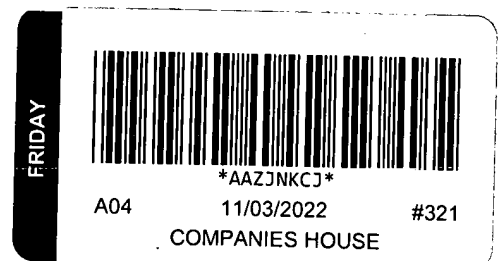


THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

(A Company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

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THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Diane Hancock Robert Jones Rosalind Allsop Allan Wilton Iain Gilchrist
Trustees	Diane Hancock, Chair of Trustees John Clements, Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer (Resigned 31 August 2021) Victoria Marrow Christopher Hancock Kathryn Hill Neil Cobbe Iain Gilchrist Joseph Figg, Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer (appointed 1 September 2021)
Company registered number	09380027
Company name	The Learning Partnership Trust
Principal and registered office	Hatfield Heath Primary School Hatfield Heath Essex CM22 7EA
Company Secretary	Victoria Marrow
Senior Management Team	Executive Headteacher, John Clements (resigned 31 August 2021) Headteacher (Roseacres Primary School), Isobel Barron Headteacher (Takeley Primary School), Andy Cosslett Headteacher (Hatfield Heath Primary School), Elizabeth Gelston Business Director, Victoria Marrow
Independent Auditors	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 20 North Street Bishop's Stortford Herts CM23 2LN
Solicitors	Stone King 30 Station Road Cambridge CB1 2RE

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

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 Learning Partnership Trust (The Trust or the Charitable Company) for the year ended 31 August 2021. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Trust operates the Academies serving a catchment area in Hatfield Heath and Takeley in Essex. The Academies have a combined potential capacity of 840 (2 x one form entry, one two form entry).

The Trust was established in 2015 but is still developing. The Trust is a collection of 3 local primary schools, only one of which is more than one-form entry. Prior to September 2018 our CEO was also the Head of the original Sponsor School, Hatfield Heath. This was unsustainable. As a result, he stepped down from his Headship and a new Head was appointed for Hatfield Heath. Under the new structure the CEO's contract was agreed to operate part-time. Fundamental to the success of this new model, and staff well-being, has been the need to build capacity and leadership with key members of staff, Trustees and Governors, to identify and address the primary priorities across the Trust, communicate these effectively to all stakeholders, and ensure that we do not allow ourselves to be distracted or deviated from these. We would be considered a small Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and the financial sustainability of this model could be questioned. This has been an area of focus for us throughout 2020-2021 and will continue. However, statistics provided by Sir David Carter would show that we are in the majority category:

"By March 2020, there were 9,094 academies across the country run by 1,543 multi-academy trusts. 75% of these were responsible for 2-5 schools; 23% were responsible for 6-25 schools; and less than 2% of trusts operated 26 schools or more".

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are its primary governing documents. The Trustees of The Charitable Company are also the Directors for the purposes of company law. The terms Trustee and Director are interchangeable. The Charitable Company includes the following Academies:

- Hatfield Heath Primary School converted on 1 February 2015
- Roseacres Primary School opened and joined the Trust on 1 September 2015
- Takeley Primary School converted and joined the Trust on 1 January 2016.

The operation of the Academies and employment of staff are the responsibility of the Trustees. The Trust retains control of Academy budgets and finances, and monitors these through its Finance, Operations, Audit and Risk Committee, Trustees Meetings and individual monthly meetings with Head Teachers. Throughout this report the Board of Trustees is referred to as the Main Governing Body (MGB). Each Academy has appointed Local Governing Bodies (LGB) who have delegated authority to administer their Academy within agreed budgets. All roles and responsibilities are identified within the current scheme of delegation.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the period are included in the Reference and Administrative Details section. Within this Report the term Trustee or Director refers to a member of the MGB and the term Governor to a member of an LGB.

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.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Trustees and Officers' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and details of the costs are disclosed in Note 13 to the accounts.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Members may appoint up to 8 Trustees, through such process as they may determine. The Trustees may appoint co-opted Trustees. The long term approach to appointing new Trustees is to ensure the required skillset is met and maintained. If a vacancy arose the process to reappoint would include:

- Conducting a skills audit of the current Trustees, and look to identify any gaps in the skillset in order to try and appoint someone with the skills needed to fill any gaps.
- Establishing whether any current Trustees or Members are aware of any suitable candidates who they would encourage to apply for the post.
- Advertising the role.
- Ensure the candidate is made aware of the expectations and responsibilities associated with the role

The arrangements are as set out in the Articles and Funding Agreement.

Trustees are appointed for a fixed term. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is an ex officio member of the MGB. Other Trustees are elected to office or appointed if there are insufficient candidates offering themselves for election. The Articles of Association make provision for up to 8 Trustees plus the CEO.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees and Governors

The Trust is committed to providing adequate opportunities for Trustees and Governors to undertake and receive suitable training so as to enable them to perform their role effectively. There is a named induction/link Trustee who has the responsibility for identifying and encouraging participation of appropriate training in relevant key areas. In addition to external training opportunities exist for in-house training and development and attendance at conferences. New Trustees and Governors are strongly encouraged to attend training programmes as part of our expectations.

Organisational Structure

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the Funding Agreement with the Department of Education, plus an agreed Scheme of Delegation.

The MGB, meets on at least 6 occasions each year (9 board meetings have taken place in the 2020/2021 academic year 2 of which were extraordinary meetings) in addition to the Finance, Operations Audit and Risk Committee meetings and sharply focussed LGB meetings and key meetings involving core stakeholders. The MGB is responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. The Trustees are responsible for setting strategic policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring The Trust by the use of those budgets and making major decisions about the direction of The Trust, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. The Governors within their LGB's are responsible for implementing strategic policy, ensuring the appropriateness of annual budgets and capital expenditure projects for their Academy. The monitoring of performance against that budget is done primarily by the Finance, Operations, Audit and Risk Committee who report to the Directors.

The Academy Senior Leadership Teams (SLT's) control the Academies at an executive level implementing policies and reporting to their LGB. Each SLT is responsible for the day to day operation of their Academy, in particular organising staff, resources and students. They are responsible for the authorisation of spending in accordance with the agreed spending limits within financial regulations and agreed budgets and for the appointment of staff, below senior leadership level i.e. all appointments except Deputy and above, following vetting and safeguarding recruitment processes.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trust Senior Management Team comprising of the CEO, 3 Head teachers and the Business Director who looks across the Trust and aligns local SLT and LGB activity with the strategic aims of The Trust as a whole.

The Trust's CEO is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel include Trustees and those staff to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

Key management's pay and remuneration is set by the MGB, upon the recommendation of the Pay Committee. Advice is taken, where appropriate from Local Authority HR to benchmark and MAT and Academy size is taken into account. In addition, pay levels may be affected by nationally agreed pay awards, the ability to recruit and retain in post, all of which are in accordance with the Trust's appointment and pay policies.

All amendments to key management's pay and remuneration is approved by the Pay Committee and ratified by the MGB.

