
GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018



GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

Members

G Joyner, representative of Oxford Diocese
Rev C R Harper
N Hardy
R Withers
R Raynsford (appointed 9 January 2018)

Trustees

H E Eaton, Parent Governor (resigned 31 October 2017)
R Thompson
K A Jarvis (resigned 15 February 2018)
J D Killigrew
R J Lindsay
R S Thomson, Executive Director
R J Withers, Chair until 30 June 2018 (resigned 31 August 2018)
Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, Corporate (resigned 8 June 2018)
A Fletcher, Parent Governor (resigned 12 September 2017)
D Bushnell (appointed 20 November 2017)
L Hodgkinson (appointed 1 September 2017)
S McIntyre (appointed 1 September 2017)
D Ward, Chair from 1 July 2018 (appointed 1 September 2017)

Company registered number

08927321

Company name

Great Learners Trust

Registered office

Church Street, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 0AZ

Independent auditors

Hillier Hopkins LLP, Radius House, 51 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1HP

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc, 79 High Street, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1DE

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Structure, governance and management

a. CONSTITUTION

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Trust deed is the primary governing document of the academy trust.

The Trustees of Great Learners Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served during the are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

c. METHOD OF RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The Members appoint the Trustees.

Trustees are appointed for their skills, experience and professional knowledge.

Trustees hold the following responsibilities:

Academic Performance
Learning and Teaching
Finance
HR, Personnel
Safeguarding
Legal
IT and Communications
Premises and Policies
Business and Marketing.

d. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

All new trustees are provided with an induction pack which details the purpose and dates of meetings and the terms of reference. In addition, depending on their existing experience, the following takes place:

- Induction of role by Chair/Development Trustee including Trustee Code of Conduct and use of the Cloud
- Mentoring by existing trustee

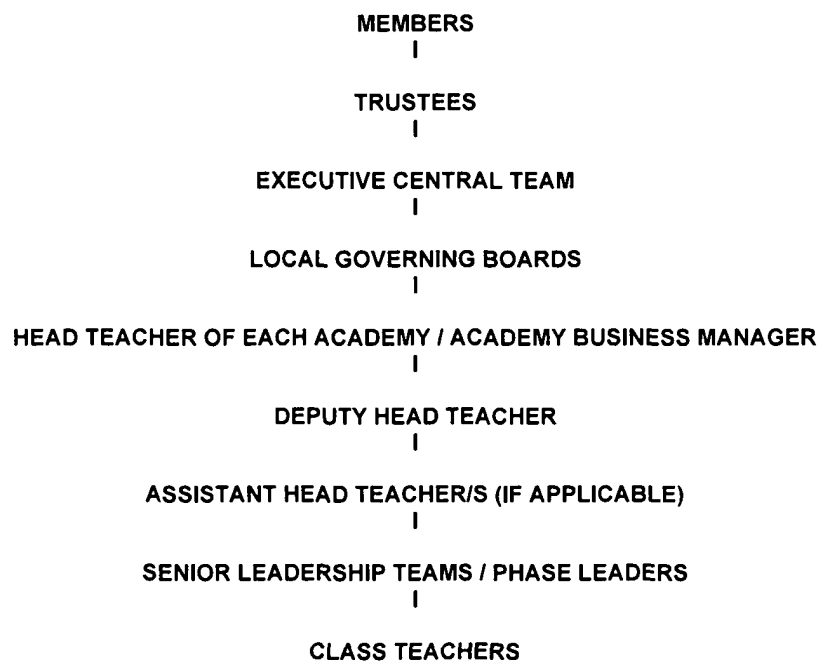
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

- Access to 'Governors Zone' provided by Buckinghamshire County Council
- Access to The Key for School Leaders
- Access to previous minutes policies and procedures

e. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organisational structure of the Trust is shown here:



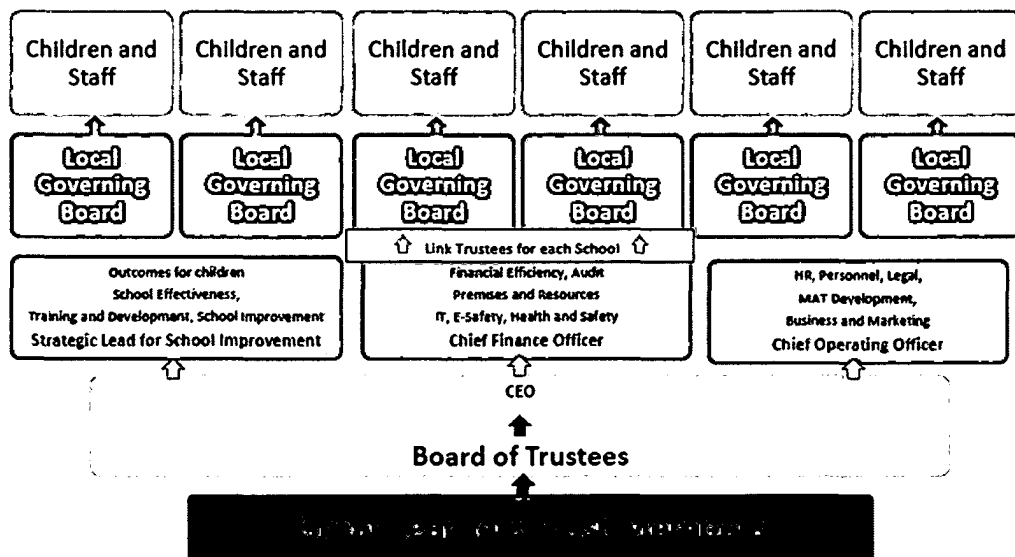
The Head Teachers have responsibility for the day-to-day management of each academy's activities. Each Head Teacher is supported by their Senior Leadership Team and Academy Bursar.

Please also see GLT Governance Structure on the following page.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



f. CONNECTED ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

The Academy has regard to the advice of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education.

g. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and Activities

a. OBJECTIVES

The vision of the Great Learners Trust is to deliver outstanding teaching and unforgettable learning experiences for every child in the MAT.

The core values of the Trust are TRUTH, LOVE, FAITH, COURAGE, RESPECT and COMMUNITY.

