

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

WEDNESDAY



AB4RF6HF

A10

25/05/2022

#147

COMPANIES HOUSE

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 11
Governance Statement	12 - 15
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	16
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	17
Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements	18 - 21
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	22 - 23
Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	24
Balance Sheet	25
Statement of Cash Flows	26
Notes to the Financial Statements	27 - 51

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

D Boshier
S Gray (appointed 21 January 2021)
C Hicks
C Lewis (resigned 6 May 2021)

Trustees

J Birkett, Chief Executive Officer
M Clements, Vice Chair of Trustees (from 14 September 2021)
K Coleman (resigned 10 September 2021)
P Dudley-Smith, Vice Chair of Trustees (to 14 September 2021)
J Hakes (resigned 26 October 2020)
C Hicks, Chair of Trustees
R Watts
J Woodruff (appointed 16 November 2021)

Company registered number

11842925

Company name

The Nene Valley Partnership

Principal and registered office

Wollaston School, Irchester Road, Wollaston, Northamptonshire, NN29 7PH

Senior leadership team

J Birkett, Chief Executive Officer
W Taylor, Chief Financial Officer
J Alison, Headteacher, Irchester Community Primary School
G Morton, Headteacher, Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery (resigned 31 December 2020)
G Rust, Head of School, Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery (appointed 1 January 2021)

Independent auditors

Cooper Parry Group Limited, Park View, One Central Boulevard, Blythe Valley Park, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 8BG

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, 48 Market Street, Wellingborough, NN8 1AG

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham, NG2 1BJ

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 charitable company for the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report, including a strategic report, under company law.

These are the third financial statements presented by the Trustees. The Nene Valley Partnership (hereafter referred to as 'NVP' or 'the Trust' or 'the Academy Trust') operates two primary schools and one secondary school.

The Trust operates as an Academy Trust for pupils aged 3 to 18 serving a catchment area south of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, with a pupil capacity of 2,016 and 1,956 pupils currently enrolled based on the October 2021 Census.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as the Nene Valley Partnership.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year and to the date the approval of this report and the financial statements are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

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.

Trustees' Indemnities

The Trust has opted into the Department for Education's ('DfE') Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA'), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Members, Trustees and the Local Governing Body members from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust shall have the following Trustees, as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 9 Trustees who are appointed by the Members;
- a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees who are appointed by the parents of registered pupils at the Trust if there is no provision for Parent Local Governors;
- any number of Co-opted Trustees who are appointed by the Board of Trustees, provided that any Co-opted Trustees who are also employees of the Academy Trust do not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees; and
- the Chief Executive Officer who is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Trustee.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

When appointing new Trustees, the Board of Trustees will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure the Board of Trustees has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's ongoing development.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience, and may include a tour of the Schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils (as permitted by any Covid restrictions). All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts and budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governor Association training, along with any other relevant external courses, and all Trustees have access to regular National Governor Association updates. Induction tends to be carried out informally and tailored to the individual, as there are a small number of appointments each year.

Organisational Structure

At 31 August 2021, the Academy Trust comprised the following individual schools:

- Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery
- Irchester Community Primary School
- Wollaston School

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, approving the annual statutory accounts, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making the major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Board of Trustees normally meet 11 times each year. The Board of Trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Board of Trustees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each Committee. The Board of Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There is one Committee of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance, Audit and Risk

The Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Senior Leadership Team ('SLT'), which is led by the Chief Executive Officer. The SLT comprises the Chief Executive Officer ('CEO'), Chief Financial Officer ('CFO') and the individual Schools' Headteachers. The Chief Executive Officer is the Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Trust. The SLT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on these and the Trust's overall performance.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Each School has its own Local Governing Body ('LGB') and applicable sub-committees. The Board of Trustees delegates a number of functions to the LGBs. Each LGB reviews the plans and budgets for their School and monitors progress against targets. The LGBs also review OFSTED standards and oversee parent, staff and community liaison. Details of these arrangements are shown in the Governance Bodies Terms of Reference and the Scheme of Delegation.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the SLT to comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Trust. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 12 of the financial statements respectively.

The pay of the SLT is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees and LGBs Pay Committees in line with the Trust's pay and remuneration policy, by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff and by reference to available information on similar roles in other similar sized Academies and Trusts. Chairs of LGBs report annually to the Board of Trustees on pay and remuneration and adherence to the policy in relation to School Headteachers/Head of School.

The CEO of the Nene Valley Partnership is also the Headteacher of Wollaston School. Remuneration for the Headteacher at Wollaston School is set by the Governors of Wollaston School on appointment and this is payable on a salary range of L33-39, currently equivalent to between £92,624 and £107,239. Performance is appraised annually by Governors and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of L39) is applied from September each academic year.

Remuneration for the CEO of the Nene Valley Partnership is set by the Board of Trustees. This is payable as an enhancement to the salary range above and is set at a point of between 3 and 7 points above the existing Headteacher pay point. This salary enhancement currently stands at £7,755 per annum. Performance is appraised annually by the Trust Board and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of an additional 7 points) is applied from January each year.

The CFO of the Nene Valley Partnership is also the Business Manager of Wollaston School. Remuneration for the Business Manager at Wollaston School is set by the Headteacher and Governors of Wollaston School on appointment and this is payable on a salary range of Grade M - NJC Points 40 – 47, currently equivalent to between £45,859 and £50,722. Performance is appraised annually by the Headteacher and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of Point 47) is applied from September each academic year.

