Registered number: 09378112

The Moorlands Primary Federation

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

DAINS
ACCOUNTANTS

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Contents

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Church of England Central Education Trust Rev L Lucking (resigned 23 September 2020) Mr P Chell Ms K Hulse Mr JS Ratcliffe Rev N Grey
Trustees	Mr N Chesters, Chair of Trustees (from 1 September 2020)[1] Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting Officer[1] Mrs M Bateman Mr B Fabi Ms K Hulse[1] Dr S Langridge Mr J S Ratcliffe[1] Mr L Yates Mr F Martin Rev S Symons Mr P Chell, Chair of Trustees (until 31 August 2020) (resigned 31 August 2020)[1] [1] Members of the HR and Finance Committee
Company registered number	09378112
Company name	The Moorlands Primary Federation
Principal and registered office	St Werburgh's C.E.(A) Primary School Holt Lane Kingsley Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST10 2BA
Senior management team	J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher A Brayford, Head Teacher at St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School S Carr, Federation Business Manager M Eyden, Deputy Business Manager C Broome, School Leader Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School N Ainsworth, School Leader at The Valley Primary School A Kirk, School Leader Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School (from September 2019) B Adamson, School Leader Great Wood Community Primary School

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

Independent auditors	Dains LLP Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Etruria Stoke on Trent ST1 5RQ
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
Solicitors	Geldards Pride Place Derby DE24 8QR

The trustees who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2020.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 4-11 serving a catchment area of the Staffordshire Moorlands. Each school has a capacity of:

St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School – Number on role (NOR): 152 PAN: 22
Bishop Rawle C. E Primary School – NOR: 155 PAN: 30
Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School – NOR: 47 PAN: 7
The Valley Primary School – NOR: 46 (54 including nursery) PAN: 7
Great Wood Primary School - NOR: 111 PAN: 15

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Moorlands Primary Federation was incorporated on 7 January 2015 as a company limited by guarantee (company number 9378112) and an exempt charity.

On 1 September 2015, St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School, Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School and The Valley Primary School converted from Local Authority schools to The Moorlands Primary Federation. The Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) was formed with the agreement of the full Governing Body and adoption of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. On 1 September 2017 two additional schools joined the MAT, Great Wood Primary School (as a converter academy) and Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School (as a sponsored academic) at the request of the Diocese of Lichfield, Staffordshire Local Authority and the Department for Education.

The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The Directors of The Moorlands Primary Federation are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as The Moorlands Primary Federation.

Details of the Directors and Members who served throughout the year, except as noted, 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 held wound-up whilst 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. Trustees' indemnities

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.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Recruitment and appointment of new Directors

Directors are appointed by our Members. The term of office for any Director is four years and thereafter they may be re-appointed. The make-up of the Board includes experienced professionals, many of whom have a detailed understanding of the operational and legal requirements of running a large institution. New Directors are expected to be able to bring a track record of governance with them.

e. Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors

An induction programme is in place for new Directors which enables them to gain an understanding of the ethos, values and strategic direction of the Company, as well as the responsibilities of charity Directors. Directors are also encouraged to make visits to each Academy and participate in governance training programmes.

f. Organisational structure

The Moorlands Primary Federation has established a unified governance structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of five members and eight Directors. The Trust Board is then divided into the following committees:

- Human Resources and Finance;
- Pupil Welfare and Achievement;
- Premises, Health and Safety;
- Admissions, Appeals and Discipline.

The aim of the governance structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Directors are responsible for making major decisions about the strategic direction of the Company, ensuring that its aims are met and its ethos is maintained. Specifically, this includes setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Company's financial performance and educational outcomes, making senior staff appointments and approving major investment programmes.

The Federation Leadership Team (FLT) consist of the School Leaders at each Academy. These teams are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Academies, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and pupils. The FLT also has the Trust Business Manager.

A comprehensive scheme of delegated authority laid down by the Directors defines the various limits of financial commitment which can be incurred by the Executive. It also sets out how detailed financial management should be carried out in each Academy.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Academy Trust uses amended version of the Staffordshire County Council Pay Policy, amended by our Human Resources Advisor - Principal HR Partner Limited. We also use Teacher and support staff pay scales and profiles from Staffordshire County Council.

