

Acer Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

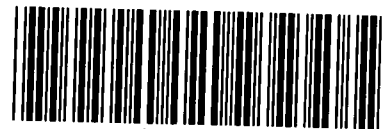
Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2022

Company Registration Number: 09591931 (England and Wales)

Period of account: 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022

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Acer Trust

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Acer Trust
Reference and Administrative Details

Members

Maureen Ford
Ziad Melhem
Ruth Taylor

Trustees

Jill Cottee (Chair)
Judith Bennett
David Marcou
Stan Terry
Paul Gravett
Helen Curry
Sandra Ward – appointed 09.12.2021
Sally Atkinson – appointed 09.12.2021
Katherine Ryan – resigned 31.08.2022

Company Secretary

N Hills
Acer Trust Administrator and Governance
Officer

Acer Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)

Trust Senior Management Team (The Trust Executive Group)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • K Ryan | CEO and Accounting Officer (resigned 31.08.22) |
| • J Wade | Chief Operating Officer (COO) |
| • S Appleby | Chief Financial Officer (CFO) |
| • J Reid | Headteacher, Botley School |
| • S Gillion | Headteacher, Chalgrove Community Primary School |
| • M Hunter | Headteacher, Icknield Community College (Joint Interim CEO, 01.09.22 to 31.12.22) |
| • A Broadley | Headteacher, Matthew Arnold School |
| • E Charnock | Headteacher, Stadhampton Primary School |
| • J Gale | Interim Headteacher, Watlington Primary School – Sept 2021 – August 2022 |
| • R Shadbolt | Headteacher, Wood Green School (Joint Interim CEO and Accounting Officer, 01.09.22 to 31.12.22) |

Company Name Acer Trust

Registered Office Matthew Arnold School
Arnolds Way
Oxford
OX2 9JE

Company Registration Number 09591931 (England and Wales)

Independent Auditor James Cowper Kreston
Accountants and Business Advisers
2 Chawley Park
Cumnor Hill
Oxford
OX2 9GG

Bankers Lloyds Bank
25 Gresham Street
London
Greater London
EC2V 7HN

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

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Academy Trust operates an academy for pupils aged 3 to 19 serving a catchment area encompassing Watlington, Chalgrove, West Oxford and Witney. In the October 2021 school census, the Trust had a pupil roll of 4,016 across its seven schools.

Acer Trust comprises seven schools:

- Botley School - joined March 2020
- Chalgrove Community Primary School – joined March 2017
- Icknield Community College – joined February 2017
- Matthew Arnold School – joined December 2016
- Stadhampton Primary School – joined February 2019
- Watlington Primary School – joined August 2019
- Wood Green School – joined February 2017.

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Acer Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Acer Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year 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. Trustees' Indemnities

There were no provisions required for third party indemnity. In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Members of the Trust are responsible for the appointment of Trustees.

d. Members

Members are the subscribers to the Trust's Memorandum of Association. Members have an overview of the governance arrangements of the Trust and have the power to appoint and remove Trustees. The Members

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

may agree in writing to appoint additional Members as they see fit. They may also in writing agree to remove any such additional Members. Any Member may resign provided that after such resignation the number of Members is not less than three.

e. Trustees

Members may appoint up to 13 Trustees. All Trustees have a term of office of 4 years, except for the first term of office of any Trustee who was a member of a Trust school governing body immediately before the date of conversion of that school to an Academy; in which case they continue to the end of the term of office that would have applied as a member of the governing body of the predecessor school had the predecessor school continued to exist.

Members can appoint Staff Trustees through any such process as they may determine provided that the total number of Trustees who are employees does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees but should not co-opt an employee of the company if it would mean the total number of Trustees who are employees would exceed a third. Co-opted Trustees may not themselves appoint further Co-opted Trustees.

f. Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members are entitled within the terms of the Trust's articles to appoint Trustees. The process of appointment starts with an analysis of the skills required to augment those already represented on the Board. The post is then advertised using local networks, such as those communities served by each of our schools, and also using agencies such as Governors for Schools and Inspiring Governance. A panel of Trustees, interviews the potential Trustees and then, following agreement by the Board, recommends the appointment of the new Trustee(s) to the Members, who take the final decision to appoint by ordinary resolution.

g. Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The Acer Trust Trustee and Governor Induction Policy details the induction provided for new Trustees and members of individual governing bodies. All Trustees are provided with the documentation and training that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

h. Organisational Structure

The leadership and management structure comprises:

- the Trust Board, constituted under its Articles of Association
- the Acer Trust Finance, Risk and Audit Committee
- the Acer Trust Executive Group
- the Acer Trust Central Team
- the Acer Trust Operations Group
- the Acer Trust Safeguarding Group
- the Governing Bodies of:
 - Botley School
 - Chalgrove Community Primary School
 - Icknield Community College

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

- o Matthew Arnold School
- o Stadhampton Primary School
- o Wood Green School
- o Watlington Primary school

The membership of the Trust Board and Trust Executive Group are detailed on pages 1 and 2 of this report.

The Trust Board

The Trustees make the key decisions for and determine the general policies of the Trust, meeting at least four times a year as a full board. The Trust Board receives budgetary and educational performance reports covering all schools, as well as compliance and assurance reports. The Trust Board oversees the Trust's policy framework and Trust development activity. The Trust Board delegates responsibility to a working group to oversee the Trust governance review.

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee acts as the Trust's Audit Committee with oversight of risk, as well as oversight of the finances of the Trust. The Committee receives reports on budgetary performance, cashflow and financial sustainability, and oversees the Trust's internal and external audit activity and Risk Register.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO is the Accounting Officer with overall executive responsibility for the Trust's activities, including financial activities.

Trust Executive Group

Formed of the Headteachers of each partner school, the CEO, COO and CFO, the Trust Executive Group is collectively responsible for the leadership and management of the Trust, with a particular focus on educational excellence. The Trust Executive Group works collaboratively with the Trust Operations Group and Trust Finance Group to ensure the success of the Trust and its partner schools. The Trust Executive Group reports both directly and through the CEO to the Trust Board.

