Company Registration Number: 09613632 (England & Wales)

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

(FORMERLY THE SMALL SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Reverend S Davies
D Grewer
C Shaw
C R Hopkins

Trustees

H L Bowman, Chair
P R Halifax, Vice Chair
S B Cockayne
M Havelock-Crozier
C Humphries
J Smith
P J Lovern, Accounting Officer
C Bradshaw-Smith

Company registered number

09613632

Company name

The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust

Principal and registered office

Richard Crosse C.E. Primary School, Crawley Lane, Kings Bromley, Burton On Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 7JE

Company secretary

A Hodgson (Appointed 24 April 2017, resigned 5 January 2020)
D Dovydaitis (Appointed 6 January 2020, resigned 16 March 2020)
S Cole (Appointed 17 March 2020)

Chief executive officer

P J Lovern

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Senior management team

P J Lovern, Chief Executive Officer
S Cole, Trust Finance Manager
J Bowman, Trust Business Operations Manager
A Howard, Clerk to the Board
N Jarrett, Headteacher
E Howard, Headeacher
J Wynn, Headteacher
R Mills, Headteacher

Independent auditor

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

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

On 1st September 2020, The Small Schools Multi Academy Trust changed its name to the Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust. The change was in recognition of the Trust's growth strategy of not wishing to deter larger schools from joining our forward thinking, supportive and successful trust.

The Trust operates The Richard Crosse Church of England Primary School; The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School; The Howard Primary School in Staffordshire. and Anson Church of England Primary School.

The Trust entered into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education on 29 July 2015 for The Richard Crosse Church of England Primary School; The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School; The Howard Primary School,

Anson Church of England Primary School joined the Trust on 1 April 2019 and entered in a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

The Trusts academies have a combined pupil capacity of 399 and had a roll of 360 in the October 2019 Census returns.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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

The Trustees are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust.

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

Details of the trustees who served during the , and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

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

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The management of the Academy Trust is the responsibility of the Directors, who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

The board should have the appropriate balance of skills, and knowledge of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust, to enable them to discharge their respective duties and responsibilities effectively. The search for Board candidates will always be conducted, and appointments made, on merit against objective criteria, and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board, including gender, race, age, sexual orientation and religion.

Directors are recruited by invitation from the Chair of the Board of Members, the Chair of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer, of persons known to the Academy Trust; who are able to benefit the Academy Trust by their knowledge and expertise. The Board of Members make the formal appointment for an individual to become a member of the Board of Directors having given due consideration to their ability to be able to fulfil at least two of the following criteria:

- Are sympathetic to the aims and objectives of a Christian foundation for the education of children;
- Have demonstrable links to a Christian denomination that is recognised by the UK Churches Together organisation;
- Have direct links with at least one of the communities served by the schools in the Trust.

And also one of the following criteria:

- Can demonstrate substantial experience that prepares them for the proposed role;
- Have never been disqualified from holding the role of company director;
- Are willing to be examined in these matters prior to appointment by at least providing a CV and, if required references

Trustees are appointed for a 4 year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or re-elected.

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

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but will always include a tour of the Schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governor Association training and all Trustees receive regular National Governor Association updates. As there are normally only a very few new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various external organisations as appropriate.

A bespoke governance development program is operated throughout the year which allows Trustees to meet informally as a team for training, so as to keep the Trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities, and to contribute to the strategic leadership and direction of the Academy Trust.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The Board of Directors are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Academy Trust. The Directors have a duty to act in the fulfilment of the Academy Trust objects. They set the strategic direction, and determine the policies and procedures of the Academy Trust, whilst holding each school within the Academy Trust to account. The Directors will meet at least six times a year, and the Local Advisory Groups will report to meetings of the Board of Directors once per term.

The Howard Primary School, The Richard Crosse CE Primary School and The St. Mary's CE Primary School have a constituted Advisory Group known as the Local Advisory Group (LAG). The LAG is not a committee of the Board but is used to inform and support the work of the board. The Group will be supported by Headteachers and Directors, who will help to support the ethos of each school and the Christian distinctiveness of our Church schools.

For Anson Primary School. the Board of Trustees delegates a number of functions to the Local Governing Committee ('LGC'). The LGC reviews annual Academy Trust plans and budgets, monitors progress against target and OFSTED standards and oversees parent and community liaison. A representative of the main Board of Trustees sits on the LBC.

The Board of Directors and Local Advisory Groups do not exercise a managerial role. The leadership and management across the Academy Trust is delegated by the Board of Directors to the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team of the Trust. The Senior Leadership Team are responsible at an executive level for implementing the policies laid down by the Board of Directors and reporting back to them via the Directors Board meetings. This includes actions concerning the budget, staffing, and school improvement.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Multi Academy Trust and is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets.

At 31 August 2020, the Academy Trust comprised the following individual academies:

- The Howard Primary School, Elford
- The Richard Crosse Church of England Primary School, Kings Bromley
- The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, Colton
- Anson Church of England Primary School

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

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Academy Trust. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 11 of the financial statements respectively.

The pay of the senior management team is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees in line with the Academy Trust's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£000	
Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	-	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Richard Crosse PTA, The St Mary's PTFA, The Howard Friends Association, Anson PTFA, The Colton United Trust and The Richard Crosse Foundation , are separate registered charities. The charities makes donations and contributions to support particular projects and facilities of the Academy Trust and its pupils and are therefore treated as a related party of the Academy Trust for the purposes of the financial statements.

The Academy Trust's Trustees do not consider the charities to be a connected charity as the Trustees of the charity are not appointed by the Academy Trust or the Academy Trustees, are not directed by or accountable to the Trustees of the Academy Trust and as the charity's objects differ to and are wider than those of the Academy Trust. The details of the transactions between the Academy Trust and the charity are disclosed in note [X] to the financial statements.

The Members, Directors, Local Advisory Group members, and the Accounting Officer all complete a pecuniary interest declaration on an annual basis. This declaration sets out any relationship with the Academy Trust that is not directly related to their duties within these roles. Each individual is also required to declare a potential 'conflict of interest' if it arises between such declarations. Once a declaration has been made, the individual concerned takes no further part in any decision relating to the matter declared.

In respect of the current period, the Academy Trust has the following relationships:

- Has made payments to Principal HR Partner Limited, a company controlled by one of the Directors.
- Has employed Mrs Jacqui Bowman as Trust Business Operations Manager, a family member of Mrs Heather Bowman.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The strategic goals of the Trust are:

1) To provide high quality education provision for all schools within the Trust that improve the outcomes of all of our pupils. This will be achieved by providing appropriate and proportionate support and challenge to each school within the Trust. There will be a focus on:

   - Providing intervention to support school improvement.
   - Developing collaborative curriculum activities to support key skill development, increasing independence and resilience.
   - Developing monitoring and evaluating strategies and procedures that will drive school improvement.
   - Developing a high performing leadership team.
   - Employing staff with specific skills and deploying them across all schools within the Trust.
   - Allowing Headteachers to focus on the core function of teaching and learning.
   - Continuous professional development for all staff.
   - Supporting the procurement of best value central services.
   - Collaboratively sharing and supporting best practice.

2) To provide the same high quality of education provision to pupils outside of the Trust to help achieve the government's aim of the same standard of education for all children. This will be achieved by:

   - Developing a systematic marketing strategy and work with local stakeholders, Headteacher forums and the DfE to identify potential schools and academies that wish to join the Academy Trust.
   - To continue to build capacity by creating a robust management structure which involves building a central team to support the Trust's Board of Directors.
   - To continue to develop training based on the expertise within the Trust that can be delivered to other education providers.
   - To continue to develop more effective means of collaboration with other education providers to share best practice and encourage greater innovation within the education sector.
   - To continue to develop links with other schools through 'The Rugeley Leadership Collaboration', The Hart Academies, The Rawlett School, The National Forest Teaching School, The John Taylor MAT, SHeads and our own arrangements with individual and groups of local primary schools.

The Trust is committed to employment policies which follow best practice based on equal opportunities for all employees irrespective of sex, race, colour, disability, marital status or sexual orientation. The Trust gives full and fair consideration to applications for employment from disabled persons having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2020 were as follows:

Objective 1: School Standards

By the end of Key Stage 2 the results for all schools will exceed national averages of the expected standard in national tests. The average standardised score will exceed the national average and the progress measure will be in the top 20% of schools nationally, Q1.

Objectives and activities (continued)

Narrowing the Gap

Pupil premium funding will be used, in order to have the greatest impact, through a series of intervention strategies, to close the gap between disadvantaged children and those who are not disadvantaged.

Objective 2: Financial Standards

The Board, working in partnership with the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Business Operations and Headteachers will:

- ensure that resources, within a constrained financial environment, are used in the most effective way
- set balanced budgets
- ensure solvency and probity
- ensure compliance with statutory regulations

Objective 3: Human Resources

- Strengthen professional leadership by appointing outstanding leaders. All senior and middle leadership to be judged as outstanding against the Ofsted Framework.
- Hold Head Teachers accountable for high standards of education and safeguarding against clear bench marks and performance measures.
- All teaching graded consistently 'good' with at least 40% outstanding teaching in all schools within three years of opening.

Objective 4: Trust Estate

- Ensure all children are educated in a safe environment where their well- being and personal development are of the highest regard.

Objective 5: Trust Growth

To support the drive for outstanding schools ensuring that as a Trust we provide robust leadership in order to make improvements at a pace. We will have rigorous policies and procedures in place to deliver a 'World Class Education'.

Objective 6: Governance

- Have a clear vision and ethos
- Provide strong strategic direction
- Ambitious and achieve strong governance that will support our schools, building effective partnerships with parents, communities, businesses, external MAT's/schools and other stakeholders

The Board reviews progress against these six strategic objectives through its reporting structure and will hold the Chief Executive Officer accountable for high standards against clear benchmarks and performance measures.

It is essential that our strategic planning is realised through effective operational delivery.

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in Staffordshire, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils.

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

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

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

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2020, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves (excluding pension reserve) was £205,000 (2019: £164,000), which is after transfers of £nil to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers is also a key performance indicator. As noted earlier in this report, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 368 which is consistent with the previous census.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Academy Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and / or Local Authority) for the year was 90% (2019: 94%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 84% (2019: 61%). In 2019 total expenditure included £635k of expenditure relating to improvements to Diocesan property which resulted in the lower proportion of wages as a percentage of total expenditure.

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever changing educational environment. The Trust is in its 6th year of operation since conversion to an Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self evaluation, data analysis and action planning.

The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2020 were as follows:

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Key Performance Indicators 2019 - 2020		
Strategic Objectives	**KPI**	**Outcome**
School Standards KPIs	1. All MAT schools retain or improve their Ofsted Inspection rating.	No school within the Trust was inspected in 2019/2020
	2. All MAT Church schools retain or improve their SIAMs Inspection rating.	St. Mary's SIAM's inspection was deferred due to COVID-19
	3. All MAT Schools perform as well as the top 20% of schools nationally at the end of KS2 2020, in Reading Writing, EGPS and Mathematics for attainment and progress.	SAT's were abandoned due to COVID-19
	4. Disadvantaged children perform as well as non-disadvantaged children.	Not measured due to COVID-19
	5. Children, Parent and Staff surveys illustrate satisfaction ratings beyond national and local norms.	All COVID 19 questionnaires demonstrate that parents were pleased with the Trust/Schools response to COVID-19 and the Lockdown.
	6. All MAT schools offer a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum.	
	7. All MAT schools achieve the 97% attendance target.	The curriculum and attendance targets were compromised due to COVID-19 however on reopening of schools on 1st June 2020 attendance was high.
	8. All schools are fully compliant with health and safety, safeguarding and other statutory requirements.	All schools remain fully compliant with health and safety, safeguarding and other statutory requirements.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Financial KPIs	1.	Ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness over the use of Trust funds (value for money).	Complete?
	2.	Assurance received that annual financial accounts have been properly prepared and are free from material misstatements.	Achieved?
	3.	Financial statements and Auditor's management letter submitted to ESFA by 31st December 2019.	Completed
	4.	Annual Accounts Return submitted by 21st January 2020.	Completed
	5.	Budget forecast return outturn submitted by 20th May 2020.	Deferred due to COVID -19 as per ESFA guidance
	6.	Three Year budget forecast return submitted by 30th July 2019.	Deferred due to COVID -19 as per ESFA guidance
	7.	Website is financially compliant.	Completed
	8.	Successful internal and external audits with recommendations acted upon.	Successful Health and Safety, DPO and risk assessment audits.
	9.	To achieve and operate a balanced budget.	Achieved
	10.	Staffing costs capped at 80% of Trust Income.	Achieved
	11.	Improved profitability of services – Catering and Care Club.	Not achieved due to COVID-19
	12.	Alternative sources of funding are pursued according to skill set of staff.	Not achieved due to COVID-19
	13.	Sources of funding pursued for capital development projects.	Not achieved, CIF bids resubmitted
	14.	To achieve a PAN of 57 across the Trust for Reception Intake	Not achieved due to low birth year.
	15.	All nursery places at Richard Crosse and St. Mary's are taken.	Not achieved

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Human Resource KPIs	1.	All MAT schools fully staffed with high calibre staff.	Achieved
	2.	Pupil to teacher/adult ratios below national levels.	Achieved but hindered by COVID-19
	3.	Development opportunities made available for staff to work across schools in the MAT.	Not achieved due to COVID-19
	4.	Comprehensive programme of training opportunities delivered to all staff.	Achieved despite COVID-19. Online training opportunities were utilised.
	5.	NQT's and teachers in the early years of their careers to be supported by high calibre mentors.	Achieved
	6.	Performance Management reviews demonstrate affective leadership and management and teaching and learning.	Performance Management was compromised this year due to COVID-19
	7.	All HR Policies are compliant with employment law and are reviewed regularly in line with Policy Review Schedule.	Achieved
	8.	The MAT employs specialists in certain areas to ensure high quality of provision.	Compromised due to COVID - 19
	9.	Succession planning is in place for all key personnel.	Achieved _ Internal appointment of new Headteacher at Richard Crosse following the resignation of E Howard and the redeployment of N Jarrett to Anson.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Trust Estate KPIs	1.	All MAT schools are maintained to a high standard.	Achieved
	2.	CIF funding is obtained to support identified shortfalls in the school estate.	Not achieved
	3.	Nursery provision/classrooms are developed at all schools within the Trust to support financial sustainability and to ensure that schools are full to capacity.	Achieved
	4.	All MAT schools are energy efficient.	Partly achieved - SALIX funding, lighting upgrade at Richard Crosse complete
	5.	All statutory checks are completed on a timely basis.	
	6.	A review of cleaning services is undertaken to ensure value for money.	Achieved
	7.	All MAT kitchens achieve Environmental Health 5 Star ratings.	IDEAL Cleaning Services appointed to clean The Howard
			Achieved
Trust Growth KPIs	1.	At least one school joins the Trust each year.	Not achieved due to COVID 19
	2.	The Trust develops its trading strategy by increasing the level of paid support to other schools and organisations.	
	3.	Improved marketing of the Trust.	
	4.	Strong MAT office supports MAT growth.	

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Governance KPIs	1.	Governance provides the necessary rigour, challenge and support to allow MAT schools to thrive.	All achieved despite COVID-19.
	2.	Members and Directors have the skills, knowledge and experiences to run the Multi Academy Trust. They ensure that the Trust's funds are used only in accordance with the law, its articles of association, its funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.	
	3.	Distinction is achieved between Members and Directors roles within the MAT as enshrined in documentation.	
	4.	All members and Trustees understand their duties as company directors and charity trustees as laid out in the Companies Act 2006 and Charity Commission guidance as exemplified in a skills audit.	
	5.	All Members and Directors attend at least 60% of planned meetings in order to fulfil their duties.	
	6.	All Directors have a named area of responsibility.	
	7.	There is a clear plan for succession.	
	8.	SM, TH and RC have a full compliment for their Local Advisory Group.	
	9.	Anson has a full compliment for their Local Governing Committee.	
	10.	All schools new to the Trust have properly constituted Local Governing Body, with an appropriate set of skills and experiences to undertake their defined responsibilities.	

School Performance Summary 2019 -2020

The Government's decision to cancel all statutory assessment for Keys Stages 1 & 2 in 2020 as a result of the pandemic means that there are no externally assessed statistics of pupil progress and achievement for direct comparison with national or local data for 2019/2020 or the previous year. Our schools do however monitor the progress and achievement of all our children throughout the year through teacher assessment.

The tables below report our internal tracking data. The charts show the % of children working at the expected or higher level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the start of the new academic year. COVID-19 and the lockdown has impacted on the children's attainment however intensive catch up programs are in place.