Our aim is to provide a rich environment in every academy, where the children develop a passion for learning.

Our drivers are "Challenge for All" and developing "Growth Mindsets" in all members of our Trust community. The curriculum we promote is creative and inclusive, making learning stimulating, meaningful and relevant for every child. It is consistently strong in developing core skills in English, maths, science and IT and applying them

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

across the curriculum, as well as providing exceptional opportunities in music, art, drama, sport, health and wellbeing and spiritual, moral and cultural understanding. The MAT is international in its outlook and perspective, recognising the cultural diversity and global complexity of our world, and the impact this will have on the future life of our children.

The aim of the Trust is that children come out of the school gates at the end of the day saying: "THAT WAS THE BEST DAY EVER!"

We achieve this:

By creating a culture where every child is valued as unique and irreplaceable.

By employing outstanding teachers and support staff who "light the blue touch paper" and build children's learning power.

By investing in staff development, and regularly organising whole Trust INSET days which ensure the vision is shared with every colleague in the MAT.

By being an "outward facing" organisation, sharing ideas and expertise with other schools.

In Trust schools:

- Children of all faiths and no faith grow in spiritual awareness and experience the peace of quiet reflection.
- Children are expected to make strong progress whatever their level of ability.
- Children with obstacles to learning are welcomed.
- Children are offered a dynamic environment from 8am to 6pm, and a wealth of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.
- Children benefit from outstanding teaching.

b. STRATEGIES

The Great Learners Trust is committed to school improvement.

The growth of the Trust has been dependent on rapid, proactive school improvement in the two sponsored academies – Princes Risborough and Wooburn Green Primary Schools (PRPS and WGPS). This has been achieved through intensive scrutiny of the leadership and organisational structures in each school, partnership work with the Local Governing Boards to build strength and capacity, and the strategic deployment of staff (teaching and support staff) across the Trust.

Both WGPS and PRPS were issued with an academy order having been judged inadequate by OFSTED. In both cases, within 8 – 9 months of joining the Great Learners Trust, both schools have been assessed as "Good" (DFE commissioned review PRPS November 2017, GLT commissioned review WGPS October 2018).

Pupil outcomes in all four Trust schools have improved significantly (see Trust data below July 2018).

With the advice and encouragement of the DFE, the Trust has successfully applied for two funds - the Regional Academies Growth Fund (RAGF) and the MAT Development and Improvement Fund (MDIF). These grants have been invested in the GLT's school improvement work and building the capacity of the MAT Central Team to deliver this work.

The Trust has published a Strategic Development Plan, which makes provision for ensuring the continued quality of school performance and improvement whilst growing the Trust to a sustainable size.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

c. ACTIVITIES

The Trust works flexibly and strategically to support and improve its schools. Examples of activities over the year 2017 – 18 are:

- Appointment of a Strategic Lead for School Improvement, working initially at Wooburn Green but also across the Trust, to coach and mentor school leaders and establish the Trust programme of high quality school improvement
- Complete rebrand of Wooburn Green Primary School (formerly The Meadows) including new uniform, transformation of the corridors and classrooms, new website, complete overhaul of policy, practice, outlook and reputation
- Establishment of an outstanding Preschool provision at Princes Risborough Primary School, which has increased pupil numbers
- Deployment of a Lead Practitioner at Princes Risborough, then Wooburn Green, to raise pupil attainment and improve lesson quality

d. PUBLIC BENEFIT

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

a. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The MAT uses a number of financial key performance indicators to monitor financial success of the MAT and progress/improvement against the targets set.

Staffing costs are monitored as a percentage of General Annual Grant funding and Special Educational Needs grant.

The Trust also uses a number of non-financial key performance indicators to monitor its performance, as reported below.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Great Learners Trustees Academic Report Summer 2018

Overview of School Data – 2017 attainment and 2018 attainment at expected (including Greater Depth)

Improvement from 2017 to 2018

| Assessment | National Results 2017 (2018) | Great Kimble | | Great Missenden | | Princes Risborough | | The Meadows | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 |
| EYFS GLD | 70% | 77% | 86% | 86% | 81% | 72% | 71.4% | 65% | 44% |
| Y1 Phonics Screening | 81% | 92% | 90% | 90% | 88% | 71% | 78% | 71% | 89% |
| Y2 Phonics Screening | 92% | 100% | 100% | 93% | 93% | 75% | 83% | 76% | 86% |
| Y2 Reading | 76% | 88% | 89% | 80% | 87% | 58% | 65% | 45% | 61% |
| Y2 Writing | 68% | 76% | 83% | 73% | 87% | 58% | 70% | 20% | 50% |
| Y2 Maths | 75% | 82% | 94% | 80% | 87% | 50% | 65% | 25% | 61% |
| Y6 Reading | 71% (75%) | | | 84% | 88% | 40% | 67% | 65% | 73% |
| Y6 Writing | 76% (78%) | | | 80% | 86% | 43% | 56% | 65% | 52% |
| Y6 Maths | 75% (76%) | | | 83% | 87% | 47% | 50% | 55% | 59% |
| Y6 EGPS | 77% (78%) | | | 81% | 81% | 60% | 50% | 71% | 55% |
| Y6 RWM Combined | 61% (64%) | | | 70% | 80% | 27% | 47% | 45% | 39% |

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

**Overview of School Data – 2017 attainment and 2018 attainment at Greater Depth
Improvement from 2017 to 2018**

| Assessment | National Results 2017 | Great Kimble | | Great Missenden | | Princes Risborough | | The Meadows | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 | Outcomes 2017 | Outcomes 2018 |
| Y2 Reading | 25% | 24% | 56% | 17% | 30% | 29% | 20% | 0 | 11% |
| Y2 Writing | 16% | 24% | 28% | 3% | 20% | 8% | 9% | 0 | 0 |
| Y2 Maths | 20% | 24% | 39% | 3% | 30% | 21% | 11% | 0 | 4% |
| Y6 Reading | 25% | | | 41% | 42% | 7% | 28% | 5% | 26% |
| Y6 Writing | 18% | | | 22% | 19% | 0 | 6% | 0 | 9% |
| Y6 Maths | 23% | | | 35% | 37% | 10% | 14% | 5% | 9% |
| Y6 EGPS | 31% | | | 35% | 39% | 7% | 19% | 14% | 22% |
| Y6 RWM Combined | 9% | | | 11% | 10% | 0 | 6% | 0 | 4% |

b. 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 Accounting Policies.