The Acer Trust Central Team

The Central Team comprises the CEO, CFO, COO, Trust Finance Manager, Trust Estates Manager, Primary Finance Manager, Trust HR Manager, Trust Administrator and Governance Officer and Schools Governance Officer. Working across all the schools in the Trust, its role is to:

- engage in due diligence activity for current/planned conversions
- support and ensure premises, health and safety and legal compliance
- support the schools in financial management and planning
- oversee premises development planning and major capital works
- oversee employment and HR practise
- provides governance advice to the Trust Board and School Governing Bodies
- develop effective systems and processes to support schools
- support collaborative working
- ensure that the required DfE/ESFA returns are delivered.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Acer Trust Operations Group

The Acer Trust Operations Group meets regularly and is chaired by the COO who reports to the Trust Executive Group. Attended by members of the central team, School Business Managers and, when appropriate, Finance and HR staff from each of the partner schools, its role is to:

- ensure the efficient and compliant day to day operations of each school
- ensure that administrative practices and procedures in each school are consistent with and supportive of the ethos and values of the Trust
- implement and improve processes and procedures to streamline the functionality of each school
- oversee the implementation of the Trust's operational policies and procedures.

The Acer Trust Safeguarding Group

The Acer Trust Safeguarding Group meets regularly. It is attended by the Designated Safeguarding Leads at each of the seven schools and is chaired by the CEO. The purpose is to develop collective confidence and knowledge to lead safeguarding in our Trust schools.

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

The Trustees volunteer their services and are, therefore, unpaid.

The Trust's Executive Group consists of the Headteachers of each of the Trust's schools, the CEO, COO and CFO. The Headteachers, acting in their capacity as Executives of the Trust, are paid in accordance with the national School Teachers' Pay and Conditions. Salaries are related to the size of each school and the years of experience in the role. The CEO, CFO and COO salaries were determined by comparing the role at the point of recruitment / appointment to similar roles in other Multi Academy Trusts across the UK.

j. Trade Union Facility Time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0.03%	1 employee in the Trust who spends less than 0.03.% of time on facility time
1%-50%	N/A
51%-99%	N/A
100%	N/A

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Acer Trust subscribes to the Trade Union Facilities Scheme which is operated by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Costs are based on a three-year agreement commencing 1st April 2022

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	£4,775
Provide the total pay bill	£13,318,000
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.0004

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0.03%
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k. Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Details of related parties and transactions during the year can be found in notes 13 and 31 of the financial statements.

l. Employee Consultation, Engagement and Equal Opportunities

All Acer Trust schools operate in a similar way with regard to employee engagement. The values of the Acer Trust underpin everything we do. We are a learning organisation and the values are for all learners in the Trust: students; staff; governors, Trustees and parents. All the schools in the Trust share a commitment to these values:

- **Trust:** schools and individuals will collaborate in an open and honest manner, and will act in the best interests of all children educated in the partner schools;
- **Collaboration:** all partners have a contribution to make to the Trust as well as a collective responsibility for the success of the Trust. All partners play an active role in ensuring the success of all learners in the Trust;
- **Opportunity:** all learners, both students and adults, will benefit from the range of opportunities provided by being a part of the Acer Trust.

An underpinning principle of the Acer Trust's approach to employee engagement is the open communication and the active involvement of all staff in all school matters. Each school provides a range of opportunities for staff to raise issues and questions and to feed into the overall development of the school. Formal consultation procedures are followed where the matter requires such a process; for example, during a staff restructuring.

All schools engage their staff in sharing views in the spirit of wellbeing of all staff members and use surveys periodically for feedback, all schools have signed up to the Department for Education's Wellbeing Charter. Where there are Union representatives in the school, the school leaders have regular meetings to enable two-way communication.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Regular opportunities for training and professional learning are provided, both at a whole-staff level (that is, for everyone) and is also personalised to meet individual needs. The individual needs are identified through the schools' performance management processes.

Specifically in relation to disabled employees, the Trust's Policy Statement on Equality and Accessibility sets out our commitment to employment equality. Each school has an equality policy and accessibility plan, and ensures that, from the point of application for a post, adjustments are made to accommodate the disabled person's declared needs. For example, if a disabled person requires adjustments to be made to effect access to the selection process, then they declare that, and the school responds. Similarly, if they need reasonable adjustment after employment has started, then the school responds and makes reasonable adjustment as required. Each school screens all new employees to make sure it knows if it has disabled staff for whom it needs to make some adjustments.

Opportunities for promotion in school are treated equally in line with our equality policies.

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

Trustees support open and positive interactions with all stakeholders, in accordance with our Trust values. With suppliers and customers, specifically, we take a strategic approach by encouraging:

- long-term relationships with all our business partners, whether they be suppliers or hirers of Trust facilities, in order to develop standards of products and services and reduce future problems, quality issues or delays
- regular reviews of existing contracts and employment of procurement processes by the Trust Operations Group
- regular dialogue and communication in order to review operational performance and to ensure that suppliers and customers are provided with the information and support they need to work effectively with the trust.
- prompt release of payments due to suppliers, based on agreed contractual terms
- adherence to the principles of value for money by encouraging suppliers to share cost efficiencies gained through the adoption of new technologies or methodologies

Trustees have due regard to the public benefit of providing high quality education to the children and young people in our Trust schools. The Trust ensures that we are serving our communities well through our engagement with our learners and their families.

Objectives and Activities

Acer Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust based on collaborative partnership. We believe that by working together with a common collective purpose of improving learning for all, we can ensure a better education for all the learners in our Trust.

Our Values

The values that underpin our work are trust, collaboration and opportunity.

Our vision

The best schools broaden horizons and open doors for children into the futures and opportunities of their dreams. The Trust's overriding purpose is to focus on securing the well-being and success of all pupils and students in each of its Trust schools by providing an excellent education with a focus on the development of the individual as well as on improving educational outcomes for every child.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

a. Objects and Aims

Our Aim "Working together to create great places to learn and work".

Our core aim is to work together to achieve excellent progress and outcomes for all learners supported by effective management of the Trust's resources.

Our objectives are to advance education, for the public benefit, in the United Kingdom, by managing and developing schools which offer a broad and balanced curriculum. The particular aims of the Trust during the year under review were:

- to ensure an excellent education and better outcomes for all our pupils through collaboration at all levels
- to develop effective and efficient systems operating across the Trust's schools to ensure smooth running schools,
- to improve environments for pupils and staff
- to prepare for future growth

b. Public Benefit

The Trustees of Acer Trust confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The Trust comprises academies in South Oxfordshire, West Oxford and Witney for pupils aged 3 to 18. Pupil admissions are academically non-selective and managed on the Trust's behalf by Oxfordshire County Council. As its schools are non-selective and state-funded, Acer Trust's work is to the public benefit. The Trust schools offer a broad and balanced curriculum and a wealth of extra-curricular and enrichment activities to all its students of all abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds represented in its schools' communities. Acer Trust schools endeavour to be at the heart of their communities and foster many collaborative links with community and stakeholder groups. All Trust schools allow use of their facilities for recreational, educational and community activity in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Achievement against the core objectives were:

- Collaboration at all levels to ensure an excellent education and better outcomes for all our pupils.