Trade Union Facility

One member of staff is a Trade Union Representative. This member of staff was not required to undertake any union duties during the period 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021 that required time off.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust is not part of a wider network, neither does it have a formal sponsor.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object and aim of the Charitable Company is the operation of a family of Academies to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities within its local community between the ages of 4 and 11.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

During the year the Trust has worked towards these aims by:

- Supporting and developing leadership at all levels and for both staff and Trustees/Governors through coaching, mentoring, training, external support and collaboration.
- Working collaboratively to ensure our Schools remained open during the Covid-19 pandemic and provided high quality remote education for those pupils at home.
- Employing external consultants to work with, and support our Schools where areas for development are identified.
- Maximising the use of the qualified school based moderators across the Trust to verify judgements being made.
- Increasing the frequency of MGB meetings from one meeting per term to a minimum of two meetings per term to improve effectiveness and opportunities for challenge.
- Providing training for Governors in relation to risk, finance and Ofsted.
- Reviewing and improving the quality of the assessment data presented by our Schools to make it more meaningful, consistent and comparable. Ensuring that the data presented reports both attainment and progress, is properly analysed and monitored, and that the appropriate support and action is then put in place in Schools to maximise pupil success in all year groups and for all groups of pupils.
- Ensuring School Development Plans are data driven, focused, aspirational yet realistic, monitored reviewed and amended as appropriate.
- Enhancing the learning environments and resources to support pupil success.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives for the Academic Year 2020/2021

- To monitor and support the well-being of pupils and staff following the full return to School in September.
- To obtain baseline assessments to establish any gaps in learning due to the partial closure of Schools due to Covid-19.
- To review the quality and effectiveness of our remote curriculum provision so that should we have another national/local lockdown or any bubbles self-isolating we can be confident that learning opportunities are not impaired.
- To further secure and develop the quality of teaching and learning.
- To further improve the rates of progress and attainment.
- To ensure the curriculum provided by our Schools is ambitious and designed to give all learners, particularly those most disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or high needs, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- To ensure our resources are deployed efficiently and effectively to ensure the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders.

Strategies to achieve our objectives:

- Having a curriculum that sets out knowledge, skills and concepts in a structured sequence so that it 'builds' to end points. Making sure the intent and implementation match.
- Ensuring leaders at all levels have thought through the progression map for each subject so they understand exactly what knowledge and skills pupils in each year group are expected to know have.
- Having teachers with expert knowledge who are good at both explanation and questioning. They are able to transfer key concepts into the long-term memory and embed them. They are able to adapt their teaching where necessary.
- Ensure that leaders and teachers use assessment well in order to help pupils embed and use knowledge fluently or to check understanding and inform teaching.
- Creating learning environments that allow pupils to focus on learning both in terms of the resources and materials available and the culture within the class so that it is fully inclusive and all are encouraged to participate and are not afraid to contribute in case they get it wrong i.e. creating environments that build and encourage pupil development.
- Being alert to staff well-being and encouraging them to work smarter not harder.
- Continue to support and build leadership capacity within each School and collectively across the trust.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that by working towards the objects and aims of the Trust as detailed above, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all national tests were cancelled. Therefore, there is no published attainment and progress data for 2020 or 2021. Previous published data shows the following:

Hatfield Heath Primary School

- The percentage of pupils attaining the expected standard in combined reading, writing and maths at the end of KS2, 2017-2019 is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils achieving the higher standard in combined reading, writing and maths at the end of KS2, 2017-2019 is above the national average.
- The average scaled score in reading at KS2, 2017-2019 is above the national average.
- The average scaled score in maths at KS2, 2017-2019 is slightly below the national average.
- The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in the Early Years achieving a good level of development is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in reading is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in writing is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in maths is above the national average.
- Progress in reading and writing is average and well below average in maths.

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

Early Years	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
GLD	76.70%	72%	80%	72%
Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Pupils passed	90%	82.50%	90%	82%
Key Stage 1	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Reading	ARE = 67.7%	ARE = 75.4%	ARE = 83%	ARE = 75%
	GD = 32.3%	GD = 25.6%	GD = 40%	GD = 25 %
Writing	ARE = 67.7%	ARE = 69.9%	ARE = 80%	ARE = 69%
	GD = 25.8%	GD = 15.9%	GD = 23%	GD = 15%
Maths	ARE = 74.2%	ARE = 76%	ARE = 80%	ARE = 76%
	GD = 29%	GD = 21.8%	GD = 30%	GD = 22%

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Key Stage 2	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Reading, Writing,	ARE = 61.3%	ARE = 64.4%	ARE = 62.1%	ARE = 64.9%
Maths Combined	GD = 9.7%	GD = 9.9%	GD = 13.8%	GD = 10.6%
Reading	ARE = 77.4%	ARE = 75.3%	ARE = 82.8%	ARE = 73.2%
	GD = 35.5%	GD = 28.1%	GD = 34.5%	GD = 27%
Writing	ARE = 71%	ARE = 78.3%	ARE = 89.7%	ARE = 78.4%
	GD = 19.4%	GD = 19.9%	GD = 31%	GD = 20.1%
Maths	ARE = 77.4%	ARE = 75.5%	ARE = 72.4%	ARE = 78.7%
	GD = 25.8%	GD = 23.6%	GD = 27.6%	GD = 26.6%

Progress KS1 to KS2

Reading	Writing	Maths
Average -1.16	Average -0.33	Well below average -4.07

Takeley Primary School

- The percentage of pupils attaining the expected standard in combined reading, writing and maths at the end of KS2, 2017-2019 is slightly below the national average.
- The percentage of pupils achieving the higher standard in combined reading, writing and maths at the end of KS2, 2017-2019 is above the national average.
- The average scaled score in reading at KS2, 2017-2019 is in line with the national average.
- The average scaled score in maths at KS2, 2017-2019 is in line with the national average.
- The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in the Early Years achieving a good level of development is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in reading is below the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in writing is below the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in maths is in line with the national average.
- Progress in reading and writing and maths is average.)

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Early Years	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
GLD	73.20%	72%	81.50%	72%
Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Pupils passed	77.40%	82.50%	87.50%	82%
Key Stage 1	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Reading	ARE = 78.9%	ARE = 75.4%	ARE = 70%	ARE = 75%
	GD = 22.8%	GD = 25.6%	GD = 23.3%	GD = 25%
Writing	ARE = 68.4%	ARE = 69.9%	ARE = 65%	ARE = 69%
	GD = 26.3%	GD = 15.9%	GD = 15%	GD = 15%
Maths	ARE = 71.9%	ARE = 76%	ARE = 75%	ARE = 76%
	GD = 19.3%	GD = 21.8%	GD = 18.3%	GD = 22%

Key Stage 2	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Reading, Writing,	ARE = 60.9%	ARE = 64.4%	ARE = 71.9%	ARE = 64.9%
Maths Combined	GD = 6.5%	GD = 9.9%	GD = 10.5%	GD = 10.6%
Reading	ARE = 69.6%	ARE = 75.3%	ARE = 73.7%	ARE = 73.2%
	GD = 30.4%	GD = 28.1%	GD = 28.1%	GD = 27%
Writing	ARE = 80.4%	ARE = 78.3%	ARE = 84.2%	ARE = 78.4%
	GD = 32.6%	GD = 19.9%	GD = 22.8%	GD = 20.1%
Maths	ARE = 76.1%	ARE = 75.5%	ARE = 84.2%	ARE = 78.7%
	GD = 15.2%	GD = 23.6%	GD = 24.6%	GD = 26.6%

Progress KS1 to KS2

Reading	Writing	Maths
Average -1.38	Average 0.27	Average -0.86

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Roseacres Primary School

There are no results for KS2 as the first Year 6 class was in the 19-20 academic year.