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Anson Primary School

	Reading % working at the expected level +	Reading % working at greater depth	Writing % working at the expected level +	Writing % working at greater depth	Maths % working at the expected level +	Maths % working at greater depth
Year 1	75%	33%	75%	27%	75%	33%
Year 2	67%	20%	67%	13%	67%	20%
Year 3	86%	20%	60%	20%	60%	20%
Year 4	73%	33%	66%	33%	66%	33%
Year 5	94%	38%	94%	31%	100%	31%
Year 6	77%	39%	62%	39%	62%	39%

Predicted Year 6 data for 2019/2020

	% at expected standard +	% at higher standard
Reading	87%	33%
Writing	80%	27%
EGPS	87%	33%
Mathematics	87%	27%

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The Howard Primary School

	Reading % working at the expected level+	Reading % working at greater depth	Writing % working at the expected level+	Writing % working at greater depth	Maths % working at the expected level+	Maths % working at greater depth
Year 1	75%	0%	75%	0%	75%	0%
Year 2	50%	0%	66%	33%	83%	17%
Year 3	92%	25%	42%	17%	75%	8%
Year 4	75%	17%	58%	8%	75%	17%
Year 5	50%	17%	30%	0%	30%	17%
Year 6	66%	22%	67%	11%	89%	33%

Predicted Year 6 data for 2019/2020

	% at expected standard+	% at higher standard
Reading	88%	38%
Writing	88%	38%
EGPS	88%	38%
Mathematics	88%	38%

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The Richard Crosse Primary School

	Reading % working at the expected level+	Reading % working at greater depth	Writing % working at the expected level+	Writing % working at greater depth	Maths % working at the expected level+	Maths % working at greater depth
Year 1 (10)	80%	20%	70%	20%	70%	0%
Year 2 (18)	66%	22%	66%	11%	66%	28%
Year 3 (16)	68%	18%	68%	25%	68%	25%
Year 4 (16)	74%	18%	74%	18%	81%	25%
Year 5 (20)	90%	35%	95%	30%	95%	30%
Year 6 (20)	75%	20%	80%	25%	70%	20%

Predicted Year 6 data for 2019/2020

	% at expected standard+	% at higher standard
Reading	95%	50%
Writing	90%	50%
EGPS	95%	50%
Mathematics	95%	40%

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The St. Mary's Primary School

	Reading % working at the expected level+	Reading % working at greater depth	Writing % working at the expected level+	Writing % working at greater depth	Maths % working at the expected level+	Maths % working at greater depth
Year 1 (7)	100%	0%	71%	0%	100%	28%
Year 2 (19)	84%	21%	84%	21%	84%	21%
Year 3 (6)	83%	0%	83%	0%	83%	16%
Year 4 (13)	61%	7%	61%	15%	61%	7%
Year 5 (7)	85%	28%	71%	14%	71%	28%
Year 6 (16)	75%	12.5%	75%	12.5%	75%	12.5%

Predicted Year 6 data for 2019/2020

(9 pupils)	% at expected standard+	% at higher standard
Reading	88%	33%
Writing	88%	33%
EGPS	88%	33%
Mathematics	88%	33%

b. Going concern

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

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Covid-19

COVID-19 had a huge impact on the work of the schools and the Trust. Schools were given very limited notice of the impending lockdown in March, however, as a Trust we had started planning for the possibility of severe disruption in early February 2020.

From 23rd March 2020, all schools were closed to the majority of children and staff with the exception of vulnerable children and those whose parents were Key Workers. Initially, after auditing the needs of the communities of the schools within the Trust, it was decided that vulnerable and key worker children would be taught at one of two schools within the Trust, St. Mary's and Richard Crosse. Staff worked on a rota basis for face to face teaching and child care. It soon became apparent that there was not enough demand for the number of places available and this provision was reduced. Cover was provided at one school, Richard Crosse and families from across the Trust were able to access this service. Provision for children of Key workers was extended and care was available 7 days a week as well as over the Easter and May 8th Bank Holidays.

For those children who were taught at home virtually, supported by their parents and carers, learning was facilitated in a variety of ways, online; workbook/worksheets, Google Classroom and education platforms e.g. Purple Mash and Education City. Teachers kept in regular contact with their children through online chats/lessons and weekly telephone calls. Headteachers received many compliments about the way their schools handled the lockdown and feedback was that the children and parents had been well supported at home. Staff had to upskill themselves very quickly and were soon able to meet virtually and offer online lessons.

All face to face meetings were cancelled however meetings continued virtually using Google Meet. Trustees, Governors and staff quickly became very proficient at meeting in this way and the governance of the Trust and the schools continued efficiently.

Staff who were considered vulnerable and those whose work could be undertaken easily at home were asked to work from home and were not expected to work in school to support vulnerable and key worker children. Care Club staff were furloughed as their salaries are entirely funded by income generated by charges for the services provided as this income stream had been stopped.

On the 1st June 2020, schools were asked to open for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Trust schools should have reopened on the 8th June after the planned two weeks half term holiday, however, staff chose to forsake the second week of the holiday and came back to work a week earlier in order to support children and families. All schools were able to educate children from years 2 & 5 as well. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate years 3 & 4, however they continued to be taught remotely and were invited into schools for transition/keeping in touch days. Extensive risk assessments were undertaken and no child or member of staff was infected with the virus.

Statutory Assessment was suspended and therefore there isn't any test data for pupil achievement and progress to be reported. All parents were given an annual report for their child/children at the end of the academic year according to Government guidance.

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review

a. Reserves policy

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

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free cash reserves should be 2 months of staffing costs. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc.

The Academy Trust's current level of revenue reserves at 31 August 2020 is £209,000 (2019: £164,000), of which £209,000 (2019: £164,000) is free reserves (that is, total funds less the amount held in total restricted funds). In addition to this the Academy has £71,000 (2019: £94,000) of cash allocated for capital expenditure which has not yet been spent.

Although the current level of free reserves is above the target level identified above, the Trustees expectation is that these reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing development, including the need to retain key staff in light of the increasing cost pressures in future years.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2020 is £1,088,000 (2019: £1,119,000), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2020 of £1,328,000 (2019: £1,185,000), which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

b. Investment policy

The Trust will only invest in low risk and easily accessible funds with a withdrawal notice of no more than 12 weeks. The academy intends to build up working capital and invested cash balances. During the year the funds have been retained in the Trusts current account due to the low interest rates.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategical development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk and have agreed a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Plan, which incorporates a Risk Register.

