality PPA cover.

To ensure our teachers receive the highest standard of support and training, we have 2 Assistant Principals who provide continuing professional development for all staff on a needs basis. This ensures that there is a consistently high standard of teaching across the school.

The Academy carefully monitors Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact on improving attainment for children on Free School Meals and those who have qualified within the last six years. Use of the grant and its expenditure is published on the school website. Achievement of all pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium is monitored by one of our Assistant Principals who closely checks the impact of various interventions. We also track the progress and attainment of those children who are Cared For, have English as an Additional Language and those who are Mobile.

Governors apply the principles of best value to all financial transactions so that the allocation of resources best meet the aims and principles of the Academy and have the greatest impact on pupil progress, attainment and wellbeing.

The Academy promotes fair competition through quotations and tenders, in accordance with its Financial Regulations, to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

The Principal sets the budget for the year and allocates funds to Subject Leaders and to the separate budget lines. Spending is reviewed and evaluated regularly and the Business Manager alerts the Principal of any potential overspend on any code. In turn, the Governing body regularly reviews the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement. The Academy also undertakes review and cost comparisons with other academies to ensure value for money.

The premises have continued to be enhanced through the work of the Academy's Site Maintenance Officers. During 2019-20, the school developed a forest school area in order to enhance the curriculum. External fixed play equipment was installed in the KS2 play area and resurfacing took place in the Nursery outdoor area. Some of these works have been carried out in-house and the Academy has saved on labour costs.

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 charitable company 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 Wistaston Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk
The trustees have reviewed the key risks to which the Academy is exposed together with the operating financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff, volunteers and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls. The trustees are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31st August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the governing body.

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint an internal auditor Entrust.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the Finance, HR and resource Committee, on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

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 auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 26 November 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

L McMulkin - Trustee

D Griffiths - Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

As accounting officer of Wistaston Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the charitable company 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 charitable company, under the funding agreement in place between the charitable company and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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

D Griffiths - Accounting Officer

26 November 2020

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

The trustees (who act as governors of Wistaston Academy Trust and are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The 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 grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 November 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

L McMulkin - Trustee

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Wistaston Academy Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland';
- 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:
- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information
The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements 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 financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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 financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:
- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 financial statements 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.

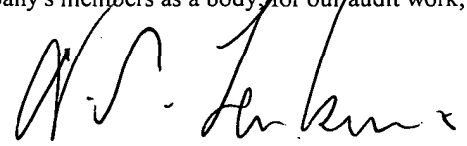
Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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 financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

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 auditors' 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.



Mr Nicolaus Jenkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

26 November 2020

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

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

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

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

Approach
We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the 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 charitable company's income and expenditure.

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

UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

26 November 2020

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £	31.8.19 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants	3	8,962	-	8,937	17,899	73,339
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	4	37,289	2,252,354	-	2,289,643	2,173,690
Other trading activities	5	40,752	-	-	40,752	42,595
Investment income	6	241	-	-	241	417
Total		87,244	2,252,354	8,937	2,348,535	2,290,041
EXPENDITURE ON						
Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations		451	2,369,192	88,325	2,457,968	2,215,791
Total	7	451	2,369,192	88,325	2,457,968	2,215,791
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		86,793	(116,838)	(79,388)	(109,433)	74,250
Transfers between funds	19	-	(72,180)	72,180	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes		-	173,000	-	173,000	(480,000)
Net movement in funds		86,793	(16,018)	(7,208)	63,567	(405,750)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		275,000	(928,263)	4,749,874	4,096,611	4,502,361
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		361,793	(944,281)	4,742,666	4,160,178	4,096,611

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 August 2020

	Notes	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	4,742,665	4,749,874
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	129,569	124,607
Cash at bank		612,465	589,629
		742,034	714,236
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(214,521)	(242,499)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		527,513	471,737
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,270,178	5,221,611
PENSION LIABILITY	20	(1,110,000)	(1,125,000)
NET ASSETS		4,160,178	4,096,611
FUNDS	19		
Unrestricted funds		361,793	275,000
Restricted funds		3,798,385	3,821,611
TOTAL FUNDS		4,160,178	4,096,611

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 November 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

L McMulkin - Trustee

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	95,017	211,687
Net cash provided by operating activities		95,017	211,687
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(81,118)	(379,083)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA		8,937	39,268
Net cash used in investing activities		(72,181)	(339,815)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		22,836	(128,128)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		589,629	717,757
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		612,465	589,629

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(109,433)	74,250
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	88,327	98,276
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	(8,937)	(39,268)
Increase in debtors	(4,962)	(21,626)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(27,978)	23,055
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	158,000	77,000
Net cash provided by operations	95,017	211,687

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.19 £	Cash flow £	At 31.8.20 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	589,629	22,836	612,465
	589,629	22,836	612,465
Total	589,629	22,836	612,465

1. STATEMENT OF 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.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Wistaston Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement
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 (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. 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.