Chalgrove Primary School, Icknield Community College, Matthew Arnold School and Wood Green School were all judged to be good at their last inspection since joining the Acer Trust. Watlington Primary School (previously outstanding 2013), Botley Primary School (previously inadequate 2019) and Stadhampton Primary School (previously good 2017) have not been inspected since joining the Acer Trust. At Botley Primary School the appointment of a new headteacher has improved leadership capacity and working with colleagues in the Trust has developed the curriculum further.

The peer-review system, a core school improvement activity pre-COVID, was reintroduced in 2021, with subject reviews taking place across all secondary schools in English and Geography. School Self-Evaluation Reviews, carried out between May and July, showed that all schools, both primary and secondary, had strong self-evaluation in place. Identified areas for development are addressed in development plans for 2022-23.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

- **Effective and efficient systems operating across the Trust's schools to ensure smooth running schools**

The Trust continues to develop effective operations which facilitate educational improvement. This drive, and the ongoing educational funding pressures, have placed importance on developing central services. Significant improvements were made to data systems, in particular developing our compliance software, procuring a single Trust-wide MIS and preparing for Payroll Services and a shared intranet platform.

- **Improving environments for pupils and staff**

The Trust is committed to ensuring its schools sites are safe and secure for the benefit of students, staff and visitors. Every year each school is subject to an annual, independent health and safety inspection which inform the Estates Management planning.

The Trust Safeguarding Group, consisting of the CEO and all Designated Safeguarding Leads, ensure that safeguarding practices are strong in all schools. Two schools were externally reviewed during 2021-22 by Oxfordshire Education Safeguarding Advisory Team: Wood Green School and Icknield Community College. In 2021-22. Outcomes inform schools' safeguarding objectives.

The Trust continues to receive SCA funding, which was allocated according to a clear set of priorities in the Trust Estates' Management Plan. SCA funding for the financial year 2021-22 was £1,235,429. The Good Estates' Management for Schools audit demonstrates that the Trust has already implemented the majority of recommendations, including having an estates vision, strategy and processes in place for identification, prioritisation and procurement of works to address condition and compliance issues using SCA funding.

SCA funded projects which were completed in the financial year 21-22:

- Fire Safety Improvement Works at Matthew Arnold, Stadhampton and Wood Green
- Condition Surveys of Chalgrove, Icknield, Matthew Arnold and Wood Green.
- Window replacements at Icknield
- A Block Window and Sports hall Changing Room Roof Replacements at Matthew Arnold
- Premises Development Plans for Stadhampton and Matthew Arnold
- Emergency Boiler Replacement to the Sports Hall at Icknield
- Emergency Boiler Replacement to main block at Matthew Arnold
- LED lighting installed at Watlington and Botley
- Flat Roof Replacement to main block at Watlington
- Nursery & Playground refurbishment at Chalgrove

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Trustees' Report (continued)

a. Key Performance Indicators

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, most exams and assessments did not take place in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic years. Primary school tests and assessments returned in 2022 and the headline results for Trust primary schools are given below (all data is unvalidated at time of writing):

Table 1: Summary of KS2 Data June 2022

KS2	Botley	Chalgrove	Stadhampton	Watlington	National 2019 (2022)
English Reading	67	71	69	76	73 (74)
English Writing	67	54	77	71	78 (69)
Mathematics	54	79	62	76	79 (71)
SPAG	56	54	77	74	78 (72)
RWM Combined	44	46	46	68	65 (65)

Figures are % achieving expected level unless stated

GCSE and A Level examinations returned in 2022, and the headline results for Trust secondary schools are given below (all data is unvalidated at time of writing):

Table 2: Summary of Secondary School Data June 2022

KS4	Icknield Community College	Matthew Arnold School	Wood Green School
Progress 8 Score	+0.20	+0.34	-0.50
Attainment 8 Score	50.86	54.8	46.7
5+ 9-4 (including E&M) %	68	81	64
Post-16		Matthew Arnold School	Wood Green School
% A-B		60	54
% A-E		98	96

Financial Key Performance Indicators

The Trust's financial management target has been to achieve a balanced budget and to carry forward sufficient surplus to maintain appropriate reserves. The Trust held £2,771,000 (FY21 £2,526,000) in reserves (excluding the Fixed Asset Fund which represents Net Book Value and the Pension Deficit).

As the majority of the Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers are also a key performance indicator. Numbers were:

Acer Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)

Table 3: Overall student numbers, June 2022

School	June 2022	June 2021
Botley Primary School	312	314
Chalgrove Community Primary School	183	184
Icknield Community College	746	731
Matthew Arnold School	1316	1287
Stadhampton Primary School	87	88
Watlington Primary School	182	184
Wood Green School	1222	1176
TOTALS	4,048	3,964

All schools have supported students back to school and remained open throughout 2021-22, despite pressures from continuing staff absence due to the Covid pandemic. Our schools continue to track attendance, reporting regularly to the Governing Bodies of each school.

b. Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Acer Trust board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the following twelve months. 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. As for all Trusts, there remains uncertainty over whether future pay awards and inflationary increases in cost will be funded. Without the knowledge that these pressures will be funded, Trustees are concerned that the breadth and depth of education delivery will be adversely affected. An assessment of the impact of education delivery under reduced funding is currently being undertaken.

c. Promoting the success of the Trust

The Trustees work collectively to promote the success of the Trust by ensuring that they consider the way in which it carries out its purposes for the public benefit. The Board's strategy is to develop a sustainable Trust whose focus on providing high quality educational provision across all its schools provides a public benefit to the communities served by the Trust's schools.

The Board manages its finance and resources effectively and manages risks to the success of the Trust. Through good business conduct and sound relationships, the Trustees ensure that the schools, their employees, suppliers and stakeholders are all contributing to the aim of Acer Trust schools working together collaboratively to achieve excellent progress and outcomes for all our learners.

Financial Review

The majority of the Trust's revenue income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurring grants, principally the General Annual Grant (GAG), which amounted to £20,757,000 (FY21 £18,763,000) for the period. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The in-year deficit figure was £ 1,250,000 (FY21 surplus £1,038,000) which agrees to the change in balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

The reserves position as at 31 August 2022 (restricted general funds, excluding pension reserves, plus unrestricted funds) was £2,771,000 (FY21 £2,526,000).