Financial review

a. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trust's main source of income comes from the Educational and Skills Funding Agency and is known as the General Annual Grant (GAG). The funding received from the ESFA for financial year ended 31 August 2018 was based on 686 pupils (Great Missenden and Princes Risborough Primary), taken from the October 2017 census figure.

Our revenue income streams are made up of two categories, restricted and unrestricted. Restricted revenue can only be spent for particular purposes and unrestricted funds can be spent on any purpose at the discretion of the governors but within the objects and aims of the Academy.

In the financial year the restricted Income excluding fixed asset grants and transfers on conversion, totalled £4,088,714 (2017: £2,881,235) - largely consisting of GAG £ 2,898,796 (£2,202,759 last year), with additional grants provided by the ESFA capital maintenance (DFCG) £26,292 (£8,545 last year), pupil premium £140,522 (£108,301 last year) and Sports Grant £52,087 (£13,670 last year). High needs top up funding received from the local authority totalled £120,000 (£162,784 last year).

The unrestricted Income, £574,469 (£481,720 last year), was made up of PTA contributions £15,748 (£68,412 last year), lettings £20,943 (£13,969 last year), and the remaining being the school fund Income which covers

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

school shop sales, school meals, trip income, uniforms, etc.

The Trustees are aware of the possible restriction of GAG income in future, coupled with increased costs such as the announced increase to employer pension contributions and will continue to monitor staffing levels closely.

b. PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The principal risks facing the Trust are:

- Reputational risk - mitigated by advice and guidance provided by educational advisors.
- Performance risk - mitigated by advice and guidance provided by external educational advisors, lesson observation, book scrutiny, external test results and staff performance.
- Financial risk - The principal financial risks are a reduction in pupil numbers, reduction in central government funding, unbudgeted increase in teaching or support staff costs, or unbudgeted major capital repairs. The risks presented here are mitigated by having contingency budgets put in place and having a reserves policy.
- Risks associated with personnel - mitigated by advice and guidance provided by educational advisors, ensuring insurance cover is adequate and audit procedures to assess the systems of internal control.

The Trust practises through its Board, and through the local Governing Board, risk management principles. Any major risks highlighted at any local Governing Board are brought to the main Board with proposed mitigating actions and they continue to be reported until the risk is adequately mitigated.

The Trust accepts managed risk as an inevitable part of its operations but maintains an objective not to run unacceptable levels of risk in any area. The subjective nature of this process requires major risks to be resolved by the Trust collectively, whilst more minor risks are dealt with by senior executive officers.

c. RESERVES POLICY

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

In reviewing the levels of reserves, the Trustees have particular regard to whether the levels of future income to be received from the DfE are likely to be reduced, due to changes in the way we are funded.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of unrestricted funds less pension deficit should be equivalent to one month's expenditure. This is to provide sufficient capital to cover any delays between spending and receipt of grants and as a cushion for any unexpected crisis such as emergency maintenance.

At 31 August the total funds comprised:

Unrestricted £537,529

Restricted: Fixed asset funds £12,037,436

Restricted: £nil

Pension reserve £(1,691,000)

The deficit on the pension reserve relates to the non-teaching staff pension scheme where, unlike the teachers scheme, separate assets are held to fund future liabilities. The deficit can be met in the longer term from any combination of increased employer or employee contributions, increased government funding or changes to scheme benefits. The restricted funds will be spent in accordance with the terms of the particular funds. Unrestricted funds are for use on the general purposes of the Trust, at the discretion of the Trustees, and currently represent one month's worth of Trust expenditure. The aim of the Trustees is to steadily increase this reserve to meet future working capital requirements, taking into account the future plans for the Trust, discussed below.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

d. MATERIAL INVESTMENTS POLICY

The Trust did not make any investments in the period. Funds which were surplus to immediate requirement were placed on deposit at the modest rates that were available.

Fundraising

Great Learners Trust do not employ a professional fundraiser, or commercial participator. We are supported by volunteer Parent Teachers Association groups who host events for the children that raise money for the Academies, such as sponsored walks, Discos, Quiz nights.

There have been no registered complaints about these activities this year. The activities are attended by families and friends of our children, on a voluntary basis and they are well supported. These activities are monitored by the Head Teacher at each Academy to ensure that they are reasonable and not placing undue pressure on a person to give money or other property, in the course of, or in connection with, such activities.

Plans for future periods

a. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Great Learners Trust has expanded from two to four schools in 2017 -18 and is expected to grow to 7 schools by September 2019.

The pupil numbers are currently: 897 as at AUT 2018 Census for 4 schools.

The Trust has plans in place to ensure the continued delivery of high quality education and support for its schools during this period of growth.

- The GLT Strategic Development Plan is published on the GLT website.
- The GLT Trust Improvement Plan is a working document which sets out the priorities for the Trust over the next two years and provides a framework for the individual School Improvement Plans, ensuring that LGB and Trust level objectives are aligned.

b. PAY POLICY FOR KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Trustees establish the Pay Policy for all roles across the Trust, and this Policy is reviewed annually in October. The Trustees agree the appropriate pay ranges for all members of the GLT central team and the leadership teams in each school.

The Local Governing Boards (or their delegated Pay and Personnel Committees) ensure that a review against performance objectives is undertaken annually in accordance with the GLT Appraisal Policy.