For 2019-20 there are some specific issues that impact on the actuarial assumptions and closing pension scheme liability of all LGPS employers:

(1) The "McCloud/Sargeant judgement" continues to be an uncertainty. This relates to legal rulings regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension scheme transitional arrangements. Actuarial evidence suggested that the impact of making an allowance for this judgement would be material, and so the academy trust asked the actuary to make an allowance in the figures.

continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement
In order to quantify the constructive obligation the actuary has made calculations using an approximate approach and adjustment has been reflected as a past service cost within staff costs and detailed in the notes. However following a consultation issued by MHCLG it is now considered that the McCloud adjustment applied to liabilities will be lower than previously expected. Further, the approximate approach does not take into account the specific age profile of the employer's pension scheme members.

(2) For all LGPS funds, investment returns have been extremely volatile over the later part of the period as a result of the pandemic. The significant asset losses experienced in Q1 2020 have been recovered in Q2.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received 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 year 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 charity 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 it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations
Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance related conditions), where it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income
Other income including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the charity 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 financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

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2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Donated fixed assets
Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be 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 charity's accounting policies.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities
Costs of charitable activities are incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	-	Straight line over 125 years
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost
Computer equipment	-	33% on cost

Assets costing £1,000 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 requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

A review 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.

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 part 11, chapter 3 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.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement 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.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as 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 on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. 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 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 operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

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.

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 as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Provisions
measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes. 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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 good or services it must provide.

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

3. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Donations	-	23,079
Grants	8,937	39,268
Educational Trips	8,962	10,992
	17,899	73,339

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
DFC	8,937	25,772
Condition improvement fund	-	13,496
	8,937	39,268

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.8.20 Total funds	31.8.19 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	37,289	-	37,289	32,240
Grants	-	2,252,354	2,252,354	2,141,450
	37,289	2,252,354	2,289,643	2,173,690

continued...

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS - continued

An analysis of grants received is given below:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £	31.8.19 Total funds £
DfE/ESFA revenue grant				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	1,718,081	1,718,081	1,710,739
Other Dfe/ESFA Grants	-	333,498	333,498	261,839
	-	2,051,579	2,051,579	1,972,578
Other government grant				
Local Authority Grants/Income	-	200,775	200,775	168,872
	-	2,252,354	2,252,354	2,141,450

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
Catering income	19,835	34,315
Other Sales	13,906	7,951
Nursery Income	7,011	329
	40,752	42,595

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
Bank Interest	241	417

7. EXPENDITURE

	Non-pay expenditure			31.8.20	31.8.19
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £	Total £	Total £
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	1,682,448	38,660	204,677	1,925,785	1,630,537
Allocated support costs	223,599	98,935	209,649	532,183	585,254
	1,906,047	137,595	414,326	2,457,968	2,215,791

continued...

7. EXPENDITURE - continued

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Audit Fees	4,100	5,900
Other non-audit services	2,895	3,100
Depreciation - owned assets	88,327	98,279

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £	31.8.19 Total funds £
Direct costs	-	1,925,785	1,925,785	1,630,537
Support costs	451	531,732	532,183	585,254
	451	2,457,517	2,457,968	2,215,791

	31.8.20 Total £	31.8.19 Total £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	223,599	240,452
Technology costs	10,008	11,632
Premises costs	98,935	104,440
Other support costs	192,646	219,730
Governance costs	6,995	9,000
Total support costs	532,183	585,254

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the 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.

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

Mrs Dominique Griffith (Principal) (Full year equivalent):
- Remuneration: £65,000 - £70,000 (2019 - £60,000 - £65,000)
- Employers pension contribution: £15,000 - £20,000 (2019 - £10,000 - £15,000)

Where a trustee left employment, their Remuneration & Employers pension contribution has been grossed up on an annual basis.

continued...

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS - continued

Trustees' expenses

During the year ended 31 August 2020, or in the prior year, there were no expense claims paid to Trustees.

Any other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in the related party note to the financial statements.

10. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,349,260	1,240,179
Social security costs	110,451	100,004
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	446,336	294,639
	1,906,047	1,634,822

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows:

	31.8.20	31.8.19
Teachers	21	20
Administration and support	43	48
Management	5	4
	69	72

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

	31.8.20	31.8.19
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £12,231 (2019: £NIL). This payment was for one employee.

