

Wootton Academy Trust

Registered number: 07740758

Trustees report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2018

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WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Members

Heather Donnellan
Alan Metcalf
Simon O'Toole (resigned 31 March 2018)
Robert Wallace
Peter Haddon (appointed 1 April 2018)

Trustees

Jonathan Billington, (F)
David Clare, (F)
Michael Gleeson, (F)
Simon O'Toole, Chair (F) (resigned 31 March 2018)
Thomas Stephenson, (F) (resigned 31 March 2018)
Timothy Williams
Peter Haddon, Chair (F) (appointed 15 September 2017)
Michael Ridley, (F) (appointed 15 September 2017)
Ian Sibbald, (F) (appointed 1 April 2018)

(F) Denotes a member of the Finance Committee

Accounting Officer: Mr. M. Gleeson

Clerk to the directors: Mrs. L. McKenna

Company registered number

07740758

Company name

Wootton Academy Trust

Principal and registered office

Wootton Academy Trust, Hall End Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, MK43 9HT

Executive leadership team

Mr. M. Gleeson, Executive Principal
Mrs. M. McMorn, Vice Principal
Mr. S. Frazer, Vice Principal
Mr. T Detheridge, Principal

Independent auditor

Mazars LLP, The Pinnacle, 160 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 1FF

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, High Street Bedford (309066) Branch, P O Box 1000, BX1 1LT

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE ACADEMY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Advisers (continued)

Solicitors

Bates Wells Braithwaite LLP, 2-6 Cannon Street, London, EC4M 6YH

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Structure, governance and management

a. CONSTITUTION

The charitable company's Trust deed is the primary governing document of the Multi Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Wootton Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law.

The charitable company is known as Wootton Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

Wootton Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07740758) and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trust adopted new articles of association on the 12th April 2013, which enables the Trust to operate as a Multi-Academy Trust and hence operate more than one school.

b. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

Each Member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one period after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member. The Members are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

c. TRUSTEES' INDEMNITIES

Trustees' and governors' may benefit from any indemnity purchased at the Academy Trust's expense through the government's risk protection arrangements to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustee or Governor knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees or Governors in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees' or Governors' in their capacity as Trustees or Governors' of the Academy Trust. The limit of this indemnity is £10,000,000.

d. METHOD OF RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

New Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in the articles of association, and any new Trustee will be made aware of the responsibilities in a briefing with the Chair of the Trust and the Executive Principal.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or reelected.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Trust has implemented governance arrangements which are structured with a Trust Board, a Trust Finance Committee which also performs the requirements of an audit committee, a Curriculum and Standards Committee and a Local Governing Body for each school and college.

Trust Board Roles

Category	Number
Member appointed Directors	5 (maximum 10)
Co opted Directors	0 (maximum 3)
Executive Principal	1
Staff Directors	0
Academy Directors	2 The Chair of each LGB appointed by the Directors
Parent Directors	2 Elected by the parent members of the LGBs

e. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR THE INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

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

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include safeguarding and Prevent training, a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet directors, staff and pupils. As there are normally only one or two new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual, but would include their legal obligation under charity and company law, content of the articles, funding agreements, board minutes and calendar of meetings. The Trust has also produced a Local Governing Body handbook which is designed to assist the Chair of each local governing body and includes the Trust Governance and Scheme of Delegation.

The Trustees are updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities, and where necessary or requested training delivered either from in house and/or externally provided by the Trust.

f. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Wootton Academy Trust has two member schools – Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College. Each school has a Local Governing Body to ensure a clear focus for that school. The Local Governing Body for Wootton Upper School was incorporated in March 2017 whilst The Local Governing Body for Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College was set up in November 2017.

The Trust has a board of directors who run the Trust. The Board has three strategic responsibilities:

- Strategy, planning, policy and ethos;
- Standards of achievement and pupil progress; and
- Financial planning, monitoring and accountability.

The Trust board has company director representation from education, private enterprise and other professionals, with a wide range of experience and skills that they bring to the Trust. The Local Governing Bodies have Trustee representation as well as governors and advisors who also have a wide range of backgrounds, including education, business and community links.

The Board of Trustees plan to meet twice each term, with an Annual General Meeting also scheduled. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16-19 STEM College and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of committees and other groups.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Board of Trustees receives reports including policies from its committees for ratification, where these policies have not been delegated to the local governing bodies to approve. It monitors the activities of the committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are now two committees of the Board, as follows:

- Finance Committee – this committee meets at least four times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance and risk. It is also responsible for such matters as personnel, estates; health & safety; other aspects of regulatory requirements and reporting. This committee is responsible for the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's systems of internal control and governance processes. It also ensures that the Trust secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness i.e. value for money in all its financial and procedural transactions. It will advise the Board of Trustees on the scope and objectives of the internal auditor, and where appropriate the external auditors. It will report annually to the board, and also recommend the statutory financial statements to the board for approval.
- Curriculum and Standards Committee – this committee meets at least once per term to assist the decision making of the WAT Board, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the WAT Board responsibility to ensure academic standards across the Trust's schools, including proper planning, monitoring and quality assurance. The committee is responsible for reviewing and developing curriculum policies including teaching and learning and CEIAG, reviewing the organization of the curriculum and standards in the Trust's schools with a special focus on disadvantaged pupils as well as evaluating the quality of improvement plans, self-evaluation documents and the on-going professional development of staff.
- Pay Review Committee - this committee meets on an ad hoc basis and is made up of members from the finance committee. The committee reviews the salary of the Executive Principal of the Trust, and will also assess the recommendations from the Executive Principal regarding the Trust's staff.