The Capital Grant awarded to the Trust's schools by the DfE to provide fixed assets was the Devolved Formula Capital Grant (DFC), which amounted to £96,000 (FY21 £94,000). In accordance with the Charities SORP, the DFC received is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted fixed asset funds.

The Acer Trust now receives School Condition Allocation funding which is allocated across the Trust estate based on need. The total SCA entitlement for the 2021-22 financial year was £1,235,000 (FY21 £2,060,000).

These funding amounts are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations and Capital Grants.

On conversion, all of the fixed assets of the former maintained schools were transferred to the Academy Trust and are shown as restricted fixed asset funds. The balance sheet fixed asset fund is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

The value of the Trust's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme exceeds the value of its unrestricted funds.

The Trust's finances have been well managed in the period despite the need to meet cost increases without an overall increase in funding. This continuing rise in costs, particularly from higher than expected pay awards, inflation and energy costs, is placing increasing pressure on limited reserves. These indicate that medium term sustainability is questionable without reducing costs, which will have a negative impact on education provision across all stages but particularly in primary schools without additional funding.

COVID impact 2021-22

Trustees note the following points about how the Trust managed the Coronavirus pandemic in the period September 2021 to August 2022, including any impact on the aims of the trust:

- Throughout the pandemic, the creation and implementation of regularly reviewed risk assessments based on government guidance enabled schools to stay open and safe, in accordance with the government guidelines at the time.
- Additional staff costs continued to be incurred during the academic year in relation to covid sickness absence.
- Covid government grant funding was used to cover the costs of mass testing and the catch-up and recovery funds are being used by schools to address the educational needs that have been identified due to the pandemic.
- There has been no adverse impact on the Trust's reserves policy, level of reserves and any change to funds set aside for future commitments.

It is too early to comment on how the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust during the reporting period have been affected by the financial and operational effects of the virus and the associated control measures. Trustees will continue to monitor the identified risks due to the pandemic and evaluate the Trust's response on an on-going basis.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

a. Reserves Policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs. The Trustees always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy regularly.

On 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust held the following Reserves (excluding Fixed Asset Fund which represents Net Book Value and Pension Deficit):

Table 4: Reserves at 31 August 2022

Unrestricted General Funds ¹	£2,211,000
Restricted Capital Funds	£71,241,000
Restricted General Funds	(2,356,000)
Reserves at 31 August 2022	£71,096,000

¹ Income funds that are freely available for general purposes under SORP 2019

The Academy's Reserves are the resources the academy has or can make available to spend for any or all of the Academy's purposes once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure.

The LGPS Pension Deficit is likely to be met in the longer term from any combination of increased employer contributions, increased government funding or change to scheme benefits. The restricted funds will be spent in accordance with the terms of the particular funds.

b. Investment Policy

Trustees may invest to further the Trust's charitable aims, ensuring that investment risk is properly managed. When considering making an investment, they will act within their powers to invest as set out in their Articles of Association, control and track their financial exposure, and ensure value for money particularly if using unfamiliar investment techniques and in accordance with the Acer Trust Capital and Revenue Reserves and Investment Policy.

c. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The major risks of the Academy Trust have been identified and reviewed by the Trustees and summarised in the Acer Trust's Strategic Risk Register. The most significant strategic risks identified in 2021-2022 were:

Table 5: Significant Strategic Risks

Potential Strategic Risk	Detail	Actions and Controls (overseen by TEG Trust Executive Group and Trustees)
Unfunded increases in costs	The current cost-base is only affordable if funding rises in line with pay awards, energy price increases and inflation. To reduce the cost-base is likely to be costly in the short term (restructure costs) and has the potential to impact educational provision	Regular financial projections reviewed by Trustees, annual budgeting cycle in place to produce 3 year plans, programme of budget remodelling to analyse impacts of increased costs, benchmarked to support schools in identifying areas for possible cost savings
Changes in pupil numbers create budget pressures	Several Acer primary schools are at risk of pupil numbers changing (both positively and negatively) to an uneconomical level without restructuring classes	Identify current trends in birth rates and model impact on pupil numbers in future years; careful use of staff forecasting
Challenge to recruit staff	The national challenge to recruit staff to schools in key areas is evident within the Trust. This could lead to a reduction of education provision; non-compliance; inefficient operations	Use of apprenticeship to improve recruitment in key areas; planning for school-to-school support

d. Fundraising

The Trust does not engage in fundraising by employing the services of professional fundraising organisations. Individual schools in the Trust raise money for external charities through fundraising activities to which students and their families contribute.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

The Acer Trust schools collectively have achieved a 14% reduction per pupil in their carbon emissions against 20-21 figures. The details of the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are reported below:

Table 6: UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data comparing 2020-21 to 2021-22

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data	Period 1 Sept 2020 – 31 Aug 2021	Period 1 Sept 2021 – 31 Aug 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	6,210,615.18 kWh	5,963,371.58 kWh
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gas, • electricity, • transport fuel 	Gas: 4,661,683 kWh Electricity: 927,181 kWh Transport Fuel: 5309 miles	Gas: 3,801,392 kWh Electricity: 1,036,086 kWh Transport: 21,774 miles
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e Gas consumption Owned transport – mini-buses Total scope 1	858.37 tonnes	699.99 tonnes
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e Purchased electricity	216.16 tonnes	219.99 tonnes
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.35 tonnes	2.58 tonnes
Scope 4 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e Biomass	9.51 tonnes	16.65 tonnes
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	1087.4 tonnes	939.21 tonnes
Intensity ratio Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.27 tonnes	0.23 tonnes

Quantification and Reporting Methodology:

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2021 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. (Rev Jan-22)

Intensity measurement:

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency:

- LED Lighting upgrades rolled out at 3 more schools. There are only 2 schools remaining with partial LED cover.

Acer Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

- Invested ~£1.1M in new roofing, windows, LED lighting and heating plant to improve the energy efficiency of our estates.
- Schools have been able to heat their buildings more efficiently since the requirement to provide additional ventilation by opening all doors and windows to reduce the spread of Covid-19 has been relaxed. This is demonstrated within the 18% reduction in gas consumption over the past 12 months.
- Last year the Acer Trust consumed 121,251 kWh of renewable electricity generated by PV arrays located at 3 of its 7 schools, this represents a 38% increase on FY20-21.
- The Trust has engaged a 3rd party consultancy to conduct a full asset survey to assess condition and identify a rolling replacement programme of mechanical and electrical plant. The reports include a school specific Decarbonisation Plan to identify potential projects where the need to replace life expired equipment can be aligned with measures to reduce the use of fossil fuels in our schools.