The salary of all staff including members of the leadership team is established by our Human Resources and Finance Committee. The leadership team is performance managed by our Executive Headteacher and the Executive Headteacher's performance management is reviewed by our external provider.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£	
Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	**2,094,668**	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

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

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School 'houses' the Kingsley Kingfishers Before and After school Care Club plus nursery on its grounds. This organisation is privately operated and a lease (including fees) in in place between The Moorlands Primary Federation and the private organisation. This model is replicated at Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School with the same organisation. Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School also has the same provision onsite in two separate buildings operated by Pathways private nursery. This arrangement also has a lease including fees.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

j. Risk Management

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which The Moorlands Primary Federation is exposed and are working to mitigate and eliminate these risks. In order to do this the risk management process involves the production of a detailed risk register accompanied by a range of mitigating strategies including ensuring policies are up to date, and that relevant members of Leadership Team are assigned to own each risk. The internal audit process is designed to test these mitigating strategies.

The remit of the Audit and Risk Committee is to ensure risks are identified, mitigating activities are in place and audited. The Directors also plays a key role in risk mitigation working alongside the Executive Headteacher and School Leaders to highlight exposures and ensure processes are in place to manage them.

Main areas of focus are:

- Long term financial planning;
- Health and Safety;
- Safeguarding;
- Business Continuity planning;
- Financial Fraud;
- Financial Risks and Uncertainties – including future funding environment, impact of inflation, pension scheme deficits, student numbers on roll, and building condition.

The main risks facing the company are:

- Changes to Government policy in relation to both education and funding;
- Volatility in pupil recruitment.

The overall risk register is comprehensive and deals with a wider range of matters than

Objectives and activities

a. Our Values

Trust – Trust lies at the heart of all relationships. *By trusting in God we ourselves become trustworthy just as He is.*
Psalm 20:7 'Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God'.

Mindful – Being mindful of others leads to a heart of compassion; compassion leads to a desire to act for the good of all.
1 Peter 3:8 'Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and sisters, be compassionate and humble'.

Peace – Peace and harmony lead to a stable and secure community where all are nurtured and can flourish.
Matthew 5:19 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.'

Friendship – Barriers are broken down in a loving, friendly community based around God.
Ecclesiastes 4:10 'if one falls down, a friend can lift him up'.

Italic text refers to our Anglican schools only.

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. The aims of our Trust are as follows:

- To provide high-quality education in each of our schools.
- To serve our respective communities and fulfil the Statement of Entitlement from the Board of Education/National Society *.
- Provide every child with new life-enriching experiences, instilling a passion and desire for learning.
- Develop a highly-skilled teaching and learning team sharing good practice.
- Further develop our MAT into a robust and resilient high-performing organisation.
- To secure the financial future of all our schools including the exploration of new business partnerships.
- As a sponsor academy, offer schools strategic leadership and a 'system' of school improvement.

c. The objectives of our Trust are as follows:

- Each school will have a School Leader who will be responsible for the day-to-day running of each site. In our larger schools, in support of School Leaders, there may be Deputies/Assistants, Senior Leaders or Key Stage Leaders.
- School Leaders will be accountable to the Executive Principal (EXP), who will be accountable to The Moorlands Primary Federation Trust Board.
- Appropriate School policies will be shared to avoid unnecessary repetition and to ensure best practice, whilst not 'cloning' each school as the uniqueness of each should be celebrated.
- Our Federation Subject Leaders (FSL) - including SLE and subject leaders will be proactive in their work to raise standards. Their work will be organised via our annual Cycle of School Improvement strategic plan. The FSLs will report to the EXP (regularly) and Pupil Welfare, Learning and Achievement Committee on a termly basis.
- Every child will be set individual, realistic-yet-challenging attainment targets and their progress towards these targets will be regularly monitored and reviewed.
- Children who do not make expected progress within a designated time, will receive bespoke high-quality intervention.
- Highly-skilled Learning Support staff will be deployed where necessary to bring about rapid progress.
- Parents and carers will be supported to 'co-educate' as we equip them with insightful information on their child's achievement to date and instruction on how best to support them further. Individual school Parent Forums, facilitate greater depth and higher-quality communication.
- Our teaching and learning team will be held accountable for pupil achievement through half-termly Pupil Progress Reviews linked to robust Performance Management.
- The assessment of all children will be fit for purpose, thorough, accurate and lead future learning. Our use of teacher assessment, standardisation, moderation, standardised testing, plus extensive collaborative work, quality assures the accuracy of our assessment process.
- As a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) we will provide a bespoke broad and balanced curriculum that provides high-quality opportunities for all children – meeting the needs of our learners.

d. Public Benefit

Consideration has been given to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit when reviewing these objectives, aims and activities.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Due to the effect of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, no formal end of year assessments were undertaken in the academic year 2019/20. Therefore, no school had Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, Year 1 Phonics Screening, Year 2 Key Stage 1 SATs and Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs assessment data to publish.