The Trustees' Pay Review Committee sets the salary scales for all members of the GLT Central Team, and carries out a review against performance objectives for these Trust employees annually.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

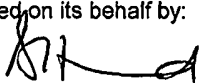
- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 17/12/18 and signed on its behalf by:



D Ward
Chair of Trustees

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Director, 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 Great Learners 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. Attendance during the Year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of a possible |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| H E Eaton | 0 | 1 |
| R Thompson | 4 | 6 |
| K A Jarvis | 0 | 3 |
| J D Killigrew | 5 | 6 |
| R J Lindsay | 5 | 6 |
| R S Thomson, Executive Director | 6 | 6 |
| R J Withers | 5 | 6 |
| Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, Corporate | 1 | 5 |
| A Fletcher, Parent Governor | 0 | 0 |
| D Bushnell | 1 | 5 |
| L Hodgkinson | 6 | 6 |
| S McIntyre | 5 | 6 |
| D Ward | 5 | 6 |

Four new Trustees joined the Board and five resigned. The Trustees have faced a significant number of challenges this year, notably expanding the Trust from two schools to four, including two sponsored academies requiring rapid improvement, and working with the Local Governing Boards to ensure balanced budgets are set, within the context of reduced government funding.

The Trustees do not have a separate Finance Committee. At this stage of the Trust's development, it is important that all Trustees have full knowledge of the Trust's financial situation and forecasts. The Trust Board reviews and monitors the budgets and expenditure of all the Trust schools and the GLT central fund. The Local Governing Boards of each school have a Finance / Resources Committee which drafts the budget for their school, monitors expenditure against the budget and is responsible for ensuring sound financial management in their school.

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Director has responsibility for ensuring that the 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

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

reviewing contracts with the central team to demonstrate value for money and seek wherever possible economies of scale through combined purchasing power of the Trust. During the year energy has been reviewed, and improved contract terms agreed for Trust schools. IT provision is being comprehensively reviewed, and an action plan drawn up. Payroll and HR provision are due for review in the new financial year 2018/19.

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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Great Learners Trust for the Year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks, that has been in place for the Year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The 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 academies' Finance / Resources Committees, and the Trustees, 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 Hillier Hopkins LLP as internal auditor.

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

- Reviewing bank reconciliations;
- Reviewing expenses to gain assurance that they are authorised and recorded correctly;
- Reviewing income, ensuring that appropriate controls are in place and operating effectively;
- Reviewing the systems and controls surrounding the preparation, authorisation and review of payroll; and
- Ensuring a fixed asset register is maintained.

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

On a termly basis, the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

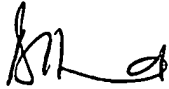
REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Director 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 auditors;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17/12/18 and signed on their behalf, by:



D Ward
Chair of Trustees



R S Thomson
Accounting Officer

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STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Great Learners Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2017.

I confirm that I and the academy trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2017.

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.



R S Thomson
Accounting Officer

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**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the 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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the 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 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 ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



D Ward
Chair of Trustees

Date: 17 December 2018

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LEARNERS TRUST

QUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Great Learners Trust (the 'academy') for the Year ended 31 August 2018 which comprise the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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', the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy's affairs as at 31 August 2018 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

BASIS FOR QUALIFIED OPINION

The Trustees have not obtained a valuation of the land and buildings transferred on conversion of Great Kimble C of E School, which joined the Academy Trust in the year. A valuation will be obtained for the financial statements to 31 August 2019. As the valuation cannot be determined, we are unable to state the adjustment that would be required to the financial statements.

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 academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 academy'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.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LEARNERS TRUST

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 Auditors' report 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.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the academy and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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, except for the matter as disclosed above.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy 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 academy's ability to

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF GREAT LEARNERS TRUST

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 academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITORS' 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 an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these 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 Auditors' report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the academy'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 academy'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 academy and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Alexander Bottom ACA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Hillier Hopkins LLP

Chartered Accountants

Radius House
51 Clarendon Road
Watford
Herts
WD17 1HP

Date:

18th December 2017

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO GREAT LEARNERS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 April 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Great Learners Trust during the Year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 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 Great Learners Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Great Learners 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 Great Learners Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GREAT LEARNERS TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Great Learners Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 27 March 2014, and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2017, 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 2017 to 2018. 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 Year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO GREAT LEARNERS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (continued)

APPROACH

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 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 academy's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- An assessment of the risk of material misstatement and irregularity across the Academy Trust's activities.
- Testing and review of areas identified through risk assessment including enquiry, observation, inspection and review of supporting evidence.
- Review of system controls, policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with the regularity regime
- Consideration of evidence obtained through the work performed as part of our financial statements audit in order to support the regularity conclusion

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 Year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Hillier Hopkins LLP

Chartered Accountants

Radius House
51 Clarendon Road
Watford
Herts
WD17 1HP

Date: 18th December 2017

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

| | Note | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|--|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME FROM: | | | | | | |
| Donations & capital grants: | | | | | | |
| Assets transferred on conversion | 2 | 141,708 | (519,000) | 3,249,706 | 2,872,414 | 5,516,655 |
| Other donations and capital grants | 2 | 98,872 | 4,250 | 282,219 | 385,341 | 530,975 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 474,549 | 4,084,464 | - | 4,559,013 | 3,155,653 |
| Investments | 4 | 1,048 | - | - | 1,048 | 272 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 716,177 | 3,569,714 | 3,531,925 | 7,817,816 | 9,203,555 |
| EXPENDITURE ON: | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | 409,132 | 4,503,874 | 238,608 | 5,151,614 | 3,454,524 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 7 | 409,132 | 4,503,874 | 238,608 | 5,151,614 | 3,454,524 |
| NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS | | | | | | |
| Transfers between Funds | 18 | 307,045 (49,337) | (934,160) 24,032 | 3,293,317 25,305 | 2,666,202 - | 5,749,031 - |
| NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES | | | | | | |
| | | 257,708 | (910,128) | 3,318,622 | 2,666,202 | 5,749,031 |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 23 | - | 382,000 | - | 382,000 | 40,000 |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | 257,708 | (528,128) | 3,318,622 | 3,048,202 | 5,789,031 |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS: | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 279,821 | (1,162,872) | 8,718,814 | 7,835,763 | 2,046,732 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | 537,529 | (1,691,000) | 12,037,436 | 10,883,965 | 7,835,763 |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08927321

