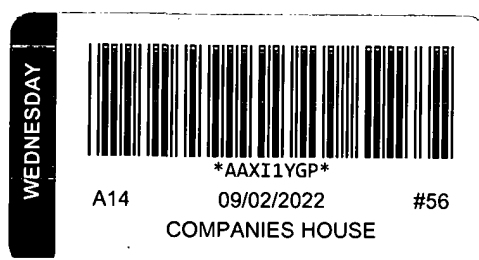


Company Registration Number
08179498 (England and Wales)

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**



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CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Rosemary Chopin-John (until 01.10.20) Geraldine Evans (until 31.08.21) Peter Leggett Alan Smith (appointed 23.04.21) Anthony Young
Trustees	Anthony Young (Chair of the Board of Trustees) John Bruce Steve Delaney Shakil Motala Katherine Ward
Company Secretary	Yvonne Allijohn
Senior Management Team:	
CEO and Accounting Officer	Jane Benton (Staff Trustee)
Chief Financial Officer	Yvonne Allijohn
Director of Professional Development and Pedagogy	Sarah Jaggs
Trust Estates Manager	Colin Howes (Staff Trustee until 31.08.21)
Trust Business Manager	Lorna Dixon
<u>Chingford Foundation School</u>	
Senior Vice Principal	Hasip Mahir
Senior Assistant Principal	Neil Taylor
Assistant Principals	Maxine Davies, Astrid Davis (until 31.05.21), Mark Leadon, Charles Millan
Data Manager	Katherine Adams (until 31.08.21)
<u>South Chingford Foundation School</u>	
Vice Principal	Sean Reed
Senior Assistant Principal	Lee Baker
Assistant Principals	Victoria Godsave, Olugbenga Sonuga, Natalie White
Other Trust Staff	
Trust HR Manager	Carolyn Welch (from 07.06.21)
Trust Careers Lead	Rebecca Healy
Trust ICT Network Manager	Michael Tribe
Company Name	Chingford Academies Trust
Principal and Registered Office	31 Nevin Drive, Chingford, London E4 7LT
Company Registration Number	08179498
Independent Auditor	Landau Baker Limited Mountcliff House, 154 Brent Street, London NW4 2DR
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 747 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield S9 3EF Barclays Bank Tottenham 2, Leicestershire LE87 2BB
Solicitor	Browne Jacobson 15 th Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7BA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company Chingford Academies Trust for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 28 to 32 and comply with applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

a. Constitution and Principal Activities

Chingford Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association (dated 14th August 2012) are the primary governing documents of Chingford Academies Trust. The trustees of Chingford Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The trustees revised their Articles of Association in December 2017. Full details can be found on the academies' website.

Details of trustees who served during the year, and to the date these financial statements are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The principal activity of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") is to advance, for the public benefit, education by maintaining and operating its academies. The Trust operates 2 secondary academies in Chingford, East London – Chingford Foundation School (CFS) and South Chingford Foundation School (SCFS). The Trust's academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,175 and had a roll of 2,065 in the School Census of October 2021.

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

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, every governor or other officer of the charitable company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the charitable company against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the charitable company.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

d. Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The trustees are appointed under the terms of the Trust's Articles of Association:

- Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
- Academy trustees
- Any trustees elected by the Secretary of State for Education
- Up to 3 co-opted trustees
- Sponsor trustees

The term of office for any trustee is four years with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, who remain as trustee as long as he/she remains in office. The term of office of the Chief Executive Officer runs parallel with his/her contract of employment. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee, any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected. With the exception of the Chief Executive Officer, there are no staff trustees within the Trust as from September 2021.

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

The training and induction provided for new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary, an induction will provide training on charity and educational, legal and financial matters. All new trustees are given a tour of both academies within the Trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as trustees and directors of the charitable company. Trustees regularly visit both academies.

f. Organisational Structure

The charitable company has established a management structure to enable its efficient running. The structure consists of the Board of Trustees, Local Governing Bodies, the Chief Executive Officer and a Senior Management Team for each academy. The Chief Financial Officer is part of the Senior Management Team of each academy.

The Board of Trustees has considered its role thoughtfully and decided on the role of the trustees is to approve the strategic direction and objectives via the Quality Plan of the charitable company and to monitor its progress towards these objectives.

The Board of Trustees has approved a Scheme of Delegation, which sets out a statement on the system of internal control, responsibilities, scheme of delegation, terms of reference and standing orders. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and is assisted by a Senior Management Team in each academy.

Trustees are responsible for setting general policy and strategic direction of the Trust, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the charitable company by use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the charitable company, including capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Chief Executive Officer assumes the role of the Accounting Officer.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

g. Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel comprises of all members of the Senior Leadership Group of both academies. The Pay and Personnel Committee meet annually to determine pay scales and review salaries arrangements for all members of the Senior Leadership Group as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), National Joint Council Pay Scales and relevant public information. In determining the appropriate pay range, the trustees consider the permanent responsibilities of the role, any challenges that are specific to the role and all other relevant considerations. No remuneration is made to trustees, with the exception of Staff Trustees.

h. Trade Union Facility Time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, the information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations required to be published are as follows:

Table 1 - Relevant union officials

No. of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
5	4.3

Table 2 - Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	No. of employees
0%	-
1 – 50%	5
51 – 99%	-
100%	-

Table 3 - Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£18,141
Total pay bill	£8,501,000
% of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.21%
- calculated as (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) X 100	

Table 4 - Paid trade union activities

Time spent on trade union activities as % of total paid facility time hours	6.9%
- calculated as (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) X 100	

i. Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

Chingford Foundation School is the founding member of Chingford Academies Trust. The Trust undertakes educational support activities.

For academies within the Trust, there is a strong working relationship that is supportive and collaborative. The Chief Executive Officer oversees this role in both academies. For commercial services, there is a strong move towards a procurement framework that enables its members to access shared support for back office services including legal, financial, payroll and human resources support.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The CEO operates an open door policy which has been useful in engaging staff feedback and suggestions on the ground. Staff are frequently consulted on day to day matters and encouraged to be open and honest in their opinions to drive improvement across the Trust. Collaboration is promoted and several cross-trust posts have been created to facilitate consistency in approach, including seeking ways to improve educational and financial efficiencies and effectiveness. In addition, strategic working groups include volunteers from the staff body covering the subjects of policy review, inclusion, assessment and wellbeing are established.