Promoting the success of the company

Under section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006, directors of a company must act in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so must have regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the company's employees
- the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
- the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- the need to act fairly as between members of the company

a. Going concern

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

Financial review

a. Summary

The Academy Trust has a strong financial governance oversight. The Academy Trust has termly system checks on the financial systems and procedures in place and their findings are reported back to the Trustees and Directors of the Academy Trust.

The Human Resources and Finance committee receives comprehensive termly reports.

A strict scheme of delegation is adhered to.

The academy trust's key source of funding is the General Annual Grant (GAG) from the Education and skills funding agency (ESFA). Funding from the ESFA is shown as restricted funds in the statement of Financial Activities. During the year to 31 August 2020, the Academy Trust received GAG of £2,298,827 in addition to other income sources. The analysis of specific grants and income received can be seen within notes 3 to 6 to the financial statements.

During the year to 31 August 2020, total resources expended are £2,877,973 excluding depreciation. *Depreciation of £146,825 has been charged during the year against restricted fixed asset fund.*

The excess of income over expenditure for the period (excluding the movement in the pension reserve and restricted fixed asset funds) was £161,386.

At the 31 August 2020, the net book value of tangible fixed assets totalled £3,304,040 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students of the Academy Trust.

b. Reserves policy

Any reserves are held in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Master Funding Agreement and by the Education Funding Agency. The directors will review the level of reserves and the policy for reserves annually. The Trust has sufficient reserves to manage the impact of Covid-19 for the year 2019/20 and 2020/21. During 2019/20 we have not used reserve funding to support revenue budgets as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Current reserves at the 31 August 2020 amount to £643,871 (excluding the pension reserve and restricted fixed asset fund).

c. Investment policy

The Moorlands Primary Federation has a policy on investment. It has been agreed by the Directors that there is one main bank account, one investment account, and five separate imprest accounts (one for The Valley Primary School, Great Wood Primary School, Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School, St Werburgh's C. E. Primary School and Dilhorne Endowed C. E. Primary School).

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which The Moorlands Primary Federation is exposed and are working to mitigate and eliminate these risks. In order to do this the risk management process involves the production of a detailed risk register accompanied by a range of mitigating strategies including ensuring policies are up to date, and that relevant members of Leadership Team are assigned to own each risk. The internal audit process is designed to test these mitigating strategies.

The remit of the Audit and Risk Committee is to ensure risks are identified, mitigating activities are in place and audited. The Directors also plays a key role in risk mitigation working alongside the Executive Headteacher and School Leaders to highlight exposures and ensure processes are in place to manage them.

Main areas of focus are:

- Long term financial planning;
- Health and Safety;
- Safeguarding;
- Business Continuity planning;
- Financial Fraud;
- Financial Risks and Uncertainties – including future funding environment, impact of inflation, pension scheme deficits, student numbers on roll, and building condition.

The main risks facing the company are:

- Changes to Government policy in relation to both education and funding; and
- Volatility in pupil recruitment.

The overall risk register is comprehensive and deals with a wider range of matters.

The potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognised in our Trust risk register for 2020/21. Risk assessments are in place to manage operational risks and our Trust Business Continuity Plan has been updated. The budget for 2020/21 has been set based upon variances experienced during the summer term 2020.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on human resources has been acknowledged. Our Reducing Staff Workload Action Plan has been adjusted to reflect the potential impact of Covid-19. Also, each school will have a member of staff who is 'Mental Health Aware' trained. The Trust has comprehensive remote learning capability to facilitate home school learning.

Fundraising

Bishop Rawle C. E. Primary School, St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School, Dilhorne Endowed C. E Primary School and Great Wood Primary School all boast letting arrangements that generate regular income. Where possible costs are standardised across the Trust. Where there is variation in charges, this is due to covering overheads such as staff or cleaning. The majority of our lettings benefit either our pupils directly or local community. Our lettings income has been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in some schools. Our 2020/21 budgets have adjusted as a result of the reduction in income.

Future Developments

There are no significant future developments pending for the academic year 2020/21.

Covid-19 pandemic impact

The Trust has seen an increase in costs related to cleaning and hygiene services. Due to affected provision, we have also experienced a reduction in our letting's income. This reduced income has also been experienced in our nursery and wraparound care during lockdown.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

No funds are held on behalf of others.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Principal for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both property and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Moorlands Primary Federation and the secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns of internal control.

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Director's Report and the Statement of the Directors Responsibilities. The Board has met formally four times during the year.

Although the board has not met six times during the year, the trust believe the committees in place ensure that effective oversight of funds is maintained.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr N Chesters, Chair of Trustees (from 1 September 2020)	4	4
Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting Officer	4	4
Mrs M Bateman	3	4
Mr B Fabi	4	4
Ms K Hulse	4	4
Dr S Langridge	4	4
Mr J S Ratcliffe	4	4
Mr L Yates	4	4
Mr F Martin	3	4
Rev S Symons	3	4
Mr P Chell, Chair of Trustees (until 31 August 2020)	4	4

Governance (continued)

The Human Resources and Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose includes:

- Establishing and monitoring procedures and policies for sound budgetary control;
- Reviewing and developing staffing policies and procedures;
- Reporting regularity on the schools' finances to the whole Governing Body;
- Formulating and reviewing the schools' staffing structure and reviewing pay scales on an annual basis.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Chell	4	4
Ms K Hulse	3	4
Mr J S Ratcliffe	3	4
Mr N Chesters	2	4
Mr J Eccles	4	4

Review of value for money

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

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

- The Trust has a string financial governance oversight. The Trust has an annual internal audit and financial health check provided by Dains Accountants. They review the financial systems and procedures in place and their findings are reported back to the Trustees and Directors of the Trust.
- The Human Resources and Finance committee received comprehensive termly reports.
- A strict scheme of delegation is adhered to.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of charitable company policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realized and the impact should they be realized and the manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the The Moorlands Primary Federation for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to date of the approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the charitable company is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the charitable company's significant risk that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. The process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

The academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and 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 HR and Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the trustees have appointed Dains LLP, the external auditors, to perform additional checks.

Due to the revised FRC Ethical Standard for auditors, we intend to use a separate accountancy company (details to be confirmed) in 2020/21. This role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems;
- testing of purchase systems;
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations.

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

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

The reviewer has delivered the schedule of work as planned and the report contained no material areas of concern.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the Office Managers/School Secretaries within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees

Mr J Eccles
Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of The Moorlands Primary Federation 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 ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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

JrEccles

Mr J Eccles
Accounting Officer
Date: 10 December 2020

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

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 Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- 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:

Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees
Date: 10 December 2020

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Moorlands Primary Federation (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust 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 trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. Other information includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report, and the Governance Statement. 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 including the Strategic 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 trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

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

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of The Moorlands Primary Federation (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy trust 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 trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the academy trust 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 trust'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 trust'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 trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Dains LLP

Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of

Dains LLP
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5RQ

10 December 2020

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Moorlands Primary Federation and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 21 September 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Moorlands Primary Federation during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Moorlands Primary Federation and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Moorlands Primary Federation and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Moorlands Primary Federation and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Moorlands Primary Federation's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Moorlands Primary Federation's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 August 2015 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Moorlands Primary Federation and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

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

Dains LLP

Dains LLP

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke on Trent
ST1 5RQ

Date: 10 December 2020

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	4,587	-	516,009	520,596	72,729
Charitable activities:	4					
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		-	2,802,834	-	2,802,834	2,704,728
Other trading activities	5	88,486	-	-	88,486	69,622
Investments	6	1,762	-	-	1,762	3,921
Total income		94,835	2,802,834	516,009	3,413,678	2,851,000
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	-	-	-	-	7,117
Charitable activities:	7					
Educational operations		-	2,877,973	146,825	3,024,798	2,958,645
Total expenditure		-	2,877,973	146,825	3,024,798	2,965,762
Net income/(expenditure)		94,835	(75,139)	369,184	388,880	(114,762)
Transfers between funds	17	(5,764)	(3,546)	9,310	-	-
Total transfers		(5,764)	(3,546)	9,310	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses) carried forward		89,071	(78,685)	378,494	388,880	(114,762)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses) brought forward		**89,071**	**(78,685)**	**378,494**	**388,880**	(114,762)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	24	**-**	**44,000**	**-**	**44,000**	(416,000)
Net movement in funds		**89,071**	**(34,685)**	**378,494**	**432,880**	(530,762)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		**383,000**	**(1,501,515)**	**3,339,069**	**2,220,554**	2,751,316
Net movement in funds		**89,071**	**(34,685)**	**378,494**	**432,880**	(530,762)
Total funds carried forward		**472,071**	**(1,536,200)**	**3,717,563**	**2,653,434**	2,220,554

The notes on pages 27 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

The Moorlands Primary Federation
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2020

	Note		2020 £		2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		**3,304,040**		3,237,645
			3,304,040		3,237,645
Current assets					
Debtors	15	**499,869**		148,838	
Cash at bank and in hand		**852,978**		718,773	
		1,352,847		867,611	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	**(295,453)**		(283,702)	
Net current assets			**1,057,394**		583,909
Net assets excluding pension liability			**4,361,434**		3,821,554
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		**(1,708,000)**		(1,601,000)
Total net assets			**2,653,434**		2,220,554
Funds of the academy trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	17	**3,717,563**		3,339,069	
Restricted income funds	17	**171,800**		99,485	
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	**3,889,363**		3,438,554	
Pension reserve	17	**(1,708,000)**		(1,601,000)	
Total restricted funds	17		**2,181,363**		1,837,554
Unrestricted income funds	17		**472,071**		383,000
Total funds			**2,653,434**		2,220,554

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 23 to 54 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:

Mr N Chesters
Chair of Trustees
Date: 10 December 2020

Registered Number: 09378112

The notes on pages 27 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	**107,011**	5,867
Cash flows from investing activities	20	**27,194**	28,127
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**134,205**	33,994
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**718,773**	684,779
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	**852,978**	718,773

The notes on pages 27 to 54 form part of these financial statements

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 historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**
  Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities 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**
  Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust 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**
  Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

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

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

- **Charitable activities**

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

  All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

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 and assets under construction, 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:

Long-term leasehold land	- 0.8% straight line
Long-term leasehold buildings	- 2% straight line
Assets under construction	- not depreciated
Motor vehicles	- 25% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Building improvements	- between 10 - 25 years

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.

1.6 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.

1.7 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 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.

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

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.11 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

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

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 Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

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

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

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

1.13 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the 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.

2. 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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Leasehold land and buildings

Under 125 year lease:

The long term leasehold land and buildings within the accounts relates to the academy premises which were donated to the academy on conversion on a 125 year lease from Staffordshire County Council. The leasehold land and buildings were valued using depreciated relacement cost for specialised assets. These are being depreciated in accordance with the depreciation policies set out in note 1. No annual charge is made for the use of the land and buildings under the terms of the lease, based on management not being able to reliably measure the open market rate.

2 year licence

The academy trust company occupies:

(a) land provided to it by the Local Authority under a 125 year lease;
(b) land provided to it by site trustees under a mere licence (also referred to as a Church Supplemental Agreement) which contains a two year notice period.

In respect of:
(a) a figure is entered that reflects advice taken on the value of the lease;
(b) having considered the fact that the academy trust company occupies the land and such buildings as may be or may come to be erected on it by a mere licence that transfers to the academy trust no rights or control over the site save that of occupying it at the will of the site trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the directors have concluded that the value of the land and buildings occupied by the academy trust company will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the company.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations	4,587	-	**4,587**	1,810
Capital Grants	-	516,009	**516,009**	70,919
	4,587	516,009	**520,596**	72,729
Total 2019	1,810	70,919	72,729	

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
DfE/ESFA grants			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,298,827	**2,298,827**	2,219,530
Other DfE/ESFA grants	400,770	**400,770**	321,082
	2,699,597	**2,699,597**	2,540,612
Other government grants			
Local authority grants	6,173	**6,173**	16,018
Special educational projects	53,802	**53,802**	63,626
	59,975	**59,975**	79,644
Other funding			
Catering income	21,686	**21,686**	38,371
Educational trip income	17,976	**17,976**	40,022
Other income	3,600	**3,600**	6,079
	43,262	**43,262**	84,472
Total 2020	2,802,834	**2,802,834**	2,704,728
Total 2019	2,704,728	2,704,728	

