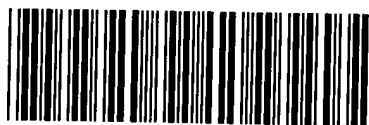


Company Registration No. 07999942 (England and Wales)

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

TUESDAY



AAWXQUAI

A06

01/02/2022

#236

COMPANIES HOUSE

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 17
Governance statement	18 - 22
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	23
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	24
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	25 - 27
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	28 - 29
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	30 - 31
Balance sheet	32
Statement of cash flows	33
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	34 - 52

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Rev W Britt
A Matthews (Co-Chair of Governors)
A Clarey
D Flanagan
S Bishop (Accounting Officer)
R Thornley (Co-Chair of Governors)
S Steptoe
S Crone (Chair of Resources Committee) (Resigned 4 January 2021)
E Garside
J Welch
L Cavanagh (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)
C Chessum (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)
L Seymour (Appointed 1 September 2021)

Members

J Street
R Thornley
J White
The Venerable Dave Middlebrook

Senior leadership team

S Bishop	- Headteacher
M Elliott	- KS2 Team Leader
J Welch	- KS1 Team Leader
K Pauttullo	- Foundation Stage Team Leader
D Flanagan	- School Manager

Company registration number

07999942 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Rook Tree Lane
Stotfold
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 4DL
United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
5 Yeomans Court
Ware Road
Hertford
Hertfordshire
SG13 7HJ
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
1 Bancroft
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1JG
United Kingdom

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson LLP
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG1 7BJ
United Kingdom

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees also known as Governors, a term that is interchangeable throughout, present their annual report together with the consolidated financial statements and independent auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and 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 published on 16th July 2014 (FRS 102).

Principal Activities

The Academy Trust's principal object and activity has been to manage the provision of education to pupils between the ages of 4 and 9 years of age. Also to develop a school with a designated Church of England religious character, offering a broad and balanced curriculum conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship (as required by the Funding Agreement) and in having regard to the advice of the Diocesan Board of Education.

The Academy has a pupil capacity of 300 and had a roll of 278 in the school census on October 2020.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The Trustees of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with the Articles of Association, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Trustee or other office of the Company and every member of any Local Governing Body and/or Advisory Body (in so far as necessary) shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Company.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Under the terms of its Articles, the Academy Trust shall have the following Governors:

- Three Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocese, including the Incumbent. Further Foundation Governors may be appointed having received i) a nomination from the Parochial Church Council of the Parish and for the second, having received a nomination from the Diocesan Board of Education. The total number of Foundation Governors will not exceed 25% of the total number of Governing Body.
- The Head Teacher is a Director and appointed at Companies House.
- Staff Governors may be appointed by the Members through such process as they determine, provided that the total number of staff Governors, including the Head Teacher does not exceed one third of the total number of the Governing Body.
- Parent Governors shall be elected by parents of the registered pupils of the Academy. Any election of Parent Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot. In appointing a Parent Governing the Governing Body shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at the Academy; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age. If the number of nominations is less or equal to the number of vacancies they will be appointed by the Governing Body uncontested.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

During the year under review the Full Governing Body met 4 times (including the AGM) and there were 8 committee meetings. The training and induction provided for new Governors depends on their previous experience. All new Governors are given a tour of the school and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they need to undertake their role as Governors. New Governors usually attend an Induction course provided by Central Bedfordshire Council and have access to a full programme of courses which they will choose to attend, based on their role and experience. Governors can also access NGA training.

Organisation structure

The board of trustees of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold is constituted under the memorandum and articles of association. The board of trustees is responsible for ensuring high standards of corporate governance are maintained.

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the Academy, setting policy and agreeing the annual budget. Trustees are also responsible for monitoring the work of the Academy and ensuring the objectives of the academy are achieved.

The academy has defined the responsibilities of each person involved in the administration of academy finances to avoid the duplication or omission of functions and to provide a framework of accountability for Governors and staff.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the administration of the academy's finances. The main responsibilities of the Governing Body are prescribed in the Funding Agreement between the Academy and DFE and the academy's scheme of government. The main responsibilities include:-

- Ensuring that grants from the DFE are used only for the purposes intended;
- Ensuring that funds from sponsors are received according to the academy's Funding Agreement and are used only for the purposes intended;
- Approval of the annual budget;
- Appointment of the Head Teacher and
- Appointment of senior staff (i.e. Assistant Head, Finance Manager etc.), in conjunction with the Head Teacher.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial Delegation

The following financial delegations are currently in place.