Plans for further development:

- The Trust Executive Group have tasked schools to monitor their energy use more closely in AY22-23 and strive to reduce their consumption by 20% compared to historical levels.
- The Trust has set up a Sustainability Working Group to review and implement the recommendations set out in the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.
- The Acer Trust schools will further improve energy consumption monitoring and reporting and establish baseline levels and monitoring processes for biodiversity, water use and waste production.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust strives to continually improve levels of attainment for all pupils, equipping them with the qualifications, skills and character to follow their chosen pathway, whether it be into further and higher education or employment, as well as promoting the continued professional development of its staff.

Between 2019 and 2021 the Trust developed its Leadership and Management structure to increase strategic leadership and to secure a well-managed and financially sustainable Trust. Through 2021-22, the Trust Leadership focussed on operational, financial and governance development, as well as peer review work that had ceased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the announcement of the retirement of the CEO, Katherine Ryan, Trustees engaged in a recruitment process for a permanent CEO. Following an extensive and comprehensive process, supported by external consultants Perrett Laver, Nathan Thomas was appointed as CEO for January 2023. Nathan will join Acer Trust from Academies Enterprise Trust where he currently works as a Regional Education Director overseeing several schools in the South of England and with a national portfolio for sixth form and careers. In the years prior to his current role, he gained extensive leadership experience in numerous schools, including successfully leading three schools as Headteacher and Executive Headteacher.

The Trust has continued to pursue a measured approach to growth, to secure the benefits of efficiency that this will bring. Some schools, in particular Icknield Community College, Chalgrove Primary School and Wood Green School are working closely with Oxfordshire County Council to manage school place sufficiency due to population growth.

The appointment of the new CEO creates an opportunity to review and refocus on future development of the Trust.

Acer Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

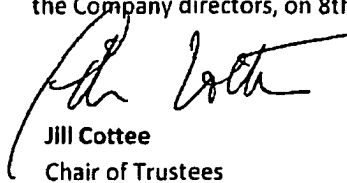
The Trust holds no Assets and Funds as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Acer Trust board of Trustees, as the Company directors, on 8th December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Jill Cottee
Chair of Trustees

Acer Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Acer 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 Acer Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Trust Executive Group. The Trust Executive Group, led by the CEO and Accounting Office ensures financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and are in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Acer Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Acer Trust Board 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 Trust assesses financial performance through internal and external financial audits. Educational performance data is supplied by the Department for Education. Each Trust school's governing body scrutinises education and school financial monitoring data before it is reported to the Acer Trust Board.

The Trustees have formally met four times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

Table 7: Trustee attendance Sep 21 – Aug 22

Trustee	Meetings Attended	Out of a possible
Sally Atkinson	3	3
Judith Bennett	4	4
Jill Cottee	4	4
Helen Curry	3	4
Paul Gravett	4	4
David Marcou	4	4
Katherine Ryan	4	4
Stan Terry	4	4
Sandra Ward	3	3

Trustees received monthly management account reports during the financial year and continued to meet to monitor the Trust's budget to the end of the financial year. The Trust Finance, Risk and Audit Committee met nine times during the 2021-2022 financial year.

The Board received updates from the CEO, CFO and COO at each Trust Board meeting, which included operational updates on IT, HR, Estates and compliance, finance updates, risk management updates, growth plan updates, ESFA updates, policy and governance updates and details about collaborative work across the Acer Trust.

Acer Trust

Governance Statement

The Trustees carried out an extensive recruitment process. An appointment was made for the new CEO for January 2023. Interim arrangements were created from within the Trust, with two existing Headteachers sharing the role for the period September to Dec 2022.

Governance reviews

The Trust Governance Working Group met 5 times during the period and completed a review of the Trust's governance framework. This process was achieved by the Trust Board members on the working group, the COO and Trust Executive Group, working in collaboration with the School Governing Body representatives to review the sections of the framework and the Trust's Governance policies. Governance activity is under continuous review and improvement for the Trust.

Committees

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee has oversight of risk, as well as oversight of the finances of the Trust.

Review of Value for Money

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Acer Trust board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The Trust Operations Group is tasked with implementing value for money and procurement operations. The Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Employing online tools to log contracts across all the Trust's schools to ensure they deliver value for money. This will facilitate regular reviews of all procured contracts with the objective of increased financial savings.
- Engaging in procurement projects on behalf of all the schools in the Trust in order to maximise purchasing power and adhere to the requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Examples in year include work Management Information Systems, phone systems, insurance and energy supplies.
- Expanding the central team to include governance, compliance and HR, in addition to finance, estates and administration in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Trust-wide services.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The Trust's internal controls are described in the Trust Financial Handbook.

The system of internal control has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up

Acer Trust

Governance Statement

to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Acer Trust board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trustees are of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Acer Trust's Trustees
- regular reviews by 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 Acer Trust board of Trustees has considered the need for specific internal audit function and has used an external organisation, Bishop Fleming LLP, to conduct internal audits on its behalf.

The internal auditor's role includes performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included a review of the Trust's approach to managing risk around bank payments and fraud. The outcomes and recommendations were reported to the Trust Board, along with the management response.

The Academy Trust can confirm that the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and that there have been no material control issues arising requiring remedial action.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Senior Executive Leader/CEO has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the period ended 31 August 2022 the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the Trust's CFO who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

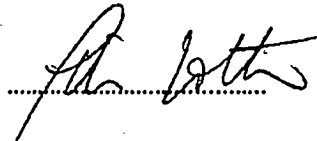
The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Acer Trust board of Trustees and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure

Acer Trust
Governance Statement

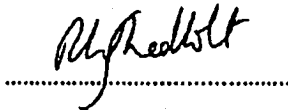
continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Acer Trust Board of Trustees on

8 / 12 / 22 and signed on its behalf by:



Jill Cottee
Chair of Trustees



Rob Shadbolt
Accounting Officer

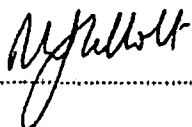
Acer Trust
Governance Statement

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Acer Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Acer Trust board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Acer 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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.


.....

Rob Shadbolt
Accounting Officer

8/12/22

.....

Date

Acer Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 governors 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:

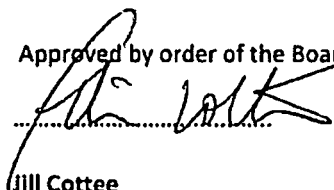
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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 Board of Trustees on 8/12/22 and signed on its behalf by:



Jill Cottee

Chair of Trustees

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Acer Trust (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 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 2021 to 2022 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 2022 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 2021 to 2022 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

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

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

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

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACER TRUST (CONTINUED)

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.