- The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics is below the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in the Early Years achieving a good level of development is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in reading is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils at KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in writing is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils in KS1 achieving the expected standard or higher in maths is above the national average.

(ARE – Age Related Expectations, GD – Greater Depth)

Early Years	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
GLD	80%	72%	77.80%	72%
Year 1 Phonics Test	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Pupils passed	82.80%	82.50%	48.10%	82%
Key Stage 1	School 2018	National 2018	School 2019	National 2019
Reading	ARE = 89.3%	ARE = 75.4%	ARE = 82.8%	ARE = 75%
	GD = 32.1%	GD = 25.6%	GD = 27.6%	GD = 25%
Writing	ARE = 85.7%	ARE = 69.9%	ARE = 82.8%	ARE = 69%
	GD = 7.1%	GD = 15.9%	GD = 13.8%	GD = 15%
Maths	ARE = 78.6%	ARE = 76%	ARE = 82.8%	ARE = 76%
	GD = 17.9%	GD = 21.8%	GD = 27.6%	GD = 22%

Key Performance Indicators

The Trustees receive regular information at each MGB and LGB meeting to enable them to monitor the performance of the Trust and the constituent Academies compared to aims, strategies and financial budgets.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. In 2020/2021, Hatfield Heath was funded for 214 pupils, Roseacres was funded for 210 pupils and Takeley was funded for 372 pupils.

The Finance, Operations Audit and Risk Committee also monitor premises costs to General Annual Grant (GAG) income; capitation spend for curriculum departments to GAG income; total income less grants and cash flow on a regular basis to ensure that the budget is set and managed appropriately.

Going Concern

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In making this statement the Board of Trustees have taken into due consideration the effects upon the Trust of the COVID-19 pandemic, the partial closure of the School during the period and the changes in practices introduced from the 2020 Autumn term.

Further consideration on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can be found in Note 1.3.

Financial Review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the General Annual Grant (GAG) and other grants that it receives from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For the year ended 31 August 2021 the Trust received £4,009,229 of GAG and other funding. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Trust's primary objective of the provision of education. During the year the Trust spent £4,387,063 on general running costs. The Trust brought forward from 2019/20, £6,760,689 restricted funds and £658,833 unrestricted funding. The carry forward for 2020/21 is £6,154,019 restricted funding and £656,669 unrestricted funding.

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS102, the Trust is recognising a significant pension fund deficit of £2,703,000. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not had a significant financial effect on the Trust and we have managed to keep within budget, and increase the budgeted brought forward for 2020/21.

In 2020/21 balanced in-year budgets were set at both Hatfield Heath and Roseacres. Due to a falling roll at Takeley the Trust made a conscious decision to support Takeley and provide funds from reserves to prevent mixing classes. Pupil numbers at all Schools within the Trust are under constant review as it is recognised that supporting Schools from reserves is not sustainable. With the exception of Covid grant carry forward, all three Schools will set balanced budgets for 2021/22.

The Trust's principal risks and uncertainties are described in detail later in this Report and managed via our risk registers.

Throughout the year numerous pupil assessments have taken place to monitor attainment and progress and to gauge the impact of Covid closures and remote learning. This has enabled us to ensure that Covid catch up funding is specifically targeted and prioritised to need.

External consultants have been employed to work with our Schools to develop staff and raise standards and attainment in key identified improvement areas.

Pupil numbers are monitored on a monthly basis and reported to the board. Consideration is being given in relation to the possibility of the need to reduce the published admission number (PAN) at Takeley and/or mix classes.

Staffing structures have been reviewed and fixed and any appointments outside of these must be approved by the Board.

The key factors likely to affect the trust's financial performance are:

- Reduced income due to falling pupil numbers and demand for places locally
- Staff retention and recruitment – uncertainty in relation to pay awards and remaining a competitive employer.
- Continuous review of the staffing structures both at a local School level and for central services to ensure efficiency and maintained high standards.
- The financial stability of remaining a three School MAT.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Reserves Policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs and always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure. The Trustees monitor estimated year-end carry forward figures via the monthly reports from the Finance Manager. The budget plan identifies how any carry forward will be allocated in the plan for the following academic year, including the identification of any funds earmarked for a specific project or purpose.

The Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £656,669. This has been built up from a mixture of locally raised income and balances transferred from the predecessor schools.

The Trust's deficit on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds was £12,591, resulting in a year-end balance of £766,197.

The cash balance of the Trust has been very healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £1,027,219. The Trustees monitor cash flow as part of the remit of the Finance, Operations Audit and Risk Committee and attempt to hold a minimum of 8.5% of total funds (approximately £580k) to cover short term cash flow variances.

Investment Policy

An Investment Policy was approved by the MGB on 11th December 2019. This is currently being reviewed and due to be approved in the Autumn term 2021.

The aim of the policy is to ensure funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested to maximise its income but with minimal risk. The aim is to research where funds may be deposited applying prudence in ensuring there is minimum risk. The Trustees do not consider at this moment in time the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as good stewardship and as and when circumstances allow.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The MGB works with the LGB's in maintaining a central risk register identifying the major risks, to which each Academy is exposed, and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. This register is approved and monitored by the MGB. The internal control systems and the exposure to identified risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees at each Finance, Operation, Audit and Risk Committee meeting. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Academies at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As a group of academy schools, the level of financial risk is low.

Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and are relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees assess the other principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust as follows:

- operational – due to the current COVID-19 pandemic there is a risk that the educational provision provided, either on or off site, will not have been accessed by all pupils. There is therefore a risk that there will be gaps in learning and a potential fall in standards;
- well-being – due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the emphasis on providing support to staff and pupils in relation to their well-being has been paramount;
- each Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA and there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms;
- failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks;
- reputational - the continuing success of the individual Academies is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student progress and outcomes are closely monitored and reviewed;
- safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline;
- staffing - the success of the Academies is reliant on the quality of its staff and in particular the senior leadership and the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures and recruitment to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning;
- fraud and mismanagement of funds - the Trust has appointed Juniper Education to carry out independent and external checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area;
- financial instruments – the Trust only deals with bank balances, cash and trade creditors, with limited trade (and other) debtors. The risk in this area is considered to be low; and
- defined benefit pension liability – as the Government has agreed to meet the defined benefit pension liability of any Academy ceasing to exist the main risk to the Trust is an annual cash flow funding of part of the deficit. Trustees take these payments into account when setting the annual budget plan.

The Trust and each Academy have continued to strengthen their risk management processes throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Fundraising

Fundraising events were limited throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included Christmas raffles, sponsorship events and book donations. The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or companies who carry out fundraising on its behalf. During the year no complaints or issues have arisen as a result of the fundraising events.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust's plans for 2021/22 are:

- To ensure that pupils are academically and emotionally supported following return to Schools from COVID-19
- To improve the use of Governance monitoring following COVID to ensure purposeful monitoring visits that support School improvement
- To improve the quality of education across the Trust by running the outstanding teacher programme
- To ensure all Schools are fully prepared for Ofsted and are all good or better
- To continue to make effective use of the catch up premium to ensure that 'lost' education time at school during the COVID pandemic, pupils have a good level of understanding of the key summer term 2021 objectives
- To implement the well-designed curriculums so that there is a positive impact so that pupils learn to be geographers, historians, scientists etc
- To create a new RSE programme in consultation with staff and parents/carers and pupils
- To implement the new EYFS framework and baseline ensuring that School communities are fully involved
- To decide on the future direction of the Trust
- To ensure that reading, writing and mathematics combined at key Stage 2, including for the most able and disadvantaged is in line with the national average by 3%

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

There are no funds held on behalf of third parties.

Auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware, and
- the Trustees have taken all 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.

The Trustees' Report incorporating Strategic Report was approved by the Board of Trustees, on 16 Dec 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Diane Hancock

Diane Hancock
(Diane Hancock, 2021, 1:38pm)
Chair of Trustees

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Learning Partnership 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 the DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Learning Partnership Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 9 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Diane Hancock, Chair of Trustees	9	9
John Clements, Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer	7	9
Victoria Marrow	9	9
Christopher Hancock	6	9
Kathryn Hill	9	9
Neil Cobbe	9	9
Iain Gilchrist	9	9
Joseph Figg, Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer	0	0

Review of year

During the 2020/2021 Academic (and Financial) year there were no changes to the composition of the Board. However, following the resignation of the founding CEO in January 2021, a significant focus has been on considering the future options for The Learning Partnership Trust and the successful recruitment of, and handover to, our new CEO and Accounting Officer from 1st September 2021.

The Board currently seeks two additional Trustees, ideally with educational expertise. The recruitment of Trustees remains quite difficult, however, the current Trustees have a broad skill set and has ensured that it fulfils its remit in holding the CEO to account for financial and academic outcomes. The recruitment of additional Trustees is only required to aid Trustee retention via enabling further distribution of responsibilities to reduce the workload for our existing dedicated Trustees.

The scheme of delegation and terms of reference were reviewed and approved in the Autumn term 2020.

Particular challenges faced this year have included the continued Covid-19 pandemic and the management and operation of our Schools during this time. This has put significant strain on our head teachers, LGPS and the Board who have worked tirelessly to keep up to date with the ever changing legislation and advice and balance this within the context of individual settings to ensure the safety and well-being of all concerned. Added to this, this year we had the additional expectation from the Government to ensure remote learning was available for those who required it to run simultaneously with teaching pupils attending School.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

A key priority for the Board has been the review and monitoring of the budget and three-year plan to ensure the sustainability of the Trust in the longer term. This has been achieved via close collaboration between the Trust finance team, head teachers, finance, operations, audit and risk committee, LGPS and the MGB giving careful consideration to any short and longer term Trust and/or School improvement priorities. To enable effective monitoring, management accounts are circulated to the Board and finance, operations, risk and audit committee on a monthly basis and members of each LGB receive a monthly budget monitoring report specifically for their School.

There is a variety of data presented to the Board including reports from external consultants, internal reports from the CEO, head teachers and Governors. Wherever possible, data is benchmarked with other Schools within the Trust. For example, Trustees and Governors are provided with a termly Data Dashboard and Attendance reports.

Although the national curriculum tests, including teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, were cancelled by the Department for Education, as a Trust we agreed to administer the same SATs and phonics test papers and complete the Year 4 multiplication tables to allow for some benchmarking across the trust. The test results were collated and reported to Trustees and Governors to review whilst taking into consideration that there has been significant disruption to learning for the pupils sitting these tests. All the various reports circulated help to give context to trustees and support them to agree Trust/School development priorities.

In order to assess the Board's performance and effectiveness we have started a 360 degree review process using Ambition Institute's Trust Diagnostic. To date surveys have been collected from all stakeholders and analysed. Phase two will be to agree an action plan and work with external consultants who will have experience in the areas of focus identified. This will take place in the 2021/2022 academic year.

Governance reviews

An internal self-evaluation of governance was undertaken in the Spring term 2021. This began with Trustees and Governors completing an individual self-assessment using an adaptation of the National Governance Association skills assessment template. The results were then analysed and action plans developed and implemented. Pleasingly, the majority of areas for development were already identified in the trust strategic plan 2020-2022.

The three priorities agreed for Trustees were:

1. To provide further support and training in relation to interpreting data and statistics relating to pupil progress and outcomes and use it to identify areas for development.
2. To review our marketing, media and PR strategy.
3. To provide further support and training in relation to reviewing governance structures.

The latter point led us to engage with Ambition Institute and their Trust Diagnostic as mentioned above. As a result, the Trust shall be conducting a thorough self-evaluation throughout the 2021-2022 academic year with surveys at the start and finish to measure improvements. Trustees and Governors shall also repeat their individual skills assessments in the Spring term 2022.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

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

Oversee all systems, controls and processes that may have an impact on the Trust's ability to meet its objectives. The committee ensures that:

- Effective and robust audit and governance functions are in place (both external and internal).
- Adequate risk management processes are in place and assessed on a regular basis.
- An adequate internal control environment is established and maintained.
- Internal scrutiny activities are independent, objective and fit for purpose.

Purpose of the finance elements:

- To provide robust guidance, direction, advice, and assistance as appropriate to the Board of Trustees, LGB's, head teachers and senior leadership teams in relation to all matters concerned with the preparation and monitoring of the budget and the overall arrangements for financial management in the Schools.
- To ensure robust governance alongside the existing requirement to apply the highest standards of conduct in relation to financial and accounting matters.
- To advise the Board of Trustees in relation to the requirements for financial regulations within the Schools.
- To ensure the register of business interest is kept up to date with notification of changes and through an annual review, including broader business interests held by senior executives, and that any payments to executives in relation to such interests meet the transparency requirements in the Academy Accounts Direction.
- To maintain oversight of the management of declared interests and ensure compliance in respect of any transactions that may cause a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest in respect of any third party or related party transactions.
- To contribute to the annual review of the school development/improvement plans and ensure that identified financial priorities are reflected in the annual budget plans and the longer term financial development plans.
- To prepare and discuss that budget forecast return (outturn) before its submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
- To prepare, in the context of the overall school development/improvement plans and the medium term financial plans, the 3 year budget plan (budget forecast return) for presentation and approval at a meeting of the Board of Trustees before its submission to the ESFA.
- To be responsible for the forward planning of future budgets, within the constraints imposed by central Government, and to prepare rolling forecasts of the future financial needs of the Trust.
- To provide advice and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in relation to policy matters relating to budgetary control and the implementation and monitoring of the agreed budget. [The detailed arrangements for the control, implementation and monitoring of the budget shall be delegated to the CEO, CFO and Trust Finance Manager].
- To receive regular financial reports covering income and expenditure for the Schools showing a comparison of these against budget estimates and take remedial action where necessary. Such action to be reported to the Board of Trustees and, where necessary, raised as a matter of report with appropriate committees.
- To monitor and keep under regular review each School's actual expenditure and liaise as necessary with other committees where remedial action may be required and ensure that the ESFA approval prior to certain transactions with delegated authority limits has been obtained where required.
- To monitor the use of all specific funds available to the Schools to ensure that they are deployed for the purposes for which they are allocated.
- To keep under review the staffing establishment of the Schools and to recommend to the Board of Trustees and to the pay committee the financial limits for salaries and wages within the overall school budgets.
- To ensure that senior employees' payroll arrangements fully meet tax obligations.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

- To keep under review and revise/update as appropriate the financial regulations, scheme of financial delegation and financial risk assessment for the Trust.
- To arrange for decisions on the purchase of single items of expenditure on goods/services and virements to be made within agreed budget heads and contingency resources in accordance with the provisions of the financial regulations and scheme of financial delegation for the Schools and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and its committees as to expenditure limits in relation to their respective areas of responsibility.
- To take decisions on virement between staffing and non-staffing costs and contingency resources as detailed in the scheme of financial delegation.
- To make decisions as to spending within the delegated powers available to the committee and to advise and/or make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the appropriateness or otherwise of spending requests outside the delegated powers of the committee.
- To review financial policy/procedure statements on a regular basis, including the short term and longer term planning and resourcing strategies within the Schools, making recommendations to the Board of Trustees where required.
- To make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in relation to the provision of the charging and remissions policy.
- To consider, where appropriate, the use of contract or in-house services within the Schools and to oversee the setting up of such contracts as determined by the Board of Trustees.
- To refer all issues of principle, and any serious problems which may arise during the course of the year, to the Board of Trustees with appropriate recommendations as to the way forward.
- To determine the procedure and recommend the appointment of Auditors for the delegated budget to the Board of Trustees.
- To consider each of the Schools' indicative funding, notified annually by the DfE/ESFA and to assess its implications for the relevant School. This will be in consultation with the business director and Trust finance manager together with the headteacher and the chair of governors of the relevant School, in advance of the financial year, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the Board.
- To consider and recommend acceptance or non-acceptance of the Schools budgets each financial year.
- To contribute to the formulation of the Schools' strategic plans, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the relevant headteacher, business director and Trust finance manager and with the stated and agreed aims and objectives of the relevant School.
- To liaise with and receive reports from the appropriate committees and make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
- To consider the spending plans of other committees and report back and advise the board.
- To delegate the day to day management of the approved budget to the relevant headteacher, within agreed authorisation limits.
- To consider and act upon matters not covered by other committees.
- To review the financial policy including consideration of long term planning and resourcing in accordance with each of the Schools' development/improvement plans.
- To monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the Schools, and with the financial regulations of the Trust, drawing any matters of attention to the Board.
- To monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and where appropriate make recommendations for improvement.
- To prepare the financial statement to form part of the Annual Report to the Board to stakeholders and for filing in accordance with requirements for the Companies Act, Charity Commission and Funding Agreement (including the Academies Financial Handbook).
- To monitor compliance with the Trust's health and safety policy and statutory obligations under the health and safety at work act 1974.
- To confirm an asset recording system is in place, including an inventory and fixed asset register for each School.
- To maintain awareness of ESFA requirements in relation to financial notices and insolvency matters.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Purpose of the audit and risk elements:

- To consider the appointment of the external Auditor and assess independence of the external Auditor, ensuring that key audit personnel are rotated at appropriate intervals.
- To recommend the audit fees to the Board and pre-approve any fees in excess of £10,000 in respect of non-audit services provided by the external Auditor and to ensure that the provision of non-audit services does not impair the external Auditors' independence or objectivity.
- To consider all aspects of the external audit, including appointment and remuneration of the external auditor, the nature and scope of the statutory audit, the recommendation of audited financial statements to the board, and the discussion of issues raised in the external Auditor's management letter.
- To assess the effectiveness and resources of the external Auditor.
- To ensure that the internal scrutiny arrangements for the Board of Trustees are conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced person, able to draw on technical expertise as required.
- To agree the scope and scheme of works for all internal scrutiny activities.
- To receive and review an annual report of all internal scrutiny activities.
- To consider the approach to internal scrutiny arrangements on an annual basis, ensuring the approach remains robust and suitable, taking into account any changes to the size of the Trust, complexity and risk profiles.
- To ensure that the Internal Audit Report is submitted to the ESFA by the Trust.
- To submit an annual summary report to the ESFA, at the same time as the annual accounts, setting out the key areas reviewed; key findings; recommendations and conclusions.
- To ensure the annual financial statements are true and fair and conform to accounting standards, accounting policies are appropriate and applied consistently.
- To review all reports prepared by the external Auditor and agree the programme of work proposed by management to address any issues raised.
- To review the performance of the external Auditor on an annual basis.
- To recommend to the board the appointment/re-appointment of the external Auditor.
- To review and consider the circumstances surrounding any resignation or dismissal of the external Auditor.
- To review the effectiveness of the internal control system established to ensure that the aims, objectives and key performance targets of the organisation are achieved in the most economic, effective and environmentally preferable manner.
- To ensure that the internal audit service meets, or exceeds, the standards specified in the Academies Financial Handbook, complies in all other respects with these guidelines and meets agreed levels of service.
- To ensure robust whistle-blowing procedures are in place and compliant with the requirements set out in the Academies Financial Handbook.
- To appoint at least one trustee as lead for whistle-blowing, and to whom staff can report whistle-blowing concerns to.
- To review the reports and recommendations of the internal audit, together with the appropriateness of management's response.
- To monitor the implementation of action agreed by management in response to reports from the external and internal audits.
- To ensure that a risk register is in place and regularly maintained to ensure compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook and to ensure that the register includes details of contingency and business continuity planning arrangements.
- To regularly review the risk register, ratings and responses and use this to inform committee priorities in relation to internal scrutiny activities.
- To monitor the assessment of risks to which the organisation is exposed, to ensure this is kept up to date and to ensure that management are charged with implementing controls to mitigate these risks.
- To ensure that the risk management processes are adopted across the whole of the Trust.
- To review the operation of internal and external audits and the adequacy of the level of assurance gained from the combined activities of both.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Diane Hancock	5	5
Neil Cobbe	3	5
Christopher Hancock	5	5
Iain Gilchrist	5	5
Mark MacLean	2	2
Allan Wilton	5	5

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Sharing expertise and experience across the Trust and encouraging collaboration to achieve economies of scale.
- Seeking out new quotes for the School information management system and reducing cost of support significantly
- Evaluating the School staff insurance scheme and renegotiating the terms of the cover to ensure value for money.
- Ensuring the staffing structure is constantly under review by both the local headteachers and business director.
- Ensuring the Trust financial regulations and best value statement are understood and followed.
- Ensuring monthly meetings are held between the chair of Governors and/or chair of finance, operations, audit and risk committee, local headteacher, Trust finance manager and business director which provide an opportunity to receive regular updates of the local and overall financial position, as well as discussing any in year developments/projects.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Juniper Education as Internal Auditor.

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

- Governance and financial management
- Banking
- Income
- Internal transfers
- Payroll and expenses
- Reporting, governance and financial accounting
- Expenditure
- Assets

On a semi-annual basis, the Internal Auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Operations, Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and there were no material control issues arising as a result of their work.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the Internal Auditor;
- the work of the external Auditors;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 Dec 2021

and signed on their behalf by:

Diane Hancock

Diane Hancock
(Diane Hancock, 16 Dec 2021, 1:38pm)

Chair of Trustees

Joseph Figg

Joseph Figg
(Joe Figg, 16 Dec 2021, 9:28pm)

Accounting Officer


THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Learning Partnership Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the 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 ESFA.



Joseph Figg (2021, 9:28pm)
Accounting Officer
Date:

16 Dec 2021

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on
on its behalf by:

16 Dec 2021

and signed

Diane Hancock

Diane Hancock (6 Dec 2021, 1:38pm)
Chair of Trustees

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Learning Partnership Trust (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 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 for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Academy Trust and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting and tax legislation and academy sector regulations including GDPR, employment law, health and safety and safeguarding.

The risks were discussed with the audit team and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

- We reviewed systems and procedures to identify potential areas of management override risk. In particular, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of any large or unusual transactions to determine whether they were significant to our assessment.
- We reviewed key controls, authorisation procedures and decision making processes for any unusual or one-off transactions.
- We reviewed minutes of Trustee Board meetings and other relevant sub-committees of the Board such as the Finance Committee and agreed the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- We have made enquiries of the Accounting Officer and senior management team to identify laws and regulations applicable to the Trust. We assessed details of any breaches where applicable in order to assess the impact upon the Trust.
- We reviewed the risk management processes and procedures in place including a review of the Risk Register and Board Assurance Reporting and the Internal Scrutiny Reports.
- We have reviewed any correspondence with the ESFA / DfE and the procedures in place for the reporting of incidents to the Trustees including reporting of any serious incidents to the Regulator if necessary.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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 Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and its Members, as a body, for our audit work, for this Report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Gary Miller (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Price Bailey LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Causeway House

1 Dane Street

Bishop's Stortford

Hertfordshire

CM23 3BT

Date: 17 December 2021

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 October 2018 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 The Learning Partnership 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 The Learning Partnership Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Learning Partnership Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Learning Partnership Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this Report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Learning Partnership Trust's Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Learning Partnership Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 23 January 2015 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 Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- An assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance
- Consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and how the Trust complies with the framework of authorities.
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the Trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity, propriety and compliance
- Discussions with and representations from the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel.
- An extension of substantive testing from our audit of the financial statements to cover matters pertaining to regularity, in order to support the regularity conclusion, including governance, internal controls, procurement and the application of income.

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant
Price Bailey LLP

Date: 17 December 2021

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	550	13,760	20,697	35,007	61,627
Other trading activities		134,553	-	-	134,553	33,391
Investments	6	122	-	-	122	511
Charitable activities		62,999	3,776,548	-	3,839,547	3,625,921
Total income		198,224	3,790,308	20,697	4,009,229	3,721,450
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		200,388	3,995,327	191,348	4,387,063	4,275,291
Total expenditure		200,388	3,995,327	191,348	4,387,063	4,275,291
Net income/ (expenditure)		(2,164)	(205,019)	(170,651)	(377,834)	(553,841)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(68,408)	68,408	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(2,164)	(273,427)	(102,243)	(377,834)	(553,841)
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	(231,000)	-	(231,000)	18,000
Net movement in funds		(2,164)	(504,427)	(102,243)	(608,834)	(535,841)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		658,833	(2,089,045)	8,849,734	7,419,522	7,955,363
Net movement in funds		(2,164)	(504,427)	(102,243)	(608,834)	(535,841)
Total funds carried forward		656,669	(2,593,472)	8,747,491	6,810,688	7,419,522

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

The notes on pages 30 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09380027

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	8,710,046	8,832,986
Current assets			
Debtors	15	125,468	96,995
Cash at bank and in hand		1,027,219	980,118
		<u>1,152,687</u>	<u>1,077,113</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(349,045)	(281,577)
Net current assets		<u>803,642</u>	<u>795,536</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>9,513,688</u>	<u>9,628,522</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(2,703,000)	(2,209,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>6,810,688</u></u>	<u><u>7,419,522</u></u>
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	8,747,491	8,849,734
Restricted income funds	17	109,528	119,955
		<u>8,857,019</u>	<u>8,969,689</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension liability	17	8,857,019	8,969,689
Pension reserve	17	(2,703,000)	(2,209,000)
Total restricted funds	17	<u>6,154,019</u>	<u>6,760,689</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17	<u>656,669</u>	<u>658,833</u>
Total funds		<u><u>6,810,688</u></u>	<u><u>7,419,522</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 30 to 58 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:

16 Dec 2021

Diane Hancock

Diane Hancock
Diane Hancock (Dec 16, 2021, 1:38pm)
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 33 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	94,690	(159,485)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(47,589)	(10,384)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		47,101	(169,869)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		980,118	1,149,987
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	<u>1,027,219</u>	<u>980,118</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 58 form part of these financial statements

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. 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 of financial statements

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Company Status

The Trust is a private company registered in England & Wales and limited by guarantee. Members are named on page 1. In the event of the Trust being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member. The registered office is Hatfield Heath Primary School, Hatfield Heath, Essex, CM22 7EA.

1.3 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.

The Trust derives the majority of its income from local and national Government grant funding which is secured for a number of years, under the terms of the Academy Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. This will ensure that the Trust can continue operating for a period of at least 12 months following the date of this Report. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Trust were not able to continue as a going concern.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the 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.

1.6 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 institution with whom the funds are deposited.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 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.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £2,500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Freehold property	- 50 years straight line
Leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Long leasehold property	- 50 years straight line
Furniture and fixtures	- 10 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 10 years straight line

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.

1.9 Debtors

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

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 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.

1.12 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 bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

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

1.13 Operating leases

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

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.14 Pensions

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. 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.