Remuneration for the CFO of the Nene Valley Partnership is set by the Board of Trustees. This is payable as an enhancement to the salary range above and is set at a point of between 3 and 7 points above the existing Business Manager pay point. This salary enhancement currently stands at £5,559 per annum. Performance is appraised annually by the Trust Board and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of an additional 7 points) is applied from January each year.

Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

There are no related parties or connected organisations which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust.

Engagement with Employees (including Disabled Persons)

The Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests. Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins, reports and meetings which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Trust's performance. During employment, the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advanced employment opportunities are available to them to reach their full potential.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Trust continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the Trust's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Trade Union Facility Time

There are no employees who act as relevant union officials during the course of their work and therefore no time was spent on these activities.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal objects of the Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2021 are summarised below:

- To ensure that all Trust Schools were able to remain open and operational (in line with national restrictions) during the coronavirus pandemic.
- To arrange suitable in school provision for key worker children and vulnerable students during the period of national school closures.
- To ensure that students at GCSE and A Level / BTEC were able to secure appropriate qualifications which enabled them to progress to their chosen next steps in education or employment.
- To comply with all aspects of Government, Department for Education and Public Health guidance to ensure that all Schools operate as safely as possible.
- To ensure that every child enjoys a high-quality education in terms of teaching, resourcing and care, during both pre Covid provision and during the pandemic.
- To safeguard the educational achievement of all pupils who attend an NVP School.
- To provide value for money with the funds expended by ensuring that funds are utilised for the safe operation of the Schools.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curricular requirements.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The key activities of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 were focused as follows:

- To ensure that a flexible operational approach was enacted at all three schools which allowed for rapid transitions between in-person education and remote learning. Remote learning was provided for all age groups across the curriculum and included delivery for individuals, groups and entire school populations. The trust invested in new technologies, including Zoom and all three schools now operate the Microsoft TEAMS platform. The increased need for remote learning necessitated significant hardware investment as well as professional development for staff, students and parents to ensure that remote delivery was accessible and of high quality.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

- For all aspects of in person education – there was significant activity devoted to following all aspects of guidance and ensuring that our schools could provide the best education possible in the safest way possible. The trust implemented comprehensive and robust “bubble” arrangements at all three schools, which ensured that education was able to continue, whilst avoiding students mixing more widely. As a trust we also developed sophisticated contact tracing procedures and hosted our own on site Asymptomatic testing station, capable of processing 500 Covid tests per day.
- During periods of lockdown, the trust made suitable provision to support vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers. This included on site provision throughout lockdowns and some school holidays, in addition to home visits and family liaison to ensure that children were supported, even when the support of other agencies had been halted due to the pandemic. The trust ensured that all safeguarding policies and practices were adhered to and DSLs remained on site and in active duty throughout all lockdowns and periods of partial opening.
- The trust ensured that a high quality of education was maintained throughout all three schools, allowing for the challenging circumstances listed above. A full curriculum was maintained, although pedagogical approaches had to be adapted in order to comply with the demands of the bubble systems (this had a particularly high impact at Secondary level). The trust ensured that children continued to benefit from regular learning and assessment – including following Ofqual’s approach regarding the award of GCSE and A level qualifications. The trust recognises that children are particularly vulnerable at moments of transition, and despite the challenges of the pandemic, all three schools ensured that children were well prepared for the 2021/22 academic year. A range of transition activities were undertaken, which included a significant Year 6/7 summer school which was attended by over 200 of the 240 children who qualified.

Public Benefit

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in the area south of Wellingborough, including Bozeat, Irchester and Wollaston and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

The details of the particular activities of the Trust during the year and how these have provided public benefit are detailed in the Achievements and Performance section below.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning. However, due to the impact of coronavirus during the 2020/21 academic year, the usual metrics of Ofsted and examination outcomes were unavailable, although there are some measures which point to the continued high performance of the Trust.

The particular achievements and performance of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2021 were as follows:

- As all three schools were able to implement effective bubble and safety arrangements – attendance remained high during the entirety of the academic year at over 94% in all three schools. This was against a national threshold which had dropped to 80% by the summer term of 2021.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

- All three schools remained open to eligible children throughout lockdowns and bubble arrangements.
- The Trust was able to support and commission effective additional support for Bozeat Primary School, who had a Headteacher absent for half a term prior to resignation. The trust used NLE support, a consultant headteacher and interim arrangements to successfully support the school and ensure continuity of high quality education.
- Wollaston School approached the awarding of GCSE, A Level and BTEC grades in line with the rigorous and methodical approach laid down by Ofqual and the Department for Education. This led to only 9 appeals (which is lower than the number received in a usual examinations season).
- 100% of students who applied to University on leaving Year 13 were successful in gaining places at degree level.
- 100% of students leaving Year 11 were successful in gaining appropriate placements for further study, at either Sixth Form, College or in work based apprenticeships.
- All schools continued with internal assessments in order to evaluate potential learning loss and take appropriate actions in implementing a recovery curriculum.
- At Bozeat Primary School, internal assessments indicated that 76% of children were working at the expected standard in both English and Maths. In English, 19% of children were working at greater depth, and in Maths 24% of children were working at greater depth.
- Bozeat Primary School continued to work closely with the English hub in order to improve provision in Phonics and are set to graduate from this programme in December 2021 after improving phonics delivery and outcomes.
- At Irchester Primary School, Reading at Key Stage 2 has been a specific focus of provision during the pandemic, and the school has successfully used virtual access to books in addition to their library. This has resulted in an improvement in reading outcomes at the expected standard of 11% in Year 5 and 9% in Year 6, with Years 3 and 4 remaining stable.
- In Phonics at Key Stage 1, 85% of children at Irchester Primary School were able to successfully pass the assessment.
- Irchester Primary School implemented a new behaviour policy during the 2020-21 academic year, based on 3 core principles of Ready, Respectful, Responsible. This resulted in a 40% drop in serious behaviour incidents.