KEY					
Full Governing Body only	1				
Governing Body with advice from Headteacher	2				
Head Teacher within	3				
Head Teacher / other staff	4				
		1	2	3	4
Appointment of Head Teacher		√			
Appointment of Assistant Head Teacher/Finance Manager			√		
Appointment of other senior staff			√		
Approve formal Budget each year		√			
Investigate financial irregularities (Head suspected)		√			
Investigate finance irregularities (others suspected)			√		
Enter into contracts up to £9,999				√	
Enter into contracts over £10,000			√		
Make payments for goods and services					√
Staff pay structure/increments (not Head)			√		
Determine dismissal payment/early retirement			√		
Set premises charging and remissions policy			√		
Ensure provision of free school meals for those meeting criteria				√	

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The following is part of the Pay Policy for St Mary's CE Academy, Stotfold

The Leadership Group

1. At the time of appointing a new Head or Deputy Head Teacher, the Governing Body (or nominated representatives) will have regard to the requirements of the School Teachers' Pay and Condition Document in respect of an appropriate starting salary.

2. The Governing Body (or nominated representatives) will determine the starting salary to be paid to the Head in accordance with the appropriate range for the group size of school. The salary range for a group 2 school and the scale for the Head Teacher are attached to this policy. The scale for any deputy and assistant Head Teachers are also attached. The Head, Deputy or Assistant Head Teacher will not be paid below the starting salary on the appropriate range or ISR during the time of his or her appointment to the school. In determining the starting salary, the Governing Body (or nominated representatives) will have regard to the criteria set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

3. When conducting the annual review of the pay of the Head, Deputy or Assistant Head Teacher, the Resources Committee on pay will take into account the performance of the member of staff against the performance criteria determined as part of the appraisal arrangements. The Resources Committee will consider whether there has been a sustained high quality of performance. Pay progression on the Leadership Group pay scale is not automatic and is subject to an annual review of performance (see paragraph 7 above).

4. The Resources Committee on pay will take decisions in accordance with the principles contained within the School's policy on appraisal. The salary range for the Head Teacher and individual salary ranges for Deputy and Assistant Head Teachers will reflect the job weight (as evidenced by the job description), and issues such as the incidents of free school meals, special needs and the ethnic background of children attending the school. The ranges will be reviewed whenever it is necessary to advertise the post, when there is a significant change in the responsibilities of the post (such as a school reorganisation) or, in the case of the Head Teacher, a change of group number. The deputy Head Teacher and assistant Head Teachers will be placed on five consecutive pay points identified by the governing body. The maximum salary available to the deputy will be lower than the minimum for the post of Head Teacher; the maximum on the deputy scale will be higher than the maximum available to the assistant teachers.

5. The remuneration paid to the Head Teacher as a result of determination of the ISR will cover the head teacher's full role as set out in Part 9 of the Document including any permanent appointment for the responsibility for more than one school. The following matters no longer form part of the determination of the salary scale and are dealt with as discretionary payments (see below):-

- schools causing concern;
- difficulties filling a vacant head teacher post;
- difficulties retaining the current head teacher; and
- temporary appointment as a head teacher of more than one school.

6. Any discretionary payments in addition to the salary arising from the head teacher's point on the salary scale will only be made in accordance with the factors in paragraph 9(5) above. The total of all discretionary payments made to a head teacher in respect of any school year must not exceed 25 percent of the amount which corresponds to that individual's point on their ISR for that year. All discretionary payments received in relation to the role as a head teacher count towards the limit (with the exception of relocation expenses where it is the policy of the governors to pay such expenses).