1.15 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 the funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 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.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	550	13,760	-	14,310	44,881
Capital grants	-	-	20,697	20,697	16,746
Total 2021	550	13,760	20,697	35,007	61,627
Total 2020	603	44,278	16,746	61,627	

In 2020, income from donations was £44,881, of which £44,278 was restricted and £603 was unrestricted. Capital grant income was £16,746, which related entirely to restricted fixed assets.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,059,118	3,059,118	2,829,385
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
UFSM Income	-	138,456	138,456	129,682
Pupil Premium	-	155,488	155,488	143,986
Teachers Pension Grant	-	105,083	105,083	97,690
Teachers Pay Grant	-	36,613	36,613	47,605
Primary PE & Sport Premium	-	54,710	54,710	54,270
Other	-	21,564	21,564	19,897
	-	-	3,571,032	3,322,515
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	36,688	36,688	113,106
SEN	-	105,788	105,788	125,667
	-	142,476	142,476	238,773
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	62,999	-	62,999	64,633
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Catch up premium	-	63,040	63,040	-
	-	63,040	63,040	-
Total 2021	62,999	3,776,548	3,839,547	3,625,921
Total 2020	64,633	3,561,288	3,625,921	

In 2020, income from DfE/ESFA grants was £3,322,515 all of which was restricted.

In 2020, income from other Government grants was £238,773, all of which was restricted.

In 2021, other income from the academy Trust's educational operations was £62,999 (2020: £64,633) which related to catering income, of which all was unrestricted.

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department of Education and ESFA, the trust's funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals and Pupil Premium is no longer reported under the Other DfE Group grants heading, but as separate lines under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Lettings income	1,255	1,255	1,950
Other activities	133,298	133,298	31,441
Total 2021	134,553	134,553	33,391
Total 2020	33,391	33,391	

In 2020 lettings income was £1,950, all of which was unrestricted.

In 2020, income from other activities was £31,441, all of which was unrestricted.

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Interest received	122	122	511
Total 2020	511	511	

In 2020, all investment income was in relation to unrestricted funds.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2021 £	Premises 2021 £	Other 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Provision of education:					
Direct costs	2,768,750	16,608	99,703	2,885,061	2,861,975
Support costs	721,530	321,206	459,266	1,502,002	1,413,316
Total 2021	3,490,280	337,814	558,969	4,387,063	4,275,291
Total 2020	3,404,142	350,380	520,769	4,275,291	

In 2021, of total expenditure, £200,385 (2020: £14,539) was from unrestricted funds; £3,995,327 (2019: £4,061,402) was from restricted funds, and £191,348 (2019: £199,350) was from restricted fixed asset funds.

In 2020, direct expenditure consisted of £2,702,202 staff costs and £159,773 other costs; and support expenditure consisted of £701,940 staff costs, £350,380 premises costs and £360,996 other costs.

8. Charitable Activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Direct costs	2,885,061	2,861,975
Support costs	1,502,002	1,413,316
	4,387,063	4,275,291

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A Company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Charitable Activities (continued)

	2021 £	2020 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	721,530	701,940
Depreciation	191,348	199,350
Technology costs	30,699	34,159
Premises costs	129,858	151,030
Other support costs	413,119	302,926
Governance costs	15,448	19,658
Legal Costs	-	4,253
	<u>1,502,002</u>	<u>1,413,316</u>

9. Net expenditure

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating lease rentals	498	2,450
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	191,348	199,350
Fees paid to Auditors for:		
- audit	6,670	6,475
- other services	6,780	6,580
	<u>6,780</u>	<u>6,580</u>

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	2,422,115	2,448,186
Social security costs	206,435	204,349
Pension costs	803,382	730,742
	<u>3,431,932</u>	<u>3,383,277</u>
Agency staff costs	55,758	19,404
Staff restructuring costs	2,590	1,461
	<u><u>3,490,280</u></u>	<u><u>3,404,142</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	<u>2,590</u>	<u>1,461</u>
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b. Staff numbers

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teachers	40	41
Administration and support	96	114
Management	5	5
	<u>141</u>	<u>160</u>

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10. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £399,632 (2020 - £381,391).

Included in the above are employer pension contributions of £70,329 (2020 - £66,566).

Included in the above are employer national insurance contributions of £34,592 (2020 - £32,967).

11. Central services

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

- Technology costs
- Governance costs
- Support staff costs
- Other support costs

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- Teaching staff costs - time allocated
- Support staff costs - equally divided between the schools
- Other services - equally divided between the schools

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Hatfield Heath Primary School	79,193	70,246
Roseacres Primary School	79,193	70,246
Takeley Primary School	82,949	83,175
Total	<u>241,335</u>	<u>223,667</u>

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12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2021 £	2020 £
John Clements, Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer	Remuneration	30,000 -	25,000 -
		35,000	30,000
	Pension contributions paid	5,000 -	5,000 -
		10,000	10,000
Victoria Marrow	Remuneration	50,000 -	50,000 -
		55,000	55,000
	Pension contributions paid	10,000 -	10,000 -
		15,000	15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2021, no expenses were reimbursed or paid directly to any Trustees (2020 - £64).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year is included in the total insurance cost.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2020	5,118,727	4,118,649	265,873	165,580	9,668,829
Additions	-	-	62,576	5,832	68,408
At 31 August 2021	5,118,727	4,118,649	328,449	171,412	9,737,237
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2020	357,536	300,092	89,782	88,433	835,843
Charge for the year	76,615	63,391	27,547	23,795	191,348
At 31 August 2021	434,151	363,483	117,329	112,228	1,027,191
Net book value					
At 31 August 2021	4,684,576	3,755,166	211,120	59,184	8,710,046
At 31 August 2020	4,761,191	3,818,557	176,091	77,147	8,832,986

15. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	35	540
VAT recoverable	45,802	15,765
Prepayments and accrued income	79,631	80,690
	125,468	96,995

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16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	119,684	38,693
Other taxation and social security	44,867	47,940
Other creditors	61,094	62,453
Accruals and deferred income	123,400	132,491
	<u>349,045</u>	<u>281,577</u>
	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	97,432	101,660
Resources deferred during the year	84,891	97,432
Amounts released from previous periods	(97,432)	(101,660)
	<u>84,891</u>	<u>97,432</u>

Deferred income relates mainly to universal free school meals funding, trips income, dinner money credits, and PFA donations, received during the year in question that relate to the 2021-22 academic year.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	658,833	198,224	(200,388)	-	-	656,669
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	106,685	3,059,118	(3,021,629)	(68,408)	-	75,766
Pupil Premium	-	155,488	(155,488)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	13,270	419,466	(398,974)	-	-	33,762
SEN	-	105,788	(105,788)	-	-	-
Other Government	-	36,688	(36,688)	-	-	-
Restricted Trip	-	13,760	(13,760)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,209,000)	-	(263,000)	-	(231,000)	(2,703,000)
	<u>(2,089,045)</u>	<u>3,790,308</u>	<u>(3,995,327)</u>	<u>(68,408)</u>	<u>(231,000)</u>	<u>(2,593,472)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	8,832,988	-	(191,348)	68,408	-	8,710,048
Devolved Formula Capital	16,746	20,697	-	-	-	37,443
	<u>8,849,734</u>	<u>20,697</u>	<u>(191,348)</u>	<u>68,408</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,747,491</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>6,760,689</u>	<u>3,811,005</u>	<u>(4,186,675)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(231,000)</u>	<u>6,154,019</u>
Total funds	<u><u>7,419,522</u></u>	<u><u>4,009,229</u></u>	<u><u>(4,387,063)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(231,000)</u></u>	<u><u>6,810,688</u></u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Unrestricted funds

This represents income received that does not have restrictions.