Key Performance Indicators

The Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2021, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £2,124,356 (2020 - £1,698,085), which is after transfers of £312,453 to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers are also a key performance indicator. The pupil numbers at the most recent census were 1,956 which is a decrease of 41 pupils from October 2020. Some of this decrease is related to the Covid pandemic, including a small rise in Elective Home Education. This small fall is being addressed through greater marketing of the Wollaston School Sixth Form and Early Years provision in the primary schools.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and / or Local Authority) for the year was 80.0% (2020 - 82.1%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 81.6% (2020 - 81.1%).

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has 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 within the financial statements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. These grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA which are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

For the year ended 31 August 2021, the Trust's total income (excluding capital grants) was £10,997,460 (2020 - £10,505,152) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £10,258,736 (2020 - £9,923,346), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £738,724 (2020 - £581,806).

This surplus has been added to the Trust's reserves to carry forward for future years. The balance of reserves at 31 August 2021, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £2,124,356 (2020 - £1,698,085).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2021 were £15,604,769. The fixed assets held by the Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Included within the Trust's Balance Sheet at the year-end is a defined benefit pension scheme liability of £4,394,000 (2020 - £3,194,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the three individual Schools. Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2021 are set out in note 26 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Manual, which lays out the framework for the Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Headteacher, Head of School, Chief Executive Officer, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included a revised financial scheme of delegation.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees also take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of operating reserves should be grown towards 5% of total incoming resources. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc.

The Trust's current level of operating reserves at 31 August 2021 is £2,124,356 (2020 - £1,698,085), which is made up of restricted income reserves of £1,005,215 (2020 - £594,843) and unrestricted funds of £1,119,141 (2020 - £1,103,242).

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Although the current level of reserves is above the target level identified above, there are plans in place to utilise excess reserves for the following Trust priorities:

- Purchase of new minibuses to enable a rich extra curricular programme to resume.
- Refurbishment of sports MUGA surfaces which have reached end of life.
- Replacement and improvement of aging fire safety and site security systems which are nearing end of life.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2021 is £15,875,573 (2020 - £15,481,373), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust, and the balance of unspent capital grants to be used on future capital expenditure. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2021 of £4,394,000 (2020: - £3,194,000), which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of the LGPS deficit is that Trust is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Trust's annual recurring income, which may significantly impact its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. The Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

Investment Policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect by the Trust with the objective of ensuring maximum return on assets invested but with minimal risk. On a daily basis this is achieved by automatic transfer of surplus funds to an overnight deposit account with the Trust's principal bankers. Where cash flow allows, sums in excess of working capital requirements may be invested on deposit for extended periods with the Trust's principal bankers.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategic development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk and have a Risk Register in place, which is formally reviewed annually.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Educational

The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all key stages. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

As examinations and assessments have been disrupted by coronavirus, the Trust has ensured that all students are supported to secure qualifications which enable them to progress to the next stage of their education or onto employment.

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. The Trustees have ensured that all Schools in the Trust operate within the Department for Education's Covid-19 guidance and have reviewed arrangements with professional associations and external health and safety consultants.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Financial

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA (and Local Authority). In the year, approximately 95% of the Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, 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, particularly in light of continuing changes in the National Funding Formula for schools.

Continuing increases in employment costs, including pension costs association with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balanced budgets in the future.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally six times a year; reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings.

At the Balance Sheet date, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the Trust's liquidity.

The Trustees recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Trust. However, as the Trustees consider the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the 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 appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust has engaged a retired strategic business manager to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area

FUNDRAISING

The Trust has not undertaken any material fundraising activities during the year ended 31 August 2021.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust's plans for future periods are:

- To continue to improve the school estates and resources, using a combination of CIF bids and school surpluses. This work has been on-going since inception as a trust in 2019. Two of the three schools have been successful in winning CIF funding and we will write an application for the third school for the new round of funding. Plans to improve the MUGA and Wollaston School will be taken from the school's own reserves.

**THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

- The Trust remains ambitious to achieve the very best outcomes for every student – and is relishing a return to external examinations and assessments. The Trust will ensure that targeted recovery plans are implemented and that all staff have the necessary CPD and confidence to deliver excellent academic outcomes. All three schools have improvement plans which outline specific actions and success criteria. The 2019 (pre-pandemic) outcomes at Key stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 represented significant success against national benchmarks and internal improvement priorities. The trust therefore has the experience to realise our aims for academic excellence, the priority will be re-aligning operational approaches towards this mission, now that most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.
- Although the Trust has a very cautious approach to growth, we are planning to incorporate one additional primary school into the Nene Valley Partnership by the close of 2022. We believe that individual schools can be stronger when collaborating within a supportive family of schools, and we feel that now is the right time to further strengthen the partnership. The trust has already been providing and receiving mutually beneficial support to one currently LA maintained primary school and the due diligence process is beginning. The trust has experience of working in partnership with local formerly maintained schools and the proposed additional school is within our immediate geographical vicinity and is currently rated as Good under the Ofsted criteria. This would be a voluntary academy conversion and application to join the NVP.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

The Academy Trust does however hold Post 16 Bursary Funds on behalf of the ESFA, which are distributed to students as required and in line with the terms and conditions of the funds.

AUDITORS


The auditors, Cooper Parry Group Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 23 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C Hicks
Chair of Trustees

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Nene Valley Partnership 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 Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Nene Valley Partnership 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 14 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
J Birkett	12	14
M Clements	14	14
K Coleman	9	14
P Dudley-Smith	12	14
J Hakes	1	2
C Hicks	14	14
R Watts	13	14
J Woodruff	0	0

During the year, J Hakes resigned as a Trustee and K Coleman resigned after the year-end. J Woodruff has been appointed as a Trustee after 31 August 2021.

The Trust is in the second full year since establishment and thus organisational structures are still being refined. Trustees have reviewed the effectiveness of the Board by obtaining feedback during the year from the Trustees, Local Governing Bodies, Headteachers/Head of School and School Business Managers. The Trustees have determined that this internal review is appropriate due to the stage of development of the Trust. The information has been reviewed and an action plan has been produced, identifying areas for development, which will be monitored in 2021/22. Trustees continued to monitor the risk assessments of the Schools against the coronavirus advice available from the Department for Education.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Trust's governance structure in October 2020 and October 2021 to evaluate its impact and effectiveness, which was achieved through obtaining feedback internally from key stakeholders. The Trustees have reviewed the feedback and identified areas that are working well and the key matters that need attention. As the number of Trustees have declined, the Trust has actively sought new Trustees, based on the skills required from the latest skills audit. The number of Trustees will increase during 2021/22, along with the breadth of skills of the Trustees. The Trustees will next carry out a review in Summer/Autumn 2022 and will evaluate whether this will be done as an external review. As a result of their own internal evaluation procedures, the Trust are currently developing more structured modes of communication with Local Governing Boards alongside a revised approach to policy formation, review and approval.

The impact of coronavirus has increased the number of meetings held by Trustees to review the budgets and financial outcomes of the Schools. Meetings are held virtually and Trustees will continue to assess how meetings should be held and the frequency of these.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health & Safety of the Academy Trust. This committee also acts as the Trust's Audit Committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. Attendance at meetings of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Clements	7	7
P Dudley-Smith	6	7
R Watts	7	7
J Birkett (in attendance only)	6	7
C Hicks (in attendance only)	6	7

The key issues dealt with by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during the year were the review of the Trust's 3 year financial forecasts and actions required from prior year's audit reviews, evaluation of internal control procedures and oversight of the internal and external audit processes.

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- The Trust significantly improved curriculum based financial planning in collaboration with an ESFA suggested SRMA. This was a voluntary exercise, but one which was useful in comparing trust and individual school spend against national benchmarks and making appropriate recommendations for improvement. This resulted in the Trust being able to take strategic staffing and curriculum decisions, including some restructuring of staff at Wollaston School in order to mitigate against cost pressures evident in the 3 -year budget submission. This has had a positive effect in that the Trust is now projecting a significantly more stable 3 year budget forecast as identified staffing and curriculum costs are returned towards national benchmarks.
- In improving IT provision, the Trust made use of a DfE sponsored grant to upgrade our operating platform and migrate the 3 school's individual domains to a shared platform. In order to maximise the cost efficacy of this approach, the Trust also commissioned the company completing the work to undertake an additional infrastructure project to support all three schools' implementation of Microsoft TEAMS. This has enabled more flexibility in the provision of remote working and learning, in addition to ensuring that all work was completed to a planned and costed schedule.
- Wollaston School utilised the DfE Summer School Grant to provide effective transition for Year 6 students starting school in September. The funds were used to run an incredibly successful programme which ran in the first week of the summer holiday, and was attended by over 200 of the 240 children starting in Year 7. This incredibly high take up enabled children to be "Secondary Ready" and the high participation rates demonstrate excellent use of Government funding.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Nene Valley Partnership for the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 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 regular termly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed a retired Strategic Business Manager of a local Academy Trust to carry out a programme of internal checks.

The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current year included a supplementary review of payroll processes and a review of the procedures around the income cycle.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares a 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 reviewer has delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2021 as planned. A number of internal control weaknesses were identified from the work completed and the Trustees and management have developed an action plan to address these weaknesses and improve internal controls over the next six months. The key remedial actions being undertaken by the Academy Trust are enhancing a sign-off procedure and review of documentation.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

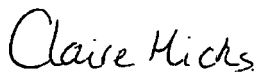
Review of Effectiveness

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


- the work of the reviewer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 23 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



C Hicks
Chair of Trustees



J Birkett
Accounting Officer

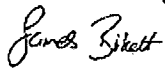
THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of The Nene Valley Partnership I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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



J Birkett
Accounting Officer

Date: 23 December 2021

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

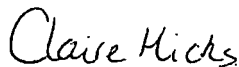
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 23 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



C Hicks
Chair of Trustees

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Nene Valley Partnership (the 'academy trust') for the period 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 Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period 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 Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy 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 NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (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 period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (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:

Our assessment focussed on key laws and regulations the Academy Trust has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Academies Financial Handbook 2020, the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery and employment legislation.