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACER TRUST (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.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

The specific procedures for this engagement that we designed and performed to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud, were as follows:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance to identify any material instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work to address the risk of irregularities due to management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for evidence of bias.

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.

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACER TRUST (CONTINUED)

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.



Michael Bath BSc FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
James Cowper Kreston
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
2 Chawley Park
Cumnor Hill
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX2 9GG

Date: 14 December 2022

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ACER TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Acer Trust during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Acer Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Acer Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Acer Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Acer Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Acer Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 July 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

1. Reviewing of minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees and obtaining representations concerning access to information, disclosure and provision of information.
2. Evaluation of the general control environment of the academy trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
3. Assessment and testing of a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity.
4. Carrying out substantive testing to cover authorisation of expenditure within internal delegated authorities and externally imposed limits.
5. Consideration of whether activities carried out are within the charitable objects.

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ACER TRUST 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Use of our report

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



James Cowper Kreston
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
2 Chawley Park
Cumnor Hill
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX2 9GG

Date: 14 December 2022

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	59	-	1,391	1,450	3,449
Other trading activities		142	-	-	142	53
Investments	7	1	-	-	1	1
Charitable activities		1,359	22,829	1	24,189	22,415
Total income		1,561	22,829	1,392	25,782	25,918
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		877	24,763	2,029	27,669	24,439
Total expenditure		877	24,763	2,029	27,669	24,439
Net income/(expenditure)		684	(1,934)	(637)	(1,887)	1,479
Transfers between funds	20	-	(432)	432	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		684	(2,366)	(205)	(1,887)	1,479
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	28	-	9,319	-	9,319	(1,638)
Net movement in funds		684	6,953	(205)	7,432	(159)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,527	(9,309)	71,446	63,664	63,823
Net movement in funds		684	6,953	(205)	7,432	(159)
Total funds carried forward		2,211	(2,356)	71,241	71,096	63,664

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09591931


BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £000	2021 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	16	69,197	67,970
		<u>69,197</u>	<u>67,970</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	910	1,181
Cash at bank and in hand		6,536	6,823
		<u>7,446</u>	<u>8,004</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(2,627)	(1,995)
Net current assets		<u>4,819</u>	<u>6,009</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>74,016</u>	<u>73,979</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(4)	(7)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>74,012</u>	<u>73,972</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28	(2,916)	(10,308)
Total net assets		<u><u>71,096</u></u>	<u><u>63,664</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	20	71,241	71,446
Restricted income funds	20	560	999
		<u>71,801</u>	<u>72,445</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	20	71,801	72,445
Pension reserve	20	(2,916)	(10,308)
Total restricted funds	20	<u>68,885</u>	<u>62,137</u>
Unrestricted income funds	20	2,211	1,527
Total funds		<u><u>71,096</u></u>	<u><u>63,664</u></u>

ACER TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09591931

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

The financial statements on pages 31 to 67 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on
and are signed on their behalf, by:

8/12/22

Jill Cottee

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

ACER TRUST
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	2022 £000	2021 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	1,631	1,343
Cash flows from investing activities	24	(1,915)	767
Cash flows from financing activities	23	(3)	(3)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(287)	2,107
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,823	4,716
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	25, 26	6,536	6,823

The notes on pages 35 to 67 form part of these financial statements

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. General information

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. The registered office address is shown on page 1.

The members of the Academy are as set out on page 1. In the event of the Academy being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Academy.

2. 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.

2.1 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 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

2.2 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 trust 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.

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- **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 trust has provided the goods or services.

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income (continued)

- **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Academy trust)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the trust's accounting policies.

2.4 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.

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Purchased computer software - 3 years

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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 each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold buildings	- 35 years from conversion
Leasehold improvements	- 20 years
Leasehold land	- 125 years
Furnitures, fittings and equipment	- 10 years
ICT equipment	- 3 years
Motor vehicles	- 5 years

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

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

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Liabilities

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

2.10 Provisions

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

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

2.11 Leased Assets

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

2.12 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 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. 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.

2.13 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.

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.15 Pensions Benefits

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

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.

2.16 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

3. 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, 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 August 2021 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. 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.

Critical areas of judgment:

The academy trust participates in the Teacher's Pension Scheme (TPS) for qualifying employees. Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, this is a multi-employer pension scheme. There is insufficient information about the plan assets and liabilities to be able to reliably account for its share of the defined benefit obligation and plan assets in the financial statements and therefore the plan is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Donations	59	-	59	40
DfE/ESFA capital Grants	-	1,334	1,334	3,409
Other Government grants	-	13	13	-
Local authority capital grant	-	44	44	-
	<u>59</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>3,449</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>40</u>	<u>3,409</u>	<u>3,449</u>	

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

5. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	20,757	20,757	18,763
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	654	654	600
Other DfE Group grants	-	891	891	1,508
UIFSM	-	85	85	138
	-	22,387	22,387	21,009
Other Government grants				
Local authority revenue funding	-	443	443	317
	-	443	443	317
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	1,359	-	1,359	678
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch-up Premium	-	-	-	267
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	90
	-	-	-	357
COVID-19 additional funding (non- DfE/ESFA)				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-	-	-	54
	-	-	-	54
	1,359	22,830	24,189	22,415
	1,359	22,830	24,189	22,415
Total 2021	678	21,737	22,415	

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Hire of facilities	142	142	53
<i>Total 2021</i>	53	53	

7. Investment income

	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Investment income	1	1

The investment income was £1k (2021 : £1k) of which £1k was unrestricted (2021 : £1k), £Nil restricted (2021 : £Nil) and £Nil restricted fixed assets (2021 : £Nil).