General Annual Grant (GAG)

This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the costs of recurrent expenditure.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

This represents funding from the Local Authority and it is used towards the education of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

Pupil Premium

This represents funding to help raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils from low income families who are eligible for free school meals.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This represents specific allocated funding for the purpose of delivering education in line with the Academy Funding Agreement.

Other Government grants

This represents various grants from local and national Government bodies for the provision of specific services to pupils of the Academies.

Restricted trip donations

This represents amounts received as contributions towards trips.

Pension reserve

This reserve represents the Trust's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Academies on conversion from state controlled schools.

Restricted fixed asset fund

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

Capital grants

This relates to funding from the Local Authority and ESFA in respect of either recurrent or capital expenditure agreed between the Secretary of State and the Trust.

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	601,877	99,138	(14,539)	(27,643)	-	658,833
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	129,683	2,829,385	(2,852,383)	-	-	106,685
Pupil Premium	-	143,986	(143,986)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA	19,601	349,144	(355,475)	-	-	13,270
SEN	-	125,667	(125,667)	-	-	-
Other Government	216,507	113,106	(329,613)	-	-	-
Restricted Trip	-	44,278	(44,278)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,017,000)	-	(210,000)	-	18,000	(2,209,000)
	<u>(1,651,209)</u>	<u>3,605,566</u>	<u>(4,061,402)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>(2,089,045)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	9,004,695	-	(199,350)	27,643	-	8,832,988
Devolved Formula Capital	-	16,746	-	-	-	16,746
	<u>9,004,695</u>	<u>16,746</u>	<u>(199,350)</u>	<u>27,643</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,849,734</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>7,353,486</u>	<u>3,622,312</u>	<u>(4,260,752)</u>	<u>27,643</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>6,760,689</u>
Total funds	<u><u>7,955,363</u></u>	<u><u>3,721,450</u></u>	<u><u>(4,275,291)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>18,000</u></u>	<u><u>7,419,522</u></u>

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by Academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Hatfield Heath Primary Academy	6,641	-
Takeley Primary Academy	17,526	13,270
Roseacres Primary School	15,849	8,429
Central Services	726,181	757,087
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	766,197	778,786
Restricted fixed asset fund	8,747,491	8,849,734
Pension reserve	(2,703,000)	(2,209,000)
Total	6,810,688	7,419,520

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hatfield Heath Primary Academy	651,646	113,436	23,264	229,979	1,018,325	989,366
Takeley Primary Academy	1,260,474	223,726	44,329	296,188	1,824,717	1,797,405
Roseacres Primary School	699,847	97,820	22,739	238,345	1,058,751	974,064
Central Services	156,783	286,548	18	188,183	631,532	315,106
Trust	2,768,750	721,530	90,350	952,695	4,533,325	4,075,941

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17. Statement of funds (continued)

In 2020, teaching and educational support staff costs was £2,702,202 of which £663,393 was spent by Hatfield Heath Primary Academy, £1,309,551 by Takeley Primary Academy, £673,781 by Roseacres Primary Academy and £55,477 from central services.

In 2020, other support staff costs was £701,940 of which £147,558 was spent by Hatfield Heath Primary Academy, £262,532 by Takeley Primary Academy, £125,021 by Roseacres Primary Academy and £166,829 from central services.

In 2020, educational supplies was £143,790 of which £35,524 was spent by Hatfield Heath Primary Academy, £73,183 by Takeley Primary Academy, £15,204 by Roseacres Primary Academy and £19,879 from central services.

In 2020, other costs excluding depreciation was £528,009 of which £142,891 was spent by Hatfield Heath Primary Academy, £152,139 by Takeley Primary Academy, £160,058 by Roseacres Primary Academy and £72,921 from central services.

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,710,046	8,710,046
Current assets	656,669	458,573	37,445	1,152,687
Creditors due within one year	-	(349,045)	-	(349,045)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,703,000)	-	(2,703,000)
Total	656,669	(2,593,472)	8,747,491	6,810,688

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	8,832,986	8,832,986
Current assets	658,833	401,532	16,748	1,077,113
Creditors due within one year	-	(281,577)	-	(281,577)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,209,000)	-	(2,209,000)
Total	658,833	(2,089,045)	8,849,734	7,419,522

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(377,834)	(553,841)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	191,348	199,350
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(20,697)	(16,746)
Interest receivable	(122)	(511)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(28,473)	20,576
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	67,468	(18,313)
Defined benefit pension adjustments	263,000	210,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	94,690	(159,485)

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest received	122	511
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(68,408)	(27,641)
Capital grants from DfE Group	20,697	16,746
Net cash used in investing activities	(47,589)	(10,384)

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,027,219	980,118

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	980,118	47,101	1,027,219

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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23. Pension commitments

The 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 Essex County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £61,094 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £62,453) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £353,209 (2020 - £340,321).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The 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.

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £277,000 (2020 - £269,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £223,000 (2020 - £215,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 54,000 (2020 - £54,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 12.2% per cent for employers and 6.5% per cent for employees.

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

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.22
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.85	2.22
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.85	2.22
Inflation assumption (RPI)		3.22

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.6	21.8
Females	23.6	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	25.1	25.2

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

As at the 31 August the Trust had a pension liability of £2,703,000 (2020 - £2,209,000). The sensitivity analysis detailed below would increase/(decrease) the closing defined benefit obligation in the following way.

Sensitivity analysis

	2021	2020
Discount rate +0.1%	(141,000)	(108,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	145,000	111,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	189,000	134,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(182,000)	(130,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	131,000	100,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(128,000)	(97,000)

Share of scheme assets

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Equities	1,416,000	970,000
Gilts	56,000	67,000
Corporate bonds	103,000	87,000
Property	154,000	121,000
Cash	62,000	42,000
Alternative assets	246,000	181,000
Other managed funds	176,000	95,000
Total market value of assets	2,213,000	1,563,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £388,000 (2020 - £30,000).

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	450,000	388,000
Interest income	(28,000)	(22,000)
Interest cost	63,000	59,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	485,000	425,000

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23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	3,772,000	3,086,000
Interest cost	63,000	59,000
Employee contributions	54,000	54,000
Actuarial losses	591,000	214,000
Benefits paid	(14,000)	(29,000)
Current Service cost	450,000	388,000
At 31 August	<u>4,916,000</u>	<u>3,772,000</u>

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	1,563,000	1,069,000
Interest income	28,000	22,000
Actuarial gains	360,000	232,000
Employer contributions	223,000	215,000
Employee contributions	54,000	54,000
Benefits paid	(14,000)	(29,000)
At 31 August	<u>2,214,000</u>	<u>1,563,000</u>

24. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2021 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than 1 year	498	2,450
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	498
	<u>498</u>	<u>2,948</u>

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25. Members' liability

Each Member of the Charitable Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a Member.

26. Related party transactions

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

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.