We are not responsible for preventing irregularities, including fraud. Our approach to detecting irregularities, including fraud, included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Academy Trust and how the Academy Trust is complying with that framework, including agreement of financial statement disclosures to underlying documentation and other evidence;
- obtaining an understanding of the Academy Trust's control environment and how the Academy Trust has applied relevant control procedures, through discussions with Trustees and other management and by reviewing the reports on the internal scrutiny work commissioned by the Academy Trust in relation to the year and by performing walkthrough testing over key areas;
- obtaining an understanding of the Academy Trust's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- reviewing meeting minutes of those charged with governance throughout the year; and
- performing audit testing to address the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also considered the likelihood of detection of fraud based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

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 NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Atkins FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

One Central Boulevard

Blythe Valley Park

Solihull

West Midlands

B90 8BG

23 December 2021

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 October 2019 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 Nene Valley Partnership 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 Nene Valley Partnership and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Nene Valley Partnership 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 Nene Valley Partnership and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Nene Valley Partnership's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Nene Valley Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2019 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 Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions included:

- Reviewing the internal control policies and procedures implemented by the Academy Trust and evaluating their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy Trust has complied with the framework of authorities, including reviewing the reports on the internal scrutiny work commissioned by the Academy Trust in relation to the year.
- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Trustees, relevant sub-committees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- Enquiries of the Accounting Officer, including reviewing the work undertaken by the Accounting Officer in relation to their Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance; and

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

- Detailed testing of the income and expenditure of the Academy Trust based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit of the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

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.

Cooper Parry Group Ltd.

Reporting Accountant
Cooper Parry Group Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

One Central Boulevard
Blythe Valley Park
Solihull
West Midlands
B90 8BG

Date: 23 December 2021

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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					
Assets transferred on conversion	-	-	-	-	(3,813,000)
Other donations and capital grants	10,302	9,760	388,194	408,256	437,128
Charitable activities 4	406,774	10,498,414	-	10,905,188	10,421,038
Other trading activities 5	71,350	-	-	71,350	68,718
Investments 6	860	-	-	860	2,364
Total income	489,286	10,508,174	388,194	11,385,654	7,116,248
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities 7,8	473,387	10,163,349	306,447	10,943,183	10,525,047
Total expenditure	473,387	10,163,349	306,447	10,943,183	10,525,047
Net income/(expenditure)	15,899	344,825	81,747	442,471	(3,408,799)
Transfers between funds 18	-	(312,453)	312,453	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)	15,899	32,372	394,200	442,471	(3,408,799)
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes 26	-	(822,000)	-	(822,000)	14,000
Net movement in funds	15,899	(789,628)	394,200	(379,529)	(3,394,799)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward 18	1,103,242	(2,599,157)	15,481,373	13,985,458	17,380,257
Total funds carried forward 18	1,119,141	(3,388,785)	15,875,573	13,605,929	13,985,458

The notes on pages 27 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 11842925

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	15,604,769	15,217,219
		<u>15,604,769</u>	<u>15,217,219</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	31,221	36,661
Debtors	16	509,456	415,153
Cash at bank and in hand		2,422,169	1,886,489
		<u>2,962,846</u>	<u>2,338,303</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(567,686)	(376,064)
Net current assets		<u>2,395,160</u>	<u>1,962,239</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>17,999,929</u>	<u>17,179,458</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>17,999,929</u>	<u>17,179,458</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(4,394,000)	(3,194,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>13,605,929</u></u>	<u><u>13,985,458</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	18	15,875,573	15,481,373
Restricted income funds	18	1,005,215	594,843
Pension reserve	18	(4,394,000)	(3,194,000)
Total restricted funds	18	<u>12,486,788</u>	<u>12,882,216</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>1,119,141</u>	<u>1,103,242</u>
Total funds		<u><u>13,605,929</u></u>	<u><u>13,985,458</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 24 to 51 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 23 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Claire Hicks

C Hicks
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 27 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 operating activities	20	873,135	262,738
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(304,943)	172,791
Cash flows from financing activities	21	(32,512)	(113,114)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		535,680	322,415
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,886,489	1,564,074
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23, 24	<hr/> 2,422,169 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,886,489 <hr/>

The notes on pages 27 to 51 form part of these financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Taxation

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

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

1.4 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

1.6 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.7 Interest receivable

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

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £10,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

The estimated useful lives range as follows:

Long-term leasehold property	- 50 to 125 years
Furniture and equipment	- 10 years
Computer equipment	- 5 years

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

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 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.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.12 Liabilities

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

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. 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.

1.14 Operating leases

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

1.15 Pensions

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

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

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

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

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing the 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and balances held are disclosed in note 30.

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, 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.

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their economic useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors.

Critical areas of judgement:

The classification of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds is considered a critical area of judgement as certain expenditure can be applied to both funds. Where this is the case and the amounts in question are considered material, the expenditure is apportioned to both funding streams on an appropriate basis.

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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					
Assets inherited on conversion	-	-	-	-	(3,813,000)
	-	-	-	-	(3,813,000)
Donations	10,302	9,760	2,100	22,162	124,317
Capital Grants	-	-	386,094	386,094	312,811
Subtotal	10,302	9,760	388,194	408,256	437,128
	10,302	9,760	388,194	408,256	(3,375,872)
Total 2020	12,732	300	(3,388,904)	(3,375,872)	

Revision of the value of assets inherited on conversion in prior year:

The long term leasehold property of the Academy Trust includes the land and buildings of Wollaston School, Irchester Community Primary School and Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery, which were transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion and are occupied under a 125 year lease from Northamptonshire County Council. In the year ended 31 August 2019, in the absence of an available valuation from the ESFA, the value of the land and buildings, as included in the financial statements, was based on a Trustees' valuation. In the year ended 31 August 2020, valuations from the ESFA for the land and buildings have been made available and the Trustees have therefore revised the valuation of the land and buildings recognised in the prior year based on the current ESFA valuations.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	9,048,738	9,048,738	8,687,542
Other DfE/ESFA grants				
Pupil Premium	-	320,386	320,386	308,811
Teacher pay grant	-	124,858	124,858	125,835
Teachers' pension grant	-	352,815	352,815	355,574
PE Sport Premium	-	36,560	36,560	36,700
UIFSM grants	-	61,704	61,704	75,223
Rates funding	-	15,936	15,936	37,659
Free School Meals funding	-	19,068	19,068	6,600
Other DfE Group grants	-	7,423	7,423	44,000
	-	9,987,488	9,987,488	9,677,944
Other Government grants				
Local Authority Early Years funding	-	48,938	48,938	47,146
Local Authority SEN funding	-	44,546	44,546	81,224
Other Government grants	-	39,095	39,095	2,200
	-	132,579	132,579	130,570
Other income from educational activities	406,774	29,702	436,476	612,524
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
COVID Catch-up Premium	-	137,360	137,360	-
Emergency exceptional expenditure funding	-	51,577	51,577	-
Summer School funding	-	65,413	65,413	-
	-	254,350	254,350	-
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)				
COVID Mass Testing grants	-	48,510	48,510	-
Local Authority COVID funding	-	45,785	45,785	-
	-	94,295	94,295	-
	406,774	10,498,414	10,905,188	10,421,038
Total 2020	578,510	9,842,528	10,421,038	

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 activities (continued)

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department for Education and ESFA, the academy trust's funding for various grants previously aggregated together as Other DfE/ESFA grants are now reported as separate grants under the heading of Other DfE/ESFA grants above. The prior year comparatives have been reclassified accordingly.

The Academy Trust received £137,360 of funding for COVID Catch-up Premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £52,282, with the remaining balance of £85,078 to be utilised in the 2021/22 year.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Catering income	44,045	44,045	44,249
IT services	14,308	14,308	5,750
Lettings	12,997	12,997	18,719
	<u>71,350</u>	<u>71,350</u>	<u>68,718</u>
Total 2020	<u>68,718</u>	<u>68,718</u>	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Bank interest	860	860	2,364
	<u>2,364</u>	<u>2,364</u>	
Total 2020	<u>2,364</u>	<u>2,364</u>	

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(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 £
Educational activities:					
Direct costs	7,003,679	-	613,045	7,616,724	7,481,809
Allocated support costs	1,687,438	516,208	1,122,813	3,326,459	3,043,238
	<u>8,691,117</u>	<u>516,208</u>	<u>1,735,858</u>	<u>10,943,183</u>	<u>10,525,047</u>
Total 2020	<u>8,346,837</u>	<u>497,833</u>	<u>1,680,377</u>	<u>10,525,047</u>	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Educational activities	<u>7,616,724</u>	<u>3,326,459</u>	<u>10,943,183</u>	<u>10,525,047</u>
Total 2020	<u>7,481,809</u>	<u>3,043,238</u>	<u>10,525,047</u>	

Of the total expenditure for the year of £10,943,183 (2020 - £10,525,047), £473,387 (2020 - £612,109) was allocated to unrestricted funds, £10,163,349 (2020 - £9,661,237) was allocated to restricted funds and £306,447 (2020 - £251,701) was allocated to restricted fixed asset funds.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational activities 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
LGPS FRS102 net pension interest cost	57,000	57,000	57,000
Staff costs	1,687,438	1,687,438	1,549,245
Depreciation	306,447	306,447	251,701
Technology costs	249,478	249,478	211,713
Premises costs	515,795	515,795	497,833
Other costs	480,851	480,851	461,122
Governance costs	26,200	26,200	14,397
Legal costs	3,250	3,250	227
	<u>3,326,459</u>	<u>3,326,459</u>	<u>3,043,238</u>
Total 2020	<u>3,043,238</u>	<u>3,043,238</u>	

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating lease rentals	44,241	77,938
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	306,447	251,701
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	8,850	8,350
- other services	6,100	4,950
	<u>8,850</u>	<u>4,950</u>

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	6,251,052	6,057,218
Social security costs	597,507	571,693
Pension costs	1,702,811	1,648,527
	<hr/> 8,551,370	<hr/> 8,277,438
Agency staff costs	139,747	69,399
	<hr/> <hr/> 8,691,117	<hr/> <hr/> 8,346,837

b. Staff numbers

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teachers	106	104
Leadership	14	11
Administration and Support	103	109
	<hr/> 223	<hr/> 224

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 £70,001 - £80,000	3	3
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £381,168 (2020 - £361,891).

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

11. Central services

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

- School improvement
- HR
- Finance
- IT

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

- 3% of GAG funding

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wollaston School	180,300	173,476
Irchester Community Primary School	44,918	42,502
Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery	16,710	17,062
Total	241,928	233,040

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2021 £	2020 £
J Birkett	Remuneration	110,000 - 115,000	100,000 - 105,000
	Pension contributions paid	25,000 - 30,000	20,000 - 25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2021, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2020 - £NIL).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and Officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2020	15,300,145	197,652	126,755	15,624,552
Additions	681,301	5,867	6,829	693,997
At 31 August 2021	<u>15,981,446</u>	<u>203,519</u>	<u>133,584</u>	<u>16,318,549</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	355,121	22,404	29,808	407,333
Charge for the year	262,203	20,217	24,027	306,447
At 31 August 2021	<u>617,324</u>	<u>42,621</u>	<u>53,835</u>	<u>713,780</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	<u>15,364,122</u>	<u>160,898</u>	<u>79,749</u>	<u>15,604,769</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>14,945,024</u>	<u>175,248</u>	<u>96,947</u>	<u>15,217,219</u>

The long term leasehold property comprises the land and buildings of Wollaston School, Irchester Community Primary School and Bozeat Community Primary School which were transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion on 1 April 2019 by Northamptonshire County Council, and which are occupied under 125 year lease agreements with the Local Authority.

15. Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Uniform and catering stock	<u>31,221</u>	<u>36,661</u>

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

16. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	36	3,935
Other debtors	38,125	37,994
Prepayments and accrued income	471,295	373,224
	<u>509,456</u>	<u>415,153</u>

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Loans	-	32,512
Trade creditors	31,134	33,587
Other taxation and social security	158,690	243,875
Other creditors	170,020	9,629
Accruals and deferred income	207,842	56,461
	<u>567,686</u>	<u>376,064</u>

Loans in the prior year comprised amounts due to Northamptonshire County Council in respect of capital work undertaken prior to conversion and Salix loans.

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	45,135	83,363
Resources deferred during the year	68,079	45,135
Amounts released from previous periods	(45,135)	(83,363)
	<u>68,079</u>	<u>45,135</u>

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals and trip income relating to future trips, which will be utilised during the year ending 31 August 2022.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,103,242	489,286	(473,387)	-	-	1,119,141
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant (GAG)	545,529	9,048,738	(8,381,525)	(312,453)	-	900,289
Pupil Premium	-	320,386	(311,844)	-	-	8,542
Teacher pay grant	-	124,858	(124,858)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	352,815	(352,815)	-	-	-
PE Sport Premium	-	36,560	(25,254)	-	-	11,306
UIFSM grants	-	61,704	(61,704)	-	-	-
COVID Catch up Premium	-	137,360	(52,282)	-	-	85,078
Emergency exceptional funding	-	51,577	(51,577)	-	-	-
Summer School funding	-	65,413	(65,413)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	49,314	42,427	(91,741)	-	-	-
Local Authority funding	-	132,579	(132,579)	-	-	-
COVID Mass Testing grants	-	48,510	(48,510)	-	-	-
Local Authority COVID funding	-	45,785	(45,785)	-	-	-
Other restricted income	-	39,462	(39,462)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,194,000)	-	(378,000)	-	(822,000)	(4,394,000)
	<u>(2,599,157)</u>	<u>10,508,174</u>	<u>(10,163,349)</u>	<u>(312,453)</u>	<u>(822,000)</u>	<u>(3,388,785)</u>

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Tangible fixed assets	15,217,219	-	(306,447)	693,997	-	15,604,769
Capital grants and funding	264,154	388,194	-	(381,544)	-	270,804
	<u>15,481,373</u>	<u>388,194</u>	<u>(306,447)</u>	<u>312,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,875,573</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>12,882,216</u>	<u>10,896,368</u>	<u>(10,469,796)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(822,000)</u>	<u>12,486,788</u>
Total funds	<u>13,985,458</u>	<u>11,385,654</u>	<u>(10,943,183)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(822,000)</u>	<u>13,605,929</u>

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

The General Annual Grant funding must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust in line with its funding Agreement. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

All ESFA / DfE grants, which include Pupil Premium grants, Teacher pay grants, Teachers' pension grants and other ESFA/DfE grants, and COVID catch-up premium and other DfE/ESFA COVID related funding are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants.

Other grants, which include Local Authority funding, other Government grants and other restricted income, are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants and funding provided.

Restricted fixed asset funds comprise the value of the fixed assets transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion less accumulated depreciation together with any capital expenditure funded from restricted or unrestricted funds. Unspent capital grants are also held in this fund and their use is restricted to the capital projects for which the grants were paid.

The pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

18. 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						
General Funds	1,053,027	662,324	(612,109)	-	-	1,103,242
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant (GAG)	109,010	8,687,542	(8,157,296)	(93,727)	-	545,529
Pupil Premium	-	308,811	(308,811)	-	-	-
Teacher pay grant	-	125,835	(125,835)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	355,574	(355,574)	-	-	-
PE Sport Premium	-	36,700	(36,700)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	75,223	(75,223)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	40,491	88,259	(79,436)	-	-	49,314
Local Authority funding	7,478	130,570	(138,048)	-	-	-
Other income	-	34,314	(34,314)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,858,000)	-	(350,000)	-	14,000	(3,194,000)
	<u>(2,701,021)</u>	<u>9,842,828</u>	<u>(9,661,237)</u>	<u>(93,727)</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>(2,599,157)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Tangible fixed assets	19,028,251	(3,813,000)	(251,701)	253,669	-	15,217,219
Capital grants and funding	-	424,096	-	(159,942)	-	264,154
	<u>19,028,251</u>	<u>(3,388,904)</u>	<u>(251,701)</u>	<u>93,727</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,481,373</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>16,327,230</u>	<u>6,453,924</u>	<u>(9,912,938)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>12,882,216</u>
Total funds	<u>17,380,257</u>	<u>7,116,248</u>	<u>(10,525,047)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>13,985,458</u>

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wollaston School	1,418,976	1,126,715
Irchester Community Primary School	333,744	257,913
Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery	240,406	186,601
Central services *	131,230	126,856
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	2,124,356	1,698,085
Restricted fixed asset fund	15,875,573	15,481,373
Pension reserve	(4,394,000)	(3,194,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	13,605,929	13,985,458
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wollaston School	5,317,473	974,355	501,106	956,531	7,749,465	7,375,595
Irchester Community Primary School	1,298,770	254,159	62,504	195,646	1,811,079	1,742,462
Bozeat Community Primary School and Nursery	387,436	137,924	47,400	126,673	699,433	750,513
Central services *	-	-	2,035	(3,276)	(1,241)	54,776
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Academy Trust	7,003,679	1,366,438	613,045	1,275,574	10,258,736	9,923,346
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Net of central service charges and other recharges to schools.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

19. 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	-	-	15,604,769	15,604,769
Current assets	1,119,141	1,572,901	270,804	2,962,846
Creditors due within one year	-	(567,685)	-	(567,686)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,394,000)	-	(4,394,000)
Total	1,119,141	(3,388,785)	15,875,573	13,605,929

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	-	-	15,217,219	15,217,219
Current assets	1,103,242	970,907	264,154	2,338,303
Creditors due within one year	-	(376,064)	-	(376,064)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(3,194,000)	-	(3,194,000)
Total	1,103,242	(2,599,157)	15,481,373	13,985,458

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	442,471	(3,408,799)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	306,447	251,701
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(388,194)	(424,096)
Interest receivable	(860)	(2,364)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	321,000	293,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	57,000	57,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	5,440	(2,388)
Increase in debtors	(94,303)	(264,400)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	224,134	(49,916)
Revaluation of land and buildings in the year	-	3,813,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	873,135	262,738

21. Cash flows from financing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Repayments of borrowing	(32,512)	(113,114)
Net cash used in financing activities	(32,512)	(113,114)

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	860	2,364
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(693,997)	(253,669)
Capital grants from DfE	386,094	312,811
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	2,100	111,285
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(304,943)	172,791

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	2,422,169	1,886,489
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,422,169	1,886,489

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,886,489	535,680	2,422,169
Debt due within 1 year	(32,512)	32,512	-
	1,853,977	568,192	2,422,169

25. Capital commitments

	2021 £	2020 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	227,407	-

26. Pension commitments

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Northamptonshire 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 £120,816 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £113,868) 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.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,011,207 (2020 - £1,027,527).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £463,000 (2020 - £409,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £372,000 (2020 - £328,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 91,000 (2020 - £81,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.6 % for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.4	2.7
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.2
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.7
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.9	2.2

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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	21.7	21.5
Females	24.1	23.7
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.8	22.3
Females	25.8	25.1

Sensitivity analysis

Impact on value of scheme liabilities as reported:

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Discount rate -0.5%	930	692
CPI rate +0.5%	855	629
Salary increase rate +0.5%	60	52

Share of scheme assets

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Equities	2,068,000	1,486,000
Bonds	617,000	344,000
Property	370,000	258,000
Cash and other liquid assets	31,000	65,000
Total market value of assets	3,086,000	2,153,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £470,000 (2020 - £84,000).

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	(693,000)	(621,000)
Interest income	40,000	35,000
Interest cost	(97,000)	(92,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(750,000)	(678,000)

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	5,347,000	4,518,000
Current service cost	693,000	621,000
Interest cost	97,000	92,000
Employee contributions	91,000	81,000
Actuarial losses	1,252,000	35,000
At 31 August	7,480,000	5,347,000

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	2,153,000	1,660,000
Interest income	40,000	35,000
Actuarial gains	430,000	49,000
Employer contributions	372,000	328,000
Employee contributions	91,000	81,000
At 31 August	3,086,000	2,153,000

27. Operating lease commitments

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than 1 year	9,147	44,390
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,674	14,161
	10,821	58,551

28. 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.

THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

29. Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the current or previous year other than certain Trustees' remuneration already discussed in note 12.

30. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year ended 31 August 2021, the Trust received £15,023 (2020 - 18,178) and distributed £14,300 (2020 - £13,303) from the fund. An amount of £10,352 (2020 - £9,629) is included in creditors at the year end.