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018

| | Note | £ | 2018 £ | £ | 2017 £ |
|--|------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 14 | | 11,902,945 | | 8,619,484 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Debtors | 15 | 127,777 | | 206,130 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 800,515 | | 398,761 | |
| | | <u>928,292</u> | | <u>604,891</u> | |
| CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year | 16 | <u>(256,272)</u> | | <u>(136,991)</u> | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | 672,020 | | 467,900 |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | <u>12,574,965</u> | | <u>9,087,384</u> |
| CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year | 17 | | - | | (8,621) |
| NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES | | | 12,574,965 | | 9,078,763 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 23 | <u>(1,691,000)</u> | | <u>(1,243,000)</u> | |
| NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES | | | <u>10,883,965</u> | | <u>7,835,763</u> |
| FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY | | | | | |
| Restricted income funds: | | | | | |
| Restricted income funds | 18 | - | | 80,128 | |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | 18 | <u>12,037,436</u> | | <u>8,718,814</u> | |
| Restricted income funds excluding pension liability | | <u>12,037,436</u> | | <u>8,798,942</u> | |
| Pension reserve | | <u>(1,691,000)</u> | | <u>(1,243,000)</u> | |
| Total restricted income funds | | | 10,346,436 | | 7,555,942 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 18 | | <u>537,529</u> | | <u>279,821</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | | <u>10,883,965</u> | | <u>7,835,763</u> |

The financial statements on pages 22 to 49 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 17/12/18 and are signed on their behalf, by:

D Ward
Chair of Trustees



GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

| | Note | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 20 | <u>259,874</u> | <u>168,785</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | | 1,048 | 219 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (272,363) | (479,362) |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | | 282,219 | 323,945 |
| Funds inherited on conversion | | 130,976 | - |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | | <u>141,880</u> | <u>(155,198)</u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the Year | | 401,754 | 13,587 |
| Cash and cash equivalents brought forward | | <u>398,761</u> | <u>385,174</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents carried forward | 21 | <u><u>800,515</u></u> | <u><u>398,761</u></u> |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Great Learners Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 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 academy 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.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the academy has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Sponsorship income provided to the academy which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account in the period in which it is receivable, where receipt is probable and it is measurable.

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities are costs incurred on the academy's educational operations, including support costs and those costs relating to the governance of the academy appointed to charitable activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised 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 incorporating income and expenditure account 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 incorporating income and expenditure account. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Leasehold property | - 2% |
| Furniture and fixtures | - 20% |
| Plant and equipment | - 25% |

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 incorporating income and expenditure account.

Great Missenden C of E Combined School operates from land and buildings owned by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. The value of the land is not recognised in these financial statements as the academy trust has concluded that it does not control this asset and as such it does not meet the definition of an asset under FRS102. No amounts are included in income and expenditure in respect of the donated land.

1.6 Leasing and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the academy. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

1.7 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.9 Cash at Bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities and provisions 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 anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. 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.

1.11 Taxation

The academy 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 is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Governments 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 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. As stated in note 23, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 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 incorporating income and expenditure account and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.13 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments 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 note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2018. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

| | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Assets transferred on conversion | 141,708 | (519,000) | 3,249,706 | 2,872,414 | 5,516,655 |
| Donations | 98,872 | 4,250 | - | 103,122 | 191,445 |
| Capital Grants | - | - | 282,219 | 282,219 | 339,530 |
| Subtotal | 98,872 | 4,250 | 282,219 | 385,341 | 530,975 |
| | 240,580 | (514,750) | 3,531,925 | 3,257,755 | 6,047,630 |
| Total 2017 | 183,125 | (413,095) | 6,277,600 | 6,047,630 | |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Educational activities | 93,491 | 4,084,464 | 4,177,955 | 2,857,330 |
| Rent of facilities | 20,943 | - | 20,943 | 13,969 |
| Trip income | 117,141 | - | 117,141 | 96,438 |
| Catering income | 19,077 | - | 19,077 | 13,645 |
| Community income | 173,304 | - | 173,304 | 149,408 |
| Other income | 50,593 | - | 50,593 | 24,863 |
| | <u>474,549</u> | <u>4,084,464</u> | <u>4,559,013</u> | <u>3,155,653</u> |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | <u>298,325</u> | <u>2,857,329</u> | <u>3,155,654</u> | |

FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

| | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| DfE/ESFA grants | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 2,898,796 | 2,898,796 | 2,202,759 |
| Other DfE grants | - | 383,448 | 383,448 | 147,438 |
| Start up grants | - | 120,000 | 120,000 | 25,000 |
| Pupil Premium | - | 140,522 | 140,522 | 108,301 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>3,542,766</u> | <u>3,542,766</u> | <u>2,483,498</u> |
| Other government grants | | | | |
| Other government grants | - | 541,698 | 541,698 | 373,832 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>541,698</u> | <u>541,698</u> | <u>373,832</u> |
| Other funding | | | | |
| Other income | 13,054 | - | 13,054 | - |
| Staff consultancy | 80,437 | - | 80,437 | - |
| | <u>93,491</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>93,491</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>93,491</u> | <u>4,084,464</u> | <u>4,177,955</u> | <u>2,857,330</u> |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,857,329</u> | <u>2,857,329</u> | |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2017 £ |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Investment income | 1,048 | - | 1,048 | 272 |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | 272 | - | 272 | |

5. DIRECT COSTS

| | Educational activities £ | Total 2018 £ | Total 2017 £ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Teaching and educational supplies | 86,455 | 86,455 | 82,908 |
| Staff development | 22,512 | 22,512 | 7,561 |
| Educational consultancy | 30,069 | 30,069 | - |
| Trip expenditure | 117,594 | 117,594 | 96,097 |
| Other direct costs | - | - | 39,020 |
| Agency staff costs | 65,630 | 65,630 | 6,504 |
| Technology costs | 67,512 | 67,512 | 33,197 |
| Insurance costs | 19,373 | 19,373 | 7,935 |
| Wages and salaries | 1,719,177 | 1,719,177 | 1,232,073 |
| National insurance | 167,355 | 167,355 | 121,376 |
| Pension cost | 275,274 | 275,274 | 185,139 |
| | 2,570,951 | 2,570,951 | 1,811,810 |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | 1,811,810 | 1,811,810 | |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