The Trust operates an equal opportunities policy and this is actively promoted in all aspect of trust operations, including the recruitment and retention of staff.

k. Engagement with Suppliers, Customers and Others in a Business Relationship with the Trust

Trustees continue to maintain a strong and positive relationship with all suppliers, ensuring that best value is observed at all time. Particular reference is made here to the Trust's commitment to support small and local suppliers, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the academic year 2020-21, the Trust continued with best practices that were adopted under the COVID-19 pandemic which included online training courses (whole school and individual), webinars, governance and senior management meetings, data protection audits and so on via Microsoft Team and Zoom wherever practical, bulk purchasing to reduce the number of deliveries, transportation costs and carbon footprint, and payment of suppliers promptly (especially small suppliers) to support their cashflow processes.

In line with our financial processes and regulations, the Trust re-tendered its catering services and appointed a new catering provider called Cucina, to provide healthy and tasty meals for our students. Our long standing cleaning contract will be re-tendered in 2021-22.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is:

- the advance for the public benefit of education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("the academies") offering a broad and balanced curriculum
- to promote for the benefit of the communities in the areas served by the academies, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances for the public at large in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of the said inhabitants

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust has undertaken a review of its effectiveness using the DfE's published MAT school improvement capacity framework (a diagnostic tool developed in partnership with MAT leaders in the South-East RSC region). The strategic objectives of the Trust have been re-stated under the leadership of the current CEO.

Trustees and key stakeholders started their rebranding of the Trust throughout 2019-20 with Grebot Donnelly, an external marketing company, and this work continued in 2020-21. The initial visioning work saw the development of new branding for South Chingford Foundation School and its implementation across the school in September 2021.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

The Trust Charter remains live and work to support the Charter through the culture of the school remains in place. The commitments under the Trust Charter are:

- to launch and re-launch the Charter to all stakeholders
- to develop a community culture which engages everyone in an 'all-in' culture and improves behaviour and attitudes both within and outside the school grounds
- to create programmes including rewards programmes which develop and celebrate whole-school community awareness, inclusive practices, peer to peer and peer to staff relationships

Key strategic objectives are:

- **Strategic Objective 1**
 - To develop the vision, culture and structures of the Trust so that within 3 years it achieves outstanding status
- **Strategic Objective 2**
 - To develop further the quality of education (including outcomes) to outstanding for pupils across the MAT and within each constituent academy
 - High quality experiences that take place in and out of the classrooms inspire a thirst for learning. The learning culture is underpinned by staffs' shared vision for an ambitious curriculum and shared pedagogical principles that are adapted to meet the needs of all groups of learners such that all groups make rapid and appropriate progress through their learning.
- **Strategic Objective 3**
 - To develop a culture within the constituent academies of the MAT in which all staff and students show outstanding behaviour and attitudes to one another, their learning and the community of schools
 - Ambitious but inclusive culture is one in which we can say we are 'all in'. Pupils and staff taking the lead in their own personal progression and supporting others to achieve theirs. No limits can apply and pupils will be happy, confident and motivated by the successes they achieve in every aspect of school life and beyond.
- **Strategic Objective 4**
 - To nurture a culture in which personal development contributes to the creation of a harmonious community
 - Perfect community built on the collective of our individual strengths is one which rejects negativity and prejudice and promotes tolerance of difference. Together we 'can do' and our vision and values are shared and adopted by all and without fear or favour.
- **Strategic Objective 5**
 - To display outstanding leadership and management
 - Outstanding leadership and management will prioritise and facilitate rapid progress towards the delivery of the vision for providing high-quality, inclusive education and training to all. This is realised through strong, shared values, policies and practice.
- **Strategic Objective 6**
 - To achieve the trustees' desire to grow the MAT at a pace appropriate to the maturity of the MAT and constituent academies (links to Strategic Objective 1 and the development of an outstanding MAT with appropriate structures for the delivery of the MAT vision to other schools and academies)
- **Strategic Objective 7**
 - To generate a sustainable financial model for the Trust and its constituent academies so that an outstanding education can be resourced (links to all Strategic Objectives)
 - All expenditure across the Trust can be linked to improving outcomes and the wellbeing of pupils. KPIs will be set based on national benchmarks to demonstrate that the Trust is providing value for money in terms of the outcomes achieved. No academy will be allowed to operate in a deficit position.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

b. Objectives, Strategies and Activities (continued)

In addition to the restated Trust objectives, other key elements of the academies' strategic and operational working have been reviewed or are currently undergoing review. Key areas include the curriculum. An effective and efficient curriculum is one which matches stakeholders' vision for the quality of education and the needs of the academies' pupils, securing strong outcomes and destinations and contributing to the objectives of the Trust.

The academies' vision is to create a curriculum which is a 'firm foundation for life' (CFS) and which 'builds ambition for all' (SCFS). In both cases, this is because the curriculum:

- is broad and balanced, yet meets the needs of all of our students
- is fundamentally high calibre, rigorous and academic
- provides opportunities for personal development and enrichment beyond the taught curriculum
- embraces and celebrates diversity as part of our inclusive and comprehensive ethos and as a consequence we thrive in a culture of mutual respect

CFS was inspected under the new OFSTED framework in December 2019 and received a 'Requiring Improvement' grading. However, progress made against the key Ofsted areas for improvement means that all of the post-Ofsted action plan has been achieved and this has been shared with parents.

SCFS received an inspection in 2021-22 and remains a good school. The leadership at both academies have self-evaluated their respective academies to be good for the quality of education in all categories.

c. Public Benefit

In setting the objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

As an academies trust, we make best use of our skills, expertise and experience with regards to the community. Examples of this are:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award programmes
- Jack Petchey Award Scheme
- Sports Leader programmes that provide sporting activities to local primary schools
- Charity work was significantly reduced in 2020-21 but is set to increase in 2021-22, COVID-19 pandemic permitting

STRATEGIC REPORT

a. Achievements and Performance

The objectives under the heading 'Objectives, Strategies and Activities' above were progressed well during the year, following the considerable adjustments required in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

b. Key Performance Indicators

The academies within the Trust demonstrated good progress against the key performance indicators used in the School Development Plan to assess quality of provision. Academic key performance indicators could not be evaluated during 2020-21. However, both academies were judged by leaders to be good in all categories by the end of 2020-21.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

b. Key Performance Indicators (continued)