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 details 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 £264,675 (2019: £282,425).

continued...

11. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and capital grants	12,657	21,414	39,268	73,339
Charitable activities				
Funding for the academy's educational operations	32,240	2,141,450	-	2,173,690
Other trading activities	42,593	3	(1)	42,595
Investment income	417	-	-	417
Total	87,907	2,162,867	39,267	2,290,041
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Academy's educational operations	24,000	2,093,515	98,276	2,215,791
Total	24,000	2,093,515	98,276	2,215,791
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	63,907	69,352	(59,009)	74,250
Transfers between funds	59	(137,337)	137,278	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes	-	(480,000)	-	(480,000)
Net movement in funds	63,966	(547,985)	78,269	(405,750)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	211,034	(380,278)	4,671,605	4,502,361
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	275,000	(928,263)	4,749,874	4,096,611

continued...

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long leasehold £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2019	4,811,482	332,220	282,449	5,426,151
Additions	42,393	33,736	4,989	81,118
At 31 August 2020	4,853,875	365,956	287,438	5,507,269
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 2019	167,924	268,352	240,001	676,277
Charge for year	38,661	29,054	20,612	88,327
At 31 August 2020	206,585	297,406	260,613	764,604
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2020	4,647,290	68,550	26,825	4,742,665
At 31 August 2019	4,643,558	63,868	42,448	4,749,874

The academy trust's transactions relating to land and building included: -

- capital improvements to the existing leasehold property amounting to £42,393 during the year.

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
Trade debtors	-	19,918
VAT	42,898	27,077
Prepayments and accrued income	18,182	22,655
Accrued Income	68,489	54,957
	129,569	124,607

continued...

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Trade creditors	88,121	61,254
Social security and other taxes	21,778	23,526
Pension Creditor	31,116	26,023
Accrued expenses	23,615	95,304
Deferred government grants	49,891	36,392
	214,521	242,499

	31.8.2019	31.8.19
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September	36,392	36,000
Released from the previous year	(36,392)	(36,000)
Resources deferred in year	49,891	36,392
Deferred Income at 31 August	49,891	36,392

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

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Within one year	1,322	4,178
Between one and five years	992	2,314
	2,314	6,492

17. 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/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member

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18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	31.8.20 Total funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	4,742,665	4,742,665
Current assets	361,793	380,241	-	742,034
Current liabilities	-	(214,522)	1	(214,521)
Pension liability	-	(1,110,000)	-	(1,110,000)
	361,793	(944,281)	4,742,666	4,160,178

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

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	31.8.19 Total funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	4,749,874	4,749,874
Current assets	275,000	439,236	-	714,236
Current liabilities	-	(242,499)	-	(242,499)
Pension liability	-	(1,125,000)	-	(1,125,000)
	275,000	(928,263)	4,749,874	4,096,611

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

Restricted general funds are those resources that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the object of the Trust.

Restricted fixed asset fund are those funds relating to the long term assets of the Trust used in delivering the objects of the Trustees

Unrestricted funds are funds which the Trustees may use in the pursuance of the Academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees..

continued...

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	275,000	86,793	-	361,793
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	197,129	40,770	(72,180)	165,719
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	(392)	392	-	-
Restricted Pension Fund	(1,125,000)	15,000	-	(1,110,000)
Fixed Asset Fund - DFC Grant	25,652	8,704	-	34,356
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Expenditure from GAG	131,652	(50,010)	72,180	153,822
Fixed Asset Fund - Assets transferred on conversion	3,288,185	(27,505)	-	3,260,680
Fixed Asset Fund - Condition improvement fund	695,635	(5,630)	-	690,005
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	608,750	(4,947)	-	603,803
	3,821,611	(23,226)	-	3,798,385
TOTAL FUNDS	4,096,611	63,567	-	4,160,178

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	87,244	(451)	-	86,793
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,718,082	(1,677,312)	-	40,770
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	333,497	(333,105)	-	392
Other Government grants/income	200,775	(200,775)	-	-
Restricted Pension Fund	-	(158,000)	173,000	15,000
Fixed Asset Fund - DFC Grant	8,935	(231)	-	8,704
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Expenditure from GAG	1	(50,011)	-	(50,010)
Fixed Asset Fund - Assets transferred on conversion	-	(27,505)	-	(27,505)
Fixed Asset Fund - Condition improvement fund	1	(5,631)	-	(5,630)
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	-	(4,947)	-	(4,947)
	2,261,291	(2,457,517)	173,000	(23,226)
TOTAL FUNDS	2,348,535	(2,457,968)	173,000	63,567

continued...

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.19 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	211,034	63,907	59	275,000
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	187,722	147,040	(137,633)	197,129
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	(556)	164	(392)
Other Government grants/income	-	268	(268)	-
Restricted other voluntary income	-	(400)	400	-
Restricted Pension Fund	(568,000)	(557,000)	-	(1,125,000)
Fixed Asset Fund - DFC Grant	40,536	25,688	(40,572)	25,652
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Expenditure from GAG	196,142	(44,896)	(19,594)	131,652
Fixed Asset Fund - Assets transferred on conversion	3,271,194	(44,008)	60,999	3,288,185
Fixed Asset Fund - Condition improvement fund	600,790	9,038	85,807	695,635
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	562,943	(4,831)	50,638	608,750
	4,291,327	(469,657)	(59)	3,821,611
TOTAL FUNDS	4,502,361	(405,750)	-	4,096,611

continued...

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	87,907	(24,000)	-	63,907
Restricted funds				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,710,741	(1,563,701)	-	147,040
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	359,444	(360,000)	-	(556)
Other Government grants/income	71,268	(71,000)	-	268
Restricted other voluntary income	21,414	(21,814)	-	(400)
Restricted Pension Fund	-	(77,000)	(480,000)	(557,000)
Fixed Asset Fund - DFC Grant	25,773	(85)	-	25,688
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Expenditure from GAG	(1)	(44,895)	-	(44,896)
Fixed Asset Fund - Assets transferred on conversion	-	(44,008)	-	(44,008)
Fixed Asset Fund - Condition improvement fund	13,495	(4,457)	-	9,038
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	-	(4,831)	-	(4,831)
	2,202,134	(2,191,791)	(480,000)	(469,657)
TOTAL FUNDS	2,290,041	(2,215,791)	(480,000)	(405,750)

As the trust consists of one Academy, all fund balances and cost analysis relate to Wistaston Academy.

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 Cheshire Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016

Contributions amounting to £31,116 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019: £26,022) 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.

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20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

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

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. 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 TPS in the period amounted to £194,344 (2019: £116,939).

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 contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £117,000 (2019: £125,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £92,000 (2019: £99,000) and employees' contributions totalled £25,000 (2019: £26,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

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20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Present value of funded obligations	(2,263,000)	(2,174,000)
Fair value of plan assets	1,153,000	1,049,000
	(1,110,000)	(1,125,000)
Present value of unfunded obligations	-	-
Deficit	(1,110,000)	(1,125,000)
Net liability	(1,110,000)	(1,125,000)

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Current service cost	213,000	153,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	44,000	16,000
Past service cost	14,000	7,000
	271,000	176,000
Actual return on plan assets	(13,000)	67,000

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,174,000	1,425,000
Current service cost	213,000	153,000
Past service cost	14,000	7,000
Contributions by scheme participants	25,000	26,000
Interest cost	44,000	42,000
Benefits paid	(4,000)	(4,000)
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	(203,000)	525,000
	2,263,000	2,174,000

continued...

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,049,000	857,000
Interest income	21,000	26,000
Contributions by employer	92,000	99,000
Contributions by scheme participants	25,000	26,000
Benefits paid	(4,000)	(4,000)
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	(30,000)	45,000
	1,153,000	1,049,000

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	203,000	(525,000)
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	(30,000)	45,000
	173,000	(480,000)

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.20	31.8.19
Equities	45%	55%
Bonds	41%	35%
Property	10%	9%
Cash and other liquid assets	4%	1%
	100%	100%

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

	At 31 August 2020	At 31 August 2019
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	21.2	22.3
Females retiring today	23.6	24.5
Retiring in 20 years		

continued...

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Males retiring in 20 years	21.9	23.9
Females retiring in 20 years	25.0	26.5

Sensitivity Analysis

	At 31 August 2020 £000	At 31 August 2019 £000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	76	73
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	4	8
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rates (CP)	71	36

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	31.8.20	31.8.19
Discount rate	1.70%	1.90%
Future salary increases	2.90%	2.60%
Future pension increases	2.20%	2.30%

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Owing to the nature if the Academy Trust and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transaction may take place with organisation in which the Trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

During the year, the Love Music Trust provided services to the academy amounting to £6,601 (2019: £6,450). Mr D Osborne (Trustee) is company secretary of Love Music Trust, however he does not hold any more than 20% voting rights nor control over Love Music Trust. Mr D Osborne (Trustee) is also company secretary of Sandbach School, which provided training to the Trust in the prior period amounting to £45.