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2022 £000	Premises 2022 £000	Other 2022 £000	Total 2022 £000	Total 2021 £000
Direct costs - Activities					
Direct costs	16,961	-	1,907	18,868	16,957
Allocated support costs	3,709	1,637	3,455	8,801	7,482
	20,670	1,637	5,362	27,669	24,439
<i>Total 2021</i>	18,804	-	5,635	24,439	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £000	Support costs 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Total costs	18,868	8,801	27,669	24,439
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>16,957</i>	<i>7,482</i>	<i>24,439</i>	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Pension finance costs	184	184	136
Staff costs	3,709	3,709	2,953
Depreciation	2,029	2,029	1,881
Technology costs	331	331	297
Premises costs	1,637	1,637	1,341
Insurance	103	103	117
Agency costs	10	10	17
Legal cost	115	115	123
Apprentice cost	55	55	24
Other support costs	616	616	559
Governance costs	12	12	34
	8,801	8,801	7,482
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>7,482</i>	<i>7,482</i>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Operating lease rentals	17	17
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,029	1,882
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	1
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	14	13
- other services	2	2
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Wages and salaries	14,149	13,318
Social security costs	1,348	1,257
Pension costs	4,867	4,091
	<u>20,364</u>	<u>18,666</u>
Agency staff costs	186	84
Staff restructuring costs	65	6
Apprenticeship levy	55	48
	<u>20,670</u>	<u>18,804</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Severance payments	65	6
	<u>65</u>	<u>6</u>

b. Severance payments

The academy trust paid 3 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2022 No.
£0 - £25,000	2
£25,001 - £50,000	<u>1</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

11. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	250	244
Leadership	10	17
Administration and support	257	302
	<u>517</u>	<u>563</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	225	214
Leadership	9	16
Administration and support	164	156
	<u>398</u>	<u>386</u>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	4
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	2
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	1
	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 15. 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 £1,032,833 (2021 - £763,682).

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

12. Central services

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

- Finance and administrative staff
- Professional services
- Insurance
- ICT supplies
- HR services

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

The total value of shared costs for central services was calculated and then apportioned to schools on a percentage of GAG income basis.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Chalgrove Community Primary	39	27
Icknield Community College	200	135
Matthew Arnold	400	226
Wood Green	320	213
Stadhampton Primary School	21	14
Wallington Primary School	46	34
Bolley Primary School	65	52
Total	1,091	701

13. 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:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
K Ryan, Headteacher Matthew Arnold School and Senior Executive Leader	115 - 120	115 - 120
Pension contributions paid	25 - 30	25 - 30

During the year ended 31 August 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021 - £550).

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The cost for the period ended 31 August 2022 was £183 (2021 : £550).

ACER TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15. Intangible assets

	Computer software £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	14
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2022	14
	<hr/>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2021	14
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2022	14
	<hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2022	<hr/>
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2021	<hr/>
	<hr/>

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2021	74,288	724	664	16	75,692
Additions	2,612	341	298	-	3,251
At 31 August 2022	76,900	1,065	962	16	78,943
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2021	7,073	147	486	16	7,722
Charge for the year	1,843	80	101	-	2,024
At 31 August 2022	8,916	227	587	16	9,746
Net book value					
At 31 August 2022	67,984	838	375	-	69,197
At 31 August 2021	67,215	577	178	-	67,970

17. Debtors

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	33	5
Other debtors	335	324
Prepayments and accrued income	542	852
	910	1,181

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Trade creditors	982	692
Other taxation and social security	339	335
Other creditors	469	396
Accruals and deferred income	837	572
	<u>2,627</u>	<u>1,995</u>
	2022 £000	2021 £000
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	366	404
Resources deferred during the year	(366)	366
Amounts released from previous periods	356	(404)
	<u>356</u>	<u>366</u>

Deferred income represents funding received for trips in future periods and universal infant free school meals grants.

Included within creditors falling due within one year is a Salix loan with a value of £3k (2021 : £3k) from Salix Finance Ltd which is provided on the following terms:

The loan is interest free
Repayable over 7 years from 1 March 2018

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Salix loan	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

Included within creditors falling due after more than one year is a Salix loan with a value of £4k (2021 : £7k) from Salix Finance Ltd which is provided on the following terms:

The loan is interest free
Repayable over 7 years from 1 March 2018

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

20. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers In/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	1,527	1,561	(877)	-	-	2,211
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	701	20,757	(20,504)	(432)	-	522
Pupil Premium funding	47	654	(699)	-	-	2
Other ESFA funding	24	890	(883)	-	-	31
Local Authority revenue funding	-	443	(443)	-	-	-
Covid catch up premium	154	-	(154)	-	-	-
Other Covid funding	73	-	(68)	-	-	5
UIFSM	-	85	(85)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(10,308)	-	(1,927)	-	9,319	(2,916)
	(9,309)	22,829	(24,763)	(432)	9,319	(2,356)

ACER TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £000
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Devolved formula capital	96	77	-	(100)	-	73
Other capital grant	-	35	-	(35)	-	-
Local Authority capital funding	404	45	-	(449)	-	-
Transferred on conversion	8	-	-	(8)	-	-
Capital donation	1	-	-	(1)	-	-
Salix Loan	(10)	-	-	3	-	(7)
School condition allocation	2,977	1,235	-	(2,229)	-	1,983
Fixed asset fund	67,970	-	(2,029)	3,251	-	69,192
	<u>71,446</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>(2,029)</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,241</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>62,137</u>	<u>24,221</u>	<u>(26,792)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,319</u>	<u>68,885</u>
Total funds	<u><u>63,664</u></u>	<u><u>25,782</u></u>	<u><u>(27,669)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>9,319</u></u>	<u><u>71,096</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

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

The General Annual Grant represents funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency during the period in order to fund the continuing activities of the school. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

Pupil Premium Funding represents funding received from the Department for Education (DfE) to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities. The eligibility of the pupils and rates of grant per pupil are set-out by the DfE. This funding is to be used for the provision of education.

Other DfE funding represents other forms of funding received from the Department for Education. This includes but is not limited to Rates Relief Income, funding and PE grant. Local Authority Revenue funding represents various grant funding provided by Local Authorities.

Covid catch up premium relates to a one-off universal catch-up premium for the 2021/22 academic year to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. Other Covid funding relates to mass testing funding which was to support the additional costs incurred conducting on site testing.

Restricted general funds, Other grants represent amounts given to the academy trust for specific revenue purposes.

The pension reserve fund separately identifies the pension deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme, and through which all the movements on the pension scheme are recognised.

Devolved Formula Capital represents funding provided by the Department for Education to be used for capital projects. This funding may be used for specific capital projects which are not considered to be fixed asset additions.

Local Authority Capital Funding includes various grant funding provided by Local Authorities.

Capital funds transferred on conversion constitute balances remaining on funds held by the academy trust for capital purposes from the point of conversion.

The School Condition Allocation fund represents funding provided by the Department for Education to be used for specific capital projects.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds, Other grants and donations represent amounts given to the academy trust for specific capital purposes. The Intangible Asset fund recognises the net book value of computer software additions purchased by the academy trust since conversion.