Good progress have been made in the following areas:

- Self-evaluation outcomes for both academies are good categories. This will be re-assessed every autumn term.
- Work on vision, values and culture which took place at both academies have been successfully relaunched at CFS. The Trust Charter has been launched at both academies and now forms the bedrock of a culture based on strong relationships and trauma-informed approach.
- Both academies are benefiting from a trust level Teaching and Teaching and Learning structure driving the MAT development plan and post COVID-19 interventions.
- Planned recruitment of trust positions – Trust HR Manager, Trust Data Manager (September 2021), Trust Careers Officer and Director of Professional Development and Pedagogy was achieved and scheduled, and is now operational. The Trust has also developed a trust Teaching and Learning team who have made great strides in developing teaching and learning across both schools and introducing economies of scale in the teaching provision.
- Marketing work at SCFS achieved and action plan is now being rolled out in 2021-22.
- Trust level professional development programme has been launched.

c. Going Concern

After taking appropriate measures, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, despite reductions in external funding. 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.

d. Promoting the Success of the Company

Rebranding of the schools in the Trust started in 2019 with a visioning exercise and an action plan with some areas of work completed in-year, i.e. newly established Trust values of being 'forward-thinking, cohesive and proud', the Trust Charter, new school values for Chingford Foundation School – care, ambition, respect and equality - and rebranding of South Chingford Foundation School. 2020-21 saw the fast pace implementation of the action plan with work focusing around Trust development in areas of website creation, holistic and extended careers development programmes for students, embedding of a Trust-wide teaching and learning strategy and CPD framework. Clearer lines of accountability have been developed and is evidenced.

The Trust Development Plan has professional development, curriculum, teaching, learning and outcomes at its core. The Trust aims to be the 'go-to' Trust for teaching and support staff professionals, parents and external agencies. It seeks to recruit and retain the best and be oversubscribed in each of its schools. The CEO's role and recruitment to Trust positions is helping to facilitate this in the following ways:

- The CEO is a member of a number of educational development groups locally including being a member of the Partnership Board of the newly formed NELTSH (North East London Teaching School Hub)
- The Director of Professional Development and Pedagogy and the Trust HR Manager work together on a strategy for recruiting and retaining the best talent through the creation of Trust website and recruitment strategy
- The Teaching and Learning Lead for South Chingford Foundation School is also the Early Career Framework Lead for the Trust and is a facilitator through the NELTSH. The Teaching and Learning Lead for Chingford Foundation School presents regularly on teaching and learning internet forums
- The Trust Careers Officer is a lead professional in the educational system and has an extensive network of careers professionals and bodies including the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Skills Builder, Arts Award and local businesses through which the Trust and its academies are promoted for the benefit of all students in the Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2021

d. Promoting the Success of the Company (continued)

The Trust has been unsuccessful in appointing a Marketing and Communications Officer role but has been able to successfully use the posts previously described to explore other ways to promote the work of the Trust. It remains a key priority to recruit to this role in order to fulfil the Trust's ambition to be the 'go-to' Trust for prospective students, parents, staff and agencies. A communications strategy has been developed and any new recruit to the position will use social media more comprehensively and in a sustained way to communicate key messages from each school and the Trust.

The School Sports Network Co-ordinator continue to promote school-to-school working with primary schools, as normality resumes within Waltham Forest. This work disseminates a wealth of knowledge to teachers and students and provides a key approach to recruiting pupils from feeder schools for the Trust. In turn, the Trust Careers Lead is expanding support into local primary schools using the Arts Award and student Ambassadors to deliver the careers programme. The extra-curricular programme has gained new importance post COVID. The strong offer at each of the two schools will be enhanced to compensate for the lost opportunities that COVID has created. The importance of this part of the education offer is reflected in the fact that the Senior Vice Principal and the Vice Principal have been given the role of leading on the Personal Development section of the Ofsted Framework. The Trust has an intention that every child will access at least one extra-curricular activity during the school year and in line with the schools' Equality Objectives, the schools map this access to ensure that all student groups are well represented in this curriculum offer.

Significant investment was made in 2019-20 to refurbish teaching areas of our 6th Form provision at Chingford Foundation School. The transformation to the provision was phenomenal and has resulted in an increase in student intake for September 2021 from 215 to 288. It has been a fantastic journey for the school to promote an exceptional teaching and learning space for our young people.

For the academic year 2020-21, the Trust made a decision to invest further in its building stock. Capital works included extensive refurbishment to classrooms in the main building at Chingford Foundation School, painting and decoration to the New Block and complete refurbishment to the washrooms at South Chingford Foundation School. It is anticipated that the refurbishment works will further improve students' teaching environment and learning experiences as well as boosting student numbers in future years.

The Trust has a strong community presence, has maintained links with local charities and continues to develop its alumni database which will place it in a secure position for the future.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

a. Review of Financial Performance

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities SORP 2019, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Under the Charities SORP 2019, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided to support staff, to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the Trust. It should be noted that this does not present the Trust with any current liquidity problem. The employer pension contribution rates are assessed by the actuaries and it is expected the rates will increase over a period of years to help bring further reduction of this pension deficit in the future. Details of the Trust's defined benefit pension schemes are included in the Notes to these Financial Statements.

Chingford Foundation School continues to be popular for Years 7-11 and Year 7 intake for 2021-22 remains at 270 students. Due to significant capital investment in 2019-20, the Trust has seen a significant increase in post-16 students from September 2021. With the capital investments generating a significant income stream via student numbers, the school was able to fund the refurbishment of classrooms in the main building. Works carried out over Summer 2021 meant that the rooms were ready to accept students for the September 2021 intake.

It is recognised that capital funding from DfE is not sufficient to cover the cost of building maintenance for school buildings, especially for large schools. The school's PAN is 240. In recent years, more students have been admitted than PAN in order to maximise the efficiency of the broad curriculum offer and generate funding for repair and refurbishment of an ageing building stock. This resulted in an intake of an additional 40 students across Years 7-11. However, a sustained increase in number above PAN of 240 would require a significant change request to the DfE and so leaders will need to establish a sustainable financial model at PAN of 240.

South Chingford Foundation School continues to experience financial pressures. Significant work has been carried out to address the imbalance of staff on higher pay scales as a result of an ageing staff population, and for 2021-22, there has been the introduction of Early Careers Teachers. Falling rolls continue to be an issue for the school as it has failed to achieve its anticipated 130 students in September 2021, which will impact funding for future years. With low numbers in Years 10 and 11, it is hoped that an intake of at least 100 students as a minimum over the next two years will help to stabilise funding. August 2021 also saw the last group of Year 13 students leaving the school. The post-16 provision is currently under review.

Upgrading facilities included painting and redecoration of their new block and washrooms. It is hoped that improved facilities within the school will attract additional students in September 2022. With devolved formula capital allocations significantly below the funding required to cover the building improvements and maintenance, additional student numbers are needed if the school is to continue improving its building stock. In 2020-21, the Board of Trustees approved a cash loan from the Trust to the school to the sum of £92,513 to fund the refurbishment of the washrooms. The school is currently exploring CIF bids to support future building programmes.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

a. Review of Financial Performance (continued)

The recent local government announcement regarding pay calculation errors on the annual leave entitlement for term time staff has been concerning, and with backdated pay claims to January 2016 and no clear compensatory funding for academies, the Trust awaits to see how this will significantly and negatively impact its balances and reserves.

Lettings income, historically used to upgrade facilities, reduced to almost nil post COVID-19 pandemic and this continued into 2020-21. The Trust will revisit the launch of this source of income in 2021-22. The Trust is further developing their estates management strategy to incorporate CIF bids and SALIX loans, mindful of the burden on schools to provide an increasing percentage contribution in order to have a greater chance to secure funding.

The Trustees are continuing the work around rebranding and marketing the academies and promoting engagement with the community and the fruits of this work is seen in the take-up of rising Year 7 placements, Year 12 uptake and positive feedback from parents.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic remain ever present and the school has continued to ensure that protective equipment remains available to students and staff if required. Trustees and senior management have ensured that external support from the Health and Safety consultant remains in place and regular communication with staff on COVID precautions, updates and cases are issued to all staff. Additional on-site cleaning of touch points also remained in place.

Extra support from trained counsellors remain in place to support pupils' health and wellbeing post COVID and online support via Microsoft Teams and Zoom is available on request. The Trust has re-tendered and renewed its energy provider via a third party broker (Zenengi) to mitigate the rising cost of heating as a result to ventilation needs under the COVID guidelines. However, energy cost remains higher than pre COVID times and the Trust will monitor spend in light of all other cost pressures. A compilation of contracts as part of a contracts management review is currently underway as a means of ensuring that there is a robust financial review process in place for all contracts.

Staff absences remain challenging and will form part of the Trust focus for 2021-22.

b. Reserves Policy

The level of reserves held takes into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the nature of each reserves.

Reserves at 31 August 2021 attributed to Chingford Foundation School (CFS) and South Chingford Foundation School (SCFS) were as follows:

	CFS £'000	SCFS £'000	Total £'000
Restricted fund reserves/(deficit)	1,001	(74)	927
Unrestricted fund reserves	26	-	26
Pension (deficit)	(6,287)	(3,129)	(9,416)
Restricted capital assets fund	<u>24,117</u>	<u>10,556</u>	<u>34,673</u>
Total	<u>18,857</u>	<u>7,353</u>	<u>26,210</u>

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

b. Reserves Policy (continued)

The trustees will keep this level of reserves under review. The Trust's revenue reserves above, shown as restricted and unrestricted funds, have been earmarked to cover:

- Contribution towards any external CIF bid funding applications
- Targeted support to promote student learning and wellbeing
- Measured strategic reserves of £245,000 to balance the effect of any future fluctuations in pupil numbers that could impact on the current work undertaken by the Trust
- Circa £223,000 to support the contingency pot

c. Investment Policy

The Trust holds cash reserves at banks in interest-bearing accounts. The trustees will endeavour to maintain a working balance of a minimum of £100,000 to respond to unexpected financial demands and to minimise any financial risks facing the trust. Trustees will review the reserves of the Trust in light of its risks and opportunities and adjust accordingly in 2021-22. The Trust does not currently hold stocks and securities.

d. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust operates using simple financial instruments, principally bank accounts, trade creditors and sundry debtors and creditors, all of which carry minimal risks or uncertainties. Risks are reviewed regularly as part of the Trust's system of internal controls and robust systems of cash management are in place, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing. Surplus cash is invested with the Trust's bankers to maximize interest income. In the absence of borrowings and with low prevailing interest rates, the Trust is not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

e. Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The key risks and uncertainties identified are:

- Effects of a 'Require Improvement' Ofsted grade at Chingford Foundation School and the future pupil number projections on first place choices beyond the next two years.
- Difficulty in recruiting students to South Chingford Foundation School has reduced funding and increased cost pressures. As the school has a roll of less than 520 students (Years 7-11), it is increasingly difficult to provide a balanced and broad curriculum and maintain staffing structures. ASCL leaders note that schools facing these pressures may not be financially viable in the long term.
- Loss of Year 13 cohort at South Chingford Foundation School in 2020-21 academic year, no post-16 provision and loss of corresponding funding is of particular concern. The school is currently looking at ways to reduce overhead costs in line with current funding stream. Mid-term admissions is having an impact on the curriculum and results, and its influence on parental perceptions of the school. In-year net migration of pupils from the school across all year groups is proving especially challenging. It is hoped that improvement to teaching facilities will aid in student retention.
- Uncertainty in funding for future years is of concern to both schools. The Trust welcomed the additional grant funding made available to schools during the COVID period to support schools.
- Lack of academy capital funding which is not aligned with the funding required to maintain fixed assets, particularly buildings. This remains a real concern especially in light of the demands on revenue funding and the Trust's inability to afford significant transfers to capital costs and the rising cost of contributions to secure CIF bids.
- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing threat, uncertainty and disruption it causes to the delivery of educational provision.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

f. Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas (e.g. health and safety, behaviour and school trips), and its finances. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academies face and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds), and internal financial controls in order to minimise risks. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured the Trust has adequate insurance cover.

Chingford Academies Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

FUNDRAISING

The Trust did not undertake formal fundraising activities during the year and did not use any external fundraisers.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The trust is a large company, as determined by sections 465 and 466 of the Companies Act 2006, and consumes more than 40,000 KWh of energy (in the UK) in the reporting period.