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7. The Governing Body will have oversight of a Head Teacher's entire role and any paid responsibilities attached to the role. This will ensure that the Governing Body can take a fully informed decision about the appropriate remuneration for the Head Teacher and any consequential implications for the pay of other staff who may be taking on additional responsibilities in the absence of the head.
8. It will be wholly exceptional to make discretionary payments which exceed the limit of 25 percent of the amount that corresponds to the Head Teacher's point on the ISR in any given year. If it is considered that there are exceptional circumstances that warrant a payment in excess of the limit the pay committee must make a business case for the payment to the full governing body. The Governing Body is required to seek external independent advice from an appropriate person or body who can consider the provisions of the document and whether they have been properly applied to the Head Teacher's pay before making a decision on whether it is justifiable to exceed the limit in the circumstances of the particular case. There must be a clear audit trail for any advice given to the Governing Body and a full and accurate record of all decisions made by the Governing Body including the reasons for the decisions.
9. Where a permanent Head Teacher and Governing Body agree to take on significant additional responsibility for extended services on their site and the Head Teacher is directly accountable to the Council or a Children's Trust, the Governing Body has the discretion to take this into account when setting the salary scale. Any uplift in pay should be proportionate to the level of responsibility and accountability undertaken. The Governing Body will also have regard to the remuneration of other teachers who may take on additional responsibility in the absence of the Head Teacher. The DfE advice makes it clear however that there is a difference between "having an interest in" the quality of a service located on the school site and being "responsible and/or accountable" for that service. "Interest in" is seen as part of the Head Teachers core role and responsibilities and would not, therefore, attract a salary uplift.

Provision of Services to other Schools

1. Any services provided by the Head Teacher of one school to another school must be authorised formally by the Governing Body and where the work extends over more than a 12 month period, the agreement of the Governing Body must be formally reviewed on an annual basis. The Governing Body will also agree arrangements for terminating such work.
2. Before such work is undertaken the Governing Body and the Head Teacher must take into account:-
 - the needs of the school and its pupils;
 - the benefits the activity would bring to the school;
 - the impact of any absence on other staff, including on their workload, and
 - the workload and worklife balance of all the individuals concerned

The Governing Body will satisfy itself that the above matters have been fully considered by the school leadership team.

1. Arrangements for payment for external work, including any personal remuneration, must be clearly stated and formally incorporated into a protocol by the governing body (or the relevant committee) and all decisions minuted with reasons.
2. The disposition of any payment, including personal remuneration, for external services must be agreed in advance in accordance with the determinations of the Governing Body. The terms of such an agreement must be set out in a memorandum signed by the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher and any other members of staff involved.
3. Any income derived from external sources for the work of schools staff should accrue to the school. The Governing Body will decide whether it would be appropriate for individual members of staff to receive additional remuneration for these activities and, if so, determine the appropriate amount.
4. The Governing Body will ensure that any expenses incurred by the individuals as a result of taking on additional work are reimbursed (unless they are accounted for elsewhere).

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

St Mary's CE Academy has an active Parents Association which raises funds for additional resources and specific projects for the school. The Association have their own committee and arrange independent monitoring each year.

Related party relationships are available from our website under Governors.

Related party transactions are disclosed within the notes to the financial statements.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Academies Trust Object is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular with not without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school with a designated Church of England religious character offering a broad and balance curriculum (the Academy) conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship (as required by the Funding Agreement) and in having regard to the advice of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Priority One: Quality of Education

Targets

- To continue to review the foundation curriculum to ensure progression and curriculum coverage
- To further develop assessment across the curriculum
- To increase the % of children achieving ARE or above in Reading, Writing and Maths in each year group
- To increase the % of children making better than expected progress in Reading, Writing and Maths in each year group
- To increase attainment and progress for Pupil Premium and Summer born groups, closing the gap through the year
- To increase staff understanding and knowledge through targeted CPD

Success Criteria

- Curriculum plans are streamlined and show clear progression in subjects across the school
- Foundation subjects are regularly and effectively assessed and monitored by subject leaders
- % of children at or above ARE increase from end of summer 2021 data
- % of children making better than expected progress increases from end of Summer 2021 data
- Attainment gap for vulnerable groups decreases over the year
- Staff have accessed a range of training using the National College CPD online