Where significant financial risk still remains, the Trustees have ensured the Academy Trust has adequate insurance cover in place. The Risk Management Plan is constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

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

Educational

The continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA (and Local Authority). In the year, approximately 92% of the Academy Trust's income (excluding amounts transferred on conversion from the Local Authority or amounts transferred from other academies joining the Trust) was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light continuing changes in to the National Funding Formula for schools.

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

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Academy Trust formally every month, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees and Finance and Resources Committee meetings.

Staffing

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

Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Academy Trust has engaged Cooper Parry, external auditor, to perform additional checks aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

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

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

d. Financial review

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and other organisations / funders and these are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

For the year ended 31 August 2020, the Academy Trust's total income (excluding capital grants and the net assets transferred on conversion / net assets transferred from academies joining the Trust in the year) was £2,124,000 (2019: £1,499,00) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation, spend on Diocesan Improvements and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £2,083,000 (2019: 1,800,000), resulting in a net surplus deficit for the year of £61,000 (2019: Deficit of £301,000).

This deficit, which had been planned for by the Trustees due to CIF funding being received and accounted for in 2018 and spent in 2019 on a new classroom, MUGA and car park at The Richard Crosse Church Of England Primary School. The balance of reserves at 31 August 2020, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £205,000 (2019: £164,000).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2020 were £1,017,000. The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Academy Trust.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust raises funds for specific projects that will enhance the learning experience and environment for existing and future students, where funds cannot be accessed via existing channels such as government education funding. Fundraising is primarily undertaken by staff or parents, no professional fundraisers or commercial participators work with the Trust currently. Fundraising is undertaken in line with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and is monitored by the central finance function of the Trust. The Academy Trust is mindful of the requirement to protect the public, particularly vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches or undue pressure to donate. No complaints have been received in respect of fundraising activities, the general complaints policy of the Trust would be applicable if so. COVID-19 has impacted on the ability of the Parent & Teacher Associations to raise funds as all face to face activities were cancelled.

Quantification and reporting methodology:

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Plans for future periods

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

The Academy Trust's plans for future periods are:

- To improve the use of technology in all schools across the Trust. The IT infrastructure in all schools is outdated and not fit for purpose. The schools and MAT offices rely heavily on IT and are moving to using more cloud based services. It is the Trusts ambition that by October 2022 all children in Key Stage 2 will have access to their own personal ChromeBook. In order for this to be achieved, WiFi in all schools needs to be improved. The Board has agreed to commit reserves to support this. This improvement will support the Trust's Remote Learning Policy and will improve learning at home should the restrictions of COVID-19 remain.

- To continue to develop middle and senior leadership in order to further teaching and learning and to continue to maintain and further improve outcomes for children.

- To raise pupil numbers and ensure that the admissions to the Reception classes reach the Planned Admission Number.

- To grow the Trust as appropriate.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

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

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 11 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Heather Bowman .

H L Bowman
Chair of Trustees

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 8 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H L Bowman, Chair	7	8
P R Halifax, Vice Chair	7	8
S B Cockayne	6	8
M Havelock-Crozier	4	8
C Humphries	6	8
J Smith	5	8
P Lovern, Accounting Officer	8	8
C Bradshaw-Smith	5	6

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Trust's governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the Trust and are satisfied that the current structure in place is appropriate and effective for the Trust.

The Board continued to hold meetings as planned during the COVID-19 lockdown, however from the 23rd March 2020, these meetings were held virtually using GoogleMeet. The meetings were structured in the same way as face to face meetings.

COVID-19 impacted negatively on the level of training offered to members of the Board.

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

Governance (continued)

The Members of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee met formally 3 times during the financial year.

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H Bowman	2	3
C Bradshaw-Smith	3	3
S Cockayne	2	3
P Halifax	2	3
M Havelock-Crozier	1	3
C Humphries	2	3
J Smith	1	3
P Lovern	3	3

The key issues dealt with by the Finance and Risk Committee during the year was the review of the Academy Trust's 3 year financial forecasts and the actions required to address the reduced funding expected over this period. The Committee also looked at staffing, internal assurance, adoption of a scorecard to measure performance, health and safety, improvements to the school estates, improvements to IT and response to COVID-19.

The Audit Committee is also a sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. It will report its findings annually to the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer as a critical element of the Trust's annual reporting requirements.

Review of value for money

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

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

- combining the cost of purchases across all schools
- sharing of staff across all schools
- sharing of resources across all schools
- shared training sessions
- supplier review
- reviewed insurance and joined the Governments Risk Protection Arrangement Scheme
- reviewed staffing in the central function and reduced from 3 FTE to 1.8 FTE.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

The system of internal control has been in place in The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees. During the year the Board commissioned an external review of the Risk Register

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ a number of internal reviewers to scrutinise the work of the Trust. The Trustees chose to buy-in an internal audit service from Elite Health and Safety, PHRP for a review of the role of DPO, MLG for a financial operational review, Cooper Parry for a review of the Risk Register.

As detailed above, the Trustees have previously appointed the external auditors to undertake the internal scrutiny services for the Academy Trust. As a result of the changes introduced by the Financial Reporting Council's revised Ethical Standard for Auditors, the Trustees, via the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, will be appointing another organisation to undertake the internal scrutiny work for the Academy Trust for the 2020/21 academic year onwards

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

- review of and testing of income recognition and recording systems and procedures
- review of and testing of payroll systems and procedures
- review of and testing of procurement systems and procedures
- review of and testing of bank control procedures
- Review of management information preparation procedures, including information prepared for and presented to the Board of Trustees

On a termly basis, depending on the area being reviewed, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The reviewers have delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2020 as planned. While no significant internal control weaknesses were identified from the work completed, the Trustees and management have developed an action plan to continue to strengthen and improve internal controls over the next 12 months.