The Directors are responsible for setting the strategic direction, adopting an annual plan, approval of the overall curriculum for each academy as well as statutory policies and documents. The Trust is also responsible for approving the budget and the statutory accounts, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and the appointments of heads of Trust academies, supported by the respective local governing body.

The Executive Principal is the Accounting Officer and along with the Executive Leadership Team of Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College they are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the schools, (in particular the organisation of resources such as staffing, facilities and students) and implementing the strategy set by the Board of Trustees and developing plans for the improvement.

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 throughout 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. As the Trust does not have any employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period it has excluded the tables in its trustees' report.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

g. CONNECTED ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College are both part of Wootton Academy Trust and are run and operated under the same multi-academy trust organisational structure.

Wootton Upper School has strong collaborative links with Wootton Lower School and is an associate member with Wootton Lower School as part of Wootton Educational Trust. Wootton Educational Trust forms no part of these accounts.

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Wootton Academy Trust. There are no sponsors or Parent Teacher Associations associated with Wootton Upper School or Kimberley 16 -19 STEM College.

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of Wootton Academy Trust to provide free education for pupils of differing abilities between the ages of 13 and 19.

The Trust's Mission

To support and challenge every learner at all times to achieve their personal best leading to improved life and career opportunities.

The Trust's Vision

Every student, irrespective of background, is able to embrace the full range of opportunities available at the Trust. Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College will support students to achieve their potential by:

- Ensuring teaching and learning is (always) exciting, relevant, active, enabling all students to make rapid progress. All staff - teaching and support - make important contributions to the education of every young person.
- Developing partnerships with others including employers, higher education, sports and arts groups, third sector organisations and other agencies which are mutually collaborative, relevant and planned to enable students to make rapid progress.
- Assessing students' work thoroughly and in a timely manner, informing them what they have done really well and what they need to focus on next - as well as providing students' opportunities to reflect on and respond to this advice.
- Rigorously evaluating students' progress, attitude and attendance.
- Celebrating students' successes and believing in the ability of all to succeed.
- Valuing all of staff and students equally and supporting them.
- Working as a single, cohesive community of students, staff, parents, governors, directors and other local people in an inclusive, respectful and tolerant way which is committed to this vision.

The main objectives of the Trust are summarised below:

- to continue to raise the standard of educational attainment and achievement of all pupils;
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including extra-curricular activities;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality of education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- to conduct its business with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

a. OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust has clear targets which are identified in the Trust's improvement plans for each institution and are influenced by the significant challenges and opportunities arising from national changes in education policy and funding.

The points listed below underpin our specific values in relation to the establishment improvement plans:

- Excellence - outstanding student progress and achievement
- Enrichment - education of the whole student
- Independence - nurturing initiative in students' attitudes to learning
- Opportunity - success regardless of background
- Equality - a safe place to value and celebrate diversity
- Community - students, staff, parents, governors, directors and other local people working together
- Partnerships - collaborative relationships with other organisations
- Continuity - celebrating our traditions whilst embracing the new
- Celebration - recognising student achievement
- Integrity - in all that we do

b. PUBLIC BENEFIT

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Public benefit entities are reporting entities whose primary objective is to provide goods or services for the general public or social benefit and where any equity has been provided with a view to supporting that primary objective rather than with a view to providing financial return to shareholders.

The Trust has provided a fully comprehensive education to all pupils in its care. It fully complies with all statutory guidance and seeks to support its wider educational objectives via a strong community role.

c. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Trustees recognise that equal opportunities should be an integral part of the workplace. The academy has sought to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are valued.

d. PAY POLICY FOR KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Board of Directors are volunteers and receive no remuneration for their services to the academy.

Responsibility for setting the pay and remuneration of the academy Trust's Executive Principal rests with the Trustees, who have determined that the post shall be paid on a spot salary with an element of performance related pay. The board nominates two Trustees who – with the support of an external advisor - set robust targets annually for the Executive Principal and reviews the Executive Principal's success in meeting them as part of the Trust's appraisal process

The Board has delegated the performance management of all other key personnel to the Executive Principal. The Trust's Performance Management process is applied by the Executive Principal to all key personnel within the Trust and performance targets are set for both teaching and support staff. Salary scales and pay progression are determined in accordance with the National schemes.

The Executive Principal applies the Trust's Performance Management process to the Vice Principals of Wootton Upper School and the Principal of Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College using the same principles.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Trustees and Members are committed to complying with the nationally negotiated agreements for both teaching and support staff pay and conditions of employment to all Wootton Academy Trust staff.

STRATEGIC REPORT

a. Achievements and Performance

Wootton Upper School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2017; overall effectiveness was judged good. The report headlines were:

- Leaders have established a culture of high aspirations, at all levels. They are relentless in their focus on continuous and rapid improvement.
- The trust and governors provide clear, strategic leadership. They correctly challenge school leaders where they consider provision needs improving.
- Attainment has risen because teaching is effective. Pupils make good progress, particularly in English and Science.
- The school supports pupils' well-being systematically. As a result, pupils are confident and feel safe.
- Teachers and teaching assistants work collectively to ensure that all pupils succeed. They work together effectively to support pupils' learning in lessons.
- Pupils enjoy school. The majority attend regularly. Well-established procedures are in place to improve the attendance of a small minority of pupils who are regularly absent.
- The very well-planned curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities. Teachers guide pupils to make informed choices before entering the school and at the end of Year 9.
- The school works closely with its trust partner to ensure that pupils have a smooth transition into sixth form studies.

The report also identified two areas for improvement:

- Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment further by ensuring that all teachers provide tasks suited to the pupils' different abilities and monitor the impact this has on improving the progress they make, continuing to improve the attendance of pupils in all year groups so that all pupils meet or exceed national expectations for attendance.
- Develop stronger links with parents by communicating with them more often how well their children are doing and by increasing the opportunities for parents to come into school and meet with staff.

During 2017 – 2018 senior leaders made progress in these areas: attendance improved for all groups of learners and absence declined to 4.6%. New initiatives have been introduced to give parents more opportunity to come into the school including drop-in sessions to meet the two Vice Principals and an additional parents evening. In August 2018 GCSE results showed further progress [see section b]

Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College was inspected by Ofsted in January 2017 when overall effectiveness was graded good; therefore, there was no external inspection of the College in 2017 – 2018.

For the second year, the College was included in the Sunday Times list of top Sixth Form Colleges. The Sunday Times ranking is based on the percentage of students achieving AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subjects.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Other notable achievements at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College include:

- a new Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance strategy leading to a large increase in the proportion of Year 12 students accessing work experience placements and a thousand visitors to the Trust's career fair;
- the Secondary Geography Association Centre of Excellence Award – one of only nine awards nationally;
- 68% of Year 11 pupils at Wootton Upper School completing National Citizenship Service putting Wootton Upper School in the top ten schools in the UK for completion of the award;
- 25 pupils completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award;
- 'In the Heights' musical tour to Bremen
- the opening of six refurbished science laboratories and a prep room to raise the quality of science accommodation at Wootton Upper School to that at Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College
- installation of the new biomass heating system at Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College and new boilers at Wootton Upper School
- the further development of student leadership and student ambassadors at Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College and Wootton Upper School with student leaders reporting to governors and senior leaders and taking on leading roles in all aspects of school/college life.
- £4,200 raised for good causes across Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College as well as contributions to food banks

b. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Stage 4 Outcomes

Year 11 outcomes largely determined by GCSE examinations

- Progress 8 score: 0.28 [meaning progress was above expected progress]
- Progress 8 score for girls: 0.61 [meaning girls progress was well-above expected progress]
- Progress 8 for English: 0.58 [meaning progress was well-above expected progress]
- Progress 8 for Maths: 0.24 [meaning progress was above expected progress]
- Science VA score: 0.30 [meaning 3 out of 10 pupils got one grade higher than expected]
- Progress 8 score: 2.0+ 28 pupils achieved 2+ grades higher than expected in all subjects
- Proportion of pupil gaining grade 9 -4
 - English and Maths 73% [national not yet available]
 - English Language 78% [national 70%]
 - English Literature 81% [national 56%]
 - Mathematics 75% [national 71%]
 - Biology 96% [national 90%]
 - Chemistry 95% [national 90%]
 - Physics 93% [national 91%]
 - Combined Science 67% [national 51%]
- Pupils with 7+ grades 9-7/A*-A 37
- Pupils with 4+ grade 9s 9
- Pupils with 10 or more grade 9s 1
- Attainment 8 score 49 [one of the top five schools in Bedfordshire and Luton]

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Key Stage 5 Outcomes

A level and equivalent

- A level 48% A* B
- A level 72% A* C
- A level 95% A* E
- VA for A Level is provisionally 0.10 up slightly up on 2017
- VA for Applied General (BTEC) is provisionally 0.53, significantly up on 0.5 from 2017.

Year 13 Student Destination Data

- 85% of Year 13, continued in education, at university or further education, same as 2017

Most popular course choices in Higher Education this year are:

- o Bio medical sciences (9%)
- o Sciences (11%)
- o Business Management (21%)
- o Politics, Law and Economics (11%)
- o Engineering and Mathematics (12%)
- o Design (8%)
- o English and Humanities (8%)

Year 11 Pupil Destination Data:

- o 57% went to Kimberley College 16 - 19 STEM College
- o 28% Other Sixth form college /Further Education
- o 6% started apprenticeships
- o 9% following up

c. CONCLUSION

Within the above lies the dedicated and professional work of a trust-wide staff team of teachers, learning support assistants, administrative and technical staff led by middle and senior leaders.

The Trustees are indebted to all staff who work so hard for the Trust's pupils and students.

d. GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources and plans 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 Accounting Policies.

Financial review

The main source of the Trust's income is obtained from the DFE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DFE during the year ended 31 August 2018 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

At 31 August 2018, total income into the Trust of £7,559,521 was recorded (2017: £8,904,140).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

At 31 August 2018, total expenditure of £8,415,430 (2017: £8,761,235) was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA and £77,125 (2017: £76,547) was covered by income obtained from other sources.

The Trust has been awarded two projects under the CIF (Capital Infrastructure Fund), one for 2016/17 (April 2016 - March 2017) and one for 2017/18 (April 2017-March 2018), the total investment of the projects will be £1,231,142. The earlier project undertaken is for phase three of the roof replacement in the Humanities building. The second project is to replace the boilers and heating system throughout Wootton Upper School.

The Trust has also invested s106 monies it secured from the local authorities to recommission science laboratories thereby increasing capacity and improving students' learning environments.

An additional project has been awarded to the Trust under the Free School Capital Grants in 2016/17 to provide a renewable energy system for heating at Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College.

The actuarial review of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its nonteaching staff is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in note 26 to the financial statements. The value of the deficit for 2017/18 is £1,156,000, while 2016/17 was £1,371,000. During the period the Trust's scheme liability has decreased by £215,000

a. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have a Reserves Policy. The reserve levels of the Trust are reviewed annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review and are maintained on the Risk Register.

The Trustees have reviewed the Trust's reserves and whilst covering the Trust's expenses they recognise the need to have sufficient reserves to be able to protect the Trust against formula funding decreases, especially in relation to 6th form funding and to ensure funding is available for the refurbishment and accommodation changes to cater for more students on the Wootton Upper School site as local housing developments enable more families to move into the area. To mitigate these risks, the Trust strives to retain an appropriate reserves balance equating to approximately £590,000.

b. PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Trust acknowledges responsibility for safeguarding assets of Wootton Academy Trust and has taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. This provides assurance that:

- Wootton Academy Trust complies with relevant laws and regulations.
- Wootton Academy Trust is operating efficiently and effectively.
- Wootton Academy Trust assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition.
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the Trust and its publications is reliable.
- Wootton Academy Trust has reviewed the Risk Register and, this has been discussed by the members of the Finance Committee, prior to approval by the full Board and includes the financial risks to the Wootton Academy Trust. The register is reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The systems' internal controls are designed to manage risk at a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risks of failure of policies, procedures, aims and objectives, it will therefore provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and then prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's policies, procedures, 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 Trust has a formal risk management process to assess business risks particularly those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities, other operational areas, and its finances, and to implement risk management strategies. This process involves identifying the types of risk the Trust and its schools face, scoring and prioritising the risks in terms of their potential operational and financial impact, assessing the likelihood of occurrence and identifying means of mitigating the risks. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where risk still remains they have ensured that they have adequate specialist advice such as legal, accountancy, HR consultants, H&S advisers and maintain adequate insurance cover to mitigate risk, where risk cannot be eliminated.

Two of the most significant strategic risks facing all Trusts, including Wootton Academy Trust, are firstly, ensuring high pupil outcomes match their potential, and secondly, maintaining long-term financial viability. Trustees are fully aware of their responsibility to recruit and retain outstanding leaders to ensure that the quality of teaching continues to be high, and, improves still further. The Trust's Finance Committee focuses on ensuring maximum value for money is secured from its financial resources and that the budgets set for Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College maintain the Trust's long-term financial viability.

The Trust continues to focus its Finance Committee meetings on mitigating the financial pressures it faces with positive action to reduce the impact it, and all Trusts, experience.

FUNDRAISING

Under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 the Trust must include information on fundraising practices. The Trust does not undertake any fundraising. The Trust has raised funds during the year for external charities. All monies raised are paid in full directly to the chosen charities. The Trust does not employ either commercial or professional fundraisers. When the Trust does fund raise it adopts the six principles as set out in the Charity Commission for England and Wales charity fundraising guidance, making use of the checklist the Commission provides to meet its legal requirements and to adhere to good practice recommendations.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Key strategic priorities for Wootton Academy Trust in the short to medium term include:

1. Raising attainment and progress made by all learners further so that the Trust's schools are recognised as regional centres of excellence, through national measures
2. Working collaboratively with other schools and academies to ensure that a coherent educational structure exists across the admissions area from the age of 4 to 19, working with others formally and/or informally;
3. Continuing to improve the fabric and facilities in our school and college;
4. Embedding the delegated scheme of governance so that the local governing bodies and Trust Board have clearly understood roles and responsibilities;
5. Ensuring financial viability through the standards and excellent progress made by its pupils and students resulting in full establishments; and
6. Looking for opportunities for the Trust to grow as a multi academy trust in the immediate geographical area and regarded as a successful and highly effective MAT.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

AUDITORS

Mazars LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 12/12/18 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Haddon
Chair of Wootton Academy Trust

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

GOVERNANCE

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 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
Jonathan Billington	5	5
David Clare,	4	5
Michael Gleeson,	5	5
Simon O'Toole, Chair	4	4
Thomas Stephenson	4	4
Timothy Williams	3	5
Peter Haddon	5	5
Michael Ridley	4	5
Ian Sibbald	2	2

The Finance Committee is a committee of the main board. Its purpose is to oversee finance and audit matters with power to act on all day-to day matters not reserved to the Board.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Jonathan Billington	3	3
Michael Ridley	3	3
Michael Gleeson	3	3
Peter Haddon	2	2
David Clare	0	3
Ian Sibbald	2	2
Simon O'Toole	0	1

The Curriculum and Standards Committee is a committee of the main board made up of Trustees and governor representatives from the two Local Governing Bodies. Its purpose is to:

- assist the decision making of the board, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the board's responsibility to ensure high academic standards across the Trust;
- monitoring the quality assurance of standards;
- reviewing and developing curriculum policies including teaching and learning and CEIAG;
- reviewing the organization of the curriculum and standards across the Trust with a special focus on meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils; and
- evaluating the quality of improvement plans, self-evaluation documents and the on-going professional development of staff.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Peter Haddon	3	3
Michael Gleeson	3	3

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

Improving Educational Outcomes

Key performance indicators at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 are highlighted earlier in this report.

- Improvements in the Trust's educational outcomes for pupils/students is evidenced by improved Progress 8 and Value Added measures at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College as well as comparing Trust outcomes against national outcomes. The Trust's Executive Leadership Team oversees a quality assurance review programme in all subject areas with additional support being targeted at pupils and subjects who are a cause for concern. Senior Leaders scrutinize academic and pastoral data regularly to ensure that all pupils are able to make good progress – evidenced by the improving outcomes of pupils with an identified Special Educational Need.

Better purchasing

- **Fitness for purpose:**
Contracts and services are regularly reviewed to ensure that they conform to the needs of the Trust and meet any external requirements from the DfE and ESFA. When contracts are due for renewal they are reviewed to assess their relevance, effectiveness and value for money. The Trust's Financial Regulations and its limits agreed by the Wootton Academy Trust Board of Directors are also followed. In exceptional circumstances when it is not possible to get the required number of quotes the reason is recorded.
- **Benchmarking:**
Wootton Academy Trust will seek to maximise purchasing opportunities and will utilise frameworks such as ESPO, CPC and YPO to achieve value for money. These frameworks have already tendered for services and allow ease of comparison of services and goods. The Finance Lead is also a member of the FD Forum and local forums where institutions benchmark and utilise networking opportunities to achieve best value as well as service comparisons.
- **Options on Appraisal:**
The Wootton Academy Trust will always assess the economy, efficiency, effectiveness and cost effectiveness of various options before making a decision to ensure the right option for the longer term
- **Economies of Scale**
Where possible the Trust will seek to maximise its purchasing power to achieve better value for the Trust's goods and services.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

- Maximising income generation

Wootton Academy Trust explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of its facilities, applications for funding and other grants and bids that the Trust is made aware of.

During 2017/18 the ESFA ran a pilot scheme to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of academy institutions. The Trust volunteered to be involved in this pilot and as a result of the work it completed with the School Resources Management Adviser during the summer term, the Trust has developed a plan for 2018/19 onwards to extend the value for money it achieves.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

Regular budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Finance Committee, the Executive Principal and the Chief Financial Officer and any necessary remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget outturn. The Board of Trustees receives all the reports from the committee and is therefore informed of the Trust's controls and risks.

The Finance Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and reviews the Trust's Risk Register. The Trust understands that it must manage risk as it is not possible to completely remove all risks that the Trust faces. The Trust reviews the likelihood and impact of its risks, scoring this accordingly to prioritise and determine the appropriate course of action to manage the risks.

The Multi Academy Trust is risk averse and is aware of the public money that it is responsible for, it will therefore invest any surplus cash balances in interest bearing accounts to maximise interest earning potential where possible and in line with the Trust's investment policy. The utilisation of reserves is agreed by the Directors to ensure that the Trust is meeting the best needs of its students at the time they are in education with the Trust.

Lessons learnt

The Trust undertakes regular reviews of its core activities to strive for continuous improvement. By recognising what is working well and exploiting and extending this it seeks to deliver value for money. Equally, if a review highlights that the desired improvements are not being achieved the Trust will adapt or stop investing in practices that are not effective.

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 failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Multi 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 Wootton Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 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 Multi 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 ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Multi Academy Trust's significant risks, that has been in place for the year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The Multi 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 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.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Bedford Borough's internal audit services. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- payroll;
- procurement; and
- value for money.

The auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the finance committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned and found that there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the system objectives thereby providing substantial assurance to trustees.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

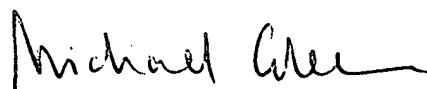
- the work of the external auditors and a number of internal audits and inspections;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Multi Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the internal reviewer 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 12/12/18 and signed on their behalf, by:



Mr. Peter Haddon
Chair of Trustees



Mr. Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

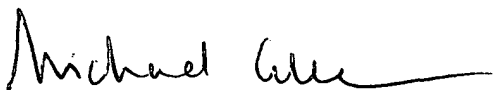
WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Wootton Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2017.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2017.

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.



Mr. Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

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 Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare 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 financial statements for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

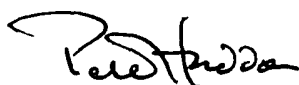
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 12/12/18: and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Haddon
Chair of Trustees

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wootton Academy Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 2018 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 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusion relating to going concern

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

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Academy'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 Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. 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.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the Trustees (who are directors 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 company'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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE
MEMBERS OF WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

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



Vincent Marke (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Pinnacle
160 Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 1FF

Date: 13 December 2018

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Wootton Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 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 Wootton Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Wootton Academy Trust and the 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 Wootton Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Wootton Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Wootton Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2017, 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 2017 to 2018. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 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 2017 to 2018 issued by the 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's income and expenditure.

A summary of the work we have undertaken is as follows:

- Planned our assurance procedures including identifying key risks;
- Carried out sample testing on controls;
- Carried out substantive testing including analytical review; and
- Concluded on procedures carried out.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY
TO WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING
AGENCY (continued)**

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 year 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Mazars LLP

Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

The Pinnacle
160 Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 1FF

Date: *13 December 2018*

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

	Note	Restricted funds 2018 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	2	250	868,199	-	868,449	1,565,801
Charitable activities	3	6,551,609	-	-	6,551,609	7,202,315
Other trading activities	4	19,309	-	119,381	138,690	134,676
Investments	5	-	-	773	773	1,348
TOTAL INCOME		6,571,168	868,199	120,154	7,559,521	8,904,140
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds		-	-	77,125	77,125	76,547
Charitable activities		7,489,519	847,786	-	8,337,305	8,684,688
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6	7,489,519	847,786	77,125	8,414,430	8,761,235
NET BEFORE TRANSFERS		(918,351)	20,413	43,029	(854,909)	142,905
Transfers between Funds	18	-	121,894	(121,894)	-	-
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(918,351)	142,307	(78,865)	(854,909)	142,905
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	23	457,000	-	-	457,000	1,009,000
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(461,351)	142,307	(78,865)	(397,909)	1,151,905
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		(602,234)	35,305,367	230,601	34,933,734	33,781,829
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(1,063,585)	35,447,674	151,736	34,535,825	34,933,734