6. SUPPORT COSTS

| | Educational activities £ | Total 2018 £ | Total 2017 £ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pension income | 39,000 | 39,000 | 21,000 |
| Staff development | - | - | 2,582 |
| Premises maintenance costs | 65,887 | 65,887 | 39,133 |
| Rent and rates | 25,810 | 25,810 | 19,489 |
| Catering costs | 133,347 | 133,347 | 85,017 |
| Technology costs | 21,274 | 21,274 | - |
| Insurance costs | 16,353 | 16,353 | 8,247 |
| Heat and light costs | 37,773 | 37,773 | 23,436 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 15,962 | 15,962 | 14,337 |
| Cleaning and caretaking costs | 43,109 | 43,109 | 30,753 |
| Professional fees | 219,971 | 219,971 | 93,735 |
| Other support costs | 36,450 | 36,450 | 29,297 |
| Governance Costs | 7,871 | 7,871 | 1,144 |
| Wages and salaries | 1,126,783 | 1,126,783 | 741,950 |
| National insurance | 42,347 | 42,347 | 20,880 |
| Pension cost | 510,118 | 510,118 | 307,269 |
| Depreciation | 238,608 | 238,608 | 204,445 |
| | <u>2,580,663</u> | <u>2,580,663</u> | <u>1,642,714</u> |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | <u>1,642,714</u> | <u>1,642,714</u> | |

During the Year ended 31 August 2018, the academy incurred the following Governance costs:
£35,371 (2017 - £10,569) included within the table above in respect of educational activities.

7. EXPENDITURE

| | Staff costs 2018 £ | Premises 2018 £ | Other costs 2018 £ | Total 2018 £ | Total 2017 £ |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Educational activities: | | | | | |
| Direct costs | 2,431,992 | - | 138,959 | 2,570,951 | 1,811,809 |
| Support costs | 1,679,248 | 411,187 | 490,228 | 2,580,663 | 1,642,714 |
| | <u>4,111,240</u> | <u>411,187</u> | <u>629,187</u> | <u>5,151,614</u> | <u>3,454,523</u> |
| <i>Total 2017</i> | <u>2,608,688</u> | <u>316,980</u> | <u>528,855</u> | <u>3,454,523</u> | |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: | | |
| - owned by the charity | 238,608 | 204,445 |
| Auditors' remuneration - audit | 10,500 | 7,125 |
| Auditors' remuneration - other services | 17,000 | 2,000 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

9. STAFF COSTS

a. Staff costs

Staff costs were as follows:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 2,841,196 | 1,946,024 |
| Social security costs | 209,702 | 142,256 |
| Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes | 785,392 | 492,408 |
| | <u>3,836,290</u> | <u>2,580,688</u> |
| Agency staff costs | 270,186 | - |
| Staff restructuring costs | 4,764 | 28,000 |
| | <u>4,111,240</u> | <u>2,608,688</u> |

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Compensation payments | <u>4,764</u> | <u>28,000</u> |

b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-contractual severance payments totalling £4,764 (2017: £28,000). There were 2 payments (2017: £28,000).

c. Staff numbers

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

| | 2018 No. | 2017 No. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Teachers | 49 | 32 |
| Educational Support Staff and Admin | 105 | 88 |
| Management | 16 | 14 |
| | <u>170</u> | <u>134</u> |

d. Higher paid staff

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

| | 2018 No. | 2017 No. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| In the band £60,001 - £70,000 | 1 | 0 |
| In the band £70,001 - £80,000 | 1 | 1 |

These employees are member of defined benefit pension schemes.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

9. STAFF COSTS (continued)

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £882,602 (2017: £678,567).

10. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Management fees
- School to school support

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Great Learners Trust charges the schools in the multi academy trust an annual charge of 6% of total allocation from 2017/18 GAG statement.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Great Missenden School | 80,266 | 52,854 |
| Princes Risborough School | 63,535 | 44,698 |
| Wooburn Green | 23,323 | - |
| Great Kimble C of E School | 13,028 | - |
| | <u>180,152</u> | <u>97,552</u> |
| Total | | |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The Principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and other staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

| | | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| R S Thomson | Remuneration | 70,000-75,000 | 70,000-75,000 |
| | Pension contributions paid | 10,000-15,000 | 10,000-15,000 |
| J Sandalls | Remuneration | | 25,000-30,000 |
| | Pension contributions paid | | 0-5,000 |
| C Martin* | Remuneration | | 10,000-15,000 |
| | Pension contributions paid | | 0-5,000 |
| C Tarling | Remuneration | | 5,000-10,000 |
| | Pension contributions paid | | 0-5,000 |

Total expenses paid to Trustees during the year was £ (2017: £1,092).

* C Martin is the partner of D Battman, a trustee.

12. OTHER FINANCE INCOME

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Interest income on pension scheme assets | <u>(39,000)</u> | <u>(21,000)</u> |

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy 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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | Land and buildings £ | Furniture and fixtures £ | Plant and equipment £ | Total £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Cost | | | | |
| At 1 September 2017 | 8,724,587 | 103,843 | 129,173 | 8,957,603 |
| Additions | 232,780 | 18,514 | 21,069 | 272,363 |
| On conversion | 3,212,000 | 5,700 | 32,006 | 3,249,706 |
| At 31 August 2018 | <u>12,169,367</u> | <u>128,057</u> | <u>182,248</u> | <u>12,479,672</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| At 1 September 2017 | 242,866 | 33,302 | 61,951 | 338,119 |
| Charge for the Year | 177,123 | 24,069 | 37,416 | 238,608 |
| At 31 August 2018 | <u>419,989</u> | <u>57,371</u> | <u>99,367</u> | <u>576,727</u> |
| Net book value | | | | |
| At 31 August 2018 | <u>11,749,378</u> | <u>70,686</u> | <u>82,881</u> | <u>11,902,945</u> |
| At 31 August 2017 | <u>8,481,721</u> | <u>70,541</u> | <u>67,222</u> | <u>8,619,484</u> |

The net book value of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts, included above, are as follows:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Computer equipment | <u>5,042</u> | <u>11,465</u> |

Great Kimble C of E School joined the Academy Trust during the year. A DfE valuation of the land and buildings will be available from March 2019 and will be included in the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019. The Trustees considered that obtaining a professional valuation was not cost effective due to the short term nature of the delay in including the valuation in the accounts for the Trust.

15. DEBTORS

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Trade debtors | 2,460 | - |
| Other debtors | 29,499 | 75,575 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 95,818 | 130,555 |
| | <u>127,777</u> | <u>206,130</u> |

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts | 7,038 | 6,032 |
| Trade creditors | 2,454 | - |
| Other taxation and social security | 29,309 | 41,942 |
| Other creditors | 2,109 | 400 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 215,362 | 88,617 |
| | <u>256,272</u> | <u>136,991</u> |
| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
| Deferred income | | |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2017 | 64,578 | 43,356 |
| Resources deferred during the year | 146,559 | 64,578 |
| Amounts released from previous years | (64,578) | (43,356) |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2018 | <u>146,559</u> | <u>64,578</u> |

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance from the ESFA for UIFSM and other grants as well as trip income.

17. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| Other loans | - | 1,583 |
| Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts | - | 7,038 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>8,621</u> |

Obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts, included above, are payable as follows:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Between one and five years | <u>-</u> | <u>7,038</u> |

The hire purchase liabilities are secured on the assets to which they relate.

GREAT LEARNERS TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

| | Balance at 1 September 2017 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2018 £ |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | | |
| General Funds - all funds | 279,821 | 716,177 | (409,132) | (49,337) | - | 537,529 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 80,128 | 2,898,796 | (3,002,956) | 24,032 | - | - |
| Pupil premium | - | 140,522 | (140,522) | - | - | - |
| Local authority grants | - | 541,698 | (541,698) | - | - | - |
| Other grants | - | 503,448 | (503,448) | - | - | - |
| Other Donations and grants | - | 4,250 | (4,250) | - | - | - |
| Pension reserve | (1,243,000) | (519,000) | (311,000) | - | 382,000 | (1,691,000) |
| | <u>(1,162,872)</u> | <u>3,569,714</u> | <u>(4,503,874)</u> | <u>24,032</u> | <u>382,000</u> | <u>(1,691,000)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Restricted Fixed Asset Fund | 8,619,480 | 3,275,998 | (238,608) | 246,075 | - | 11,902,945 |
| Condition Improvement Fund | 99,334 | 255,927 | - | (220,770) | - | 134,491 |
| | <u>8,718,814</u> | <u>3,531,925</u> | <u>(238,608)</u> | <u>25,305</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>12,037,436</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>7,555,942</u> | <u>7,101,639</u> | <u>(4,742,482)</u> | <u>49,337</u> | <u>382,000</u> | <u>10,346,436</u> |
| Total of funds | <u>7,835,763</u> | <u>7,817,816</u> | <u>(5,151,614)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>382,000</u> | <u>10,883,965</u> |

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) represents the core funding for the educational activities of the academy that has been provided via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by the Department for Education. The GAG fund must be used for the normal running costs of the academy.

Pupil Premium is a grant allocated to academies with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals. The purpose is to raise attainment for pupils from low income families.

The fixed asset fund includes funding received from the ESFA and the Academy's own funds which have been used to carry out works of a capital nature.

The pension reserve relates to the Academy's share of the deficit of the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE

Fund balances at 31 August 2018 were allocated as follows:

| | Total 2018 £ | <i>Total 2017 £</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Great Missenden | 155,261 | 158,982 |
| Princes Risborough | 33,275 | (8,354) |
| Great Learners Trust | 138,092 | 209,321 |
| Great Kimble C of E School | 138,292 | - |
| Wooburn Green Primary School | 72,609 | - |
| Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve | <u>537,529</u> | <u>359,949</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | 12,037,436 | 8,718,813 |
| Pension reserve | (1,691,000) | (1,243,000) |
| Total | <u><u>10,883,965</u></u> | <u><u>7,835,762</u></u> |

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY COST

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

| | Teaching and educational support staff costs £ | Other support staff costs £ | Educational supplies £ | Other costs excluding depreciat- ion £ | Total 2018 £ | <i>Total 2017 £</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Great Missenden | 1,100,469 | 762,175 | 44,846 | 345,874 | 2,253,364 | 2,088,244 |
| Princes Risborough | 744,120 | 654,161 | 5,113 | 199,538 | 1,602,932 | 1,050,681 |
| Great Kimble C of E School | 134,542 | 81,915 | 5,883 | 55,177 | 277,517 | - |
| Wooburn Green Primary School | 245,687 | 219,996 | 6,764 | 54,175 | 526,622 | - |
| Great Learners Trust | 26 | - | 486 | 252,059 | 252,571 | 121,681 |
| | <u><u>2,224,844</u></u> | <u><u>1,718,247</u></u> | <u><u>63,092</u></u> | <u><u>906,823</u></u> | <u><u>4,913,006</u></u> | <u><u>3,260,606</u></u> |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

| | Balance at 1 September 2016 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers in/out £ | Gains/ (Losses) £ | Balance at 31 August 2017 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General Funds - all funds | 101,060 | 481,720 | (302,958) | - | - | 279,822 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 2,202,759 | (2,086,643) | (35,988) | - | 80,128 |
| Pupil premium | - | 108,301 | (108,301) | - | - | - |
| Other grants | - | 561,855 | (561,855) | - | - | - |
| Other Donation | - | 8,320 | (8,320) | - | - | - |
| Pension reserve | (664,000) | (437,000) | (182,000) | - | 40,000 | (1,243,000) |
| | <u>(664,000)</u> | <u>2,444,235</u> | <u>(2,947,119)</u> | <u>(35,988)</u> | <u>40,000</u> | <u>(1,162,872)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | | |
| Restricted Fixed Asset Fund | 2,390,909 | 5,983,571 | (204,445) | 449,445 | - | 8,619,480 |
| Condition Improvement Fund | 218,762 | 294,029 | - | (413,457) | - | 99,334 |
| Total restricted funds | <u>1,945,671</u> | <u>8,721,835</u> | <u>(3,151,564)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>40,000</u> | <u>7,555,942</u> |
| Total of funds | <u>2,046,731</u> | <u>9,203,555</u> | <u>(3,454,522)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>40,000</u> | <u>7,835,764</u> |