Actions

- Staff meetings are held to review the development of the foundation curriculum so far. Further staff meetings are used as release time for subject leaders to fulfil their roles.
- Subject leaders review action plans from 2020-21. Identify areas not met due to Covid-19. Complete new action plans for 2021-22.
- Pupil voice for all subjects is held. Actions identified and implemented.
- Data drop at Autumn 1 to baseline all pupils in R/W/M. Use this information to inform future planning. Staff to use gaps analysis Target Tracker tool to assist planning to fill gaps. Data drop 2 Dec 2021
- Staff meeting to introduce retrieval practice as a form of assessment (initially based on RE)
- Research Mathematics to develop maths understanding & increase progress
- Introduce National College CPD online to all staff. Allocate some staff meetings for training. Staff to feed back in further meetings

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Priority Two: Leadership & Management

Targets

- Implement the new Early Years Framework & Baseline Assessment
- To review Reading & Phonics provision
- To further develop the role of curriculum leaders to ensure high quality curriculum provision and outcomes across the school
- Develop Governor knowledge and understanding of the curriculum
- Prepare for transition to Primary 2023

Success Criteria

- New Early Years Framework implemented
- Baseline Assessment successfully completed
- Reading Action Plan written & followed
- Phonics provision is reviewed and of a high quality, resulting in above local & National outcomes
- Validated Phonics scheme in place
- Curriculum Leader action plans written and reviewed with actions identified and followed through
- Curriculum leaders have a good understanding of their subject across the school
- Governors have a clearer understanding of the curriculum across the school
- SLT meetings held regularly to focus on areas on SDP

Actions

- Baseline training completed. Baseline Assessments completed in first full weeks of school.
- New EYFS plans are written. Resources purchased.
- Staff meeting time used for curriculum leaders to update & share action plans
- Reading Action Plan shared with staff – actions to include staff meeting on the Reading Framework & implications and a reading audit
- Phonics review – adopt a SSP validated programme. Phonics teaching monitoring & review
- SLT meetings every 2/3 weeks to monitor SDP actions
- Governor learning walks to include curriculum focus.
- Attend any Schools for the Future meetings & training (if available). Continue to liaise with the local cluster of schools.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Priority Three: Personal Development

Targets

- SIAMS – Develop opportunities for spontaneous prayer & reflection
- SIAMS – To further embed the Christian Distinctiveness of the school, in line with the SIAMS framework
- To ensure staff and pupil well-being is high priority
- To ensure the new Sex & Relationships Education curriculum is fully implemented
- To implement the updated Behaviour Policy

Success Criteria

- Children using opportunities for spontaneous prayer and reflection
- Emotional well-being is of a high standard for children and staff, monitored and reviewed by SLT
- SRE curriculum is established

Actions

- Research approaches to prayer & reflection. Feedback to staff and trial ideas.
- Ethos Committee to monitor Christian Distinctiveness
- SB to attend new SIAMS framework training & develop an action plan following this
- SLT to monitor workload – through staff discussion / staff meetings / staff forum
- Implement SRE plans across the school, review & evaluate
- Introduce specific PSHE afternoons termly to support SRE curriculum coverage
- Implement updated Behaviour Policy – share with all stakeholders. Review at end of Autumn 2.
- Yr 4 to complete the SHUE Young people Health & Well-being Survey. Review outcomes and make actions where necessary

Priority Four: Covid Impact & Recovery

Targets

- To ensure all Covid guidelines are followed effectively
- To be prepared for further lockdown / Covid impact
- To ensure children's learning is accelerated following the impact of covid on education

Success Criteria

- School reopens fully in September with safe working practices for all (in line with DfE guidance)
- Effective remote learning policy is in place
- All stakeholders are aware of and adhere to safety guidelines

Actions

- Complete Risk Assessment, based on latest DfE / HSE / PHE guidance. Review regularly.
- Covid Outbreak Management Plan is in place, to be instigated if needed
- Share safety guidance with all stakeholders (teachers share with parents, use newsletters, Dojo etc to communicate to parents)
- Use Catch Up funding to target specific interventions (identified through informal assessments) & to purchase resources to support progress.
- Review remote learning policy

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Public benefit

Under normal circumstances:

- Academy Staff run a number of Clubs for the benefit of the children which includes Football, Keep Fit, Games, Art, Performing Arts, Allotment, Choir to name a few.
- Premier Sport supports the curriculum with many sports including football, rugby, hockey, tennis, gymnastics and ball skills. Children take part in tournaments alongside other local schools.
- Year 3 children have six weeks of swimming lessons at Saxon Pool in Biggleswade.
- A breakfast tennis club is run one morning each week.
- A Spanish Teacher teaches the children Spanish one evening each week.
- The children sing at some local Church services and to groups related to them.
- We participate in local events, such as Commonwealth day and Christmas activities.
- Inspiring Music and Bedfordshire Music Service come in to teach children to play instruments such as African drums, ukulele and violin.
- Some of these events and activities, although planned, were unable to take place due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Wherever possible the school aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities. For example:-

- Premier Sport have previously used the facilities during some holidays to provide sporting activities for children.
- The Churches Together Group use the school for a week in the summer holiday to run Stotfold Christian Holiday Club which is open to all children of the local community.
- The School Council invite local senior citizens of Stotfold in for termly coffee and activity mornings.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Our achievements this year include the following:

- National Assessments were postponed due to Covid-19; however, our teacher assessments showed that all groups were on track to maintain the previous high achievements (above local and National levels).
- A very successful Creative Arts Week.
- Other special events included our World Book Day celebrations, Harvest Festival and Christmas service.
- Involvement in local Stotfold events.
- Musical activities included Singing performances at Christmas.
- KS2 children undertaking a term block of African Drumming lessons.
- An excellent Olympic themed sports week.
- Over £1,000 was raised for various charities including Children In Need, the Royal British Legion, Save the Children, Sport Relief, etc. Families generously supported the 'Need project' with food donations at Harvest time.
- Our PTA were unable to run the usual large number of events due to Covid restrictions.
- We successfully opened the school for key worker children throughout the period of lockdown in Spring 2021. Thorough risk assessments enabled this to happen safely and effectively. During the lockdown period we successfully provided home learning for all groups of children and provided lunches for those who were eligible via a weekly provision parcel.
- Excellent drama workshops for all children on the theme of 'resilience'.
- Running the school safely and effectively within government Covid guidelines, maintaining attendance above 96%

Key performance indicators

The Academy measures its success partly through a series of performance indicators. These indicators comprise:

- Academy popularity/admissions
- SATS results and other indicators of student progress
- Staff performance management
- Financial health
- Staff turnover
- SIP report
- Self evaluation

To ensure standards are continually raised, the Academy:

- Operates a programme of lesson observations
- Carries out Half Termly pupil progress meetings
- Operates a programme of learning walks / drop ins regularly
- Operates a programme of performance management / appraisal reviews for Teachers and support staff
- Tracks and tackles underachievement as indicated by a number of measures (for example, by ongoing data analysis at class, year, and key stage levels)
- Employs an external adviser (SIP)
- School Development Plan
- Critical friend Governor challenges and enquiries at FGB meetings, evidence within FGB minutes
- Self Evaluation Document

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Our primary objective for 2020-21 was for our children to attain above national figures for reading, writing and mathematics across the school and to identify and meet gaps. However, due to Covid-19, national assessments did not occur. However, our teacher assessments demonstrated that children were continuing to make at least good progress towards these targets.

Work across the school has focussed developing the curriculum. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which shows progression and depth. Curriculum leaders have developed their role and have a greater understanding and awareness of their subject area across the school. This is an area we will continue to develop further.

The Governors consider that the following are key performance indicators for the Academy Trust:

- Pupils numbers (leading directly to the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") funding level);
- General financial stability - aim for income to match expenditure each year;
- Percentage of income received from ESFA spent on total staff costs;
- Income per pupil;
- Staff costs as a percentage of grant income;
- Staff costs as a percentage of total costs;
- Ofsted inspection results; and
- Capital expenditure per pupil.

The Governors have been pleased that expectations for all key performance indicators listed have been successfully met during the period.

The Governors receive regular monitoring reports which are reviewed and discussed at the Resources Committee. Continual assessment against policies, aims and financial budgets is undertaken to ensure effective management of grants and funds received.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2020-21 were 278. St Mary's CE Academy is a popular school and with the continual expansion of Stotfold, our numbers are increasing towards our current maximum of 300.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total pupil based income. For 2020/21 this was 86%. Staff costs include £44K for SMASH club which is funded by parents and also catering staff costs of £62K. Both these groups of staff were flexible and reduced hours in an attempt to help offset the effect of school closure and limited on site presence during Covid restrictions. Being public sector, we were unable to furlough staff until between January and March 2021 but when we could access this scheme, we had to open to Critical Worker families which limited the staff we could furlough as had to provide the services but also ensure both health and safety and safeguarding responsibilities were maintained.