The notes on pages 29 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Registered number: 07740758

(A company limited by guarantee)**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018**

	Note	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		35,444,771		35,241,815
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	209,623		576,486	
Cash at bank and in hand		687,129		1,470,290	
		<u>896,752</u>		<u>2,046,776</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(455,391)</u>		<u>(662,516)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			441,361		1,384,260
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			35,886,132		36,626,075
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		<u>(194,307)</u>		<u>(321,341)</u>
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES			35,691,825		36,304,734
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		<u>(1,156,000)</u>		<u>(1,371,000)</u>
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES			<u>34,535,825</u>		<u>34,933,734</u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY					
Restricted income funds:					
Restricted income funds	18	92,415		768,766	
Restricted fixed asset funds	18	<u>35,447,674</u>		<u>35,305,367</u>	
Restricted income funds excluding pension liability		35,540,089		36,074,133	
Pension reserve		<u>(1,156,000)</u>		<u>(1,371,000)</u>	
Total restricted income funds			34,384,089		34,703,133
Unrestricted funds	18		<u>151,736</u>		<u>230,601</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>34,535,825</u>		<u>34,933,734</u>

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET (continued)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018

The financial statements on pages 25 to 51 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on and are signed on their behalf, by:



Peter Haddon
Chair of Trustees

12/12/18

The notes on pages 29 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	267,583	1,386,150
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		536	-
Capital expenditure and financial investment		(1,051,280)	(1,564,485)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,050,744)	(1,564,485)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(783,161)	(178,335)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,470,290	1,648,625
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	21	687,129	1,470,290

The notes on pages 29 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the 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 2017 to 2018 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Wootton Academy Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy 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 Department for Education Group.

1.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Academy has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account 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 entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

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

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Going concern

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Freehold property	-	over its useful economic life on transfer in to the Trust
Furniture and fixtures	-	3-4 years straight line
Motor vehicles	-	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	-	3 years straight line

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

1.7 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Multi-Academy Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

1.10 Debtors

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

1.11 Cash at Bank and in hand

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

1.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities and provisions 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 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 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.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 Financial instruments

The Multi-Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Multi-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 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy'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 costs as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instruments. Amounts due to the Academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

1.14 Taxation

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

1.15 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 23, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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

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

1.16 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2017 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2018. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment.

The Multi-Academy Trust depreciates tangible assets over their estimate useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations about future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.17 Agency arrangements

The Multi-Academy Trust acts as an agent in the administering of 16-19 Bursary Funds from the EFA. Related payments received from the EFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities to the extent that the Multi-Academy Trust does not have beneficial interest in the individual transactions. The allowance of 5% as a contribution to administration costs is however recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where funds have not been fully applied in the year then an amount will be included as amounts due to the EFA.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Donations	250	-	-	250	100
Capital grants	-	868,199	-	868,199	1,565,701
	250	868,199	-	868,449	1,565,801
Total 2017	100	1,565,701	-	1,565,801	

3. FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	6,265,778	-	6,265,778	6,767,517
Other DfE/EFA grants	119,707	-	119,707	285,140
Local authority grants	166,124	-	166,124	149,658
	6,551,609	-	6,551,609	7,202,315
Total 2017	7,202,315	-	7,202,315	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Hire of facilities	-	32,338	32,338	30,207
Catering income	-	1,036	1,036	513
Trips and Visits	-	63,394	63,394	59,415
Uniform sales	-	500	500	6,404
Sundry Income	19,309	22,113	41,422	38,137
	<u>19,309</u>	<u>119,381</u>	<u>138,690</u>	<u>134,676</u>
Total 2017	<u>20,468</u>	<u>114,208</u>	<u>134,676</u>	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Short term deposits	-	773	773	1,348
	<u>-</u>	<u>773</u>	<u>773</u>	<u>1,348</u>
Total 2017	<u>-</u>	<u>1,348</u>	<u>1,348</u>	

6. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs 2018 £	Premises 2018 £	Other costs 2018 £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Expenditure on raising voluntary income	-	-	77,125	77,125	76,547
Activities:					
Direct costs	5,028,901	847,786	520,496	6,397,183	6,992,080
Support costs	922,849	604,767	412,506	1,940,122	1,692,607
	<u>5,951,750</u>	<u>1,452,553</u>	<u>1,010,127</u>	<u>8,414,430</u>	<u>8,761,234</u>
Total 2017	<u>6,148,102</u>	<u>1,542,396</u>	<u>1,070,736</u>	<u>8,761,234</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2018	2017
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	847,788	1,013,695
Auditor's remuneration - audit	10,000	9,750
Auditor's remuneration - other services	2,150	1,750
Operating lease expense	33,134	26,827
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8. Analysis of support costs

	2018	2017
	£	£
Support staff costs	922,849	742,671
Technology costs	72,316	73,572
Premises costs	577,156	528,701
Other support costs	351,527	330,395
Governance costs	16,274	17,268
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>1,940,122</u>	<u>1,692,607</u>

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

9. STAFF COSTS

a. Staff costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Wages and salaries	4,406,733	4,590,555
Social security costs	422,377	438,292
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	935,709	945,559
	<u>5,764,819</u>	<u>5,974,406</u>
Redundancy payments	8,659	31,286
Supply teaching costs	116,539	142,406
	<u><u>5,890,017</u></u>	<u><u>6,148,098</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2018 £	2017 £
Redundancy payments	8,659	46,286
Provision for employee matters	-	(15,000)
	<u>8,659</u>	<u>31,286</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2018 No.	2017 No.
Teachers	75	82
Administration and support	54	54
Management	4	4
	<u>133</u>	<u>140</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

9. STAFF COSTS (continued)

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2018 No.	2017 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	3
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1

All of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2018, pension contributions for these staff amounted to £50,397 (2017: £50,626).

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the multi-academy trust comprise the Trustees and Executive Leadership Team as listed on page 1 and the Finance Lead. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £393,819 (2017: £307,862). In addition, John Billington has performed the Chief Financial Officer role for the Multi-Academy Trust since April 2016 and has received £nil (2017: £16,830) in relation to this role.

10. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Staff costs
- Premises costs
- Educational costs
- Administrative costs
- Governance costs

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

Budgeted 2016/17 student headcount.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Kimberley College 16 - 19 STEM College	186,655	145,418
Wootton Upper School	435,039	374,440
Total	<u>621,694</u>	<u>519,858</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and other staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2018 £	2017 £
M Gleeson (Principal of the Trust)	Remuneration	95,000-100,000	95,000-100,000
	Pension contributions paid	15,000-20,000	15,000-20,000
Jonathan Billington (CFO)	Remuneration	0-5,000	15,000-20,000

During the year, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £113 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 trustee (2017: £nil to no trustees).

12. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

13. PENSION EXPENSE

	2018 £	2017 £
Interest income on pension scheme assets	87,000	62,000
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(124,000)	(107,000)
	<u>(37,000)</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2017	37,925,257	47,640	818,937	885,262	39,677,096
Additions	991,867	-	-	59,413	1,051,280
Disposals	-	-	(536)	-	(536)
At 31 August 2018	38,917,124	47,640	818,401	944,675	40,727,840
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2017	2,964,268	41,020	704,793	725,200	4,435,281
Charge for the year	648,697	6,461	86,621	106,009	847,788
At 31 August 2018	3,612,965	47,481	791,414	831,209	5,283,069
Net book value					
At 31 August 2018	35,304,159	159	26,987	113,466	35,444,711
At 31 August 2017	34,960,989	6,620	114,144	160,062	35,241,815

15. DEBTORS

Trade debtors	16,111	308,537
Other debtors	84,936	29,678
Prepayments and accrued income	92,154	176,624
VAT recoverable	16,422	61,647
	<u>209,623</u>	<u>576,486</u>

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Other loans	19,974	19,974
Trade creditors	-	3,355
VAT owed to EFA	-	6,480
Other creditors	99,306	150,994
Accruals and deferred income	154,762	309,667
EFA creditor (GAG abatement)	181,349	172,046
	<u>455,391</u>	<u>662,516</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2018 £	2017 £
Deferred income		
Resources deferred during the year	44,145	-
Deferred income at 31 August	44,145	-

Included in deferred income is £40,989 (2017: £nil) of EFA Rates Relief for September 18 to March 18 and £3,156 of scholar tickets (2017: £nil)

Included in other creditors is £40,281 (2017: £59,455) held in respect of the 16-19 Bursary Funds received from the EFA but not yet distributed.

17. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2018 £	2017 £
Other loans	194,307	139,830
EFA creditor (GAG abatement)	-	181,511
	<u>194,307</u>	<u>321,341</u>

Creditors include amounts not wholly repayable within 5 years as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Repayable by instalments	194,307	159,804

The Salix loan for lighting is repayable over 8 years.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2018 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	230,601	120,154	(77,125)	(121,894)	-	151,736
Restricted funds						
Restricted Funds - all funds	768,766	6,571,168	(7,247,519)	-	-	92,415
Pension reserve	(1,371,000)	-	(242,000)	-	457,000	(1,156,000)
	(602,234)	6,571,168	(7,489,519)	-	457,000	(1,063,585)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	35,305,367	868,199	(847,786)	121,894	-	35,447,674
Total restricted funds	34,703,133	7,439,367	(8,337,305)	121,894	457,000	34,384,089
Total of funds	34,933,734	7,559,521	(8,414,430)	-	457,000	34,535,825

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

Restricted General Funds

The General Annual Grant Fund is the recurrent funding to be used for educational purposes in accordance with the Multi-Academy Trust's Funding Agreement with the DfE.

The pension reserve of £1,156,000 (overdrawn) represents the Multi-Academy Trust's share of the deficit in the Bedfordshire Pension Fund.

Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund is shown by component of different funds which have been received by the Multi-Academy Trust. The balance is represented by the net book value of all fixed assets held with capital funding which is yet to be spent.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi-Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2018.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi-Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2018.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE

Fund balances at 31 August 2018 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Wootton Upper School	1,319,605	1,732,362
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College	(1,075,454)	(732,995)
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	<u>244,151</u>	<u>999,367</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	35,447,674	35,305,368
Pension reserve	(1,156,000)	(1,371,000)
Total	<u><u>34,535,825</u></u>	<u><u>34,933,735</u></u>

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY COST

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciat- ion £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Wootton Upper School	3,834,073	549,855	247,881	689,447	5,321,256	5,688,992
Kimberley 16-19 STEM college	1,194,827	130,993	42,285	635,283	2,003,388	1,911,798
	<u>5,028,900</u>	<u>680,848</u>	<u>290,166</u>	<u>1,324,730</u>	<u>7,324,644</u>	<u>7,600,790</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 September 2016 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2017 £
General Funds	191,592	115,556	(76,547)	-	-	230,601
Restricted funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	429,214	6,767,517	(7,010,310)	(7,386)	-	179,035
Other donation	400	100	-	-	-	500
Activities for generating funds	83,688	20,468	(20,468)	-	-	83,688
Local authority grants	373,406	149,658	(129,744)	-	-	393,320
Other DfE/EFA grants	113,553	285,140	(286,470)	-	-	112,223
Pension reserve	(2,156,000)	-	(224,000)	-	1,009,000	(1,371,000)
	<u>(1,155,739)</u>	<u>7,222,883</u>	<u>(7,670,992)</u>	<u>(7,386)</u>	<u>1,009,000</u>	<u>(602,234)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	34,745,976	1,502,147	(1,013,695)	7,386	-	35,241,814
Restricted fixed asset funds - unspent capital	-	63,553	-	-	-	63,553
	<u>34,745,976</u>	<u>1,565,700</u>	<u>(1,013,695)</u>	<u>7,386</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,305,367</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>33,590,237</u>	<u>8,788,583</u>	<u>(8,684,687)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,009,000</u>	<u>34,703,133</u>
Total of funds	<u>33,781,829</u>	<u>8,904,139</u>	<u>(8,761,234)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,009,000</u>	<u>34,933,734</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	35,444,771	-	35,444,771
Current assets	742,112	2,903	151,736	896,751
Creditors due within one year	(455,390)	-	-	(455,390)
Creditors due in more than one year	(194,307)	-	-	(194,307)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(1,156,000)	-	-	(1,156,000)
	<u>(1,063,585)</u>	<u>35,447,674</u>	<u>151,736</u>	<u>34,535,825</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	35,241,815	-	35,241,815
Current assets	1,752,623	63,553	230,601	2,046,777
Creditors due within one year	(662,517)	-	-	(662,517)
Creditors due in more than one year	(321,341)	-	-	(321,341)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(1,371,000)	-	-	(1,371,000)
	<u>(602,235)</u>	<u>35,305,368</u>	<u>230,601</u>	<u>34,933,734</u>

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2018 £	2017 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(854,909)	142,905
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	847,786	1,013,695
Decrease in stocks	-	7,545
Decrease in debtors	366,865	(454,463)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(334,159)	452,468
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	242,000	224,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>267,583</u>	<u>1,386,150</u>

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21. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2018 £	2017 £
Cash in hand	687,129	1,470,290
Total	<u>687,129</u>	<u>1,470,290</u>

22. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2018 the Academy had capital commitments as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	<u>58,021</u>	<u>883,890</u>

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2017.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. 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 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay, including a 0.08% employer administration charge.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%.

The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £515,150 (2017 - £552,927).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2018 was £280,882 (2017 - £283,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £219,376 (2017 - £222,000) and employees' contributions totalled £61,506 (2017 - £61,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24% for employers and variable% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions:

	2018	2017
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.80 %	2.50 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.70 %	2.70 %
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.40 %	2.40 %

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

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

	2018	2017
Retiring today		
Males	22.4	22.4
Females	24.5	24.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	24	24.0
Females	26.2	26

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2018 £	Fair value at 31 August 2017 £
Equities	2,200,520	1,924,320
Bonds	531,160	506,400
Property	341,460	303,840
Cash	720,860	641,440
Total market value of assets	<u>3,794,000</u>	<u>3,376,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £92,000 (2017 - £158,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account are as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Current service cost	(423,000)	(401,000)
Interest income	87,000	62,000
Interest cost	(124,000)	(107,000)
Total	<u>(460,000)</u>	<u>(446,000)</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>-</u>	<u>158,000</u>

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2018 £	2017 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	4,747,000	5,126,000
Current service cost	423,000	401,000
Interest cost	124,000	107,000
Employee contributions	61,000	61,000
Actuarial gains	(365,000)	(913,000)
Benefits paid	(40,000)	(35,000)
	<u>4,950,000</u>	<u>4,747,000</u>
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>4,950,000</u>	<u>4,747,000</u>

Movements in the fair value of the Multi-Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2018 £	2017 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	3,376,000	2,970,000
Interest income	87,000	62,000
Actuarial losses	92,000	96,000
Employer contributions	218,000	222,000
Employee contributions	61,000	61,000
Benefits paid	(40,000)	(35,000)
	<u>3,794,000</u>	<u>3,376,000</u>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>3,794,000</u>	<u>3,376,000</u>

24. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2018 the total of the Multi-Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2018 £	2017 £
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	28,612	33,134
Between 1 and 5 years	2,669	31,759
After more than 5 years	-	534
	<u>31,281</u>	<u>65,427</u>
Total	<u>31,281</u>	<u>65,427</u>

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25. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which Trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the AFH and with the Multi-Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions. There were no such related party transactions identified during the year ended 31 August 2018.

27. SCHOOL FUND

The Multi-Academy Trust has a school fund which has not been incorporated in these financial statements. The school fund accounts are drawn up to 31 March 2018 and are excluded from the main body of the Multi-Academy Trust's accounts due to the non-coterminous year end and that the school fund is not material to the multi-academy trust's financial statements. The school fund accounts to 31 March 2018 have been independently examined by a firm of professional accountants.

A summary of the school fund accounts for the year to 31 March 2018 is presented below:

	2018 £	2017 £
Income	96,947	69,506
Expenditure	(91,350)	(72,560)
	<u>5,597</u>	<u>(3,054)</u>

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	31 March 2018 £	31 March 2017 £
Debtors and prepayments	500	655
Cash at bank and in hand	32,411	60,469
Accruals and deferred income	(4,394)	(38,204)
Net assets at 31 March	28,517	22,920
Retained funds	22,920	23,974
Surplus for the year	5,597	(3,054)
School fund balance at 31 March	28,517	20,920