The Fixed Asset fund recognises the net book value of tangible and fixed assets transferred to the trust on conversion and additions since conversion. Unrestricted funds represent other income to the academy trust which is not received as funding or with a specific purpose.

Capital Donation represents amounts given to the academy for specific capital purposes.

The Salix Loan fund represents the balance of the Salix Loan.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2020 £000</i>	<i>Income £000</i>	<i>Expenditure £000</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £000</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £000</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2021 £000</i>
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	1,222	772	(467)	-	-	1,527
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	166	18,215	(17,530)	(150)	-	701
Pupil Premium funding	100	600	(653)	-	-	47
Other ESFA funding	-	2,056	(2,032)	-	-	24
Local Authority revenue funding	-	317	(317)	-	-	-
Covid catch up premium	-	267	(113)	-	-	154
Other Covid funding	-	90	(17)	-	-	73
Job retention scheme	-	54	(54)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	138	(138)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(7,433)	-	(1,237)	-	(1,638)	(10,308)
	<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>21,737</u>	<u>(22,091)</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>(9,309)</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £000
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Devolved formula capital	114	94	-	(112)	-	96
Local Authority capital funding	57	1,255	-	(908)	-	404
Transferred on conversion	64	-	-	(56)	-	8
Capital donation	1	-	-	-	-	1
Salix Loan	(13)	-	-	3	-	(10)
School condition allocation	1,998	2,060	-	(1,081)	-	2,977
Fixed asset fund	67,546	-	(1,880)	2,304	-	67,970
Intangible fixed asset fund	1	-	(1)	-	-	-
	<u>69,768</u>	<u>3,409</u>	<u>(1,881)</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,446</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>62,601</u>	<u>25,146</u>	<u>(23,972)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>62,137</u>
Total funds	<u>63,823</u>	<u>25,918</u>	<u>(24,439)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,638)</u>	<u>63,664</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Chalgrove Community Primary	32	46
Icknield Community College	352	348
Matthew Arnold	871	776
Wood Green	940	770
Stadhampton Primary	75	85
Wallington Primary	277	178
Central	388	218
Botley Primary	(164)	105
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,771	2,526
Restricted fixed asset fund	71,241	71,446
Pension reserve	(2,916)	(10,308)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	71,096	63,664
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	Deficit £000
Botley Primary School	164
	<hr/>

Botley school currently has deficit revenue reserves. Pupil intake at the school has been lower in recent years which has impacted funding.

The academy trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

The school has a recovery plan in place to move back to a surplus position over time.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. 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 £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2022 £000	Total 2021 £000
Chalgrove Community Primary	703	98	56	129	986	940
Icknield Community College	3,087	390	408	427	4,312	3,829
Matthew Arnold	4,819	772	927	860	7,378	6,558
Wood Green	4,510	818	523	758	6,609	6,050
Stadhampton Primary	382	37	37	81	537	498
Wallington Primary	745	98	87	114	1,044	1,100
Central	-	555	-	366	921	500
Botley	1,445	162	160	159	1,926	1,847
Pension	965	962	-	-	1,927	1,236
Academy trust	16,656	3,892	2,198	2,894	25,640	22,558

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted funds 2022 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £000	Total funds 2022 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	69,197	69,197
Current assets	2,211	3,191	2,044	7,446
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,627)	-	(2,627)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(4)	-	(4)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,916)	-	(2,916)
Total	2,211	(2,356)	71,241	71,096

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £000	Restricted funds 2021 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £000	Total funds 2021 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	67,970	67,970
Current assets	1,527	2,991	3,486	8,004
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,992)	(3)	(1,995)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(7)	(7)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(10,308)	-	(10,308)
Total	1,527	(9,309)	71,446	63,664

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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22. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,887)	1,479
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	-	1
Depreciation	2,029	1,882
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,335)	(3,071)
Interest receivable	(1)	(1)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	1,744	1,101
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	184	136
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	272	(589)
Increase in creditors	625	405
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,631	1,343

23. Cash flows from financing activities

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Repayments of borrowing	(3)	(3)
Net cash used in financing activities	(3)	(3)

24. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	1
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,251)	(2,305)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,335	3,071
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(1,915)	767

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	6,536	6,823
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,536	6,823

26. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2022 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	6,823	(287)	6,536
Debt due after 1 year	(7)	3	(4)
	6,816	(284)	6,532

27. Capital commitments

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	1,230	3,116

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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28. 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 Oxfordshire 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 £353,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £361,000) 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.

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 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,262,000 (2021 - £2,199,000).

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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28. Pension commitments (continued)

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 2022 was £1,118,000 (2021 - £966,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £864,000 (2021 - £750,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 254,000 (2021 - £216,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.3% per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5% per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of 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

	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.05	2.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.05	2.9
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.05	2.9

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

	2022 Years	2021 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.2	22.4
Females	24.5	24.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.1	23.4
Females	26.1	26.3

Sensitivity analysis

The provided sensitivity figures below can be used to estimate the impact of adopting different financial assumptions and the resulting change to the pension obligation of these.

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Discount rate -0.1%	299	452
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	539	813
CPI rate +0.1%	(286)	(420)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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28. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	At 31 August 2022 £000	At 31 August 2021 £000
Equities	7,928	7,414
Corporate bonds	1,586	1,703
Property	951	701
Cash and other liquid assets	105	200
Total market value of assets	10,570	10,018

The actual return on scheme assets was £(597,000) (2021 - £1,413,000).

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

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Current service cost	2,607	1,835
Interest income	(173)	(137)
Interest cost	357	273
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2,791	1,971

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

	2022 £000	2021 £000
At 1 September	20,326	15,093
Current service cost	2,607	1,851
Interest cost	357	273
Employee contributions	254	216
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(9,916)	3,051
Benefits paid	(142)	(158)
At 31 August	13,486	20,326

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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28. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2022 £000	2021 £000
At 1 September	10,018	7,660
Interest income	173	137
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(597)	1,413
Employer contributions	864	750
Employee contributions	254	216
Benefits paid	(142)	(158)
At 31 August	<u>10,570</u>	<u>10,018</u>

29. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2022 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Not later than 1 year	88	88
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	88	88
	<u>176</u>	<u>176</u>

30. 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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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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31. 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 Academy Trust 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.

No related party transactions took place during the year other than those disclosed in note 13. This was the same in the prior year.

32. Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2022 the trust received £10k (2021: £16k) and disbursed £nil (2021: £10k) from the fund. An amount of £27k (2021: £17k) (including brought forward from prior years) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA.