

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR
YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

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TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Members

Mr D Hilton
Mr K Hill
Mr M Hirst
Mr N Priestley

Trustees

Mr M Cross
Mrs J Wallis (Chair)
Mr S Lowndes
Mrs G Reece-Jones (resigned 12.12.19)
Mr C Reeve (resigned 11.6.20)
Mr S Price
Mrs H Byford
Mr J McCartney (resigned 18.12.19)
Mrs C Kitson
Mrs K Morley (appointed 1.10.19)
Mrs G Edkins (appointed 15.7.20)
Mr D Lord (CEO & accounting officer)

Executive Leadership Team

CEO
CFO
Headteacher – Honley High School
Head of School – Ryburn Valley High School
Headteacher – Bolton Brow Primary Academy
Headteacher – Meltham Moor Primary School
Headteacher – Netherton Infant & Nursery School

Mr D Lord
Mrs J Kendall
Mr P Greenough
Mrs K Parker
Mr D Burns
Mrs L Woodfield
Mrs K Beattie

Company registration number

09040380 (England and Wales)

Company Name

Together Learning Trust

Registered Office

St Peters Avenue
Sowerby Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX6 1DG

Independent External Auditors

Wheawill & Sudworth Ltd
35 Westgate
Huddersfield
HD1 1PA

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Independent Internal Auditors

Beever & Struthers Ltd
St Georges House
215-219 Chester Road
Manchester
M15 4JE

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
Commercial Street
Halifax
HX1 1BB

Solicitors & Company Secretary

Schofield Sweeney LLP
30 Market Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2HG

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and independent auditor's reports of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Together Learning Trust is a charitable trust with five member academies from the Calderdale and Kirklees Local Authorities. There are two secondary academies and three primary academies in the Trust. The Trust provides education to 3430 students as at the October 2019 census.

The five schools in the Trust are:

Ryburn Valley High School, joined 1 April 2019
Honley High School, joined 1 September 2019
Bolton Brow Primary Academy, joined 1 September 2019
Netherton Infant & Nursery School, joined 1 September 2019
Melham Moor Primary School, joined 1 September 2019

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Together Learning Trust are also the Trustees of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company is known as Together Learning Trust. The registered name of the charitable company was amended on 1 April 2019, having been formerly known as Ryburn Valley High School.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved, 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

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, every trustee or other officer of the Academy shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour, or in which they are acquitted, or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Trust.

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect all trustees and staff from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides up to £2,000,000 in aggregate in any period of insurance.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The management of the academies within the Trust is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed and co-opted under the terms of the articles and the funding agreement. These terms are as follows:

- The number of Members shall not be less than three. No member can be an employee of the Trust.
- The members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to eleven trustees.
- The Trustees may appoint co-opted Trustees
- Each trustee serves a four- year term of office and can be re-appointed
- The Chief Executive Officer, can be an ex-officio trustee
- The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Trust as a co-opted Trustee, if thereby the number of trustees who are employees of the Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees, including the Chief Executive officer

When appointing new trustees, the Trust body gives consideration to the skills and experience mix of the existing trustees in order to ensure that the Trust has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the development of the academies in the Trust. An annual analysis of trustees' skills is conducted, to help identify skill gaps.

The Articles of Association give full details relating to the appointment and removal of trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

An annual analysis of trustees skills is conducted in the Autumn Term and forms the basis of each trustee's personal training plan. The training and induction provided to new trustees will depend on their existing experience. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity, educational, legal and financial matters. As a minimum all new trustees will be issued with the following documents

:

- Most recent issue of the Governors Handbook
- Scheme of Delegation and terms of Reference
- Most recent competency framework for governance
- Most recent Academies Financial Handbook

New trustees/governors will be offered a tour of the relevant academies and an opportunity to meet staff and pupils. All trustees are provided with copies of policies, minutes, accounts, budgets and other documents they will need to undertake their role effectively. The Trustees have access to the National Governors Association (NGA) website and online training platform.

Organisational Structure

The members of the Trust define the object, purpose and ethos of the Trust and can direct the Trust board where required to ensure those elements are met.

The Trust operates under an agreed scheme of delegation. Delegated responsibilities, including financial expenditure limits are determined by trustees. The CEO is the accounting Officer. The Trustees delegate their responsibilities for the day-to-day oversight of each school to a Local Governing Board (LGB) through the scheme of delegation. The headteacher of each school is an ex officio member of the LGB.

The Trustees are responsible for setting strategic objectives and general policy. Adopting and monitoring progress against an annual trust development plan and budget. Monitoring academic and financial performance and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust. Recruitment and appointment of the CEO.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

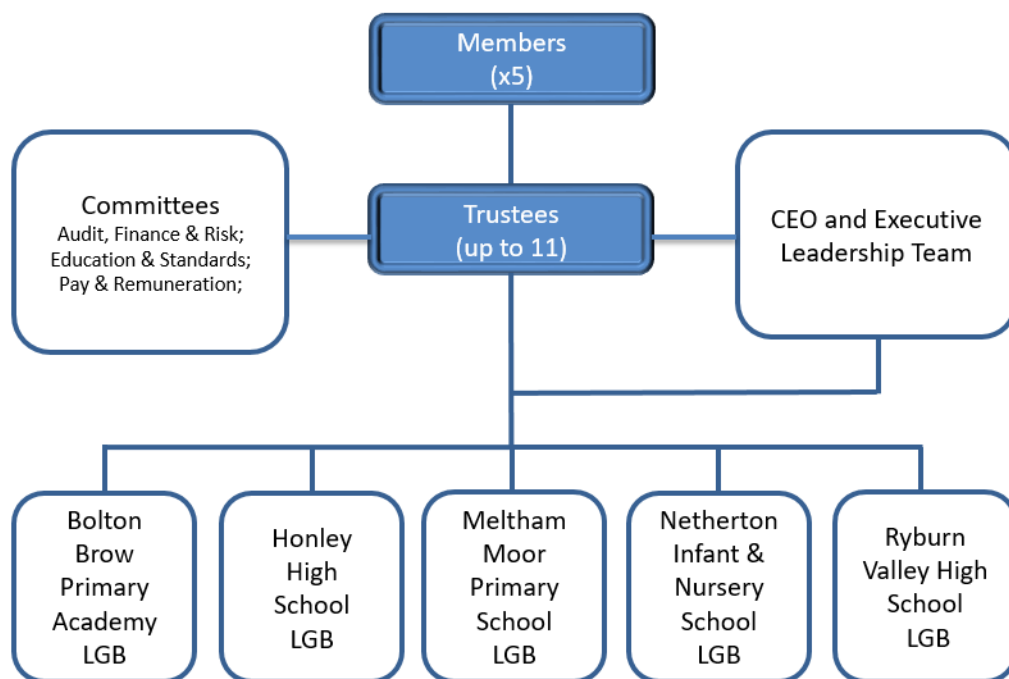
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trust board meet four times a year. The Audit, Finance and Risk (AF&R) committee cover all elements of the risks affecting the Trust including and school within the Trust. The AF&R committee meet three times a year.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures for the year. At each meeting, the board receives reports including policies for ratification. The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The Trust have devolved responsibility for the day to day management of the schools to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of each school. The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) manage each school, implementing the policies laid down by trustees, and reporting back to them, via the LGB, CEO or Executive Leadership Team (ELT) or directly where appropriate.



Arrangements for setting Pay and remuneration of Key Management personnel

The members and trustees of the schools' act in a voluntary capacity and are not remunerated, however, expenses can be claimed as laid down in the Trustees and Governors Allowances Policy. The pay of the headteacher and SLT of the school follows the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and is based on the size of the school, following prescribed leadership grades in relation to the schools' size. As with all staff in the school, the headteacher and SLT follow an annual appraisal process to determine as to whether they can proceed onto the next incremental scale relevant to their position. The headteacher has an annual review with members of the Headteacher Performance Management Committee, this consists of the CEO, Chair of Local Governing board and one other governor. All the annual increases relating to both the management posts of the schools and other incremental increases of staff are ratified annually by the Trust Pay Committee.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Trade Union Facilities Time

Relevant Union Officials

| Number of employees who were relevant union officials during 2019-20 | Full-time equivalent employee number |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| One | 0.8 |

Percentage of time spent of facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

| | |
|---|----------|
| Total cost of facility time | £450 |
| Total pay bill | £15,583K |
| Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time/total pay bill) x 100 | 0 |

Paid trade union activities

| | |
|---|------|
| Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours | None |
|---|------|

Engagement with Employees

The Trust has 435 employees. The five schools in the Trust converted and came together in September 2019. This involved engagement with employees via meetings with trustees, the executive team and the unions to ensure that contractual terms were upheld under TUPE regulations. All staff were given the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.

All trust policies are shared with the staff in the schools. The CEO sends out regular bulletins to all staff in the schools. Through the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) the schools are informed of the direction of the Trust. The Trust organise training days during the year where different schools in the Trust join together to share good practice and work collaboratively. Staff absence across the Trust is better than the national average. At the request of employees, the Trust has set up a cycle to work scheme for employees. The Trust also operates a childcare voucher scheme for employees.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Employees with disabilities

The Trust has a recruitment policy which is in line with the Equality Policy, giving disabled persons the same opportunities as people without disabilities, when applying for posts across the Trust. Risk assessments are carried out for employees with disabilities and appropriate action taken to support them in their role in the Trust. The Trust works collaboratively with Access to Work, supporting employees with disabilities and providing them with the resources needed to assist them in fulfilling their work.

Related Parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trust is connected to several Teaching School Alliances, which coordinate and provide School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) placements across a local partnership of schools and training providers. The Calderdale schools are connected to the Teamworks SCITT. The Kirklees schools are connected to South Pennines Academies and West Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance for teacher training placements. The Trust also works with Huddersfield University and Leeds Beckett University for teacher training. Ryburn Valley High School has collaborative links with its thirteen feeder primary schools which form part of the Ryburn Valley Learning Community.

There are no related parties, including sponsors, which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Together Learning Trust, so are therefore not disclosed in note 24 in the financial statements.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and Activities

The principle objects and activities of the Trust is to advance the education and creativity of all the students in its care.

Objectives and activities

Trust Vision

When schools collaborate, incredible things happen. We stand strong together but preserve our distinct identities. Together, we support and empower each other to become leading schools with confident, principled and successful students. We strive to deliver world class education by cherishing our staff and enabling them to thrive. We embody our values and a positive mind-set that insists all students make excellent progress. Ultimately, we are guided by a shared commitment to providing **magical learning experiences** and a belief that every student can achieve great things.

Trust Values

Exceptional achievement stems from developing exceptional teaching and learning. Creativity is the core of our values. We achieve great results, but we provide and expect so much more. We are shaping a generation of future global citizens with the character they need to succeed; with the integrity and commitment to excellence that will enable them to thrive.

Our Mission

Our aim is to grow great people and talent. We support the wellbeing of our staff and enable them to flourish. We never stop learning, so we invest in our teachers' development by reaching out to partners and embracing leading educational research to keep ahead of our game. Being part of Together Learning Trust feels special due to the unique nature of the schools and the opportunities it brings for staff, students and communities to collaborate. For everyone involved in our Trust our mission is simple: To Grow, Excel, and Learn Together.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

Our schools work closely together to identify and then implement the best school development strategies across the Trust. These improvement strategies include a focus on:

- how to effectively lead and manage teams to maximise their effectiveness
- accurately assessing progress and evaluating the impact of teaching on learning
- the suitability of the curriculum experience for each learner from the age of 2 to 19
- how to secure excellent attendance and exemplary behaviour
- creating a culture of opportunity that builds character and confidence
- Curriculum development communities continue to enhance the quality of teaching and learning

Our 3-year strategic improvement and growth plan is framed on developing excellence in the following key areas

- Leadership and Management
- Collaborative Partnerships and Opportunities
- Structures, Systems and Organisation
- Quality of Education

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trust also aims to:

- Comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements
- Provide value for money for the funds expended
- Conduct its business in accordance with the highest standards of regularity and propriety.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties.

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit, high quality education provided by all its schools. In particular offering a broad and balanced curriculum with a strong emphasis on the inclusion of students with Special Educational Need.

Strategic report

Achievements and Performance

2019-20 has proved to be a difficult year for measuring school performance. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, schools across the country closed to students in March 2020, replacing face to face learning with remote learning. Due to this pandemic, all formal summer exams were cancelled by the DFE. All achievements for 2020 were based on teacher assessments. Interim reports to the Trustees showed that the results in all the schools were predicted to be good this year and each schools' assessed grades were fair and accurate. No national comparison has been made for these assessed grades, therefore the performance of the Trust by any external agency will be using the performance of 2019 as the baseline for development.

Due to this situation we cannot comment on the achievements and performance for 2019-20 for the schools in the Trust.

Ryburn Valley High School

The school continues to be oversubscribed and is full in all year groups (11-16). At its October census 2019, it had 1464 students and 1498 in October 2020. Numbers in the 6th Form increased again in 2019 to 230 and to 236 on the October 2020 census. In November 2019 the school reached the high standards required to obtain the Character Education Kitemark plus. The school achieved all the Gatsby benchmarks and Careers Kitemark Award as well as the Arts Mark Platinum. Ryburn continues to provide a good education for students with SEN-E (those with an Educational Healthcare Plan) for 3.2% of the school population, which is nearly double the national average of 1.7%. In 2019 the school had 69% of students gaining a level 4 including English and Maths, which was above the national average of 64%. The expectation for 2020 was for the school to exceed the 2019 results progress score of 0.2. The school is rated good by Ofsted (as at October 2015).

Honley High School

The school has a PAN of 255 in each year group. At October 2019 census it had 1254 students and 1252 in 2020. It has 16% of students on free school meals, which is just above the national average of 14% (2019). Honley also provides well for its students with SEN-E with 1.8% of students on the register. Honley gained National Citizenship status during the year. In 2019 there were 65% of students gaining at least a level 4 qualification (including English and Mathematics), again above the national average of 64%. The expectation for 2020 was for these results to exceed the 2019 result and for Progress 8 to be significantly positive. Honley is graded as good by Ofsted (inspection May 2017).

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Bolton Brow Primary Academy

The school continued to be popular with the community it serves and was again oversubscribed for students joining the reception class. The school has a PAN of 30. Students enjoyed school and attendance continued to be above the national average at 96.7% up to 20th March 2020, when the school closed for Covid-19. During the Autumn term 2019 the school was reassessed for the Quality Mark for Primary schools, the report said that the school successfully instill and drive through improvements, pupil milestones are positive and improvement planning is thorough. The 2019 KS2 results for students meeting the expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics was 73%, this was higher than the national figure of 65%. The schools independent Professional Partner supported an evaluation that the trajectory to further increase outcomes for pupils would have been met in 2020, if it had not been for the enforced closure. The last Ofsted inspection in October 2017, judged the school to be good.

Meltham Moor Primary School

The school was once again oversubscribed for new reception class starters in September 2020 after a low birth rate year in 2019. Numbers in other year groups were not completely full in 2019, however the school has had ad hoc starters since the start of the academic year which has boosted numbers. Prior to 20th March, when the school closed to all those that didn't fall into the key worker or vulnerable status, the attendance was above the national average at 96.85%. Attendance has remained good in the autumn term at 98.16%. The last Ofsted inspection in November 2017, judged the school to be good.

Netherton Infant and Nursery School

Netherton Infant and Nursery School has a PAN of 60 and a Nursery with 26 places available morning and afternoon. In 2019-20, 30-hour funding was offered for the first time, which proved popular with parents. Attendance across school has always been above national and the figure up to school closure in March, including Nursery, was 95%. The school took their very first apprentice, which was a successful move for the school. Year 2 children were involved in the Carry My Story project, involving meeting with children from another school, sharing stories with a refugee. The school achieved the Platinum Green School award, a continuation of the children's enjoyment of Forest School learning. In July 2019, end of year reading and writing scores were 86% with mathematics at 85%. At our last Ofsted in April 2018, the school was judged to be good.

Covid 19

The Covid lockdown from the end of March 2020 presented a significant barrier to achieving the development objectives in full for the Trust, including the objective of further increasing outcomes for students. The lockdown presented all the schools in the Trust with significant challenges, however the staff teams in the schools were able to successfully provide learning and support to all families through remote learning and remained open to students of key worker and vulnerable students, including throughout the holiday period. During the wider reopening of schools from June/July 2020 the primary schools were able to open to Nursery/Reception and Year 1 and Year 6.

The Covid-19 lockdown set challenges for the senior teams in the schools and the Trustees. The Trust had to ensure that detailed risk assessments were being planned, regularly reviewed and externally inspected by the Trusts' health and safety advisor. The risk assessments were essential to create a safe learning and working environment for both students and staff.

All the schools participated in the national free school meals voucher scheme with Edenred. Prior to the national scheme, the schools in the Trust organised their own voucher scheme with Tesco and Morrisons Supermarkets. The total cost of the Trusts schools voucher scheme was £35,400. This amount has been claimed from the DFE as Covid exceptional costs and was received in September 2020. See Note 4 to the accounts.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Key Performance Indicators

The Trust considers its main educational performance indicators to be pupil attendance rates and the examination results achieved. These are normally, shown in the Achievements and Performance section above, however given the Covid-19 situation these KPI's cannot be compared as there are no national results and tables available. The educational key performance indicators expected of all trust academies include:

- All Schools to be judged at least good by Ofsted
- Disadvantaged students to make at least the same progress as other students nationally
- Attendance to be better than the national average
- All schools to be in the top 30% nationally for student progress

The financial performance of the Trust for the period under review is detailed in the Financial Review section below. The key financial performance indicators include:

- Cumulative balance at each school to be in surplus over a 3 year period
- Reserves to be at least 4% of annual GAG
- In year balance to remain at or above budget forecast
- Cash levels to be sufficient to meet financial obligations

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)

UK Annual Energy Use (Kwh)

This is the first year of Together Learning Trust and therefore there is no comparison to previous years emissions

| | Annual Energy Use Kwh | Conversion factor | Emissions Calculation | Scope |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Gas | 2,732,271 | 0.18387 | 502.38 | 1 |
| Electricity | 1,119,232 | 0.23314 | 260.94 | 2 |
| Transport minibus (km) | 17323 | 0.1890 | 3.27 | 1 |
| Transport staff mileage (km) | 2089 | 0.28052 | 0.50 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 3,864,356 | | 767.10 | |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total Number of Pupils | 3430 |
| Intensity ratio (emissions/no of pupils) | 0.22 |

Methodology in calculation of disclosures

| Scope | Description |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Emissions from combustion of gas and fuel for transport purposes |
| 2 | Emissions from purchased electricity |
| 3 | Emissions from business travel or employee-owned vehicles where the academy trust is responsible for purchasing the fuel |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The schools in the Trust, try to save energy as much as possible, students are made aware of the need to save energy and turn lights off in rooms where vacant. LED lighting has been installed where possible. Sensors have been installed at Ryburn Valley High School to save electricity and the heating areas have been zoned. The Trust hope to carry out a carbon reduction exercise during 2020-21 to investigate ways that further energy saving can be made. The purpose will be to try and reduce the emissions shown in this report for 2019-20.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trust board has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Financial forecasts have been prepared for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23 which indicate that the Academy Trust will be able to finance its activities out of existing reserves. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Financial Review

Financial Performance and in-year balance

These financial statements reflect the operational activity for the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020. Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the 12 months ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted General Funds in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

The Trust also receives grants for Fixed Assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS102), such grants are shown in the SOFA as restricted income in the Restricted Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ending 31 August 2020, total expenditure (excluding fixed assets fund) of £20,752,946 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DFE, together with other incoming resources, of £20,310,587. The total fund value at the end of the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and the pension fund) was £2,055,340 (this includes £192,958 School fund balance, where the money comes from donations and is held in separate bank accounts). The restricted fixed asset fund at the end of the year includes capital reserves of £920,743 available to spend. The reserves carried forward into the Trust accounts on 1 September 2019, being Ryburn Valley High School as well as those schools who brought in a surplus on conversion, consisted of £30,457,752 restricted and £1,633,394 unrestricted funds. Of these, the total fund value (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and the pension fund) was £1,774,737 and the restricted fixed asset fund included capital reserves of £543,002 available to spend. Therefore, total reserves carried forward as at 31 August 2020 were £29,534,882, consisting of £27,834,123 restricted and £1,700,759 unrestricted.

The land, buildings and other assets of all the schools were transferred to the Trust on conversion. Land and buildings for Meltham Moor and Netherton Nursery and Infant School were taken at net book value (NBV) as at 31.8.19 from Kirklees Local Authority. Bolton Brow for the purpose of these accounts has the NBV from the single Academy accounts as at 31.8.19, shown in these accounts. Bolton Brow is awaiting an ESFA valuation. Honley High School did not have a current valuation of its land and buildings on conversion and has been commercial valued for the purpose of these accounts as at 1.9.19. Other assets have been included in the financial statements using original purchase price and remaining useful life.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

At 31 August 2020 the net book value of fixed assets was £35,224,799 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students and the Trust.

The non-teaching staff of the Trust are entitled to membership of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund. The Trust's share of the Scheme's asset is currently assessed to be less than its liabilities in the scheme and consequently the Trust's balance sheet shows a net liability of £8,666,000. The liability inherited on conversion was £4,168,000.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed the reserve levels of the Trust for this academic year. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees took account of the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

It is the Trusts policy to maintain a level of reserves, which can be used for future education purposes in line with the development plan of the schools and the Trust.

At the year end the Trust held restricted revenue reserves of £354,581 and unrestricted reserves of £1,700,759. The total revenue reserves equated to 10% of total revenue income for the year (excluding transfers).

The Trustees will ensure that the reserves policy continues to conform to the requirements laid down in the Academies Financial Handbook 2019, produced by the ESFA and will monitor any changes with the funding agreement and GAG restrictions as appropriate.

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves to improve the educational offer at any of the schools as required and provide assistance for any future capital projects as they arise. The Trust started receiving the School Condition Allocation (SCA) in April 2020 and will look to implement a fair and equitable way to utilise these funds to the best overall benefit of the Trust and its students. This SCA is included in the reserves of the accounts.

Investment Policy and Powers

The Trust reserve policy is to calculate what a sufficient amount of working capital would be needed to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies, which would be retained in the current accounts of the Trust. Any excess funds would be put into fixed term deposit accounts with recognised financial institutions. Given the newly formed MAT and the very low level of interest rates across financial institutions, surplus funds have not been put into higher interest accounts for the period of these accounts, with the exception of Ryburn Valley High School, which had an historical higher interest deposit account.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise returns whilst minimising risk. The Trusts policy is for any cash not required for operating expenses to be placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from approved financial institutions. Day-to-day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the CEO and CFO within strict guidelines approved by the Trust Board. Currently all Trust reserves are held in Lloyds bank current accounts, which provided an interest rate of 0.1%, this rate has recently reduced to 0.05%. Ryburn Valley High School has £100,000 in a 30 day deposit account to achieve a higher level of interest, this interest has reduced from 0.3% to 0.1%. The reason for the reduction of interest rates is due to the current economic crisis surrounding Covid-19.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Trustees recognise that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme) which is set out in Note 19 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from the liability is minimised. Readers should also note that 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 principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Financial – the Academy has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 97% of the Trust's incoming resources was government funded (including income from Local Authority) and 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.

Failures in governance/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 that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks. An Internal Auditor was appointed on behalf of the Trustees to check that internal controls are in place for this academic year.

Reputational – the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational and behavioral standards. To mitigate this risk, trustees ensure that student success, achievement and wellbeing are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and Child Protection – the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff. The Trustees agree the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures, there is a governor appointed at each of the schools with a responsibility for child protection and safeguarding who reports back to the Local Governing Body.

Staffing – the success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff. Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure the continued professional development and training of staff, ensuring that annual appraisals of staff are carried out and that there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds – Together Learning Trust appointed Beever & Struthers Ltd as its internal auditor in September 2019. For this accounting period, checks on the financial systems and records of the schools in the Trust were carried out, as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Multi Academy trust may be classed as a principal risk and uncertainty, as it is still in its infancy, being the first year of operation. The Trust has now got in place all the required statutory trust policies. A trust central team is being developed, which works in collaboration with all the schools across the Trust to develop a system of internal controls. The risk register continues to be developed and builds on the findings of the due diligence exercise carried out in 2019, which was carried out across all the Trust schools to see if there were any serious weaknesses in the following areas:

- **Human Resources:** looking at staffing contracts, job descriptions, organisation charts, disciplinaries, absences, etc.
- **Finance:** financial planning, budget forecasts, procedures, insurance arrangements, capital plans, financial bench marking, ongoing contracts, details of any fraud or irregularity, pupil number forecasts

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

- **Estates and Health & Safety:** Looking at most recent building conditions survey, fixed asset register/inventory, details of capital bids, maintenance programme and contracts, Health and safety reports, site security, inspection records of equipment, fire alarm and evacuation procedures
- **IT:** Status of IT equipment, back up and disaster recovery plans, e-safety policies, cloud storage and server storage, IT support, IT software used, internet capacity. IT inventory, etc.

The due diligence report to the Trustees did not highlight any major areas of concern at any of the schools.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Together Learning Trust holds a Risk Register, where the core risks have been agreed with the Trustees. The Trust have recently purchased GWC1 risk register software to be able to consolidate the risks of all the schools in the Trust. The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to finances, staffing, facilities and operational areas. The Trustees will look at how the Trust can minimise risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Whilst some of the schools in the Trust are full and some over-subscribed, the primary schools in particular have issues with the fluctuation of numbers in their nurseries. Any reduction in numbers below the schools PAN creates risk to a reduction in revenue funding. The Trustees are made aware of any changes to student numbers as soon as possible. The Trust are mindful that education funding continues to be tight, especially as pay awards and increases in both teacher pensions and support staff pensions are not fully funded. As the DFE is moving further towards a hard National Funding Formula, there will be no local government pockets of funding available for schools, this means an increase in areas of education spend being delegated to schools, e.g. the careers service in Calderdale secondary schools from April 2021. The Trust has to keep up to date with changes in spending, so this can be discussed and included in the Trusts financial forecasts. The Trust models these risks in its 3 year financial projections and incorporates these findings into its strategic plans.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term, reviewing expenditure and commitments against budgets, by means of termly financial summaries to the Trustees.

At 31st August 2020, Together Learning Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust board have put controls and policies in place during 2019-20, and will continue to monitor and develop these controls and improve policies where necessary, to ensure that the schools in the Trust continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance and wellbeing of its students at all levels.

The Trust will continue to implement the Trusts strategic plan for improvement by, developing effective leadership and management, enhancing excellent collaborative partnerships and providing high quality education. The Trust aims to create good structures, systems and organisation, which will enable effectiveness and produce efficiencies across the Trust. The Trust will also encourage other like-minded schools to join the Trust and have agreed to take on sponsor schools, where practical.

The Trust have put in place a business continuity plan and a risk register, to consider all the potential risks to the schools in the Trust. The principal risks, as listed above, include financial, governance and management, reputational, safeguarding, staffing, buildings and resources, fraud and mismanagement of funds.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware.
- 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.

Wheawill & Sudworth Ltd were appointed as the external auditor to Together Learning Trust in September 2019. The Trust agreed a three year term for the auditor.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Together Learning Trust, at a meeting of the trustees, on 14 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs J Wallis
Chair of Trustees

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

The Trust Board delegate the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Together Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the Trust board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on trustees is included below, this supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met 8 times during the Period, including four extra ordinary meetings.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Governing Body was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings attended | Out of Possible |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs J Wallis (Chair) | 8 | 8 |
| Mr S Lounds | 8 | 8 |
| Mrs K Morley | 8 | 8 |
| Mrs C Kitson | 8 | 8 |
| Mrs H Byford | 8 | 8 |
| Mr S Price | 8 | 8 |
| Mr M Cross | 7 | 8 |
| Mr C Reeve | 4 | 7 |
| Mr Jason McCartney | 0 | 2 |
| Mrs G Reece-Jones | 2 | 2 |
| Mrs G Edkins | 1 | 1 |
| Mr D Lord (CEO & accounting officer) | 8 | 8 |

There have been three resignations during the year and one appointment, all other trustees completed the full year in post. The eight board meetings throughout the year along with the support of the four Audit, Finance & Risk committees, have given enough scope and coverage throughout the year to give the board the comfort that they have adhered to their roles and responsibilities.

The Trustees are part of an effective team, working at a strategic level to enable the schools in the Trust to provide the best possible teaching and learning environment for the pupils. Individually and collectively trustees demonstrated that they had questioned, challenged and supported the CEO, headteachers and staff across all aspects of the school business.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee (AF&R) is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to:

- Plan and approve a balanced 3 year budget.
- Monitor spending to ensure the economic, efficient and effective use of resources
- Ensure all statutory returns of the Trust are completed on time
- Plan and approve capital expenditure
- Act as an audit committee whose main purpose is to ensure there is sound internal control and risk management processes are in place

Attendance at AF&R committee meetings in the year was as follows:

| Trustee | Meetings Attended | Out of Possible |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs K Morley (Chair) | 4 | 4 |
| Mr S Lounds | 4 | 4 |
| Mr S Price | 4 | 4 |
| Mr C Reeve | 3 | 3 |
| Mr D Lord (CEO & Accounting Officer) | 4 | 4 |

Review of Value for Money

The Accounting Officer (CEO) is responsible for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value for money in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider social outcomes achieved in return from the public resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of resources has provided good value for money during the academic year and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved. The Accounting Officer has delivered improved value for money during the year:

- Tracking student progress in both Secondary and Primary to keep it higher than the national average
- Monitoring student attendance to ensure that attendance is above the national average, by having effective attendance management
- Monitoring the progress of Post 16 students to ensure that they are on the courses most suited to them. Ensuring optimum class sizes of post 16 classes
- By effectively using pupil premium income to narrow the gap between pupil premium students and non-pupil premium students
- Behaviour is good across the schools in the Trust, by having effective behaviour management
- Having a good CPD programme throughout the Trust which focuses on staff development to further improve the outcome of our students
- Have a broad curriculum and extra curricular activities which provide students with the opportunity to achieve the highest level of academic and personal achievement which their abilities allow
- Ryburn Valley High and Honley High School continuing to challenge the PFI provider.
- Establishing a curriculum informed approach to financial planning to ensure curriculums are planned that are affordable and within the context of each academy.
- Significant spending proposals are costed and presented to the Trust Board/LGB's and executive leadership team for consideration and challenge
- Staffing structures kept under review in each school
- By developing a central team to create efficiencies in the office function of the individual schools

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure, to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust'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 at Together Learning Trust for this accounting period of 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Trust Board has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trustees of Together Learning Trust is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. The Trust have produced an Internal Scrutiny Report for the period of these accounts which is sent to the ESFA along with the accounts.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees
- annual 3 year forecasted budget modelling reviewed by SLT, LGB's and the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans and capital works
- staffing reviews
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks

The Trustees considered the need for a specific internal audit function, in line with the requirement in the Academies Financial Handbook, and have appointed Beever & Struthers Ltd. A programme of internal controls has been agreed with the Trustees for 2019-2020 academic year and also for 2020-21.

The role of the internal auditor includes giving advice on financial matters and has performed a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. The internal auditor reports to the Trustees on a termly basis on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees financial responsibilities. In this accounting period, and due to the time taken to set up new accounting systems, each academy within the Trust has had an audit of its core financial procedures and systems in the last term of the school year.

The Internal Audit has delivered the work as planned during the year and there have been no material control issues arising as a result of work performed.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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 internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment (FMGS) process
- the work of the executive leadership team and trustees who have responsibility for the oversight, development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of the internal auditors review of the system of internal control and has agreed that a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Governing Body on 14 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs J Wallis
Chair of Trustees

Mr D Lord
Accounting Officer

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As accounting officer of Together Learning Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust 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 2019.

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

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

Mr D Lord
Accounting Officer

14 January 2021

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' AND GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees for Together Learning Trust are responsible for preparing the Trustees' and governors' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 published by the Education & 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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 that 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Trust Board of Together Learning Trust on 14 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs J Wallis
Chair of Trustees

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Together Learning Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020, which comprise of the statement of financial activities (SOFA), the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion, the accounts:

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

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 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' 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 accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

The governors/trustees are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

Opinions 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' and governors' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and the Trustees' and governors' report including the incorporated 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 the 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' and governors' report, including the incorporated 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 accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
certain disclosures of trustees' and governors' 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/Governors

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' and governors' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST (CONTINUED)

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

David Butterworth (Director)
for and on behalf of Wheawill & Sudworth Limited

14 January 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

35 Westgate
Huddersfield
HD1 1PA

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12 February 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Together Learning Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Together Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 August 2014, the Deeds of Variation and Supplemental Funding Agreements dated 27 August 2019 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance which may include review and corroboration of the most recent Financial Management and Governance Evaluation or equivalent;
- evaluation of the general control environment of the academy trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity;
- assessment and testing of a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity;
- when performing sample testing of expenditure, considering whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities.

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Wheawill & Sudworth Limited

14 January 2021

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

| | Notes | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ | £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|-------|----------------------------|---|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 3 | 20,074 | 452,709 | 495,862 | 968,645 | 379,133 |
| Transfer from local authority on conversion | 26 | 859,421 | 20,228 | 18,415,106 | 19,294,755 | - |
| Transfer of existing academies into the Trust | 27 | 88,443 | 62,039 | 3,142,138 | 3,292,620 | - |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Funding for educational operations | 4 | 36,627 | 19,495,234 | - | 19,531,861 | 7,931,299 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 167,317 | 138,024 | - | 305,341 | 104,453 |
| Investments | 6 | 602 | - | - | 602 | 3,807 |
| Total | | 1,172,484 | 20,168,234 | 22,053,106 | 43,393,824 | 8,418,692 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 51,194 | 500 | - | 51,694 | 296,458 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Educational operations | 8 | 106,061 | 20,595,191 | 757,767 | 21,459,019 | 8,724,473 |
| Total | 7 | 157,255 | 20,595,691 | 757,767 | 21,510,713 | 9,020,931 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 1,015,229 | (427,457) | 21,295,339 | 21,883,111 | (602,239) |
| Transfers between funds | | - | (101,039) | 101,039 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 19 | - | (1,852,000) | - | (1,852,000) | (1,136,000) |
| Transfers in of pension deficits from acquisitions | 19 | - | (3,338,000) | - | (3,338,000) | - |
| Net movement in funds | | 1,015,229 | (5,718,496) | 21,396,378 | 16,693,111 | (1,738,239) |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 685,530 | (2,592,923) | 14,749,164 | 12,841,771 | 14,580,010 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 1,700,759 | (8,311,419) | 36,145,542 | 29,534,882 | 12,841,771 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

| Comparative year information | | Unrestricted | | Restricted funds: | | Total |
|--|--------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Year ended 31 August 2019 | | Funds | | General Fixed asset | | 2019 |
| | Notes | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 3 | 52,392 | 223,079 | 103,662 | | 379,133 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Funding for educational operations | 4 | - | 7,931,299 | - | | 7,931,299 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 78,353 | 25,500 | - | | 103,853 |
| Investments | 6 | 3,807 | - | - | | 3,807 |
| Total | | 134,552 | 8,179,878 | 103,662 | | 8,418,092 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 53,634 | 242,824 | - | | 296,458 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Educational operations | 8 | - | 8,367,426 | 357,047 | | 8,724,473 |
| Total | 7 | 53,634 | 8,610,250 | 357,047 | | 9,020,931 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 81,518 | (430,372) | (253,385) | | (602,239) |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 19 | - | (1,136,000) | - | | (1,136,000) |
| Net movement in funds | | 81,518 | (1,566,372) | (253,385) | | (1,738,239) |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 604,012 | (1,026,551) | 15,002,549 | | 14,580,010 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 685,530 | (2,592,923) | 14,749,164 | | 12,841,771 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

| | Notes | 2020 | | 2019 | |
|--|-------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 35,224,799 | | 14,476,257 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Stocks | | | 1,964 | | - |
| Debtors | 14 | | 1,015,747 | | 159,328 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | | 2,758,763 | | 1,020,215 |
| | | | <u>3,776,474</u> | | <u>1,179,543</u> |
| Current liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 15 | | <u>(800,391)</u> | | <u>(162,029)</u> |
| Net current assets | | | 2,976,083 | | 1,017,514 |
| Net assets excluding pension liability | | | <u>38,200,882</u> | | <u>15,493,771</u> |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 19 | | <u>(8,666,000)</u> | | <u>(2,652,000)</u> |
| Total net assets | | | <u>29,534,882</u> | | <u>12,841,771</u> |
| Funds of the Academy Trust: | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 17 | | | | |
| - Fixed asset funds | | | 36,145,542 | | 14,749,164 |
| - Restricted income funds | | | 354,581 | | 59,077 |
| - Pension reserve | | | <u>(8,666,000)</u> | | <u>(2,652,000)</u> |
| Total restricted funds | | | <u>27,834,123</u> | | <u>12,156,241</u> |
| Unrestricted income funds | 17 | | <u>1,700,759</u> | | <u>685,530</u> |
| Total funds | | | <u>29,534,882</u> | | <u>12,841,771</u> |

The accounts on pages 27 to 54 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 January 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Mrs J Wallis
Chair of Trustees

Company Number 9040380

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

| | Notes | 2020 £ | £ | 2019 £ | £ |
|---|--------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Cash transferred on conversion / Transfer of existing academy into the Trust | 26/27 | | 1,313,892 | | - |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | 20 | | 147,352 | | (133,860) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | | 602 | | 3,807 | |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | | 495,862 | | 103,662 | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (219,160) | | (40,603) | |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | | | <u>277,304</u> | | <u>66,866</u> |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | | <u>1,738,548</u> | | <u>(66,994)</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year | | | <u>1,020,215</u> | | <u>1,087,209</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year | | | <u>2,758,763</u> | | <u>1,020,215</u> |
| Relating to: | | | | | |
| Bank and cash balances | | | 2,565,805 | | 937,509 |
| Short term deposits | | | 192,958 | | 82,706 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

The accounts of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

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

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 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. To assist with this analysis financial forecasts have been prepared for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23. Whilst further operating deficits are anticipated, these can be financed out of existing reserves.

This assessment has also taken into account the uncertainty caused by Covid-19 and the operational action plans put in place by the Executive Leadership Team. These are considered to be an effective response to maintain both educational standards and working capital resources.

1.3 Income

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

Grants

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities 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 period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. 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.

Sponsorship income

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

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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 period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

Transfer on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

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.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £3,000 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. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. 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, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Land and buildings | 2% or 5% straight line |
| Computer equipment | 33.33% straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 12.5% of 15% straight line |
| Motor vehicles | 20% straight line |

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

1.6 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.

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 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 basis are as follows.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments and are measured at amortised cost. 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.

1.9 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 chapter 3 part 11 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.

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded 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.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.11 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 governors.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

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 governors.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

1.12 Conversion to Multi Academy Trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to a Multi Academy Trust, involves the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the schools within the Trust for £nil consideration. The substance of transfers is deemed a gift and is accounted for on that basis.

Assets and liabilities transferred on conversion to the Trust are valued at their fair value, with the long leasehold of land & buildings and the pension scheme (deficit) balance independently valued at the date of transfer. The amounts are recognised under the appropriated balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in voluntary income – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting 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.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

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 19, 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 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The financial statements are prepared on a factual basis as such there are no areas of judgement.

3 Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Capital grants | - | 495,862 | 495,862 | 103,662 |
| Other donations | 20,074 | 452,709 | 472,783 | 275,471 |
| | 20,074 | 948,571 | 968,645 | 379,133 |

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| DfE / ESFA grants | | | | |
| General annual grant (GAG) | - | 16,445,790 | 16,445,790 | 7,189,737 |
| Start up grants | - | - | - | 75,000 |
| Other DfE group grants | - | 1,945,524 | 1,945,524 | 379,465 |
| | - | 18,391,314 | 18,391,314 | 7,644,202 |
| Other government grants | | | | |
| Local authority grants | 1,600 | 1,027,350 | 1,028,950 | 287,097 |
| Exceptional government funding | | | | |
| Coronavirus exceptional support | - | 35,400 | 35,400 | - |
| Other grants | - | 15,082 | 15,082 | - |
| Other funding | 35,027 | 26,088 | 61,115 | - |
| Total funding | <u>36,627</u> | <u>19,495,234</u> | <u>19,531,861</u> | <u>7,931,299</u> |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations (Continued)

The multi academy trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in the year from government support schemes in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "exceptional government funding". The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £35,400 of national free school meals voucher scheme costs. These costs are included in notes 7 and 8 below.

5 Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 20,132 | - | 20,132 | 10,404 |
| Catering income | 15,608 | 730 | 16,338 | - |
| Teachers insurance | 7,716 | - | 7,716 | 55 |
| Insurance claims – cancelled trips | 6,110 | 134,206 | 140,316 | - |
| Other income | 117,751 | 3,088 | 120,839 | 93,994 |
| | 167,317 | 138,024 | 305,341 | 104,453 |

6 Investment income

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Short term deposits | 602 | - | 602 | 3,807 |

7 Expenditure

| | Staff costs £ | Premises & equipment £ | Other Costs £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Expenditure on raising funds | - | - | 51,694 | 51,694 | 296,458 |
| Academy's educational operations | | | | | |
| - Direct costs | 13,206,737 | 757,767 | 1,474,157 | 15,438,661 | 6,630,449 |
| - Allocated support costs | 3,099,636 | 2,057,090 | 863,632 | 6,020,358 | 2,094,024 |
| | 16,306,373 | 2,814,857 | 2,389,483 | 21,510,713 | 9,020,931 |

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Fees payable to auditor for: | | |
| - Audit | 18,307 | 6,647 |
| - Other services | 1,000 | 500 |
| Operating lease rentals | 43,551 | 3,689 |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 757,767 | 357,047 |
| Net interest on defined benefit pension liability | 110,000 | 32,000 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8 Charitable activities

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Direct costs | | |
| Educational operations | 15,438,661 | 6,630,449 |
| Support costs | | |
| Educational operations | 6,020,358 | 2,094,024 |
| | <u>21,459,019</u> | <u>8,724,473</u> |

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Analysis of support costs | | |
| Support staff costs | 3,099,636 | 812,691 |
| Technology costs | 73,778 | 9,641 |
| Premises costs | 2,057,090 | 985,123 |
| Other support costs | 641,516 | 176,237 |
| Governance costs | 148,338 | 110,332 |
| | <u>6,020,358</u> | <u>2,094,024</u> |

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Wages and salaries | 11,681,451 | 4,933,907 |
| Social security costs | 1,098,321 | 472,344 |
| Pension costs | 3,240,441 | 994,436 |
| | <u>16,020,213</u> | <u>6,400,687</u> |
| Agency staff costs | 241,979 | 172,866 |
| | <u>16,262,12</u> | <u>6,573,553</u> |
| Staff development and other staff costs | 44,181 | 22,567 |
| | <u>16,306,373</u> | <u>6,596,120</u> |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

| | 2020 Number | 2019 Number |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Teachers | 209 | 100 |
| Administration and support | 201 | 60 |
| Management | 22 | 8 |
| | 432 | 168 |

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

| | 2020 Number | 2019 Number |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Teachers | 187 | 88 |
| Administration and support | 134 | 46 |
| Management | 22 | 8 |
| | 343 | 142 |

Higher paid staff

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

| | 2020 Number | 2019 Number |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| £60,000 - £70,000 (yearly) | 8 | - |
| £70,000 - £80,000 (yearly) | - | 1 |
| £80,000 - £90,000 (yearly) | 1 | - |
| £90,000 - £100,000 (yearly) | 1 | 1 |
| £100,000 - £110,000 (yearly) | 1 | - |

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the governors and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £1,882,956 (2019: £610,578).

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10 Central services

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

- Human resources;
- Central management;
- Financial services;
- Legal services;
- Educational support services; and
- Others as arising.

The Trust charges for these services at a flat rate of 1.75% of GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Ryburn Valley High School | 129,111 | - |
| Honley High School | 113,891 | - |
| Bolton Brow Primary Academy | 15,304 | - |
| Meltham Moor Primary School | 15,635 | - |
| Netherton Infant & Nursery School | 12,213 | - |
| | <u>286,154</u> | <u>-</u> |

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The headteacher and other staff governors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of headteacher and staff, and not in respect of their services as governors. Other governors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as governors. During the year, no travel and subsistence payments were neither made or reimbursed.

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

D Lord (CEO)

Remuneration £100,000 - £110,000 (yearly)

Employer's pension contribution £20,000 - £25,000 (yearly)

12 Governors and officers insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2020 was not separately quantifiable (2019: £150).

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

13 Tangible fixed assets

| | Land and buildings | Computer equipment | Fixtures, fittings & equipment | Motor vehicles | Total |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2019 | 15,903,000 | 254,200 | 126,516 | 42,837 | 16,326,553 |
| Transfer on conversion | 18,121,933 | 30,819 | 35,024 | 5,270 | 18,193,046 |
| Transfer of existing academy | 3,077,965 | 9,188 | 6,950 | - | 3,094,103 |
| Additions | 79,371 | 53,010 | 86,779 | - | 219,160 |
| At 31 August 2020 | 37,182,269 | 347,217 | 255,269 | 48,107 | 37,832,862 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2019 | 1,537,200 | 203,117 | 84,026 | 25,953 | 1,850,296 |
| Charge for the year | 654,099 | 58,344 | 33,303 | 12,021 | 757,767 |
| At 31 August 2020 | 2,191,299 | 261,461 | 117,329 | 37,974 | 2,608,063 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2020 | 34,990,970 | 85,756 | 137,940 | 10,133 | 35,224,799 |
| At 31 August 2019 | 14,365,800 | 51,083 | 42,490 | 16,884 | 14,476,257 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

| 14 Debtors | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 47,257 | - |
| VAT recoverable | 471,973 | 28,207 |
| Other debtors | 332,994 | 75,707 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 163,523 | 55,414 |
| | <u>1,015,747</u> | <u>159,328</u> |
| | | |
| 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 2020 | 2019 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 43,873 | 42,402 |
| Other taxation and social security | 263,399 | - |
| Other creditors | 37,535 | 2,118 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 455,584 | 117,509 |
| | <u>800,391</u> | <u>162,029</u> |
| | | |
| 16 Deferred income | 2020 | 2019 |
| | £ | £ |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Creditors due within one year | <u>98,726</u> | <u>37,817</u> |
| | | |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2019 | 37,817 | 72,718 |
| Released from previous years | (37,817) | (72,718) |
| Resources deferred in the year | <u>98,726</u> | <u>37,817</u> |
| | | |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2020 | <u>98,726</u> | <u>37,817</u> |

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance in respect of grants from National Lottery Awards, Aspire, Universal Free School Meals, EYSFF, Commenius and school trip income received for trips taking part in the academic year 2020-21.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2019 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Gains, losses and transfers £ | Balance at 31 August 2020 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 1,101 | 16,486,198 | (16,250,973) | (101,039) | 135,287 |
| Start up grants | 3,070 | - | - | - | 3,070 |
| Other DfE / ESFA grants | 20,879 | 1,991,437 | (1,870,290) | - | 142,026 |
| Other government grants | - | 1,038,548 | (997,341) | - | 41,207 |
| Other restricted funds | 34,027 | 652,051 | (653,087) | - | 32,991 |
| Pension reserve | (2,652,000) | - | (824,000) | (5,190,000) | (8,666,000) |
| | (2,592,923) | 20,168,234 | (20,595,691) | (5,291,039) | (8,311,419) |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Inherited on conversion | 14,378,718 | 21,557,244 | (703,312) | - | 35,232,650 |
| DfE group capital grants | 314,016 | 495,862 | (7,145) | - | 802,733 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 39,546 | - | (39,806) | 101,039 | 100,779 |
| Private sector capital sponsorship | 16,884 | - | (7,504) | - | 9,380 |
| | 14,749,164 | 22,053,106 | (757,767) | 101,039 | 36,145,542 |
| Total restricted funds | 12,156,241 | 42,221,340 | (21,353,458) | (5,190,000) | 27,834,123 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 685,530 | 1,172,484 | (157,255) | - | 1,700,759 |
| Total funds | 12,841,771 | 43,393,824 | (21,510,713) | (5,190,000) | 29,534,882 |

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

General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Other DfE/ESFA grants related to Pupil Premium, 6th Form Bursary, Year 7 catch up grant and a supplementary grant.

Restricted fixed asset funds must be used for the purchase of fixed assets. The fund has been generated through funding from government grants, donated assets and transfers from predecessor school.

Other restricted funds relates to the school fund where the income received must be expended on school trips.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Ryburn Valley High School | 754,410 | 744,607 |
| Honley High School | 809,857 | - |
| Bolton Brow Primary Academy | 172,400 | - |
| Meltham Moor Primary School | 114,256 | - |
| Netherton Infant & Nursery School | 119,758 | - |
| Central services | 84,659 | - |
| Total before fixed assets and pension reserve | <u>2,055,340</u> | <u>744,607</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset fund | 36,145,542 | 14,749,164 |
| Pension reserve | <u>(8,666,000)</u> | <u>(2,562,000)</u> |
| Total | <u><u>29,534,882</u></u> | <u><u>12,931,771</u></u> |

Total cost analysis by academy

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

| | Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £ | Other Support Staff Costs £ | Educational Supplies £ | Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £ | Total 2020 £ | Total 2019 £ |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ryburn Valley | 5,963,995 | 814,498 | 331,989 | 1,576,481 | 8,686,963 | 8,663,884 |
| Honley | 5,195,910 | 917,763 | 642,624 | 1,263,803 | 8,020,100 | - |
| Bolton Brow | 675,030 | 213,349 | 63,687 | 149,091 | 1,101,157 | - |
| Meltham Moor | 692,913 | 192,097 | 18,129 | 153,284 | 1,056,423 | - |
| Netherton | 599,738 | 113,492 | 11,954 | 134,533 | 859,717 | - |
| Central services | <u>79,151</u> | <u>848,437</u> | - | <u>100,998</u> | <u>1,028,586</u> | - |
| Academy trust | <u><u>13,206,737</u></u> | <u><u>3,099,636</u></u> | <u><u>1,068,383</u></u> | <u><u>3,378,190</u></u> | <u><u>20,752,946</u></u> | <u><u>8,663,884</u></u> |

Central services other support staff costs includes £824,000 FRS102 pension costs

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

| | Balance at 1 September 2018 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Gains, losses and transfers £ | Balance at 31 August 2019 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | 192,177 | 7,189,737 | (7,380,813) | - | 1,101 |
| Start up grants | - | 75,000 | (71,930) | - | 3,070 |
| Other DfE / ESFA grants | - | 379,465 | (358,586) | - | 20,879 |
| Other government grants | - | 287,097 | (287,097) | - | - |
| Other restricted funds | 28,272 | 248,579 | (242,824) | - | 34,027 |
| Pension reserve | (1,247,000) | - | (269,000) | (1,136,000) | (2,652,000) |
| | (1,026,551) | 8,179,878 | (8,610,250) | (1,136,000) | (2,592,923) |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Inherited on conversion | 14,695,397 | - | (316,679) | - | 14,378,718 |
| DfE group capital grants | 217,343 | 103,662 | (6,989) | - | 314,016 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 65,421 | - | (25,875) | - | 39,546 |
| Private sector capital sponsorship | 24,388 | - | (7,504) | - | 16,884 |
| | 15,002,549 | 103,662 | (357,047) | - | 14,749,164 |
| Total restricted funds | 13,975,998 | 8,283,540 | (8,967,297) | (1,136,000) | 12,156,241 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 604,012 | 135,152 | (53,634) | - | 685,530 |
| Total funds | 14,580,010 | 8,418,692 | (9,020,931) | (1,136,000) | 12,841,771 |

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted funds: General £ | Fixed asset £ | Total Funds £ |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 35,224,799 | 35,224,799 |
| Current assets | 1,700,759 | 1,154,972 | 920,743 | 3,776,474 |
| Creditors falling due within one year | - | (800,391) | - | (800,391) |
| Defined benefit pension liability | - | (8,666,000) | - | (8,666,000) |
| Total net assets | 1,700,759 | (8,311,419) | 36,145,542 | 29,534,882 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted funds: General £ | Fixed asset £ | Total Funds £ |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | | | 14,476,257 | 14,476,257 |
| Current assets | 689,573 | 217,063 | 272,907 | 1,179,543 |
| Creditors falling due within one year | (4,043) | (157,986) | | (162,029) |
| Defined benefit pension liability | | (2,652,000) | | (2,652,000) |
| Total net assets | 685,530 | (2,592,923) | 14,749,164 | 12,841,771 |

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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 and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates to be 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 the TPS in the period amounted to £1,993,576 (2019: £611,442).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The 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 scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed employer's contribution rates for future years increases by 0.3% per annum from 20-21 (for 3 years), and a range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees. The estimated value of Together Learning Trust employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £417,000.

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.

| Total contributions made | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Employer's contributions | 388,000 | 145,000 |
| Employees' contributions | 149,000 | 60,000 |
| Total contributions | 537,000 | 205,000 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

| Principal actuarial assumptions | 2020 % | 2019 % |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Rate of increase in salaries | 3.45 | 3.25 |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 2.20 | 2.00 |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 1.70 | 1.90 |
| Inflation assumption (CPI) | 2.20 | 2.00 |

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

| | 2020 Years | 2019 Years |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Retiring today | | |
| - Males | 21.8 | 22.2 |
| - Females | 24.6 | 25.4 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| - Males | 22.5 | 23.2 |
| - Females | 25.7 | 27.2 |

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Discount rate+ 0.1% | (448,000) | (161,000) |
| Discount rate - 0.1% | 466,000 | 166,000 |
| Mortality assumption + 1 year | (621,000) | (201,000) |
| Mortality assumption - 1 year | 621,000 | 203,000 |
| Salaries +0.1% | 86,000 | 59,000 |
| Salaries -1.0% | (86,000) | (58,000) |

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

| | 2020 Fair value £ | 2019 Fair value £ |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Equities | 6,677,000 | 2,733,000 |
| Government & corporate bonds | 1,261,000 | 529,000 |
| Cash | 146,000 | 67,000 |
| Property | 369,000 | 155,000 |
| Other assets | 129,000 | 39,000 |
| Total market value of assets | 8,582,000 | 3,523,000 |

The actual return on scheme assets was £78,000 (2019: £168,000).

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

| 19 Pension and similar obligations | (Continued) | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities | 2020 | 2019 |
| | £ | £ |
| Current service cost | 1,102,000 | 271,000 |
| Past service cost | - | 111,000 |
| Interest income | (159,000) | (92,000) |
| Interest cost | 269,000 | 124,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total operating charge | 1,212,000 | 414,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations | | 2020 |
| | | £ |
| At 1 September 2019 | | 6,175,000 |
| Current service cost | | 1,102,000 |
| Interest cost | | 269,000 |
| Employee contributions | | 149,000 |
| Actuarial loss | | 1,615,000 |
| Benefits paid | | (15,000) |
| Net increase from acquisitions | | 7,953,000 |
| | | <hr/> |
| At 31 August 2020 | | 17,248,000 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets | | 2020 |
| | | £ |
| At 1 September 2019 | | 3,523,000 |
| Interest income | | 159,000 |
| Actuarial (loss) | | (237,000) |
| Employer contributions | | 388,000 |
| Employee contributions | | 149,000 |
| Benefits paid | | (15,000) |
| Net increase from acquisitions | | 4,615,000 |
| | | <hr/> |
| At 31 August 2020 | | 8,582,000 |
| | | <hr/> |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities) | 21,883,111 | (602,239) |
| Adjusted for: | | |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | (495,862) | (103,662) |
| Investment income receivable | (602) | (3,807) |
| Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable | 714,000 | 237,000 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | 110,000 | 32,000 |
| Cash transferred on conversion/transfer in | (1,313,892) | - |
| Fixed assets received on conversion/transfer in | (21,287,149) | - |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 757,767 | 357,047 |
| (Increase) in stocks | (1,964) | - |
| (Increase) in debtors | (856,419) | (32,109) |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | 638,362 | (18,090) |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | 147,352 | (133,860) |

21 Analysis of changes in net debt

| | Cash £ | Total £ |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| At 1 September 2019 | 1,020,215 | 1,020,215 |
| Cash flows | 1,738,548 | 1,738,548 |
| At 31 August 2020 | 2,758,763 | 2,758,763 |

22 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2020 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

| | 2020 £ | 2019 £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Amounts due within one year | 22,051 | 4,255 |
| Amounts due in two and five years | 29,289 | 12,767 |
| | 51,340 | 17,022 |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23 Private Finance Initiative commitments

The buildings from which Ryburn Valley High School and Honley High School operate were built under the Private Finance Initiative ('PFI') and are subject to agreements between Calderdale and Kirklees Councils and the PFI Contactors. The academies have entered into supplementary schools' agreements with Calderdale and Kirklees Councils concerning the PFI Agreements. Under the terms of the agreements the academies are committed to paying Calderdale and Kirklees Councils a proportion of their budget in consideration for the Councils paying the PFI Contractors the unitary charge under the PFI agreements. For the period ended 31 August 2020, payments to Calderdale and Kirklees Councils under these agreements totalling £781,673 and £784,934 respectively have been included in the SOFA in Premises costs as part of allocated support costs. The agreements run until August 2029 and 2033 respectively.

24 Related party transactions

The spouses of two of the Trustees, D Lord and S Lownds, are employed by the Trust as deputy head of Honley High School and teaching assistant at Netherton Infant & Nursery School and received remuneration totalling £67,183 and £18,159 and employer's pension contributions of £15,909 and £2,748 respectively for the year.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' and governors' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

25 Members' liability

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

26 Conversion to an academy trust

On 1 September 2019 Honley High School, Meltham Moor Primary Academy and Netherton Infant & Nursery School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Together Learning Trust from the Kirklees Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the SOFA.

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

26 Conversion to an academy trust

(Continued)

Honley High School:

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted General Funds £ | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ | Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | | | | |
| Leasehold land and buildings | - | - | 13,920,000 | 13,920,000 |
| Other tangible fixed assets | - | - | 59,051 | 59,051 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Cash representing budget surplus on LA funds | 730,579 | 20,228 | 163,121 | 913,928 |
| Net assets | <u>730,579</u> | <u>20,228</u> | <u>14,142,172</u> | <u>14,892,979</u> |

Meltham Moor Primary School:

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted General Funds £ | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ | Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | | | | |
| Leasehold land and buildings | - | - | 3,237,854 | 3,237,854 |
| Other tangible fixed assets | - | - | 12,062 | 12,062 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Cash representing budget surplus on LA funds | 61,714 | - | 22,312 | 84,026 |
| Net assets | <u>61,714</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,272,228</u> | <u>3,333,942</u> |

Netherton Infant & Nursery School:

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted General Funds £ | Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ | Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | | | | |
| Leasehold land and buildings | - | - | 964,079 | 964,079 |
| Other tangible fixed assets | - | - | - | - |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Cash representing budget surplus on LA funds | 67,128 | - | 36,627 | 103,755 |
| Net assets | <u>67,128</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,000,706</u> | <u>1,067,834</u> |

TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

27 Transfer of existing academies into the Trust

On 1 September 2019 the following assets and liabilities of the Bolton Brow Primary Academy were transferred to Together Learning Trust:

| | Value reported by transferring trust £ | Fair value adjustments £ | Transfer in recognised £ |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | | | |
| Leasehold land and buildings | 3,262,056 | (184,091) | 3,077,965 |
| Other tangible fixed assets | 16,138 | - | 16,138 |
| Current financial assets | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 212,183 | - | 212,183 |
| Other assets | | | |
| Stocks | 1,419 | - | 1,419 |
| Debtors | 45,810 | - | 45,810 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current liabilities | (60,895) | - | (60,895) |
| Net assets excluding pension Liability | 3,476,711 | (184,091) | 3,292,620 |
| Pensions | | | |
| Defined benefit scheme liability | (576,000) | - | (576,000) |
| Net assets | 2,900,771 | (184,091) | 2,716,620 |

Fair value adjustments related to leasehold property improvements now being depreciated at 5% straight line. A professional valuation of the transferred land and buildings is still awaited from the ESFA and will be incorporated once received.