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period September to August		2020-21	2019-20
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)		2,928,403	2,702,524
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional)	Gas	2,200,439	1,945,376
	Electricity	723,595	750,092
	Transport fuel	4,369	7,056
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Gas consumption	403.03	357.70
	Owned transport – mini-buses	<u>1.09</u>	<u>1.37</u>
	Total Scope 1	<u>404.12</u>	<u>359.07</u>
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Purchased electricity	153.64	174.88
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e	Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.00	0.00
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e		557.76	533.95
Intensity ratio in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil		0.2701	0.2635
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.			
Intensity measurement The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.			
Measures taken to improve energy efficiency We have started to install smart meters across all sites and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites.			

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2021

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust engaged Grebot Donnelly, education marketing specialists, in 2019-20. From the work carried out with Grebot Donnelly, the Trust has formulated an action plan which includes rebranding the Trust and individual academies, redeveloping the websites, and appointing a Marketing and Communication Manager to promote the future development of the Trust and individual academies.

Organisational structure reviews will ensure that they are fit for purpose, including appointing key trust-wide posts to improve efficiency of services and economies of scale:

- in light of the marketing activities undertaken in 2019-20
- to support the outcomes of the ESFA's SRMA report of July 2019
- to support the newly created MAT development plan

The Trust development plan for 2021-22 will focus on the concurrent development of assessment, data and trust-wide reporting to maximise impact on the use of data for efficiency and effectiveness of all of the Trust's activities, including HR and educational outcomes. Alongside this, the Trust's secondary schools would like to reach out for a collaborative engagement with a local primary school.

The academies have undertaken self-evaluation activities to correctly identify objectives for the next year and beyond.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

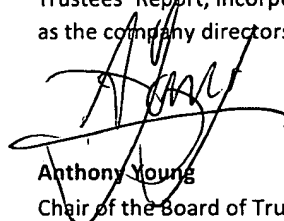
The Trust and its trustees did not act as a custodian trustee during the current or the previous year.

AUDITOR

In so far 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 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, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 15 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Chingford Academies Trust ("the 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.

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. During the year under review, the trustees held 4 full trustee meetings. In addition, there were regular meetings covering audit, finance, premises, personnel, curriculum and governance. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Board of Trustees	Finance Committee	Pay & Personnel Committee	Premises Committee
Anthony Young (Chair of the Board of Trustees)	4 out of 4	3 out of 3	3 out of 3	3 out of 3
John Bruce	4 out of 4	-	3 out of 3	-
Steve Delaney	3 out of 4	1 out of 3	-	-
Shakil Motala	4 out of 4	2 out of 3	-	-
Katherine Ward	3 out of 4	-	2 out of 3	-
Jane Benton (CEO & Accounting Officer)	4 out of 4	3 out of 3	3 out of 3	3 out of 3

Anthony Young remained Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to:

- guide and assist the CEO and Board of Trustees in all matters concerning budgeting, finance management, policies, legislation and regulations including financial priorities
- recommend the annual budget to the Board of Trustees
- ensure funding received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and other sources is used only in accordance with the conditions attached
- ensure all annual statements are produced in line with ESFA requirements
- promote and monitor the Trust's aims and ethos and operate value for money
- monitor at least termly, the actual income and expenditure and revised forecast against the annual budget, making recommendations

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Governance (continued)

The trustees exercised their right under the Academy Trust Handbook 2021 not to continue with an Audit Committee in 2021-22. This decision was based on the Trust turnover and the limits set within the Handbook. The Audit Committee was replaced in September 2019 with a Risk Management Sub-Committee. The trustees have agreed a programme of works for 2021-22 and will ensure transparency and expertise through rotation of attendees and consultants at meetings.

Review of Value for Money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The trustees are continually looking at new procurement opportunities to reduce prices and achieve trust-wide savings. Over the past year, the Accounting Officer has sought to achieve best value by:

- tapping into the benefits of cloud technology as a means of improving efficiencies at MAT level
- maximising opportunities afforded via CIF and SEEF bids to improve the teaching spaces for our students
- continue to review high value contracts with a view to ensure the Trust is receiving best value and economies of scale

Purpose of the System of Internal Controls

The system of internal controls 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 controls is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal controls has been in place in the Trust for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

The Risk and Control Framework

The Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures and accountability. In particular, it includes:

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

The Trust works with an independent consultant to review the financial controls and accounting records, and to provide support where necessary. Work is carried out remotely where possible and this has proved invaluable as accounting records could still be checked during the COVID period and it worked efficiently. All remedial work is completed on a termly basis. The services of the independent consultant include preparation of the end of year accounts for both academies and the Trust's consolidated financial statements for external audit, and preparation of ESFA Accounts Return for approval by the external auditor.

The Trust has retained the services of Lauder Baker Limited (Chartered Accountants) for the provision of audit advice, external audit, and submission of the Trust's audited financial statements to Companies House and ESFA. All remedial work as outlined by the external auditor is completed annually.


Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question, the review was supported by:

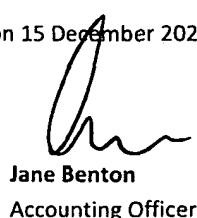
- review of the accounting records during and post COVID lockdown period
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the Senior Management Team within the Trust who have responsibilities for the development and maintenance of the 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 Finance Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Jane Benton
Accounting Officer

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust"), I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's 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 Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

I confirm that I and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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



Jane Benton
Accounting Officer

Date: 15 December 2021

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

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

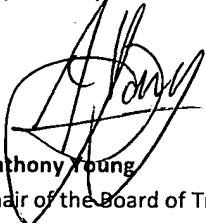
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that, in its conduct and operation, the charitable company applies financial and other controls which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:


Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 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 Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

BASIS OF OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES 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 Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report 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 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 not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST (continued)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 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 Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

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

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the 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 Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

 for Landau Baker Limited

Michael Durst (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Landau Baker Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Mountcliff House

154 Brent Street

London NW4 2DR

Date: 15 December 2021

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 October 2012 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Chingford Academies Trust during the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective Responsibilities of the Trust's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 September 2012, and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY
TO CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**
(continued)

Approach (continued)

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the Trust's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the Trust and specific transactions identified from our review.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Landau Baker Limited

Reporting Accountant
Landau Baker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Mountcliff House
154 Brent Street
London NW4 2DR

Date: 15 December 2021

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	2020/21 Total £000	2019/20 Total £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	43	43	806
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	4	-	14,427	-	14,427	13,930
Trading activities	5	-	44	-	44	189
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	5
Total		-	14,471	43	14,514	14,930
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	1	18	-	19	98
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust's educational operations	7	-	14,167	887	15,054	14,752
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total		1	14,185	887	15,073	14,850
Net income / (expenditure)		(1)	286	(844)	(559)	80
Transfers between funds	18	-	(401)	401	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	18,24	-	233	-	233	(946)
Net movement in funds		(1)	118	(443)	(326)	(866)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		27	(8,607)	35,116	26,536	27,402
Total funds carried forward		26	(8,489)	34,673	26,210	26,536

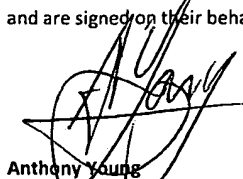
CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Company Number: 08179498

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Note	2021 £000	2021 £000	2020 £000	2020 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		34,643		35,112
Current assets					
Debtors	14	1,121		1,730	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,120		568	
		<u>2,241</u>		<u>2,298</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	15	(1,062)		(1,462)	
Net current assets			1,179		836
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>35,822</u>		<u>35,948</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	16		(196)		(247)
Net assets excluding pension scheme liabilities			<u>35,626</u>		<u>35,701</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24		(9,416)		(9,165)
Total net assets			<u>26,210</u>		<u>26,536</u>
Funds of the academy trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset fund	18	34,673		35,116	
Restricted income fund	18	927		558	
Pension reserve	18	(9,416)		(9,165)	
Total restricted funds			26,184		26,509
Unrestricted income funds	18		<u>26</u>		<u>27</u>
Total funds			<u>26,210</u>		<u>26,536</u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 48 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue, on 15 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



Anthony Young
Chair of the Board of Trustees

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2021**

		2021	2020
	Note	£000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	20	975	8
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(48)	252
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(375)	(1,776)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		552	(1,516)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		568	2,084
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	23	1,120	568

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), 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 (FRS102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Chingford Academies Trust ("the Trust") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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 Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

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

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Other Income

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

Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the banks.

Donated Goods, Facilities and Services

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

Donated Fixed Assets (excluding transfers on conversion / 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 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.

1.4 Expenditure

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

Expenditure on Raising Funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Tangible Fixed Assets

Assets costing £2,000 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.

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

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

Freehold buildings	33 - 50 years
Long leasehold buildings	30 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	5 years
Catering equipment	10 years
ICT hardware	3 years
Motor Vehicles	4 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 re-classified 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.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at their settlement amount after any trade discount offered and less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of trade discount due.

1.7 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 3 months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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

1.9 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the 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.

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

1.10 Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. 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 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.11 Taxation

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

1.12 Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the 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 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. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions 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 Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

1.14 Fund Accounting

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

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

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

1.15 Critical Accounting Estimates and Areas of Judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pensions liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The net book value of tangible fixed assets is based on the original cost of the assets, net of provision for depreciation. The depreciation provision to-date is based on the trustees' assessment of the estimated useful economic lives of such assets.

Critical areas of judgement

Other than the estimates discussed above, the trustees do not consider that there are any key judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements.

1.16 Agency Arrangements

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing post 16 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and disbursements to students are included in the Statement of Financial Activities. To the extent that bursary funds had not been fully disbursed at each 31 August, expenditure was accrued and the unspent bursary funds included as other creditors in the Balance Sheet.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

2 General Annual Grant (GAG)

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the academy trust is not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Capital grants	-	43	43	802
Other donations	-	-	-	4
	-	43	43	806
Total 2020	4	802		806

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
. General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	12,094	12,094	11,837
. Rates Relief	-	70	70	70
. Pupil Premium	-	561	561	600
. Teachers Pay Grant	-	593	593	585
. Post 16 Bursary Funds	-	21	21	21
	-	13,339	13,339	13,113
Other government grants				
. SEN top-up funding	-	663	663	568
. Other local authority grants	-	88	88	51
	-	751	751	619
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	-	86	86	119
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
. COVID catch-up premium	-	149	149	-
. Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	29	29	79
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
. Other COVID-19 funding: Mass testing	-	73	73	-
Total	-	14,427	14,427	13,930
Total 2020	-	13,930		13,930

The academy received £149,000 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £45,000, with the remaining £104,000 carried forward in the restricted funds to be spent in 2021/22.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021****5 Trading activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Hire of facilities	-	20	20	45
Catering income	-	-	-	4
Music fees income	-	-	-	17
Teacher training	-	3	3	9
Income from clubs	-	-	-	-
Income from trips and activities	-	14	14	43
Insurance receipts	-	-	-	45
Other income	-	7	7	26
	-	44	44	189
Total 2020	6	183		189

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	5
	-	-	-	5
Total 2020	0	5		5

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

7 Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2021	2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure on raising funds:					
- Direct costs	-	-	19	19	98
- Support costs	-	-	-	-	-
Academy trust's educational operations:					
- Direct costs (Note 8)	9,383	-	1,584	10,967	10,748
- Support costs (Note 8)	2,491	811	785	4,087	4,004
	11,874	811	2,388	15,073	14,850

Of the total expenditure, £1,000 (2020: £8,000) was to unrestricted funds and £14,073,000 (2020: £14,842,000) was to restricted funds.

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Depreciation	887	798
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(7)
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	11	10
- other services	-	-

Severance payments to members of staff upon termination of their employment, as disclosed in Note 9 (b), are included within expenditure above.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021
8 Charitable activities

	Educational operations	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£000	£000	£000
Direct costs			
Educational supplies	171	171	220
Educational consultancy	185	185	219
Examination fees	156	156	149
Technology costs	159	159	111
Other direct costs	50	50	67
Staff development and training	36	36	28
Depreciation	827	827	734
Staff restructuring costs	-	-	-
Agency supply teaching and educational support	229	229	225
Wages and salaries	6,897	6,897	6,715
National Insurance	737	737	714
Pension costs	1,520	1,520	1,566
	10,967	10,967	10,748
Support costs			
Maintenance of premises	64	64	81
Cleaning	350	350	323
Water and sewerage	23	23	17
Energy costs	182	182	178
Rent and rates	74	74	70
Insurance	38	38	49
Other occupancy costs	80	80	73
Security and transport	16	16	22
Catering costs	277	277	235
Professional fees	61	61	47
Other support costs	49	49	97
Technology costs	114	114	97
Legal costs - conversion	-	-	-
Legal costs - other	5	5	5
Governance costs	19	19	18
Recruitment and staff support	31	31	28
Depreciation	60	60	64
(Profit) on disposal of motor vehicle	-	-	(7)
Staff restructuring costs	-	-	-
Agency supply non-teaching	49	49	22
Wages and salaries	1,604	1,604	1,579
National Insurance	168	168	160
Pension costs	670	670	711
LGPS scheme net interest cost	139	139	122
LGPS scheme admin expenses	14	14	13
	4,087	4,087	4,004