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 reviewers;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the board of Trustees and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 11 December 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

H L Bowman
Chair of Trustees

P J Lovern
Accounting Officer

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

P J Lovern
Accounting Officer
Date: 11 December 2020

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 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 financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 11 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Heather Bowman.

H L Bowman
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the 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 financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report including the Strategic report, and the Governance statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the academy trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the academy trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 academy trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nicholas Simkins FCA (senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of
Cooper Parry Group Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

11 December 2020

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 26 September 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and 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 The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust during the year 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 The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 July 2015 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 year 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.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusions includes:

- Reviewing the internal control policies and procedures implemented by the Academy Trust and evaluating their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy Trust has complied with the framework of authorities;

- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Trustees, relevant sub-committees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;

- Enquiries of the Accounting Officer, including reviewing the work undertaken by the Accounting Officer in relation to their Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance; and

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

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

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 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.

Cooper Parry Group Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Date: 11 December 2020

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfer from local authority on conversion		-	-	-	-	(322)
Other donations and capital grants		5	-	20	25	82
Charitable activities	4	48	1,944	-	1,992	1,658
Other trading activities	5	127	-	-	127	119
Total income		180	1,944	20	2,144	1,537
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	89	-	-	89	36
Charitable activities	6,7	-	2,107	51	2,158	2,535
Total expenditure		89	2,107	51	2,247	2,571
Net income/(expenditure)		91	(163)	(31)	(103)	(1,034)
Transfers between funds	19	(38)	38	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	(30)	-	(30)	(298)
Net movement in funds		53	(155)	(31)	(133)	(1,332)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		152	(1,173)	1,119	98	1,430
Net movement in funds		53	(155)	(31)	(133)	(1,332)
Total funds carried forward	19	205	(1,328)	1,088	(35)	98

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

The notes on pages 38 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 09613632

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note		2020 £000		2019 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	13		-		3
Tangible assets	14		1,017		1,022
			1,017		1,025
Current assets					
Stocks	15	1		2	
Debtors	16	40		50	
Cash at bank and in hand		418		420	
		459		472	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(174)		(203)	
Net current assets			285		269
Total assets less current liabilities			1,302		1,294
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(9)		(11)
Net assets excluding pension liability			1,293		1,283
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		(1,328)		(1,185)
Total net (liabilities) / assets			(35)		98
Funds of the academy trust					
Restricted funds:					
Fixed asset funds	19	1,088		1,119	
Restricted income funds	19	-		12	
Pension reserve	19	(1,328)		(1,185)	
Total restricted funds	19		(240)		(54)
Unrestricted income funds	19		205		152
Total funds			(35)		98

The financial statements on pages 35 to 62 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 December 2020 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Heather Bowman

H L Bowman
Chair of Trustees

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £000	2019 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21	24	(384)
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(24)	36
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(2)	13
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(2)	(335)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		420	755
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	418	420

The notes on pages 38 to 62 from part of these financial statements

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 of financial statements

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

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees of the Academy Trust have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis. Based on the Trust's operating and cash flow forecasts, they believe the Trust has adequate cash to continue to fund the the activities of the Trust for the next 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Trustees also consider that net current assets balance is a more accurate reflection of the financial health of the Trust which has increased to £285,000 from £269,000 in the previous year.

The Balance Sheet is in a net liability position of £35,000 due to the inclusion of a defined benefit pension scheme deficit which is ultimately guaranteed by the Department of Education.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the academy trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable 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 incorporating Income and expenditure account in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- **Donations**

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**
  Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period In which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

- **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 as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

- **Expenditure on raising funds**
  This includes all expenditure incurred by the 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.

  All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.
Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.
The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Purchased computer software	-	5 years

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £2,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land	- 125 years
Leasehold buildings	- 50 years
Leasehold improvements	- 10 years
Furniture and fixtures	- 5 years

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

The Academy Trust occupies some land and buildings which are provided to it and owned by:

The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

The Official Trustees of Charity Lands (the trustee of the charity known as Colton United Schools) and Colton United Schools of St Marys House (the Site Trustees).

The Richard Crosse Church of England Primary School

The Official Trustees of Charity Lands (the trustee of the charity known as The Richard Crosse Foundation) and the Diocese of Lichfield, St Mary's House (the Site Trustees).

Anson Church of England Primary School

The Official Trustees of Charity Lands and the Diocese of Lichfield, St Mary's House (the Site Trustees).

The Academy Trust occupies these lands and buildings under the terms of a Supplemental Agreements between the Official Trustees of Charity Lands, the Site Trustees and the Academy Trust. This Supplemental Agreements, which amount to a mere licence, provides the Academy Trust with the right to use the lands and buildings for an indefinite period, subject to a 2-year termination notice period. Having considered the fact that the Academy Trust occupies the lands and buildings by a mere licence, which transfers to the Academy Trust no rights or control over the sites save that of occupying it at the will of the Site Trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the Trustees have concluded that the value of the lands and buildings occupied by the Academy Trust will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the Academy Trust.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.8 Stocks

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

1.9 Debtors

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

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.11 Liabilities and provisions

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.

1.12 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 17 and 18. 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. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Taxation

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

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

1.14 Pensions

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

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

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

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

1.15 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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.

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

Critical areas of judgement:

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

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

The academy trust occupies land and buildings held under Church supplemental agreements. The freehold titles to this property are held by The Richard Crosse School Foundation, The Official Trustee of Charity Lands (the trustee of the charity known as Colton United Schools) and Colton United Schools of St Marys House. Under Church supplemental agreements the academy trust is permitted occupancy of the premises with a notice period of two years, and no rental is payable under this arrangement. The Trustees do not consider that the academy trust is able to exercise control over the property and therefore the property does not meet the definition of an asset of the academy trust and has not been recognised as a fixed asset in these financial statements. Accordingly, improvements to property held under Church supplemental agreements are expensed in the year cost is incurred. The market value of the donated facilities has not been recognised in the financial statements as the Trustees consider that no reliable measure is available.