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Teachers insurance income	27,170	**27,170**	300
Music services	3,374	**3,374**	5,569
Lettings income	15,711	**15,711**	17,093
Training and consultancy income	-	**-**	7,117
Other income	42,231	**42,231**	39,543
	88,486	**88,486**	69,622
Total 2019	69,622	69,622	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Investment income	1,762	**1,762**	3,921
Total 2019	3,921	3,921	

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Educational operations	2,033,244	991,554	**3,024,798**	2,958,645
Total 2019	1,990,294	968,351	2,958,645	

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs	**1,864,908**	1,792,554
Depreciation	**10,376**	9,694
Educational supplies	**27,972**	21,286
Technology costs	**32,843**	25,678
Educational consultancy	**25,575**	25,474
Recruitment and other staff expenses	**583**	178
Other costs	**70,987**	115,430
	2,033,244	1,990,294

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Pension finance costs	**32,000**	31,000
Staff costs	**368,080**	294,997
Depreciation	**136,449**	126,717
Catering	**164,467**	171,968
Staff development	**5,356**	5,247
Technology costs	**24,194**	27,691
Consultancy	**20,460**	25,693
Other costs	**70,917**	48,344
Maintenance of premises and special facilities	**33,207**	29,638
Cleaning and caretaking	**13,529**	78,915
Rates	**8,722**	8,019
Energy	**54,719**	60,173
Legal and professional	**29,469**	30,865
Transport	**1,431**	1,691
Other premises costs	**28,554**	27,393
	991,554	968,351

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Direct costs	-	-	-	**-**	7,117
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	1,864,908	-	168,336	**2,033,244**	1,990,294
Support costs	368,080	138,731	484,743	**991,554**	968,351
	2,232,988	138,731	653,079	**3,024,798**	2,965,762
Total 2019	2,094,668	305,178	565,916	2,965,762	

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Operating lease rentals	**12,255**	408
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets : - owned by the charity	**146,825**	136,411
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	**11,700**	11,750
- other services	**2,145**	2,175

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	**1,571,886**	1,554,160
Social security costs	**140,016**	138,888
Pension costs	**491,301**	367,572
	2,203,203	2,060,620
Agency staff costs	**29,785**	34,048
	2,232,988	2,094,668

b. Staff numbers

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teaching staff	**23**	23
Administration and support	**50**	43
Management	**8**	8
	81	74

10. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	**1**	1

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £571,500 (2019 - £541,500).

11. Central services

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

- Financial services
- Professional services
- Human resources

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

20% of General Annual Grant (GAG)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
St Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	**122,957**	112,708
Dilhorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	**57,502**	61,022
The Valley Primary School	**55,273**	50,997
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	**126,035**	119,790
Great Wood Community Primary School	**92,326**	92,895
Total	**454,093**	437,412

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2020	2019
		£	£
Mr J Eccles, Executive Head Teacher, Accounting officer	Remuneration	**85,000 - 90,000**	80,000 - 85,000
	Pension contributions paid	**20,000 - 25,000**	10,000 - 15,000
Mr P Chell, Chair of Trustees (resigned 31 August 2020), in his role as a cleaner from October 2019	Remuneration	**0 - 5,000**	Nil
	Pension contributions paid	**Nil**	Nil

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2019 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2020, expenses totalling £963 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2019 - £963 to 1 Trustee). The nature of these expenses is that of a travel allowance.

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 trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Building improve-ments £	Assets under construction £	Fixture and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 September 2019	2,633,457	810,804	-	34,529	23,981	75,630	3,578,401
Additions	-	8,160	155,746	14,087	-	35,227	213,220
At 31 August 2020	2,633,457	818,964	155,746	48,616	23,981	110,857	3,791,621
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2019	108,144	148,505	-	11,386	17,486	55,235	340,756
Charge for the year	42,896	68,979	-	5,378	5,995	23,577	146,825
At 31 August 2020	151,040	217,484	-	16,764	23,481	78,812	487,581
Net book value							
At 31 August 2020	2,482,417	601,480	155,746	31,852	500	32,045	3,304,040
At 31 August 2019	2,525,313	662,299	-	23,143	6,495	20,395	3,237,645

15. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**1,625**	4,633
Prepayments and accrued income	**448,691**	102,335
VAT repayable	**48,680**	41,626
Other debtors	**873**	244
	499,869	148,838

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	**130,892**	129,524
Accruals and deferred income	**87,879**	87,904
Other taxation and social security	**33,614**	31,232
Other creditors	**43,068**	35,042
	295,453	283,702

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September	**70,066**	63,847
Resources deferred during the year	**53,833**	70,066
Amounts released from previous periods	**(70,066)**	(63,847)
	53,833	70,066

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for grants that relate to the 2020/21 academic year.

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	383,000	94,835	-	(5,764)	-	472,071
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant	60,848	2,298,827	(2,237,803)	(3,546)	-	118,326
Other DfE/ESFA	16,714	400,770	(384,781)	-	-	32,703
Other Government grants	-	59,975	(59,975)	-	-	-
Other income	21,923	43,262	(44,414)	-	-	20,771
Pension reserve	(1,601,000)	-	(151,000)	-	44,000	(1,708,000)
	(1,501,515)	2,802,834	(2,877,973)	(3,546)	44,000	(1,536,200)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations from local authority	2,540,830	-	(47,094)	-	-	2,493,736
Other DfE capital grants	603,229	490,169	(61,480)	-	-	1,031,918
Devolved Formula Capital	132,877	25,840	(21,207)	-	-	137,510
Capital expenditure from ESFA start up grant	33,542	-	(12,621)	-	-	20,921
Capital expenditure from GAG	28,591	-	(4,206)	3,548	-	27,933
Capital expenditure from general funds	-	-	(217)	5,762	-	5,545

17. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
	3,339,069	516,009	(146,825)	9,310	-	3,717,563
Total Restricted funds	1,837,554	3,318,843	(3,024,798)	5,764	44,000	2,181,363
Total funds	2,220,554	3,413,678	(3,024,798)	-	44,000	2,653,434

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

Unrestricted General Funds

This fund represents those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted General Funds

This fund represents grants received for the academy trust's operational activities and development.

Pension reserve

This fund represents the academy trust's share of the pension liability arising on the LGPS pension fund.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

These funds relate to grant funding received from the ESFA to carry out works of a capital nature and also the donation of the leasehold land and buildings from the local authority on a 125 year lease and a small amount of capital expenditure from GAG and other government grants.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	**96,565**	63,695
Dilhorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	**136,689**	104,709
The Valley Primary School	**101,723**	98,011
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	**161,620**	68,793
Great Wood Community Primary School	**136,448**	131,233
Federation funds	**10,826**	16,044
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	**643,871**	482,485
Restricted fixed asset fund	**3,717,563**	3,339,069
Pension reserve	**(1,708,000)**	(1,601,000)
Total	**2,653,434**	2,220,554

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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 depreciation £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School	439,240	44,989	46,440	71,168	**601,837**	588,879
Dilhorne Endowed C.E. Primary School	181,921	39,468	16,887	39,558	**277,834**	288,838
The Valley Primary School	210,450	29,782	26,554	48,507	**315,293**	300,843
Bishop Rawle CofE Primary School	398,747	54,355	53,295	79,001	**585,398**	621,887
Great Wood Community Primary School	311,517	62,029	47,402	63,005	**483,953**	464,246
Federation costs	323,033	137,457	1,861	151,307	**613,658**	449,659
Academy trust	1,864,908	368,080	192,439	452,546	**2,877,973**	2,714,352

17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	314,764	75,353	(7,117)	-	-	383,000
Restricted funds						
General Annual Grant	71,801	2,219,530	(2,204,394)	(26,089)	-	60,848
Other DfE/ESFA	38,148	321,082	(342,516)	-	-	16,714
Other Government grants	-	79,644	(79,644)	-	-	-
Other income	18,131	84,472	(80,680)	-	-	21,923
Pension reserve	(1,070,000)	-	(115,000)	-	(416,000)	(1,601,000)
	(941,920)	2,704,728	(2,822,234)	(26,089)	(416,000)	(1,501,515)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Donations from local authority	2,587,924	-	(47,094)	-	-	2,540,830
Other DfE capital grants	664,888	-	(61,659)	-	-	603,229
Devolved Formula Capital	72,630	70,919	(10,672)	-	-	132,877
Capital expenditure from ESFA start up grant	47,525	-	(13,983)	-	-	33,542
Capital expenditure from GAG	5,505	-	(3,003)	26,089	-	28,591
	3,378,472	70,919	(136,411)	26,089	-	3,339,069
Total Restricted funds	2,436,552	2,775,647	(2,958,645)	-	(416,000)	1,837,554
Total funds	2,751,316	2,851,000	(2,965,762)	-	(416,000)	2,220,554

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,304,040	**3,304,040**
Current assets	472,071	467,968	413,523	**1,353,562**
Creditors due within one year	-	(296,168)	-	**(296,168)**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,708,000)	-	**(1,708,000)**
Total	472,071	(1,536,200)	3,717,563	**2,653,434**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,237,645	3,237,645
Current assets	383,000	383,187	101,424	867,611
Creditors due within one year	-	(283,702)	-	(283,702)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,601,000)	-	(1,601,000)
Total	383,000	(1,501,515)	3,339,069	2,220,554

19. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**388,880**	(114,762)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	**146,825**	136,411
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	**(516,009)**	(70,919)
Interest receivable	**(1,762)**	(3,921)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	**119,000**	84,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	**32,000**	31,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**15,735**	(51,168)
Decrease in creditors	**(77,658)**	(4,774)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**107,011**	5,867

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	**1,762**	3,921
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(57,474)**	(46,713)
Construction of tangible fixed assets	**(66,337)**	-
Capital grants from DfE Group	**149,243**	70,919
Net cash provided by investing activities	**27,194**	28,127

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash in hand	**852,978**	718,773
Total cash and cash equivalents	**852,978**	718,773

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**718,773**	**134,205**	**852,978**
	718,773	**134,205**	**852,978**

23. Capital commitments

	2020 £	2019 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	**305,259**	-

24. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £42,331 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £34,440) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £233,000 (2019 - £163,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £173,000 (2019 - £149,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £140,000 (2019 - £120,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 33,000 (2019 - £29,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.2 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

The LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained schools and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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.

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	**2.60**	2.70
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	**2.20**	2.30
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	**1.70**	1.90
Commutation of pensions to lump sums - post 1 April 2008	**75.00**	75.00
Commutation of pensions to lump sums - pre 1 April 2008	**50.00**	50.00

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

	2020 Years	2019 Years
Retiring today		
Males	**21.2**	21.1
Females	**23.6**	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	**22.1**	22.2
Females	**25.0**	24.8

Sensitivity analysis

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	**(75)**	(80)
Discount rate -0.1%	**75**	80
Salary increase rate -0.1%	**(10)**	(13)
Salary increase rate +0.1%	**10**	13
Pension rate +0.1%	**64**	64
Pension rate -0.1%	**(64)**	(64)

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Equities	**1,055,000**	924,000
Corporate bonds	**311,000**	298,000
Property	**124,000**	109,000
Cash and other liquid assets	**62,000**	27,000
Total market value of assets	**1,552,000**	1,358,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £5,400 (2019 - £72,000).

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	**(259,000)**	(186,000)
Past service cost	**-**	(18,000)
Interest income	**27,000**	34,000
Interest cost	**(59,000)**	(65,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	**(291,000)**	(235,000)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	**2,959,000**	2,216,000
Current service cost	**259,000**	186,000
Interest cost	**59,000**	65,000
Employee contributions	**33,000**	29,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	**(4,000)**	458,000
Benefits paid	**(46,000)**	(13,000)
Past service costs	**-**	18,000
At 31 August	**3,260,000**	2,959,000

24. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	**1,358,000**	1,146,000
Interest income	**27,000**	34,000
Actuarial gains	**40,000**	42,000
Employer contributions	**140,000**	120,000
Employee contributions	**33,000**	29,000
Benefits paid	**(46,000)**	(13,000)
At 31 August	**1,552,000**	1,358,000

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2020 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than 1 year	**12,255**	12,255
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**10,596**	22,852
	22,851	35,107

26. Members' liability

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

27. Related party transactions

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

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education - a company which is a member of the Federation:

The Academy Trust purchased services from Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education totalling £1,570 (2019 - £1,493) during the year. There were no amounts outstanding as at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £Nil).

Kingsley and Dilhorne Kingfishers in which Lee Yates is a committee member and secretary:

The Academy Trust sold services totalling £3,920 (2019 - £3,920). There were amounts outstanding at 31 August 2020 of £800 (2019 - £320).

The Academy Trust made the sales and purchases at arms length in accordance with its financial regulations.

In entering into the transactions the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019 in relation to related party transactions.