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

| | Unrestricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted funds 2018 £ | Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £ | Total funds 2018 £ |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 11,902,945 | 11,902,945 |
| Current assets | 537,529 | 256,271 | 134,491 | 928,291 |
| Creditors due within one year | - | (256,271) | - | (256,271) |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | - | (1,691,000) | - | (1,691,000) |
| | <u>537,529</u> | <u>(1,691,000)</u> | <u>12,037,436</u> | <u>10,883,965</u> |

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19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

| | <i>Unrestricted funds</i> | <i>Restricted funds</i> | <i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i> | <i>Total funds</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 8,619,480 | 8,619,480 |
| Current assets | 279,822 | 225,740 | 99,334 | 604,895 |
| Creditors due within one year | - | (136,991) | - | (136,991) |
| Creditors due in more than one year | - | (8,621) | - | (8,621) |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges | - | (1,243,000) | - | (1,243,000) |
| | <u>279,822</u> | <u>(1,162,872)</u> | <u>8,718,814</u> | <u>7,835,763</u> |

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities) | 2,666,202 | 5,749,031 |
| Adjustment for: | | |
| Depreciation charges | 238,608 | 204,445 |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | (1,048) | (219) |
| Inherited on pension deficit | 519,000 | 437,000 |
| Decrease/(increase) in debtors | 78,353 | (157,805) |
| Increase in creditors | 110,660 | 31,933 |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (282,219) | (323,945) |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | 311,000 | 182,000 |
| Assets inherited on conversion | (3,249,706) | (5,953,655) |
| Funds inherited on conversion | (130,976) | - |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>259,874</u> | <u>168,785</u> |

21. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash in hand | 800,515 | 398,761 |
| Total | <u>800,515</u> | <u>398,761</u> |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

On 1 January 2018 Great Kimble C of E School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Great Learners Trust from Buckinghamshire County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account as Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account.

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Restricted fixed asset funds £ | Total funds £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Other tangible fixed assets | - | - | 13,259 | 13,259 |
| Other assets | 130,976 | - | - | 130,976 |
| LGPS pension surplus/(deficit) | - | (137,000) | - | (137,000) |
| Net assets/(liabilities) | <u>130,976</u> | <u>(137,000)</u> | <u>13,259</u> | <u>7,235</u> |

On 1 February 2018 Wooburn Green Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Great Learners Trust from Buckinghamshire County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised as a net gain in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account as Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account.

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Restricted fixed asset funds £ | 2018 £ |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| Tangible Fixed assets | - | - | - | - |
| - Freehold/leasehold land and buildings | - | - | 3,212,000 | 3,212,000 |
| - Other fixed assets | - | - | 24,447 | 24,447 |
| Other assets | 10,732 | - | - | 10,732 |
| LGPS pension surplus/(deficit) | - | (382,000) | - | (382,000) |
| Total | <u>10,732</u> | <u>(382,000)</u> | <u>3,236,447</u> | <u>2,865,179</u> |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £275,274 (2017 - £179,494).

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the Year ended 31 August 2018 was £296,000 (2017 - £182,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £237,000 (2017 - £145,000) and employees' contributions totalled £59,000 (2017 - £37,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.8% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|--------|--------|
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 2.70 % | 2.60 % |
| Rate of increase in salaries | 3.80 % | 4.20 % |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation | 2.30 % | 2.60 % |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | - % | 2.70 % |
| RPI Increase | - % | 3.60 % |

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

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Retiring today | | |
| Males | 24 | 23.9 |
| Females | 26.1 | 26 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| Males | 26.3 | 26.2 |
| Females | 28.5 | 28.3 |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

The academy's share of the assets in the scheme was:

| | Fair value at 31 August 2018 £ | Fair value at 31 August 2017 £ |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| UK equities | - | 96,000 |
| Overseas equities | 856,000 | 400,000 |
| Gilts | 192,000 | 97,000 |
| Property | 120,000 | 73,000 |
| Private equity | 200,000 | 58,000 |
| Other | 263,000 | 229,000 |
| | <u>1,631,000</u> | <u>953,000</u> |
| Total market value of assets | <u>1,631,000</u> | <u>953,000</u> |

The actual return on scheme assets was £42,000 (2017 - £103,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account are as follows:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current service cost | (509,000) | (306,000) |
| Interest income | (39,000) | (21,000) |
| Admin expenses | (1,000) | (3,000) |
| Other | - | (20,000) |
| | <u>(549,000)</u> | <u>(350,000)</u> |
| Total | <u>(549,000)</u> | <u>(350,000)</u> |

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Opening defined benefit obligation | 2,236,000 | 1,184,000 |
| Upon conversion | 935,000 | 731,000 |
| Current service cost | 509,000 | 306,000 |
| Interest cost | 73,000 | 40,000 |
| Employee contributions | 59,000 | 37,000 |
| Actuarial gains | (374,000) | (60,000) |
| Benefits paid | (116,000) | (2,000) |
| | <u>3,322,000</u> | <u>2,236,000</u> |
| Closing defined benefit obligation | <u>3,322,000</u> | <u>2,236,000</u> |

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

Movements in the fair value of the academy's share of scheme assets:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Opening fair value of scheme assets | 993,000 | 520,000 |
| Upon conversion | 416,000 | 294,000 |
| Interest income | 34,000 | 19,000 |
| Actuarial losses/(gains) | 8,000 | (20,000) |
| Employer contributions | 237,000 | 145,000 |
| Employee contributions | 59,000 | 37,000 |
| Benefits paid | (116,000) | (2,000) |
| | <u>1,631,000</u> | <u>993,000</u> |
| Closing fair value of scheme assets | <u>1,631,000</u> | <u>993,000</u> |

24. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2018 the total of the Academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

| | 2018 £ | 2017 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Amounts payable: | | |
| Within 1 year | 4,911 | 3,533 |
| Between 1 and 5 years | 8,551 | 1,324 |
| | <u>13,462</u> | <u>4,857</u> |
| Total | <u>13,462</u> | <u>4,857</u> |

25. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/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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26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

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

The spouse of R Thomson, the MAT director, was engaged as Trust Clerk during the period and was paid £2,163 for his services.