The Trustees have considered the treatment of catering expenditure and concluded that the element that is not funded by the Universal Free School Meal Restricted Grant should be categorised as an unrestricted cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Donations	5	-	-	5	44
Capital Grants	-	-	20	20	38
Transfer on conversion (see note 30)	-	-	-	-	(322)
Total 2020	5	-	20	25	(240)
Total 2019	56	(334)	38	(240)	

4. Funding for the academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,596	1,596	1,319
Start up grants	-	-	-	25
Other government grants	-	245	245	162
	-	1,841	1,841	1,506
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	98	98	80
Other income from the academy trusts educational operations	48	-	48	72
Expectional government funding				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	5	5	-
Total 2020	48	1,944	1,992	1,658
Total 2019	41	1,617	1,658	

The Academy Trust furloughed some of its care staff under the government's CJRS. The funding received of £5,000 relates to staff costs in respect of two members of staff furloughed which are included in note 9.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Income from ancilliary trading activities	127	127	118
Hire of facilities	-	-	1
Total 2020	127	127	119
Total 2019	119	119	

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2020 £000	Premises 2020 £000	Other 2020 £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:					
Direct costs	74	-	15	89	36
Academy's Educational Operations:					
Direct costs	1,381	41	116	1,538	1,333
Allocated support costs	300	115	205	620	1,202
	1,755	156	336	2,247	2,571
Total 2019	1,500	154	917	2,571	

Of the above expenditure £89,000 (2019: 117,000) was attributable to unrestricted funds, £2,107,000 (2019: £2,403,000) was attributable to restricted funds and £51,000 (2019: £51,000) was attributable to restricted fixed asset funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £000	Support costs 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Academy's educational operations	1,538	620	2,158	2,535
Total 2020	1,538	620	2,158	2,535
Total 2019	1,333	1,202	2,535	

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Net pension interest cost	22	18
Staff costs	300	309
Depreciation	10	11
Technology costs	59	12
Premises costs	104	105
Other support costs	115	88
Governance costs	10	24
Improvements to Diocesan property	-	635
Total 2020	620	1,202

Included within other support costs are legal costs relating to academy conversions and transfers of £nil (2019: £3,000) and legal costs relating to all other matters of £nil (2019: £2,000).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Operating lease rentals	2	2
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	49	47
Amortisation of intangible assets	3	2
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	8	8
- other services	2	2

9. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Wages and salaries	1,253	1,128
Social security costs	106	96
Pension costs	396	276
	1,755	1,500

b. Staff numbers

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	21	18
Administration and support	38	30
Management	7	5
	66	53

9. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	-

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £356,000 *(2019: £364,000)*.

10. Central services

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

- Management and financial services
- Educational services
- Catering services
- Centralised insurance, IT licensing and transport costs

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

Pupil numbers per the 2019 autumn census.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
The Richard Crosse C E Primary School	73	125
The St. Mary's C E Primary School	73	81
The Howard Primary School	73	66
Anson C E Primary School	21	8
Total	240	280

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2020 £000	2019 £000
P J Lovern, Accounting Officer	Remuneration	70 - 75	60 - 65
	Pension contributions paid	15 - 20	10 - 15

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2019 - £NIL).

12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

13. Intangible assets

	Computer software £000
Cost	
At 1 September 2019	13
At 31 August 2020	13
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2019	10
Charge for the year	3
At 31 August 2020	13
Net book value	
At 31 August 2020	-
At 31 August 2019	3

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Plant and machinery £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2019	979	42	148	1,169
Additions	7	33	4	44
At 31 August 2020	986	75	152	1,213
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2019	68	32	47	147
Charge for the year	19	15	15	49
At 31 August 2020	87	47	62	196
Net book value				
At 31 August 2020	899	28	90	1,017
At 31 August 2019	911	10	101	1,022

15. Stocks

	2020 £000	2019 £000
School uniform	1	2

16. Debtors

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Trade debtors	2	1
Prepayments and accrued income	22	44
Tax recoverable	16	5
	40	50

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Loans	2	2
Trade creditors	21	31
Other taxation and social security	27	29
Other creditors	29	28
Accruals and deferred income	95	113
	174	203

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Deferred Income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	38	34
Resources deferred during the year	34	38
Amounts released from previous periods	(38)	(34)
Deferred income at 31 August 2019	34	38

Deferred income at the balance sheet date is represented by Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) received in advance which relate to activities that will be undertaken during the year ending 31 August 2021.

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

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Loans	9	11

Included within loans is a Salix loan of £11,000 (2019: £13,000) for LED lighting for Anson C E Primary School.

The loan is provided with zero interest, payable over 8 years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	152	180	(89)	(38)	-	205
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,596	(1,634)	38	-	-
Start up grant	12	-	(12)	-	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	57	(57)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	291	(291)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,185)	-	(113)	-	(30)	(1,328)
	(1,173)	1,944	(2,107)	38	(30)	(1,328)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transfer on conversion	909	-	(51)	-	-	858
DfE / ESFA capital grants	197	20	-	-	-	217
Other capital expenditure	13	-	-	-	-	13
	1,119	20	(51)	-	-	1,088
Total Restricted funds	(54)	1,964	(2,158)	38	(30)	(240)
Total funds	98	2,144	(2,247)	-	(30)	(35)

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

Unrestricted funds
These comprise resources that may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds
The General Annual Grant funding must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust in line with the Trust's charitable objects and the terms and conditions of the Trust's funding agreement.

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Other grants and income, which include other ESFA / DfE grants (including Universal Infant Free School Meal grants, Teacher Pay grants and Teachers' Pension grants), Local Authority funding, and other restricted income, are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual grants and funding provided.

The Pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

Restricted fixed asset fund
Restricted fixed asset funds represent the investment in fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and includes the value of fixed assets transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion of the Schools within the Academy Trust and the value of fixed assets transferred from academies joining the Trust in the current or previous years, together with any capital expenditure funded from restricted or unrestricted funds. Unspent capital grants and capital income are also held in this fund and their use is restricted to the capital projects for which the grant awarded.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
The Richard Crosse C E Primary School	180	133
The St. Mary's C E Primary School	(19)	53
The Howard Primary School	1	(34)
Anson C E Primary School	31	-
Central Services	12	12
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	205	164
Restricted fixed asset fund	1,088	1,119
Pension reserve	(1,328)	(1,185)
Total	(35)	98

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Deficit £000
The St. Mary's C E Primary School	(19)

The deficit at The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School is due to a high number of children with Education and Health Care Plans and other SENd needs which are not fully funded by the Local Authority. Additional Educational Need Funding is almost impossible to receive and therefore the school has had to provide support from it's own funds.

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

- The school will look for ways of cutting expenditure on admin supplies and educational resources along with a review of the staffing structure.

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
The Richard Crosse C E Primary School	384	64	15	74	537	1,114
The St. Mary's C E Primary School	315	53	14	71	453	421
The Howard Primary School	220	25	16	63	324	300
Anson C E Primary School	344	75	9	79	507	227
Central Services	117	66	2	72	257	458
Academy trust	1,380	283	56	359	2,078	2,520

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £000
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	174	216	(117)	(121)	-	152
Restricted general funds						
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,319	(1,397)	78	-	-
Start up grant	-	25	(13)	-	-	12
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	162	(162)	-	-	-
Improvements to Diocesan property	592	-	(635)	43	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	111	(111)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(468)	(334)	(85)	-	(298)	(1,185)
	124	1,283	(2,403)	121	(298)	(1,173)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transfer on conversion	940	-	(31)	-	-	909
DfE / ESFA capital grants	170	38	(11)	-	-	197
Other capital expenditure	22	-	(9)	-	-	13
	1,132	38	(51)	-	-	1,119
Total Restricted funds	1,256	1,321	(2,454)	121	(298)	(54)
Total funds	1,430	1,537	(2,571)	-	(298)	98

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted funds 2020 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £000	Total funds 2020 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,017	1,017
Current assets	205	183	71	459
Creditors due within one year	-	(174)	-	(174)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(9)	-	(9)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,328)	-	(1,328)
Total	205	(1,328)	1,088	(35)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £000	Restricted funds 2019 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £000	Total funds 2019 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	1,022	1,022
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	3	3
Current assets	152	226	94	472
Creditors due within one year	-	(203)	-	(203)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(11)	-	(11)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,185)	-	(1,185)
Total	152	(1,173)	1,119	98

21. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Net expenditure for the period (as per statement of financial activities)	(103)	(1,034)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	3	2
Depreciation	49	47
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(20)	(38)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	334
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	91	67
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	22	18
Decrease in stocks	1	-
Decrease in debtors	9	191
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(28)	29
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	24	(384)

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	13
Repayments of borrowing	(2)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	(2)	13

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(44)	(2)
Capital grants from DfE Group	20	38
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(24)	36

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Cash in hand	418	420
Total cash and cash equivalents	418	420

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2019 £000	Cash flows £000	Other non-cash changes £000	At 31 August 2020 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	420	(2)	-	418
Debt due within 1 year	(2)	2	(2)	(2)
Debt due after 1 year	(11)	-	2	(9)
	407	-	-	407

26. Pension commitments

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

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

Contributions amounting to £32,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 *(2019 - £28,000)* and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £199,000 *(2019 - £160,000)*.

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £120,000 *(2019 - £113,000)*, of which employer's contributions totalled £98,000 *(2019 - £91,000)* and employees' contributions totalled £ 22,000 *(2019 - £22,000)*. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.2 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.60	2.70
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.20	2.30
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.70	1.80

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	21.2	21.1
Females	23.6	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.1	22.2
Females	25.0	24.8

Sensitivity analysis

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Discount rate -0.5%	333	294
CPI rate +0.5%	296	244
Salary increase rate +0.5%	31	43

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

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Equities	782	725
Bonds	230	235
Property	92	85
Cash and other liquid assets	46	21
Total market value of assets	1,150	1,066

The actual return on scheme assets was (£46,000) *(2019 - £40,000)*.

26. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Current service cost	(189)	(145)
Past service cost	-	(13)
Interest income	20	21
Interest cost	(42)	(39)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(211)	(176)

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

	2020 £000	2019 £000
At 1 September	2,251	1,027
Conversion of academy trusts	-	675
Current service cost	189	145
Interest cost	42	39
Employee contributions	22	22
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(16)	338
Benefits paid	(10)	(8)
Past service costs	-	13
At 31 August	2,478	2,251

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

	2020 £000	2019 £000
At 1 September	1,066	559
Conversion of academy trusts	-	341
Interest income	20	21
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(46)	40
Employer contributions	98	91
Employee contributions	22	22
Benefits paid	(10)	(8)
At 31 August	1,150	1,066

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2020 the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Amounts payable		
Within 1 year	2	2
Between 1 and 5 years	-	2
Total	2	4

28. Members' liability

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

29. Related party transactions

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

An amount of £8,122 (2019: £2,382) was spent with Principal HR Partner Limited. The Director of this business is also one of the Trustees of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust. The amount outstanding is £264 (2019: £264). In entering into the transaction the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019. The element above £2,500 in the previous year was provided 'at no more than cost' and Principal HR Partner Limited provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

During the year the Trust paid employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) to close family members of key management personnel and trustees for their services to the Trust of £24,704 (2019: £26,419).

During the year The Richard Crosse School Foundation made donations to the academy trust totalling £13,389 (2019: £32,954) free of restrictions or terms. Two of the Trustees of the The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust are also Trustees of the foundation and have significant influence over the foundation