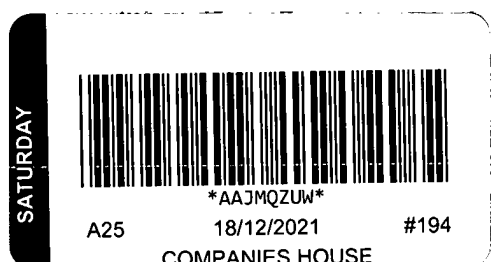


Aquinas Church of England Education Trust (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07525735 (England and Wales)

Strategic Report, Trustees' Report and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021
for

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd



Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	3-4
Trustees' Report	5-24
Governance Statement	25-30
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	31
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	32
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	33-35
Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity	36-37
Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	38
Balance Sheet	39
Statement of Cash Flows	40
Notes to the Financial Statements	40-67

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Reference and Administrative Details

for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Members

Bishop James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester Resigned 9th June 2021

Bishop Simon Burton Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge Appointed 9th June 2021

Archdeacon Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education

Mr Simon Parker, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Rev Alan Keeler, Area Dean of Bromley Resigned 1st May 2021

Rev Alan Keeler, Area Dean of Bromley Appointed 1st May 2021

Trustees/Directors

Include trustees in office on the date the financial statements are approved and any others who served during the year.

Mr Simon Parker (Chairman) ##

Ms Sui-Te Wu (Co Vice Chair) *#

Ms Sue Mordecai **

Mrs Victoria Cliff ** ##

Mr Terry Hyland *

Fr Jeremy Blunden ** – appointed 7th June 2021

Mr Giles Lambert * – appointed 20th August 2021

Mr Seun Odeneye * – appointed 15th July 2021

Mrs Kathy Griffiths (Chief Executive Officer & Accounting Officer) *, ** - Stood down as Trustee 1st August 2021

Ms Anna Lind (Co Vice Chair) * - left 15th July 2021

Mr David Bridger *# - left 4th January 2021

Fr Richard Norman - left 1st May 2021

* Member of the Finance and Audit Committee

** Member of the Education Scrutiny Committee

Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee

Member of the CEO Appraisal Committee

Company Secretary

Mrs Mary Capon

Senior Management Team:

CEO and Accounting Officer

Company Secretary and Director of Communication and Compliance

Chief Finance Officer

Director of Human Resources

Director of Estates and Facilities

Training and Development Director

Primary Education Director

Secondary Education Lead

Mrs Kathy Griffiths

Mrs Mary Capon

Mr Andrew Ferguson

Ms Janet Vick

Mr Glen Day Left 31st May 2021

Mrs Laura Pearson

Mrs Geraldine Shackleton

Mr Simon Murphy

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd
Reference and Administrative Details

for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Senior Management Team (Continued):

Headteachers	Mr Simon Murphy – Executive Headteacher, Bishop Justus CE Secondary School
	Miss Samantha Thompson – Head of School, Bishop Justus CE Secondary School
	Mr Daniel Finch – Cudham CE Primary School
	Mrs Julia Evison – Keston CE Primary School
	Mrs Rachel Coleman – Parish CE Primary School
	Mr Dominic Downes – Headteacher, Rye College
	Ms Kelly Martin – Head Teacher, Rye Community Primary School
	Mrs Ellen Peyton – St George’s Bickley CE Primary School
	Mrs Lynda Doel – Executive Headteacher, St John’s CE Primary School and Trinity CE Primary School
	Mr Chris Hollands - St Mark’s CE Primary School
	Mrs Sophie Sear – St Nicholas CE Primary School
	Miss Sarah Kilbey – Head of School, Trinity CE Primary School
	Mr Barry Blakelock – Executive Headteacher, Rye College and Rye Community Primary School

Principal and Registered Office:	Magpie Hall Lane Bromley Kent BR2 8HZ
Company Registration Number	07525735 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Nichols and Co (Accountancy) Limited Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors Unit 7 Mulberry Place Pinnell Road Eltham London SE9 6AR
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 6-8 Market Square Bromley Kent BR1 1NA
Solicitors	Winckworth Sherwood Minerva House 5 Montague Close London SE1 9BB

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year/period 1st September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Trust is a multi-academy trust currently operating 2 secondary and 9 primary academies for learners aged between 2 to 19 serving the London Borough of Bromley and Rye areas. The Trust has a combined pupil capacity of 5,083 from nursery to year 13 and has a roll of 4,581 as of the school census of October 2020. The difference is as a result of (1) some academies expanding their pupil capacity, but the academies concerned not being full, as yet, within all year groups; (2) the published admission numbers of some academies being contracted; (3) reductions in applicants for reception places; and (4) in-year pupil movement.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated under company number 07525735 and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The trustees of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited (the Trust). However, in certain contractual circumstances, the Trust trades in the name of its academies. Details of the trustees, who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

Members' Liability

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

Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefitted from an indemnity by way of insurance purchased by the Trust pursuant to Article 6.3 of the articles for the year ended 31 August 2021. The Trust currently provides such indemnity by means of the risk protection arrangement operated by the Government.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

There must be at least three trustees but there is no maximum. Articles 45 to 49 detail the composition of the board of trustees, with the appointment of trustees being regulated by articles 50 to 58. The board of trustees meets at least six times a year. The arrangements for the appointment of trustees are as follows:

- The members shall appoint at least 5 trustees. The members are the Bishop of Rochester, the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, The Area Dean of Bromley and the Chairman of the board of trustees.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

- Two parent trustees may be appointed only in the event that the trustees have not set up local governing bodies or advisory bodies. The parent trustees are elected or appointed by the parents of registered pupils at one or more of the academies and each must be a parent at the time when they are elected or appointed.
- Co-opted trustees can be appointed by the trust board as long the trustees appointed by the members are in the majority of at least two.

The board of trustees annually reviews its effectiveness and skills set and recommends the recruitment and appointment of trustees as a result of this process. The Trust will consider appointing trustees from the advisory bodies of its academies which has the dual effect of enhancing the skills of the Trust board and reinforcing the relationship with governance at academy level. Following such a review, the board of trustees co-opted a member of an academy advisory body as trustee to add capacity to the board and to support the work of the Trust's finance and audit. One member of an advisory body continues to be a member of the Trust's finance and audit committee, thereby encouraging succession from within from the talented individuals who are part of the Trust's governance structure. The Trust has also used the academy ambassador scheme in order to recruit and appoint trustees. The most recent appointments broaden the skills of the Trust board and support the work of the finance and audit committee. These appointments ensure succession planning within the board of trustees and the necessary knowledge to achieve the Trust's strategy. As a result of regular self-evaluation and recruitment of new trustees, the Trust board ensures that it has the necessary skills and expertise to meet its responsibilities with all trustees contributing effectively to the function of the board. The recruitment of new trustees also assists the Trust in dealing with the challenges of expansion into a new geographical area.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

Once appointed, new trustees are able to attend induction training procured from external providers. The new trustee will also receive a pack of material from the company secretary and an introductory meeting with the chairman of the board of trustees and the chief executive officer. New trustees will also be mentored by an existing trustee and supported in order to meet their responsibilities. Thereafter, the trustees have the ability to attend appropriate training procured from an external provider. Trustees review their training needs as a part of the evaluation process and identify appropriate sources of development.

Organisational Structure

The board of trustees is ultimately responsible to the members and the Secretary of State for Education for the performance of the Trust and its academies. The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust and have the ultimate decision-making authority. This is exercised by the trustees through strategic planning which details the vision, purpose and objectives of the Trust and setting of policy. It is managed through business and financial planning, budget monitoring, performance management, the setting of standards and the implementation of quality assurance processes. Trustees retain responsibility for safeguarding, health and safety and data protection details of which are reported to trustees at board meetings.

The Chief Executive Officer, who is also the Accounting Officer, implements the decisions of the trustees and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trust. The Chief Executive Officer operates within the limits of her scheme of delegation and the Trust's policies and procedures as approved by the trustees. The trustees also delegate to the Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Heads of School of each academy the day-to-day responsibility for the operations of each academy subject to the delegation to the Chief Executive Officer. Headteachers are now directly accountable to the Chief Executive Officer and the trustees. In order to promote rapid improvement at the

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Trust's academies which have been judged by Ofsted as either requiring improvement or inadequate, trustees have appointed Executive Headteachers. At all other academies, Headteachers work with their central education team primary or secondary lead to share best practice and create efficiencies in order to support the continued improvement of the relevant academy. The Chief Executive Officer implements the strategy for the Trust through the annual action plan. Thereafter it is dovetailed by the Executive Headteachers and Headteachers with each academy's improvement plan.

In order to ensure financial scrutiny and oversight and effective internal control, the Trust has a Finance and Audit Committee with the appropriate levels of delegation to undertake these functions. The Finance and Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the income and expenditure of the Trust and its academies, ensuring effective budgeting, reviewing the year-end report and accounts, reviewing the Trust's internal controls, financial systems of operation and compliance with legislation, health and safety, buildings, policies and considering the internal audit checks undertaken by external auditors and the Company Secretary in accordance with an agreed schedule of inspections. These internal audit checks consider all aspects of the Trust's financial and non-educational operations to ensure compliance with legislation and Trust policies and processes; recommendations are made if appropriate. The membership of this committee is detailed in reference and administrative section.

The Trust's Education Scrutiny Committee provides monitoring and scrutiny of educational standards within the Trust's academies. This committee monitors educational data to ensure standards are in line with Trust expectations, teaching and learning, educational networks, educational policies and training. The committee considers the special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision across the Trust with reports being provided by the Trust's Inclusion leads. The committee is also responsible for the monitoring of safeguarding. It encourages Trust wide initiatives to enhance teaching and learning and to encourage school to school support. The committee also sets the Trust educational targets and holds academies to account for learner achievement and progress against these targets. The membership of this committee is detailed in reference and administrative section.

The Trust's Remuneration Committee reviews and recommends the pay of the Trust's leaders and ensures that pay is appropriate and transparent. The appraisal and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is considered by her appraisal committee; this committee also sets her targets. The membership of these committees is detailed in reference and administrative section.

The Trust's governance structure consists of advisory bodies called Aquinas Advisory Councils (AAC) at academy level, which replaced local governing bodies from September 2016. The AACs provide advice and support to the leadership of the academy and have limited delegated responsibilities. They operate in accordance with the protocol and delegation document approved by the Trustees. Six members of the AAC are selected by the Trustees based on their skills and expertise. In addition, there is one staff and two parent elected representatives together with the Headteacher. Although predominantly advisory in remit, the members of the AAC have the ability to escalate concerns to the Chief Executive Officer and the Trustees. The AACs provide an important link with the school community and assist in ensuring that the academy retains its unique character.

Although not part of the Trust's formal structure, the Primary Education Director chairs the Primary Education Leadership Board which consists of all the trusts primary academy leaders and, when appropriate, key personnel from the executive team. In addition, two trust Deputy Headteachers chair the Management Board consisting of the primary academies' Deputy Headteachers. The Secondary Education Director chairs the Secondary Strategy Team. These operational committees are instrumental in achieving the implementation of the Trust's strategy policies, procedures and educational excellence.

In order to ensure cohesion and proper systems, the Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Heads of School of each academy are required to implement the policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. The Trust monitors

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

the activities of each academy through the provision of information to the Finance and Audit Committee and the Education Scrutiny Committee, the involvement of the Central Education Leads and the work of the Chief Executive Officer and the executive team.

The Trust provides a number of central services: preparation of the Trust's audited accounts, company secretarial services, academy education team, compliance and internal audit provision, finance, recruitment, human resources, payroll, procurement services, data protection, health and safety, estates and IT. The Trust reserves the right to receive a contribution to these central costs from the academies.

The Trust is made up of:

Academy	Date Joined
Bishop Justus Church of England School	1 March 2011
Parish Church of England Primary School	1 August 2013
Keston Church of England Primary School	1 April 2014
St Nicholas Church of England Primary School (formerly Chislehurst Church of England Primary School)	1 November 2014
St Mark's Church of England Primary School	1 December 2014
Trinity Church of England Primary School (Formerly Princes Plain Primary School)	1 January 2015
Cudham Church of England Primary School	1 April 2015
St John's Church of England Primary School	6 April 2016
St George's Church of England Primary School	1 September 2016
Rye College	1 November 2018
Rye Community Primary School	1 November 2018

All assets and liabilities of each predecessor school were transferred to the Trust upon conversion save for:

- St John's Church of England Primary School which transferred post conversion from the Rochester Diocesan Education Trust.
- Rye College and Rye Community Primary School which transferred post conversion from the Rye Academy Trust.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Together with the Chief Executive Officer and the Company Secretary, the senior management team of the Trust and its academies are detailed in the reference and administrative section. The Trust has pay and appraisal policies for education and business staff in leadership roles. The education staff include Heads of School, Headteachers, Executive Headteachers, trust Primary Directors of Education, trust Education Director and the Chief Executive Officer. Their contracts are subject to the schoolteachers pay and conditions as they are required to be qualified teachers and as such the pay ranges are set by reference to these conditions. In addition, their remuneration will reflect their responsibilities and accountability, professional expertise and nature and challenge of the role. The pay policy for non-educational staff reflects market benchmarking and the requirements of national pay and conditions. Once again pay ranges reflect responsibilities and accountability, professional expertise and nature and challenge of the role. The pay award for each individual is determined following a robust appraisal procedure which reflects the achievement of the previous year's

Trustees' Report**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

objectives and the setting of new aspirational targets for the subsequent year reflective of the Trust's strategic plan for that year. Senior personnel from the Trust's business team are appraised by the Chief Executive Officer to ensure consistency. The Chief Executive Officer is appraised within a business framework in addition to meeting the demands of teachers' pay and conditions. The appraisal is undertaken by trustees with business and educational experience who are members of the Chief Executive Officer's appraisal committee. The Chief Executive Officer is appraised against the targets for the previous year and her remuneration will be recommended by Chief Executive Officer's appraisal committee and approved by the Remuneration Committee which will both consider available market intelligence for similar roles and is in line with current ESFA guidelines on setting executive pay. Future targets will be set by reference to the Trust action plan and will be aspirational to meet the future strategic plans of the trustees. A remuneration appeals committee consisting of trustees would consider any remuneration appeals of senior personnel.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Employees and Disabled Persons**

The Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer, and its Equalities Policy was adopted in September 2016. The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants for teaching or support posts are encouraged to notify the Human Resources Manager if they require assistance in attending the interview. For Health & Safety reasons, staff are required to declare any disability as they see fit. Additionally, the Trust does not discriminate against students, staff or Trustees on grounds of race, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, gender reassignment or marital/civil partnership status.

Trade Union Facility Time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees through any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The information to be published consists of four tables covering:

Relevant Union Officials**Relevant union officials**

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

4

4

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Provide the total cost of facility time	0
Provide the total pay bill	0
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (Total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	0

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:	0
--	---

(Total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100

0

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trust is an educational establishment currently consisting of eleven academies, which operate independently in relation to the provision of education to the learners that attend the academy.

The Trust provides certain central services such as education improvement, human resources, payroll, finance, internal and external audit, central policies, health and safety, estate management, company secretarial support, data protection, IT and training, which the academies use, and it also facilitates shared expertise, training and development.

The Trust is a member of the Bromley Schools Collegiate thereby ensuring access to newly qualified teachers trained to the highest standard in the ethos of the Trust.

In order to maintain links with other local schools, the Trust has an associate scheme which will foster close working relationships with schools who may be interested in joining the Trust. This will give the Trust the opportunity to assess the suitability of potential partners. The Rye academies were associates prior to joining. In furtherance of their religious objectives the academies located within the London Borough of Bromley are also involved in the Rochester Diocesan Family of Schools and the Bromley Church Schools' Partnership. These are voluntary collaborations to promote the Church of England religious ethos within schools and do not of themselves impact on the operations of the Trust.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

As a Trust we put a high priority on looking after the well-being of our staff. As a Church of England Education Trust we also nurture the spiritual needs of our staff. In order to meet these two high level objectives, we undertake the following:

- to provide employees with information on matters of concern to them
- to consult employees or their representatives regularly so that the views of employees can be considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests
- to encourage the involvement of employees in their career progression by conducting effective appraisal objective setting and monitoring
- to offer all employees the opportunity to undertake further training and development
- not to discriminate in respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and the training, career development and promotion of disabled person
- we offer all employees access to confidential external counselling and support services
- we carry out regular anonymised whole staff surveys to collect the opinions and concerns both positive and negative of our staff and action the findings, reviewing annually if these actions are having the impact required

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the trust

Trustees understand the need to build and maintain good working relationships with our suppliers, we do this by:

- treating all suppliers fairly
- ensuring that where our policy requires tenders to be issued, suppliers have equal access to quote for these services.
- paying all suppliers promptly within stated terms

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The Trust's primary objective is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom for the public benefit. It must establish, maintain, carry on, manage and develop academies with a designated Church of England religious character or other academies with or without a designated religious character. In the latter case, the academy's individual character, background and links to the community it serves will be recognised and supported. The Trust's primary objective has not altered despite its expansion and amendment to its articles. The Trust aims to provide high quality education for all learners regardless of their start point so that they can reach their full potential.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust's strategic objectives during the year ended 31 August 2021, in partnership with its academies, are:

Priority 1: Improve educational outcomes for all learners.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trust has supported its academies to:

- Develop quality first teaching across the Trust that leads to continual improvement for all academies.
- Refine the curriculum so that learners develop a deep body of transferable knowledge.
- Deliver improved outcomes for all learners with a relentless focus on progress.
- Develop data systems to effectively track provision and progress for different groups of learners.
- Develop a stable and highly effective community of leaders and classroom practitioners.
- Develop effective hubs and networks.
- Provide high quality professional learning opportunities for teachers at all stages of their careers.
- Meet the demands of the Covid pandemic
- Improve the condition of school buildings
- Reduce Carbon emissions through the application of a decarbonisation grant

The continued improvement of educational outcomes for learners remains one of the Trust's priorities for the forthcoming year. The skills and expertise of the Trust Primary and Secondary Leads, and Executive Headteachers will support the Trust in achieving this priority as will the practice led learning networks which cover numerous areas of teaching and learning. The Trust also has a strong education team who are deployed across the academies in order to deliver this priority. This team is also still being deployed to support the two academies that have joined the Trust in 2018/19 and the policies, practices and learning networks will also support the improvement of these academies.

In order to achieve priority 1, it has also been necessary to have strong leadership. This was achieved through the dissemination of leadership at all levels within the academies with ultimate responsibility resting with the executive Headteacher or Headteacher of each academy who is accountable for educational standards and non-educational matters to the chief executive officer and ultimately to the trustees. Senior and middle leaders are developed for future leadership opportunities through training and additional Trust wide responsibilities. The senior leaders of the Trust's central team provide effective leadership of the non-educational business.

Priority 2: Expand the Trust to continue to create a sustainable and effective community of well-resourced academies by:

- Maintaining sustainable central business functions – ensuring they are sound, efficient and scalable.
- Securing effective leadership capacity.

In order to achieve priority 2, the Trust will maintain efficient finance, IT systems, which are scalable and teams to ensure financial sustainability driven by effective budgeting. The Trust will continue to share resources equitably and provide transparency and fairness in the allocation of those resources. Central expertise will be allocated across the Trust to improve the quality of leadership in all academies enabling a wide range of staff to secure accredited coaching qualifications. The Trust will continue to develop its already robust governance.

The Trust's partnership with the Bromley Schools Collegiate (BSC) to train teachers at both primary and secondary level in both the Bromley and Rye areas, ensures that it can attract new teachers with the added training benefits. The Trust has also developed its in-house training resources by delivering a high-quality programme of continuing professional development for teaching staff and school leaders through a range of staff development programmes and has become a partner organisation delivering educational development training on behalf of the Church of England. The Trust's investment in BlueSky, an intuitive intranet, has assisted with performance management, training, communication, resources and recruitment. The Trust also encourages all practitioners to share and develop good practice; consequently, there are many development opportunities in terms of training, mentoring and secondments. This year has seen a particular commitment to the investment in external accreditation for leaders

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

and management across the Trust. Most notably, NPQs for teaching staff, NPQH for Headteachers, NPQEL for executive leaders and making use of the apprenticeship levy to provide training for staff at all levels throughout the Trust.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that the activities of the Trust provide identifiable benefits, namely educational, which are in pursuance of the aims of the Trust. This benefit is available to young people aged from 2 to 19. The admission criteria of the academies are not unduly restrictive and are in keeping with the aims of the Trust, the ethos of each academy and their pre-conversion designation. Furthermore, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The Trust's main objective is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom for the public benefit; consequently, the academic achievement of its learners is its primary focus.

The academic year 2020 to 2021 has seen the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic across all our schools. Education settings were closed at various points in the year, including a short notice closure in January 2021. Schools spent the Christmas holiday preparing for the safe opening of schools in January with the setting up of Covid testing centres, which were then not required. Schools developed remote learning to enable students to learn from home and staff performed well above what could be expected by teaching key worker and vulnerable students in class while providing live lessons on-line. Schools found innovative ways to stay in touch with all, but particularly vulnerable pupils during this time, with staff showing incredible resilience and imagination to keep pupils engaged in their learning.

All academies have reviewed curriculum provision and related financial planning so that there is improved efficiency and effectiveness in delivering a good quality education. The importance of planning for progression to develop a deep and meaningful body of knowledge has been central to curriculum improvements. The need to develop assessment systems which help pupils, teachers and parents to recognise the quality of learning and the progress pupils are making has been an effective driving force in the primary academies and is developing in the secondary academies. This has facilitated more precise intervention or pre-teaching to target gaps in knowledge. The quality of education across the Trust has continued to improve across all academies. Outcomes at a number of academies including St Nicholas', St George's, Parish and St Mark's are strong and amongst top performers in the country. The academies which require greater support in order to continue to improve are Cudham, Rye College and Rye Community, but all these schools showed pleasing progress in the last year.

During the year ending 31st August 2021 the Trust consisted of 9 primary academies and 2 secondary academies with varying social and economic backgrounds and learner ability. The majority of the Trust's primary academies meet or exceeded national averages at key stage 2. This year due to the Covid-19 pandemic no assessments were held for primary school pupils and therefore it is not possible to publish any results.

Secondary pupils were also not able to sit any public examinations this year and therefore all results were based on teacher assessments, which were moderated by senior leadership across our two schools to ensure consistency. Students showed remarkable maturity in the face of an ever-changing system with KS5 students concerned about their further education courses and career prospects as the assessment system shifted regularly. Staff professionally guided them through this uncertain time with most of our students obtaining their preferred university place, apprenticeship or employment.

Therefore, there are no nationally published examination results available for KS4 or KS5, but below are key headline figures from the grades awarded by the examination boards to our students, based on school moderated assessment grades.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

Key Stage 4 Headline Measures (School Assessment)		
Measure	Bishop Justus	Rye College
Progress 8	No National Results Published	No National Results Published
Attainment 8	50.7	49.6
Percentage entering EBACC	24.4%	10.0%
Average EBACC APS score per pupil	4.27	4.21
% Achieving 4+ in English and Mathematics	74%	65%
% Achieving grade 5+ in English and Mathematics	53%	48%
% Achieving 5+ in the English Baccalaureate	15.6%	8.4%

16-18 Headline Measures	
Average point score per academic entry expressed as an A level grade	B-

Covid 19 has continued to disrupt the academic progress of learners; however, we have continued make sure our core objectives are met by using the Covid catch up grant to provide additional support to reduce the loss of learning. Despite the enormous disruption to education, Trustees are delighted with outcomes and the secondary academies and the improvements in teaching and learning in the primary academies. As national restrictions ease, the Trust remains committed to its core objective of improving outcomes for all learners. Where an academy has not achieved the outcomes and progress anticipated, the Board of Trustees through the work of the Education Scrutiny Committee, Chief Executive Officer and the education team, following a detailed educational review, will implement changes at the academy which will include executive leadership, increased support from the Trust education team and a review of the teaching and learning in order to promote rapid improvement. The effectiveness of these strategies will be monitored by the Chief Executive Officer who will report regularly to the Education Scrutiny Committee. Where an academy has had difficulty in a particular area or a particular group has not achieved the requisite progress or attainment level, Chief Executive Officer and the education team will ensure strategies are implemented to address the issues. In order to promote continuing school improvement and collaboration, the Trust's good and outstanding academies share of best practice, facilitate exemplary moderation in key areas and encourage other efficiencies. In order to support continued improvement at both secondary academies, leaders have developed a secondary strategy and meet termly to evaluate the effectiveness of the secondary curriculum, the quality of teaching and student outcomes.

Through the robust appraisal process applied to Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Heads of School, the Chief Executive Officer ensures that academy leaders have targets which reflect the academy's improvement requirements and which align with the Trust's strategy. Academy leaders are supported and challenged in their roles by the Chief Executive Officer or the education team to ensure that the attainment and progress of all learners are maximised. The Trustees hold all academy leaders to account for the educational standards at an academy through their respective scheme of delegation. Through the Education Scrutiny Committee, Trustees monitor progress, educational standards and the strategies implemented to secure improvement, through change, are achieved.

The Trust recognises that its employees are its main assets, and as such the Trust has promoted training at all levels to enhance skills, thereby developing a culture of meritocracy resulting in staff achieving additional responsibilities and remuneration.

Established peer reviews across the academies provide constructive feedback for the reviewer and reviewed. Staff mentoring and secondments also ensure that staff potential is released. The Trust promotes career progression plans for both teaching and non-teaching staff. The Trust has a robust appraisal process at all levels which makes sure that staff are set aspirational targets and supported in order to achieve them.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

This investment in staff will have a positive impact on learners. Trustees consider staff wellbeing to be of vital importance thereby improving staff morale, retention and recruitment. Consequently, the Trust provides staff access to a wellbeing assistance programme by Health Assured. Staff workload and morale is monitored by surveys undertaken by external providers. Staff recruitment, development and training will continue to be a focus for the forthcoming year and in a challenging recruitment market, the Trust is fully staffed. This illustrates the Trust's ability to retain staff by providing excellent working conditions, continuing professional development, a defined career path and good remuneration package whilst also being able to recruit staff in a competitive market.

The Trust continues to successfully implement policies, process and operations covering all its main responsibilities such as finance, human resources, health and safety and safeguarding across two geographical areas. Implementation of policies and their effectiveness is monitored through the Trust's internal audit programme, the Finance and Audit Committee and ultimately the Board of Trustees. However, the Chief Executive Officer and the executive team are responsible for the review of policy and practice. Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Heads of School are directly accountable to the Trustees for their respective academies. This ensures that the Trustees through the Chief Executive Officer and the education team, have a direct impact on the academies.

In order to promote the Trust, it has been necessary to gain a local presence, this has been achieved through active involvement through the Bromley Schools Partnerships, East Sussex Strategic Partnerships, engaging with stakeholders and the local community. A regional presence is achieved through continued work with the Diocese of Rochester and the RSC networks. The Chief Executive Officer continues to engage positively with other trusts in order to share expertise and works on a national level with the Church of England Leadership Foundation and AASSH.

The Trust's objectives, as detailed in the 2020-21 Trust action plan, are regularly monitored by the Chief Executive Officer. The Trust action plan is RAG rated and reviewed by the executive leaders of the Trust and Trustees. For the year ended 31 August 2021, the Trust achieved the most of its strategic actions in order to meet its strategic intents of developing quality first teaching across the Trust that leads to continual improvement for all academies and a stable and highly effective community of leaders and classroom practitioners both of which support the Trust's objective of improving outcomes for learners. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented all actions being achieved affected the progress of all learners; consequently, the Trust will continue to focus on achieving quality first teaching leading to good or better progress for all learners.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021****STRATEGIC REPORT****Key financial performance indicators**

The Trust undertakes monitoring of both a financial and non-financial nature, as follows:

Financial:

- Budget: income and expenditure to actual performance
- Three-year forecasting
- Staff pay as a proportion of total costs
- Unrestricted reserves as a proportion of GAG income
- Benchmarking across the academies and against other similar multi academy trusts

Non-Financial:

- Pupil numbers
- Curriculum
- Examination results
- Value added
- Pupil Premium and value for money
- Facilities
- Energy consumption and efficiency
- Staff Performance
- Post 16 Learning and students moving to university or employment
- Teacher recruitment and retention.

Key Performance Indicator	Target	Actual
Number of Aquinas Academies as at 31 st August 2021	11	11
Unrestricted Reserves as a % of GAG income	Minimum of 6 %	7%
Staff costs as a % of total costs (excluding notional rent cost)	70% - 78%	78%

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

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.

Promoting the success of the company

Trustees recognise the need to be mindful of promoting the success of the Trust within the community. This is achieved through:

- treating all students and families in a fair, consistent and caring manner
- considering the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- monitoring the interests of the company's employees
- fostering the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment
- maintaining a reputation for high standards

Financial Review

The Trust's primary source of funding is pursuant to the master funding agreement and the academies' supplemental funding agreements. In addition, the academies receive funds through lettings and funds raised by parents.

The budgets for the academies and the Trust are approved by the trustees. The budgets reflect the priorities of each academy and the Trust. During the year ended 31 August 2021, the financial position of each academy was monitored by the Chief Financial Officer and the academy leaders. The Trust's finance and audit committee also monitors academy budgets and forecasts at each meeting together with the Trust's central services budget.

The chair of trustees receives a monthly statement of the financial position of the Trust and its academies. From an operational perspective the forecasts are updated once a month and the Chief Financial Officer has regular meetings with executive Headteachers, Headteachers and school business manager/ finance assistants for each academy to ensure that budgets are adhered to.

The financial policies and procedures which have been approved by the board of trustees comply with the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 and are implemented by the Trust and the academies. Through prudent budgeting and rigorous financial monitoring, the Trust continues to be financially sustainable.

The in- year deficit, before actuarial losses, of £1,453,000 includes LGPS FRS 102 pension finance costs of £1,315,000 and a depreciation charge of £526,000, both of these are non-cash charges. If these items are added back, the Trust shows a small surplus for the year.

The average number of staff has decreased within the trust over the year. Inflation increases, rising staffing costs, uncertainty in the macro environment, compounded by increases in employer's pension contributions and non-funded, higher than expected, support staff salary increases remain an on-going concern for the Trust. There are specific additional concerns regarding the future impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the year ended 2021, the Trust continues to use central procurement efficiencies to drive down costs in terms of catering, Internet provision and information technology service contracts and consumables. In order to deliver rapid educational improvement at the Trust's most vulnerable academies, additional leadership capacity has been injected at increased cost.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trust is also providing financial support to its small rural academy which receives insufficient funding in order to support the necessary teaching and learning for students. The day-to-day financial operations of the Trust are overseen by the Chief Financial Officer with executive Headteachers and Headteachers taking responsibility for individual academy budgets. Expenditure against budget is regularly monitored by the Trust's finance team.

The number of educational establishments within the vicinity of some of the Trust's academies has increased resulting in more pupil places to provide for parental choice. This has the potential of reducing pupil numbers within the Trust's academies and thus revenue at Trust academies. The educational standards at the Trust's newest academies are improving and while pupil numbers are increasing at some schools there is still concern at primary level. The Chief Executive Officer regularly reviews pupil numbers. The trustees have approved strategies to counteract this effect such as marketing strategies, nursery provision and improved resources and curriculum. The associate staff pension deficit, the increased national insurance, the national pay awards and pension contributions are also still impacting on the resources available to the Trust.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust on an annual basis. In general, it is considered prudent to maintain a level of useable reserves sufficient to cover unexpected and unplanned events so that the Trust's primary objective is preserved. At the same time, the Trust wishes to ensure that it uses its funding to benefit the students in its care which implies an imperative to actively consider the use of reserves to enhance educational provision at its academies. Unless otherwise approved by the Trustees, the minimum level of reserves is 6% of total GAG for the preceding financial year, excluding the reserves of the two Rye Schools, which are subject to a ring-fencing agreement with the ESFA. The Trust considers capital expenditure needs in parallel with the revenue budgeting process and will review potential capital expenditure for the benefit of the current students in light of the Trust's current and forecasted total reserves. This will enable the Trust board to monitor and prioritise capital expenditure needs and ensure that the Trust has adequate reserves.

Adequate reserves are necessary to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of funds and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust's level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) at the year ended 31 August 2021 is £2,353,000 and is retained to enable the Trust to pursue projects at the trustees' discretion. The net deficit for the year is £1,358,000 after an actuarial gain of £95,000. The trustees confirm that they consider the level of reserves to be adequate bearing in mind the Trust's reserves policy and future plans of the Trust.

There is an agreement with the ESFA that the reserves of the Trust are ring-fenced from the negative effect of both current and future deficits accruing to the two Rye schools.

The Trust is accounting for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and is recognising a significant pension fund deficit. The deficit on the pension reserve representing the FRS102 pension liability for the Local Government Pension Scheme is included within restricted funds. The overall restricted funds remain in surplus after taking account of the LGPS deficit. The quantum of the LGPS deficit has been derived from the actuarial valuations undertaken as at 31st August 2021. Increases in employers' pension contributions set over a period of years form the measures taken to eliminate the LGPS deficit this action has seen a reduction in the rate of increase in the deficit this financial year. The increased employers' contributions result in a negative cash flow effect for the Trust which are absorbed by the Trust's annual income, existing reserves and accounted for through revised budgets.

Investment policy

The Trust shall avoid investments that conflict with its charitable objectives as detailed in its memorandum and articles of association. The Trust should only use fund managers who can demonstrate that they adopt a socially responsible approach to investing. The Trust shall not undertake any form of investment in stocks, shares, bonds or any other similar investment vehicle or in property or buildings other than those related to the establishment, maintenance, carrying on, managing and developing of educational establishments.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trust shall be entitled to deposit funds in excess of £300,000 in a fixed term deposit account within the existing current banking arrangement with a maturity date of no longer than 12 months. The Trust's investment objective is driven by a low-risk appetite. The Trust should aim for a minimum target return of inflation plus 2% which is consistent with a low-risk appetite. The suitability of the banking arrangements is reviewed every academic year and counterparty criteria is detailed in the policy.

Financial Instruments

The Trust holds no basic financial instruments as defined in FRS102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement basis are as follows: -

Financial Assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial Liabilities- trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. 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.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to affect the ongoing operation of all our schools is potentially our most uncertain risk. While we can mitigate through remote learning and put in place health and safety measure to restrict the spread of the virus we cannot fully control or mitigate its effects.

Outside of Covid-19, the Trust's principal risk, which is multi-faceted, is still associated with the Rye academies which joined the Trust during the financial year ended 31 August 2019. The risks include lower than expected pupil numbers, with the consequent reduction in funding. A re-organisation of the primary school to reduce the number of classes being taught has mitigated this risk, but pupil numbers are predicted to fall further over the next two years as larger classes leave at the top end of the school.

Pupil numbers at Rye College are beginning to show recovery and forecast pupil numbers over the next two years suggest that there could be a recovery to allow a four-form entry school to operate. A reorganisation of the curriculum over the past has enabled staff costs to be reduced.

The two schools have both improved since joining the trust in 2019, but there continues to be a need for further development.

The Chief Executive Officer has put in place a package of support to mitigate these risks, including supporting the development of the Bromley Schools' Collegiate in Rye, with a view to training new teachers locally, which will benefit recruitment across all schools in the area. Trustees are confident that the risks can be sufficiently mitigated and managed as a result of the implementation of rapid improvement plans for each academy, the creation of strong leadership teams at each academy supported by the Trust's improvement team and the monitoring of the capital projects and the revenue debt.

The Trust's other significant risk is a reduction in pupils across the primary phase. There are less three and four-year olds coming through the system. This reduction is coupled with some parents moving away from the Bromley area now that they are allowed to work remotely.

Funding continues to be a risk. Schools developed three-year forecasts based on the Government indicating that there would be no salary increases for public sector workers for two years. It now looks possible that they will allow public sector pay to increase and have said that this will be affordable within existing budgets. Given that the largest proportion of our costs is staffing, this is unlikely to be the case and will impact on other educational provision.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Although all the Trust academies in the Bromley hub are either good and outstanding, the quality of education, learner attainment and progress and Ofsted judgements, particularly following two years of disrupted education due to the Covid pandemic, continue to be an area of risk which is effectively mitigated by regular review of academy performance and assessment of teaching and learning, subject to the comments concerning the academies in Rye. Linked to this is the risk of not being able to source suitable employees which will impact on the Trust being able to deliver the necessary quality of teaching and learning. The Trust mitigates this by having a cohesive approach to recruitment, being involved in the training of teachers, and retaining staff with effective career progression, appropriate performance management and good working environments.

The increasing associate staff pension deficit also poses a significant risk for the Trust and although the deficit is monitored and the Trust is managing the risk by recouping the deficit through higher employer contributions, which has seen a reduction in the rate of increase in the deficit this financial year, it remains an area for concern.

The Trustees appreciate that this is a sector wide issue and a solution from central government will ultimately be necessary. The defined pension scheme for the associate staff had a deficit of £11,637,000 as at the year ended 31 August 2021 as valued by FRS17. This is being repaid via higher employer contributions over a 15-year period from the date of conversion of each academy. The trustees are aware that the FRS17 valuation is prepared on a different basis to the triennial formal funding actuarial valuation. The next triennial valuation is due for April 2023 and it is this that will determine contribution rates for the future including the repayment of the deficit.

Following the departure of the Trust IT Manager during the year the Trust has consolidated this support into the service level agreement supporting our Bromley schools.

The trustees are responsible for identifying risks faced by the Trust, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks, and ensuring that employees are aware of these procedures and of the implications of failing to implement them. The trustees have delegated the more detailed scrutiny of the risks faced by the Trust to the finance and audit committee which also reviews the mitigation put in place to combat the risk. This committee advises the trustees on the significant risks faced by the Trust and its academies. The trustees confirm that the major risks, to which the Trust is exposed, as identified in the risk register, have been reviewed and systems and procedures are in place to manage these potential risks. Furthermore, the trustees are satisfied that each academy has undertaken a detailed review of those risks specific to the academy and procedures have been put in place to manage those risks. The trustees are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission. The trustees acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has effective and appropriate systems of control, both financial and non-financial. The Trust has cash balances held with Lloyds Banking Group PLC which has an A+ rating from Standard & Poor's. With this arrangement the key financial risks to consider are liquidity risk and interest rate risk.

Liquidity Risk

The Trust manages its cash resources, including sufficient working capital so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short term borrowing. The Trust is entitled to deposit funds in excess of £300,000 in a fixed term deposit of up to 12 months whereby the nature of this deposit is such that the cash balance is not put at risk.

Interest Rate Risk

In the absence of borrowing and low prevailing interest rates the Trust is not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

Fundraising

The Trust complies with the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. The Trust did not use any professional fundraiser or commercial participator to carry out any fund-raising activities.

Two of the Trust's academies receive voluntary contributions from parents. The funds raised are applied for the provision of education at the academies.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Trustees' Report****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

From time to time, the Trust and its academies raise funds for registered charities not connected to the Trust. The fundraising supports the ethos and values of the Trust and its academies and is only undertaken with the approval of academy leaders. The funds raised are accounted for through the Trust's accounting systems and paid directly to the charity for which the funds were raised.

The nature of the fund-raising activities was voluntary and complied with the Code of Fund-Raising Practice. The fund-raising activities are monitored frequently, and the Trust can confirm that no vulnerable individuals were approached. Fundraising for third party charities only occurs within the relevant academy and does not result in the public being approached. Any complaints in relation to fundraising will be dealt with in accordance with the Trust or academy complaints procedures, as appropriate. There were no complaints received by the Trust or any persons acting on behalf of the Trust. The Trust can also confirm that there were no unreasonable intrusions on a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches for the purpose of soliciting or otherwise procuring money or other property on behalf of the charity or placing undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021	2020/2021	2019/2020
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	4,243,927	4,703,405
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Gas consumption <u>Total scope 1</u>	580.5	642.7
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e Purchased electricity	257.9	354.1
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u> Business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.7	1.9
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	839.1	998.7
<u>Intensity ratio</u> Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.18	0.22

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 August 2021

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.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

During the last 12 months we have invested £1.1m across the Trust estate in decarbonisation technology as to reduce carbon emissions as follow:

- Increased insulation where required in our schools
- Installed solar PV at our two secondary schools and two primary schools
- Upgraded all lighting across the Trust to LED
- Upgraded all metering
- Upgraded two boilers and switched from oil fired to gas
- Installed BMS system in one of our schools

Plans for Future Periods

The Trust's key objective is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom for the public benefit. Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its resulting effect on teaching and learning and potential Trust expansion, Trustees have started a detailed reviewed of the Trust's strategy. The new strategy will continue to focus on the Trust's core purpose of improving educational outcomes for learners which supports the Trust's key objective. The Trust will continue to improve the outcomes and progress made by all learners who attend one of the Trust's academies through the deployment of the education team, the sharing of expertise through the education networks, quality first teaching, collaborative school reviews, assessment and targeted improvement plans. School improvement and better outcomes for all learners will be a particular focus at the Rye academies together with improvement Ofsted judgements. The Trust will also continue to ensure that its business functions are sound, efficient and scalable in all geographical areas that the Trust operates thereby supporting all Trust academies to be sustainable and well-resourced in order to support our varying communities. Trustees will also be focusing on the expansion of the Trust should suitable opportunities become available through conversion or transfer. Once Trustees have finalised the strategy, it will be achieved through the implementation of the Trust's annual action plan. The current priorities for the Trust for 2021-2022 are:

- The development of Quality First teaching across the Trust that leads to continual improvement for all academies.
- Attracting, recruiting and retaining staff of the highest standard.
- Continuing to work strategically with external organisations to secure sustainable growth and promote excellence.
- Maintaining a sustainable central business function, ensuring it is sound, efficient and scalable.
- Securing effective leadership capacity.
- Trust growth.

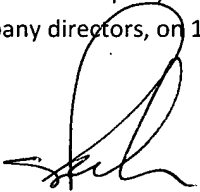
Auditor

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the Trust's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The current auditors were re-appointed by the members at the annual general meeting of the Trust on 16th September 2020. The appointment was confirmed by the trustees.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 14th December 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:



.....
S Parker – Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 14/12/21

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Governance Statement****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Scope of Responsibility**

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

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 Aquinas Church of England Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive Officer together with the Chief Finance Officer 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 6 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
Mr S Parker (Chairman)	6	6
Mr D Bridger	1	2
Mrs K Griffiths (CEO and Accounting Officer)	6	6
Ms S Mordecai	6	6
Mrs V Cliff	6	6
Fr R Norman	4	4
Ms Anna Lind	5	6
Ms Sui-Te Wu	6	6
Mr T Hyland	6	6

The Trustees have facilitated the expansion of the Trust in a controlled manner through appropriate consideration of the risks associated with any new alliance. Trustees have delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the operational responsibility for the Trust as reflected in a detailed scheme of delegation. The operational responsibility for each academy is delegated directly to the Executive Headteacher, Headteacher or Head of School of the academy. Trustees continue to review the schemes of delegation to academy leaders and ensure that Heads of School have the necessary support of an Executive Leader. Consequently, the delegation to Heads of School of these academies is subject to the Trustees' delegation to the Executive Headteachers, who have final responsibility for the academy. The central team facilitate the sharing of best practice through the various networks thereby supporting financial and non-financial efficiencies at the academies

The Trust board is comprised of individuals with the necessary combination of skills and expertise to achieve the agreed strategy. In order to ensure probity and eliminate potential conflicts of interest, trustees are not employees of the Trust. This focused group of trustees with a breadth of expertise hold the Chief Executive Officer to account in relation to the Trust strategy

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2021

and the annual action plan. They are also equipped with the necessary skills to ensure that the Trust makes appropriate new alliances and further expansion is undertaken in a controlled manner with the necessary capacity being built for expansion. The Trust board meets 6 times a year in order to discharge its responsibilities which are detailed in the agenda calendar agreed with trustees at the commencement of the financial year. For the purposes of each meeting, trustees receive data on all academies in terms of attendance, safeguarding, children looked after, exclusion, educational and financial. The trustees consider the provision of this information as necessary and adequate to discharge their responsibilities. Detailed scrutiny of academy data and finances takes place within the relevant committees, but these are reported back to the trustees at board meetings at which the Chief Finance Officer and Central Education Team also have an opportunity to advise trustees of issues and challenges. Trustees are now able to hold academy leaders directly accountable for each academy through the work of the Chief Executive Officer as local governing bodies have been replaced with Aquinas Advisory Councils (AAC). Robust appraisals ensure that aspirational targets are set so that the Trust achieves its strategic objectives. Save for specific elements of delegated authority, the AAC provides support and advice to academy leaders. This ensures that the Trust, through the chief executive officer and other senior officers, has a direct impact at academy level and Headteachers are held accountable by the trustees whilst having the support of an AAC.

The **finance and audit committee** - As permissible by the Academies Financial Handbook, the Trust has combined its finance and audit responsibilities. The finance and audit committee is a committee of the board of trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the Trust's financial affairs, review and recommend the proposed budget for approval by the trustees and review and recommend the proposed audited accounts for approval by the trustees. The finance and audit committee's terms of reference also empowers it to undertake a review of the Trust's financial policies and where appropriate make changes, consider the outcome of internal audit, review value for money, monitor the Trust's internal processes and risk assessment. This committee also has oversight of health and safety and estates.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr D Bridger	0	2
Mr S Parker	2	2
Mrs K Griffiths (CEO and Accounting Officer)	3	3
Mr T Hyland	3	3
Ms S-T Wu (Chair)	3	3

The Education Scrutiny Committee is a committee of the board of trustees. It is instrumental in improving and monitoring of academy educational standards. The committee's terms of reference empower it to set Trust attainment targets, agree educational policies, monitor the Trust wide SEND provision, ensure that safeguarding is at the appropriate standard, set up learning networks and quality assure the standards at academies. It also receives regular learner data so that it can react to areas of concern. This committee meets 4 times a year. This committee scrutinises pupil data, current educational standards, gaps in learning and interventions necessary to bridge educational gaps.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Governance Statement****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Ms S Mordecai (Chair)	4	4
Mrs V Cliff	4	4
Mrs K Griffiths (CEO and Accounting Officer)	4	4
Ms A Lind	3	4

Review of Value for Money

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

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

Improved educational outcomes: The academies effective use of resources and application of integrated curriculum financial planning has led to pupils recovering the learning lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. All academies have used the grant provided by the government to support sustainable and rapid improvement in learning. Collaboration and the sharing of expertise have supported these improvements as has the development of strong Trust education team and effective continuing professional development.

Through the work of the Education Scrutiny Committee and the Trust education team, the standards at all academies continue to be scrutinised and measures to improve outcomes and progress are being actioned as part of the Trust action plan such as improved pupil tracking, assessment and monitoring, pupil premium strategies which show direct impact upon the performance of more able pupils including disadvantaged and those with HPA. This is being put in place within the existing budgetary parameters.

The Trust has strategies in place for improving standards at those academies which have not achieved the expected level of recovery, attainment or progress. The education team works with the academies using existing resources, to put in place strategies and targeted interventions to improve pupil outcomes such as additional and targeted interventions. The academies use data capture systems to assess pupils effectively and appreciate the areas in which interventions are necessary. Teaching assistants continue to be used effectively to provide greater flexibility within the classroom. Training for teaching assistants to continue to improve their skills and become highly effective practitioners has been effective and impacts positively on classroom practice.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2021

In order to continue to improve outcomes for pupils, the Trust recognises the importance of quality first teaching and as such the continuing professional development of all staff is paramount. Hence, training will continue to be a focus through the Trust' training and development centre.

Shared teaching resources: All primary academies continue to collaborate and share best practice meeting the requirements of the curriculum and assessment framework. Collaboration and sharing of practice across the Trust through learning networks, shared professional development and BlueSky has added value to all key stages within the existing budgetary parameters. The retention and development of staff is a focus of the Trust and this is facilitated by high quality professional development. This has resulted in development of a highly professional body of competent staff which has led to a reduction in the need for agency staff.

The primary academies continue to have the assistance of specialist support across key curriculum areas such as science. In addition, the Trust continues to support learning networks for literacy, numeracy, more able, assessment, inclusion safeguarding, RE and EYFS to support key areas of the Trust Action Plan. Target tracker continues to be effectively used by the primary academies to drive pupil progress and attainment and also enables the Trust to monitor standards more accurately through regular data capture. The use of target tracker also enables teachers and academy leaders to easily and accurately track pupils and target interventions. All primary academies have been able to obtain target tracker at reduced costs as a result of the procurement power of the Trust.; this also illustrates the scalability and sustainability of Trust systems. The academies have also invested in a safeguarding system which makes the recording and actioning of safeguarding concerns more secure. The digital process also provides more data security and releases staff time. The system was also procured at a reduced cost as a result of the procurement power of the Trust. The centralised procurement of catering and cleaning has also ensured that the Trust achieves value for money.

The use of the executive Headteacher model has increased capacity within the academies and seen improvements in standards and has ensured that the most effective leaders have the widest impact, again demonstrating value for money.

The Trust has reviewed the use of the PE and sports premium across the primary academies which has had a positive impact on other areas of the curriculum

The Trust education team undertake collaborative reviews with the academies thereby quality assuring the standards at each academy which provides Trustees with robust oversight of standards and strategies for improvement which are implemented by the academies. These key teaching resources provide value for money across the Trust. The use of existing teaching resources to support skills gaps within the academies ensures capacity is provided to an academy in need whilst providing development opportunities for the member of staff. In addition, the sharing of staff across the family of academies will also facilitate their CPD, retention and provide opportunities for promotion. The effective use of well-trained teaching assistants and their deployment based on need ensures that this resource is also appropriately used.

The BlueSky system facilitates professional development through training, the learning networks and appraisal. The use of BlueSky by the academies in Rye has enhanced value for money.

Central Services: The Trust provides centralised finance, payroll, human resources, legal, compliance and policies, health and safety and estates through a dedicated central team allowing academy leaders to focus on teaching and learning. The systems that are in place for these central services and to meet Trust responsibilities ensure compliance with legislation and regulatory requirements. Training is frequently provided to school leaders and associate staff at all academies.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Governance Statement

for the year ended 31 August 2021

The centralised IT function, with all academies using a single closed network which is housed in a cloud environment provided by Microsoft Azure, provides greater scalability, system resilience, data security, control over IT spending and shared working practices. Through a trust wide tender, the Trust has put in place a fixed price three-year on-site IT support agreement to ensure that all academies can benefit from high level market knowledge.

More cost areas are procured centrally for added efficiencies such as catering and cleaning.

All schools in the trust have now been switched to the IMP Budget Planning System. This will give greater central control over budgets as well as improved monthly forecasting.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

The 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 finance and audit committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes.
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties.
- identification and management of risks.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Governance Statement****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

During the year in accordance with the revised FRC Ethical Standard transitional arrangements, the trustees programme of internal audit was carried out by external auditors, Cooper Parry.

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

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations
- Value for money
- Income and expenditure

On an annual basis the internal auditors report to the Finance and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities 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.

There were no material control issues arising following any of the internal audit inspections for the year from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

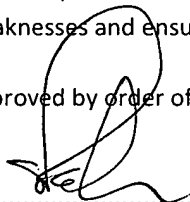
Review of Effectiveness

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

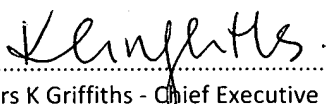
- The work of the Chief Finance Officer, Director of Human resources and Company Secretary
- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the school resource management self-assessment tool
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Trust accountant, company secretary, external auditor and executive managers and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 14th December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
S Parker – Chair of the Board of Trustees



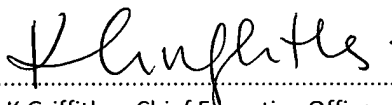
.....
Mrs K Griffiths - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Aquinas Church of England Education Trust****Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance**

As accounting officer of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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

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



.....
Mrs K Griffiths - Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

Date: 14/12/21

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

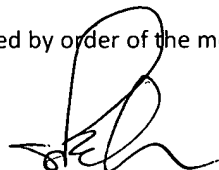
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards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

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from 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 14 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
S Parker – Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 14/12/21

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited (the Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISA's), including ISA 700, relevant legislation and the academy trust funding agreement. 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 UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- 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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report), the governance statement, and the Accounting Officer's

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust cont...

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' 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 strategic report and the directors' 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 directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, 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

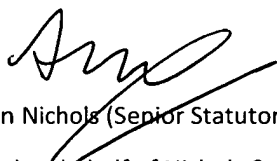
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee 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.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to
the Members of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust cont...**

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 the academy trust's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Steven Nichols (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Nichols & Co (Accountancy) Limited

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Unit 7

Mulberry Place

Pinnell Road

Eltham

London

SE9 6AR

Date:14/12/2021.....

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Aquinas Church of England Education Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 25 September 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited 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 Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 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:

- review of management reporting documents
- review of trustees'/directors' minutes
- review of bank reconciliations and controls over purchasing

- tests of the Trust's internal control procedures
- other substantive tests on individual transactions

Conclusion

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



Steven Nichols
Nichols & Co (Accountancy) Limited
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham
London
SE9 6AR

Date: 14/12/2021

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2021
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total
	Note	£0 00	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	19	4,744	2,246	7,009	5,105
Transfer from local authority on conversion		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	749	27,559	-	28,308	27,817
Other trading activities	4	226	55	-	281	263
Investments	5	-	-	-	-	2
Total		994	32,358	2,246	35,598	33,187
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	24	-	-	24	29
Academy trust educational operations	6	823	35,678	526	37,027	34,778
Total		847	35,678	526	37,051	34,807
Net income / (expenditure)		147	(3,320)	1,720	(1,453)	(1,620)
Transfers between funds	17	-	1,949	(1,949)	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	17,28	-	95	-	95	(74)
Net movement in funds		147	(1,276)	(229)	(1,358)	(1,694)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,206	(11,079)	21,713	12,840	14,534
Total funds carried forward		2,353	(12,355)	21,484	11,482	12,840

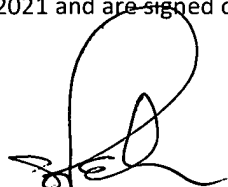
Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Company Number 07525735

	Note	2021 £000	2021 £000	2020 £000	2020 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	12		-		11
Tangible assets	13		21,484		21,702
			<u>21,484</u>		<u>21,713</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	9,970		9,603	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,388</u>		<u>4,768</u>	
		14,358		14,371	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(11,891)		(11,995)	
Net current assets			<u>2,467</u>		<u>2,376</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>23,951</u>		<u>24,089</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(832)		(832)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>23,119</u>		<u>23,257</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	28		(11,637)		(10,417)
Total net assets			<u>11,482</u>		<u>12,840</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds					
Fixed asset fund	17	21,484		21,713	
Restricted income fund	17	(718)		(662)	
Pension reserve	17	(11,637)		(10,417)	
Total restricted funds			<u>9,129</u>		<u>10,634</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		<u>2,353</u>		<u>2,206</u>
Total funds			<u>11,482</u>		<u>12,840</u>

The financial statements on pages 39 to 41 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 14 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by



S Parker – Chair of the Board of Trustees

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	21	(2,329)	(101)
Cash transferred on conversion/transfer to academy status		-	-
Cash flows from investing activities	23	1,949	514
Cash flows from financing activities	22	-	102
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(380)	515
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2020		4,768	4,253
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2021	24	4,388	4,768

Notes to the Financial Statements

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.

Basis of Preparation

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

Going Concern

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

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Income**

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship Income

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

Notional rent donation for church academies

The Trust assumes a notional rent donation for the premises owned by the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education which is in accordance with the terms of the Church Supplemental Agreement in relation to premises held under license to occupy on a rolling two years' basis. The notional rent is included in the Trust accounts in accordance with the requirements set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

Donations

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

Other Income

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

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Interest receivable

Interest receivable is included within the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis.

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.

Intangible Fixed Assets

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 fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Computer software 33%

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

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

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

Long leasehold buildings (Including AstroTurf foundation)	2%
Astro carpet and similar outdoor assets	10%
Furniture and equipment	33%
Computer equipment and software	33%
Motor vehicles	33%
Leasehold improvements	4%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

The Trust has a policy of maintenance regarding its buildings and Astro turf pitches to sustain the value of these assets such that the above depreciation rate is considered appropriate.

The Trust's land and buildings, with the exception of Trinity Church of England Primary School, Rye College, Rye Community Primary School and the land used for playing fields at Bishop Justus Church of England School, are owned by the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education. The Trust has a licence subject to two years' notice to occupy them at no cost provided the premises are used for educational purposes. These properties are not included as fixed assets in the Trust accounts in line with the requirements now set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

The school site at Trinity Church of England Primary School and land used for the playing fields at Bishop Justus Church of England School are owned by Bromley Council and school sites at Rye College and Rye Community Primary School are owned by East Sussex County Council. These are leased to the Trust at a peppercorn ground rent. These properties are recognised in the Trust accounts at fair value, representing the 'right to use' of the properties and depreciated over their useful economic life.

Assets costing less than £2,000 are written off in the period of acquisition; all other assets are capitalised. Where the Trust has incurred the cost of additions to the school buildings on church owned sites, these costs are not treated as additions to leasehold land and buildings and are not depreciated in accordance with the stated policy.

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.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****Liabilities**

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased Assets

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Financial Instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments' disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

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.

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated 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 based on 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 net income/(expenditure) 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.

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 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 Education and Skill Funding Agency, Department for education, Local authorities and other donors which are to be used for a specific purpose.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****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 trustees have agreed the commercial basis upon which the notional rent donation of £15 per sq. ft. per annum has been included within these financial statements

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 28, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****2 Donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2020/21 Total £000	2019/20 Total £000
Capital grants		2,246	2,246	543
Other donations	19	296	315	114
Notional rent donation	-	4,448	4,448	4,448
	19	6,990	7,009	5,105

The income from donations and capital grants was £2,561,000 (2020: £657,000) of which £19,000 (2020: £13,000) was unrestricted, £296,000 (2020: £101,000) restricted and £2,246,000 (2020: £543,000) restricted fixed assets. In addition, a restricted notional rental donation from the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education has been included with a notional expense of £4,448,000 (2020: £4,448,000).

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operation**

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2020/21 Total £000	2019/20 Total £000
DfE / ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	22,312	22,312	22,041
Other DfE Group grants	-	3,095	3,095	3,029
	-	25,407	25,407	25,070
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,546	1,546	1,518
	-	1,546	1,546	1,518
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations	749	247	996	1,079
Exceptional government funding				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant		47	47	108
Coronavirus exceptional support - Other				42
Coronavirus funding		312	312	
	749	27,559	28,308	27,817

The total of DfE/ ESFA Grants was £25,407,000 (2020: £25,070,000) both of which were restricted and the total for Other Government grants was £1,546,000 of which £1,546,000 (2020: £1,518,000) was restricted and £Nil (2020: £Nil) was unrestricted.

Other income from the Trust's educational operations totalled £996,000 (2020: £1,079,000) of which £749,000 (2020: £800,000) were unrestricted and £247,000 (2020: £279,000) were restricted.

The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in year from government support schemes in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "exceptional government funding".

The Trust furloughed some of its catering, and before and after school club staff under the government's CJRS. The funding received of £47,000 (2020: £108,000) relates to staff costs in respect of 42 staff which are included within note 8.

The Trust also received additional coronavirus support funding of £312,000 (2020: £42,000) during the year.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****4 Other trading activities**

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total £000	Total £000
Hire of facilities	226	-	226	199
Income from other charitable activities	-	55	55	64
	226	55	281	263

The income from hire of facilities was in respect of unrestricted funds for both 2020/21 and 2019/20.

5 Investment income

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total £000	Total £000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	2

Investment income relates to interest received in respect of unrestricted funds for both 2020/21 and 2019/20.

6 Expenditure

	Non-Pay Expenditure				
	Staff Costs	Premises	Other	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Direct costs	20	4	-	24	29
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	21,103	422	1,726	23,251	22,329
Allocated support costs	4,568	2,924	1,836	9,328	8,001
-Notional rent Expense	-	4,448	-	4,448	4,448
	25,691	7,798	3,562	37,051	34,807

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

The total expenditure was £37,051,000 (2020: £34,807,000) of which £846,000 (2020: £868,000) was unrestricted and £36,205,000 (2020: £33,939,000) was restricted.

The total expenditure for staff costs was £25,691,000 (2020: £24,840,000), premises £7,798,000 (2020: £6,596,000) and other costs £3,562,000 (2020: £3,371,000).

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Operating lease rentals	38	30
Depreciation	515	514
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets (included within Charitable Activities – Academy trust educational operations)	11	54
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	31	31
- other services	22	36

7 Charitable activities

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Direct costs – educational operations	23,251	22,329
Support costs – educational operations	9,352	8,001
-notional rent	4,448	4,448
	37,051	34,778

The total direct costs of £23,251,000 (2020: £22,329,000) of which unrestricted £44,000 (2020: £43,000) and restricted £23,207,000 (2020: £22,286,000).

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations £000	2020/21 Total £000	2019/20 Total £000
Support staff costs	4,588	4,588	4,350
Depreciation	104	104	156
Technology costs	504	504	447
Premises costs	2,924	2,924	1,728
Other support costs	1,124	1,124	1,219
Notional rent	4,448	4,448	4,448
Governance costs	108	108	101
Total support costs	13,800	13,800	12,449

The total support costs of £13,800,000 (2020: £12,449,000) of which unrestricted £802,000 (2020: £796,000) and restricted £12,998,000 (2020: £11,653,000).

8 Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Wages and salaries	18,057	17,587
Social security costs	1,593	1,524
Apprenticeship Levy	75	64
Pension costs	3,997	3,877
	23,722	23,052
Agency staff costs	456	527
Staff restructuring costs	198	10
Pension financing costs	1,315	1,251
	25,691	24,840

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy Payments	198	10
Other restructuring costs	-	-
	198	10

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****b. Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £66,000 (2020: £10,000). Individually, the payments were one payment each of £32,000, 27,000, £7,000.

c. Staff numbers

The figures disclosed here should be the average headcount, as detailed in section 411 of Companies Act 2006; although the number average expressed as a full-time equivalent may be provided in addition.

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	No.	No.
Teachers	280	291
Administration and Support	405	426
Management	7	7
Total	692	724

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2020/21	2019/20
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	11	12
£70,001 - £80,000	9	7
£80,001 - £90,000	5	4
£90,001 - £100,000	2	1
£100,001 - £110,000	2	2
£170,001 - £180,000	1	1

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £987,000 (2020: £714,000).

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

9 Central Services

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

- Human resources.
- Payroll
- Financial services including audited financial statements, internal audits, company secretarial and actuarial valuations as required.
- Education improvement and educational support services including direct teaching support and staff development and training programmes.
- Health and safety
- Estate management
- IT training and development
- Procurement services
- Data protection
- Others as arising.

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The Trust has amalgamated all central charges into one central services contribution of 8% based on each academy's GAG income. The Trust no longer charges for services separately as in previous years.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Bishop Justus C of E	498	417
Parish C of E	219	153
Keston C of E	83	59
St Nicholas C of E (formerly Chislehurst C of E)	81	56
St Mark's C of E	155	104
Trinity C of E	177	148
Cudham	38	21
St John's C of E	83	65
St George's C of E	168	108
Rye College	183	198
Rye Community Primary School	96	90
	1,781	1,419

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****10 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from 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:

K Griffiths (CEO, Accounting Officer and trustee):

Remuneration £175,000 – £180,000 (2020: £170,000 - £175,000)

Employer's pension contributions paid £40,000 - £45,000 (2020: £40,000 - £45,000)

During the period ended 31 August 2021, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2020: £NIL).

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust 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.

12 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer Software £000	2020/21 Total £000
Cost		
At 1 September 2020	160	160
Additions	-	-
At 31 August 2021	160	160
Amortisation		
At 1 September 2020	149	149
Charged in year	11	11
At 31 August 2021	160	160
Carrying amount		
At 31 August 2020	11	11
At 31 August 2021	-	-

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****13 Tangible fixed assets**

	Leasehold Improvements	Leasehold Land and Buildings	Furniture and Equipment	Computer Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total 2020/21 £000
Cost	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 September 2020	-	22,589	315	531	35	23,470
Additions	293	-	-	4	-	297
At 31 August 2021	293	22,589	315	535	35	23,767
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2020	-	1,013	231	489	35	1,768
Charged in year	12	410	62	31	-	515
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	12	1,423	293	520	35	2,283
Net book values						
At 31 August 2020	-	21,576	84	42	-	21,702
At 31 August 2021	281	21,166	22	15	-	21,484

The Trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included:

In accordance with the requirements set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2010 to 2021, the land and buildings occupied by the church academies, under Licence to Occupy arrangements within the Church Supplemental Agreement with the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, should not be treated as the Trust's asset.

As the Trust has decided not to recognise the premises occupied by the church academies as fixed assets, the occupation of all such premises has, therefore, been recognised by way of a notional rental donation and a notional rental expense, in line with the requirements set out in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021. The value of the donation has been calculated based on the gross internal area by the church academies. The trustees have agreed the commercial basis of £15 per sq. Ft. Per annum upon which the notional rental donation is valued and included within the Trust's financial statements.

This has been applied except where the Trust's land rights are other than merely a licence to occupy.

The amounts included above for leasehold land and buildings includes the Mouchel desktop valuation prepared on behalf of EFSA in respect of Trinity Church of England Primary School and a separate valuation carried out by Barker Associates for Rye for Rye College and Rye Community Primary school on the depreciation cost basis in accordance with ESFA guidelines. The Trustees consider these valuations to be still applicable at the year-end.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****14 Debtors**

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	30	26
VAT recoverable	370	166
Other debtors	272	251
Prepayments and accrued income	9,298	9,160
	9,970	9,603

Included in prepayments and accrued income is £8,896,000 (2020: £8,896,000) in relation to notional rent for the two years under the licence to occupy agreement in accordance with the Church Supplemental Agreement and Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	117	490
Other taxation and social security	415	393
Other creditors	616	483
Accruals and deferred income	10,743	10,629
	11,891	11,995

Included in accruals and deferred income is £8,896,000 (2020: £8,896,000) in relation to notional rent for the two years under the licence to occupy agreement in accordance with the Church Supplemental Agreement and Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

Deferred income	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	1,199	870
Released from previous years	(1,199)	(870)
Resources deferred in the year	1,189	1,199
Deferred Income at 31 August 2021	1,189	1,199

The main items included in deferred income were School Condition Allocation £731,000 (2020: £866,000), Universal Infant Free School Meals grant received in advance £212,000 (2020: £219,000), rates grant received in advance £49,000 (2020: £NIL), PE Grant £52,000 (2020: £66,000), and unspent Covid Support Grant £115,000 (2021: £NIL).

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****16 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year**

	2021 £000	2020 £000
ESFA Loan	832	832

The above loan relates to Rye College and Rye Community Primary School, £627,000 of which was inherited as part of the transfer from The Rye Academy Trust. A further £102,000 was borrowed during the year period to 31st August 2020. The repayment of the loan funding to the ESFA is linked to the recovery plan that has been agreed with the ESFA. There is no interest payable by the Trust on the loan funding repayable to the ESFA and under the recovery plan, only 75% of the net surplus generated by Rye College and Rye Community Primary School are to be used to make repayments. As such, the Trustees consider these amounts to be non-current liability.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	35	22,302	(24,330)	1,934	(59)
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	16	3,424	(3,402)	-	38
Other Grants	(776)	608	(571)	15	(724)
Other Government Grants	63	1,576	(1,612)	-	27
Notional Rent	-	4,448	(4,448)	-	-
Pension reserve	(10,417)	-	(1,315)	95	(11,637)
	(11,079)	32,358	(35,678)	2,044	(12,355)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
General Funds	21,186	-	(409)	2	20,779
Academy Building Grant	432	-	(62)	-	370
Capital expenditure from GAG	18	-	(4)	-	14
Capital Mainstream Grants	13	-	(11)	(2)	-
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	64	2,246	(40)	(1,949)	321
	21,713	2,246	(526)	(1,949)	21,484
Total restricted funds	10,634	34,604	(36,204)	95	9,129
Total unrestricted funds	2,206	994	(847)	-	2,353
Total funds	12,840	35,598	(37,051)	95	11,482

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Trust was not subject to limits on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31st August 2021. This applies to all academies within the Trust. Other DfE/ESFA Grants and Other Government Grants include monies received outside of GAG funding and these Grants are all related to the furtherance of education within the Trust.

The pension reserve relates to the Trust's share of the deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The pension reserve surplus of £95,000 arises from revised actuarial assessments of the underfunded pension liabilities of the Trust.

Restricted fixed asset funds include capital grants and monies spent from the GAG on fixed assets. General funds include donations representing the transfer of certain fixed assets into the Trust either on conversion or upon transfer from another multi-academy trust.

Unrestricted funds represent funds generated via activities such as the hire of school facilities and catering income. It also includes the brought forward surplus on conversion to academy status.

The funds transfer of £1,690,000 from DfE capital grant to general restricted funds is made up of transfer of Devolved Formula Capital of £104,000, School Condition Allocation of £773,000 grants and grants received under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme of £813,000 totalling £1,690,000 received in the year, which were spent on items that did not meet the Trust's capitalisation criteria. These costs are included within revenue expenditure under restricted funds.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £000 Restated	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(431)	22,041	(22,262)	687	35
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	318	3,071	(3,371)	(2)	16
Other Grants	(672)	444	(436)	(112)	(776)
Other Government Grants	-	1,626	(1,604)	41	63
Notional Rent	-	4,448	(4,448)	-	-
Pension Reserve	(9,092)	-	(1,251)	(74)	(10,417)
	(9,877)	31,630	(33,372)	540	(11,079)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
General Funds	21,595	-	(409)	-	21,186
Academy Building Grant	494	-	(62)	-	432
Capital expenditure from GAG	25	-	(7)	-	18
Capital – Mainstream Grants	78	-	(65)	-	13
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	160	543	(25)	(614)	64
	22,352	543	(568)	(614)	21,713
Total restricted funds	12,475	32,173	(33,940)	(74)	10,634

Total unrestricted funds	2,059	1,014	(867)	-	2,206
Total funds	14,534	33,187	(34,807)	(74)	12,840

Total Funds Analysis by Academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Bishop Justus Church of England School	67	(53)
Parish Church of England Primary School	64	69
Keston Church of England Primary School	160	291
St Nicholas Church of England Primary School	(111)	(51)
St Mark's Church of England Primary School	209	167
Trinity Church of England Primary School	544	616
Cudham Church of England Primary School	(16)	26
St John's Church of England Primary School	120	43
St George's Church of England Primary School	260	175
Rye College	(611)	(320)
Rye Community Primary School	39	(13)
	725	950
Central Services	910	594
	1,635	1,544
Restricted Fixed Asset Reserve	21,484	21,713
Pension Reserve	(11,637)	(10,417)
Total	11,482	12,840

Individual schools with deficit fund balances are supported through the Trust's ICFP process by a combination of the Central Education Team and the CFO, who work with Headteachers to identify the correct structure for the school, additional funding opportunities and cost efficiencies by comparing budgets with similar schools through a benchmarking process. Our two Rye schools joined the Trust in an already difficult financial position, and we are supporting the long-term recovery of these schools. This year has seen the return to positive reserves for the primary school but with a shortage of primary age pupils across the East Sussex area there are still more challenges ahead.

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

The notional rent was calculated based upon the total square footage of the academies within the Trust on a commercial basis and is included in the other costs for each academy.

School	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	Total 2020/21 £000
Bishop Justus	6,507	1,103	128	3,174	10,912
Parish	2,325	298	26	978	3,627

Keston	697	150	11	547	1,405
St Nicholas	771	118	15	336	1,240
St Mark's	1,419	291	9	857	2,576
Trinity	2,017	443	60	416	2,936
Cudham	424	146	7	246	823
St John's	772	133	13	496	1,414
St George's	1,583	239	50	597	2,469
Rye College	2,801	456	79	609	3,945
Rye Primary	1,185	295	19	241	1,740
Central Services	602	916	-	1,920	3,438
Academy Trust	21,103	4,588	417	10,417	36,525

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

School	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £000	Total 2019/20 £000
Bishop Justus Parish	6,046	1,030	123	3,146	10,345
Keston	2,283	328	26	1,009	3,646
St Nicholas	752	137	14	444	1,347
St Mark's	760	106	14	371	1,251
Trinity	1,376	271	16	838	2,501
Cudham	2,117	444	39	491	3,091
St John's	400	139	5	250	794
St George's	834	127	15	515	1,491
Rye College	1,569	225	32	574	2,400
Rye Primary	2,633	430	57	573	3,693
Central Services	1,249	311	45	266	1,871
Academy Trust	423	850	17	519	1,809
	20,442	4,398	403	8,996	34,239

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted General Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,484	21,484
Current assets	2,394	11,233	731	14,358
Current liabilities	(41)	(11,119)	(731)	(11,891)
Non-current liabilities	-	(832)	-	(832)
Pension scheme liability	-	(11,637)	-	(11,637)
Total Net Assets	2,353	(12,355)	21,484	11,482

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

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

	Unrestricted General Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total Funds Restated
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	11	11
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	21,702	21,702
Current assets	2,259	11,246	866	14,371
Current liabilities	(53)	(11,076)	(866)	(11,995)
Non-current liabilities	-	(832)	-	(832)
Pension scheme liability	-	(10,417)	-	(10,417)
Total Net Assets	2,206	(11,079)	21,713	12,840

19 Capital commitments

2021	2020
£000	£000

Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	-	-
--	---	---

20 Long-term commitments, including operating leases**Operating leases**

At 31 August 2021 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Amounts due within one year	17	24
Amounts due between one and five years	14	26
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	31	50

At 31 August 2021 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum payments under other contractual commitments was:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Amounts due within one year	-	-
Amounts due between one and five years	-	-
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	50	50

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021****21 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(1,453)	(1,620)
Adjusted for:		
Amortisation [note 12]	11	54
Depreciation [note 13]	515	514
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,246)	(543)
Transfer from another Multi Academy Trust	-	-
Interest receivable [note 5]	-	(2)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(1,104)	(1,061)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	2,419	2,312
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(367)	541
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(104)	(296)
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	(2,329)	(101)

22 Cash flows from financing activities

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	102
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	-	102

23 Cash flows from investing activities

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	2
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(297)	(31)
Capital grants from DfE Group	2,246	543
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	1,949	514

24 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	4,388	4,768
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,388	4,768

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

25 Guarantees, letters of comfort and indemnities

The Trust has not given any guarantees, letters of comfort or indemnities

26 Contingent liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a government capital grant was received, the Trust is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State for Education.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement (as applicable to each Academy), whether as of a result of the Secretary of State for Education or the Trust notice, the Trust shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at the time of the relevant Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the relevant Academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement

27 Members liability

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

28 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by the London Borough of Bromley for our Bromley based staff and East Sussex County Council for our Rye based staff. 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 to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £304,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020: £437,000) 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 teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2021

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £2,656,000 (2020: £2,542,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £1,689,000 (2020: £1,635,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,338,000 (2020: £1,300,000) and employees' contributions totalled £350,000 (2020: £335,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.5 to 26.0 per cent for employers and 5.5 to 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	2021	2020
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10%	4.10%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.70%	2.00%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.80%	2.60%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Sensitivity Analysis 2021

COMBINED SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS					
		Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
Disclosure item	Central	Discount Rate	Inflation	Pay Growth	Life Expectancy
		+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+ 1 Year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	29,827	29,207	30,463	29,876	30,757
Assets	(20,680)	(20,680)	(20,680)	(20,680)	(20,680)
Deficit/(Surplus)	9,147	8,527	9,783	9,196	10,077
Projected Service Cost for next year	2,222	2,170	2,278	2,222	2,299
Projected Net Interest cost for next year	144	142	156	146	160

Sensitivity Analysis 2020

COMBINED SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS					
		Sensitivity 1	Sensitivity 2	Sensitivity 3	Sensitivity 4
Disclosure item	Central	Discount Rate	Inflation	Pay Growth	Life Expectancy
		+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+ 1 Year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities	24,858	24,342	25,387	24,904	25,557
Assets	(16,301)	(16,301)	(16,301)	(16,301)	(16,301)
Deficit/(Surplus)	8,557	8,041	9,086	8,603	9,256
Projected Service Cost for next year	1,925	1,878	1,973	1,925	1,986
Projected Net Interest cost for next year	145	142	154	145	156

Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd**Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

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

	2021	2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.7	22.7
Females	25.1	25.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.5	24.5
Females	27.1	27.0

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

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Equities	17,858	14,219
Gilts	1,521	1,936
Corporate bonds	1,635	1,027
Property	1,423	1,000
Cash and other liquid assets	288	178
Others	3,618	2,706
Market value of assets at 31/08/2020	26,343	21,066
Present value of funded obligations	(37,980)	(31,483)
(Deficit) in the scheme	(11,637)	(10,417)

The actual return on scheme assets was £3,875,000 (2020: £1,566,000)

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(2,446)	(2,361)
Past service cost	-	-
Interest cost	(174)	(158)
Admin expenses	(37)	(32)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	(2,657)	(2,551)

**Aquinas Church of England Education Trust Ltd****Notes to the Financial Statements****for the year ended 31 August 2021**

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

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
At 1 September	31,483	27,402
Current service cost	2,446	2,361
Interest cost	562	504
Employee contributions	349	335
Actuarial (gain)/loss	3,391	1,035
Benefits paid	(251)	(154)
Past service cost	-	-
Business Combinations	-	-
At 31 August	37,980	31,483

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

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
At 1 September	21,066	18,310
Conversion of academy trusts	-	-
Transferred in on existing academies joining the academy trust	-	-
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the academy trust	-	-
Interest income	388	346
Actuarial gain/(loss)	3,486	961
Employer contributions	1,342	1,300
Employee contributions	349	335
Benefits paid	(251)	(154)
Business combinations	-	-
Administration expenses	(37)	(32)
At 31 August	26,343	21,066

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 August 2021 is £1,325,000 (2020: £1,300,000)

The Trust shall be responsible for any LGPS deficit relating to the eligible employees' membership of the LGPS referable to service up to and including the transfer date. Any such deficit shall be repaid by the Trust by way of enhanced monthly contributions certified by the actuary to the London Bromley Pension Fund over a period as stated in the commercial transfer agreement. The period over which pension deficits arising post transition should be met has yet to be discussed with the LGPS trustees.

29 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

30 Events after the end of the reporting period

There were no significant events after the end of the reporting period.