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021****9 Staff****a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the period were:	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	8,501	8,294
Social security costs	878	848
Apprenticeship levy	27	26
Pension costs	2,190	2,277
	11,596	11,445
Agency staff costs	278	247
Staff restructuring costs	-	-
	11,874	11,692
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Redundancy payments	-	-
Severance payments: non-contractual payments	-	-
Other restructuring costs: Pension strain costs	-	-
	-	-

b. Non statutory/non contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £Nil (2020: £Nil).

c. Staff numbers

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

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Teachers	132	138
Educational and other support staff	109	111
Senior management team	13	11
	254	260

d Higher paid staff

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

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
in the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	5
in the band £70,001 - £80,000	6	4
in the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	2
in the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	1

e Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on Page 1 of the financial statements. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,522,983 (2020: £1,339,366).

10 Related Party Transactions - 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, and not in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Jane Benton (Executive Principal and CEO)

- . Remuneration £125,000 - £130,000 (2020: £120,000 - £125,000)
- . Employer's pension contributions paid £30,000 - £35,000 (2020: £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2020: £Nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

11 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 insurance provides cover up to £5 million on any one claim and the cost for the year was £334 (2020: £334). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Central services

No central services were provided by the academy trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021
13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £000	Long-term Leasehold Property £000	Fixtures & Fittings £000	Computer Equipment £000	Catering Equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000
Cost						
At 1 September 2020	27,569	11,342	400	1,757	252	53
Additions	153	189	25	48	3	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	27,722	11,531	425	1,805	255	53
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2020	3,482	734	361	1,521	154	9
Charged in year	561	132	23	134	26	11
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	4,043	866	384	1,655	180	20
Net book values						
At 31 August 2021	23,679	10,665	41	150	75	33
At 31 August 2020	24,087	10,608	39	236	98	44

Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Total £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	41,373
Additions	418
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2021	41,791
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2020	6,261
Charged in year	887
Disposals	-
At 31 August 2021	7,148
Net book values	
At 31 August 2021	34,643
At 31 August 2020	35,112

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021****14 Debtors**

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	16	8
VAT recoverable	139	117
Other debtors	37	4
LGPS pension prepayment	669	1,213
Prepayments	118	126
Accrued income	142	262
	1,121	1,730

The LGPS pension prepayment is in respect of projected employer pension contributions covering the period to 31 March 2023. The agreed LGPS employer contribution rate will be discounted for the academies in this trust for this future period.

The pension prepayment due after more than one year is £196,000 (2020: £744,000).

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	366	735
Other taxation and social security	222	207
Salix loans	62	59
Other creditors	228	331
Accruals	127	45
Deferred income	57	85
	1,062	1,462

Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	85	113
Released from previous years	(85)	(113)
Resources deferred in the year	57	85
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	57	85

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for ESFA rates relief of £41,119 (2020: £40,580), rental income £15,248 (2020: £15,248), School Games income £Nil (2020: £13,884) and school trips of £Nil (2020: £15,156).

Included within creditors are the following Salix loans, each loan is repayable in half-yearly instalments due on 1 March and 1 September each year:

- £31,029 loan repayable over 8 years at £1,939.31 from Mar 2017, repayments collected from Sep 2018
- £10,328 loan repayable over 8 years at £645.50 from Mar 2018, repayments collected from Mar 2018
- £17,840 loan repayable over 8 years at £1,115 from Mar 2019 but no instalments collected to-date
- £149,835 loan repayable over 6 years at £12,486.25 from Sep 2020, repayments collected from Sep 2020
- £108,061 loan repayable over 6 years at £9,005 from Sep 2020, repayments collected from Sep 2020

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Salix loans	196	247

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

17 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes post 16 busary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. During the year, the academy received £20,951 (2020: £21,379) and disbursed £21,387 (2020: £9,413) from accumulated bursary funds. At 31 Aug 2021, an amount of £85,322 (2020: £85,758) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed bursary funds to-date.

18 Statement of funds

	Brought forward 1 Sep 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses & transfers £000	Carried forward 31 Aug 2021 £000
Restricted general funds					
General funds	558	14,322	(13,656)	(401)	823
COVID catch-up premium	0	149	(45)	0	104
Pension reserve	(9,165)	0	(484)	233	(9,416)
	(8,607)	14,471	(14,185)	(168)	(8,489)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets transferred on conversion	29,070	0	(496)	0	28,574
DfE/ESFA capital grants	6,046	43	(391)	401	6,099
	35,116	43	(887)	401	34,673
Total restricted funds	26,509	14,514	(15,072)	233	26,184
Total unrestricted funds					
General funds	0	0	0	0	0
Private funds	27	0	(1)	0	26
	27	0	(1)	0	26
Total funds	26,536	14,514	(15,073)	233	26,210

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

	Brought forward 1 Sep 2019 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses & transfers £000	Carried forward 31 Aug 2020 £000
Restricted general funds					
General funds	875	14,118	(13,437)	(998)	558
Pension reserve	(7,605)	0	(614)	(946)	(9,165)
	(6,730)	14,118	(14,051)	(1,944)	(8,607)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Assets transferred on conversion	29,565	0	(495)	0	29,070
DfE/ESFA capital grants	4,046	802	(296)	1,494	6,046
	33,611	802	(791)	1,494	35,116
Total restricted funds	26,881	14,920	(14,842)	(450)	26,509
Total unrestricted funds					
General funds	496	4	(4)	(496)	0
Private funds	25	6	(4)	0	27
	521	10	(8)	(496)	27
Total funds	27,402	14,930	(14,850)	(946)	26,536

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

18 Statement of funds (continued)

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

- Restricted general funds are resources for educational purposes.
- Restricted fixed asset funds are resources to be applied to specific capital purposes.
- Unrestricted 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.

a. Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August were allocated as follows:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Chingford Foundation School	1,027	572
South Chingford Foundation School	(74)	13
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	953	585
Restricted fixed asset fund	34,673	35,116
Pension reserve	(9,416)	(9,165)
Total	26,210	26,536

b. Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	2021 £000
Chingford Foundation School	6,793	1,836	116	1,590	10,335
South Chingford Foundation School	2,590	655	55	813	4,113
Inter-academy charges	-	-	-	(262)	(262)
Academy Trust	9,383	2,491	171	2,141	14,186

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

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	2020 £000
Chingford Foundation School	6,569	1,866	156	2,009	10,600
South Chingford Foundation School	2,650	607	64	1,147	4,468
Inter-academy charges	-	-	-	(218)	(218)
Academy Trust	9,219	2,473	220	2,938	14,850

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021****19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	General Funds	Fixed Asset Funds	2021
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	34,643	34,643
Current assets	26	2,185	30	2,241
Current liabilities	-	(1,062)	-	(1,062)
Non-current liabilities	-	(196)	-	(196)
Pension scheme liability	-	(9,416)	-	(9,416)
Total net assets	26	(8,489)	34,673	26,210

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

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	General Funds	Fixed Asset Funds	2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	35,112	35,112
Current assets	27	2,267	4	2,298
Current liabilities	-	(1,462)	-	(1,462)
Non-current liabilities	-	(247)	-	(247)
Pension scheme liability	-	207	-	(9,165)
Total net assets	27	765	35,116	26,536

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(559)	80
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation (note 13)	887	798
(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets (note 7)	-	(7)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(43)	(802)
Interest receivable (note 6)	-	(5)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable (note 25)	331	479
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 25)	153	135
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	609	(1,287)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(403)	617
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	975	8
21 Cash flows from financing activities	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Repayments of borrowing	(48)	(6)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	258
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(48)	252
22 Cash flows from investing activities	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	5
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	7
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(418)	(2,590)
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	43	802
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	(375)	(1,776)
23 Analysis cash and cash equivalents	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	1,120	568
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,120	568

24 Analysis of changes in net debt	At 1 Sep	Cash	Acquisition/	New	Other	At 31 Aug
	2020	flows	Disposal of	finance	non-cash	2021
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash	568	552	-	-	-	1,120
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	568	552	-	-	-	1,120
Loans falling due within 1 year	(59)	48	-	-	(51)	(62)
Loans falling due after more than 1 year	(247)	-	-	-	51	(196)
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	262	600	-	-	-	862

25 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

At the balance sheet date, employer contributions amounting to £669,167 covering the period to 31 March 2023 (2020: £1,213,083) were prepaid to the LGPS and are included in debtors.

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 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 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £1,292,968 (2020: £1,268,877).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

25 Pension and similar obligations (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 2021 was £669,000 (2020: £650,000), of which employer contributions totalled £544,000 (2020: £529,000) and employee contributions totalled £125,000 (2020: £121,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 28.1% for employers and tiered rates between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees. There is also a prepayment of pension at the balance sheet date as disclosed in Note 14.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 Aug 2021	At 31 Aug 2020
Rate of increase in salaries	4.20%	3.90%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/deferment	2.80%	2.50%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.70%	1.80%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70%	2.40%

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

	At 31 Aug 2021	At 31 Aug 2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.7	22.6
Females	25.2	25.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.4	24.2
Females	27.1	27.0

Sensitivity analysis	At 31 Aug	Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. Discount Rate	Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. Inflation Rate	Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. Pay Growth	Sensitivity 4 + 1 year Life Expectancy	Sensitivity 5 + 0.1% Change in 2020/21 Investment Returns	Sensitivity 5 - 0.1%
At 31 Aug 2021:	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	15,673	15,406	15,944	15,699	16,170	15,673	15,673
Assets	(6,926)	(6,926)	(6,926)	(6,926)	(6,926)	(6,996)	(6,856)
Deficit	8,747	8,480	9,018	8,773	9,244	8,677	8,817
Projected service cost for next year	889	868	910	889	920	889	889
Projected net interest cost for next year	149	152	153	149	158	148	150
At 31 Aug 2020:	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£001	£002
Liabilities	13,779	13,544	14,018	13,805	14,175	13,779	13,779
Assets	(5,827)	(5,827)	(5,827)	(5,827)	(5,827)	(5,891)	(5,763)
Deficit	7,952	7,717	8,191	7,978	8,348	7,888	8,016
Projected service cost for next year	787	769	806	787	812	787	787
Projected net interest cost for next year	143	147	148	144	150	142	144

CHINGFORD ACADEMIES TRUST**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2021****25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)****Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)**

	Fair value at 31 Aug 2021 £000	Fair value at 31 Aug 2020 £000
The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:		
Equities	5,456	3,665
Non-government bonds	-	-
Property	645	495
Cash and other liquid assets	264	321
Other	561	1,346
Total market value of assets	6,926	5,827
Actual return on scheme assets	878	(94)
Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2021 £000	2020 £000
Current service cost	813	759
Net interest cost	139	122
Admin expenses	14	13
Past service cost (gain)	-	12
Effect of curtailments	138	-
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	1,104	906
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2021 £000	2020 £000
At 1 September	13,779	12,357
Current service cost	813	759
Interest cost	248	219
Employee contributions	125	121
Past service cost (gain)	-	12
Actuarial (gain)/loss - experience	(253)	435
Actuarial (gain)/loss - assumptions	1,030	256
Effects of curtailments	138	-
Benefits paid	(207)	(380)
At 31 August	15,673	13,779
Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets	2021 £000	2020 £000
At 1 September	5,827	4,820
Interest income	109	97
Actuarial gain/(loss)	1,010	(255)
Admin expenses	(14)	(13)
Employer contributions	76	1,437
Employee contributions	125	121
Benefits paid	(207)	(380)
At 31 August	6,926	5,827
Employer contributions prepaid at 31 Aug (see Note 14)	(669)	(1,213)
At 31 August excluding prepaid contributions	6,257	4,614

26 Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in Note 10.

27 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.

28 Contingent liability

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the schools in the Trust claimed for exceptional support funding from the government in 2019/20 in respect of:

- additional premises-related costs over school holiday periods
- additional cleaning, and
- extra free school meal costs other than through the national voucher scheme.

A grant of £79,289 was approved and paid to the schools but there is a contingent liability that this funding may be recovered by the government in future years. The effect of this is that the reserves of the Trust will be reduced by the amount of the grant received.