Pupil numbers are steadily increasing. Our staffing costs have risen primarily due to our staff's longevity. The Governing Body understand the need to monitor costs and to balance this with an experienced, committed and effective team who can continue to deliver an outstanding education for the pupils. We are also mindful of the value that our staff bring by ensuring excellent results year on year.

There is an ongoing increase in numbers of pupils entering St Mary's CE Academy with more complex needs and this has required that these needs must be cared for to ensure that the children thrive. The Governing Body are mindful of this and we are securing additional funding where we can, employing additional staff and developing our staff's skills to support the pupil's needs.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Board of Trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial review

Following expansion in 2015, our pupil numbers have grown from 231 being a one and a half form entry to our current roll of 280. Our capacity is for 300 children, which constitutes a two form entry. Our greatest expenditure relates to staffing. We have a number of experienced and dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching that have been with us for many years. Whilst their knowledge and commitment is a strength to St Mary's, this obviously has a financial impact on the academy. Following the expansion, growth funding was received from the Local Authority for five years. This ended in 2020 but was to assist with staff costs whilst waiting for funding from pupil numbers to increase.

There is significant house building work being undertaken in Stotfold and this is mainly within our catchment area. We have five spaces in Year 4 and whilst our Foundation Stage has 14 spaces, this is due to a low birth year and all local schools are in a similar position. Years 1 and 2 are full and Year 3 has just one space that has a child allocated pending a house move. With the Government intention to fund each primary pupil at £4,000 minimum, each new child makes a valuable financial contribution to St Mary's.

During the 2020/21 financial year, we have, like everyone else, had the challenges of working through the pandemic and various lockdowns. The areas that have been impacted most by this from an income perspective is our catering provision and SMASH (After School Hours club). We made staff very aware of the situation and the After School Hours Club in particular; staff reduced their hours and thus personal income to a minimum so that only the essential number of staff were working to enable children of Critical Workers to attend. Parents of children attending were also supportive and many not only paid their fees but also made a donation on top to support the club.

We were only able to furlough and access the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme during January to March 2021 where a total of £2,880.90 was claimed.

A small amount of financial relief was also received from us providing food parcels to our vulnerable families whilst provisions were scarce and until the free school meal voucher scheme had ironed out some of the initial issues.

The restrictions on children in school had a slight impact on expenditure in that fewer resources were required. In addition, whilst all teaching and support staff were paid their salaries, the need for supply cover and extra hours was significantly reduced. The Government has allocated funds for catch up funding of £22,240 and at present, we have spent just over £7,100 of this predominantly on Teaching Assistant hours to facilitate small group support work.

Our local cluster of schools is currently part of Schools for the Future programme, which is being driven by the Local Authority. This is due to take place between now and be complete by September 2024. St Mary's is currently a Lower School with children aged between 4 and 9 years of age. Moving forward, we are due to become a Primary School which will involve us having an additional 60 children as Year 5's in September 2023 with these children staying as Year 6 in September 2024. From this date, our total pupil capacity will become 420, a rise of 120 from Lower School capacity.

Central Bedfordshire Council are both overseeing and funding this change but to date, we have only had initial fact-finding meetings and specifics of buildings, fixtures and fittings, consumables are still a way off. The Governing Board are not naïve with regard to new builds on site and are aware that initial good intentions of funds and facilities may not materialise and could impact on academy resources moving forward.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Reserves policy

Under our Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, St Mary's is no longer subject to a restriction of the General Annual Grant that can be carried forward.

The reserves policy is divided between restricted and unrestricted reserves. Restricted reserves are held for specific projects and purposes and unrestricted reserves are to deal with emergencies and unplanned for events including the current ongoing reduction in pupil funding. Unrestricted reserves should be sufficient to cover at least one month's running costs of the Academy.

The balance of restricted reserves excluding the fixed asset and pension reserve at 31st August 2021 is £nil and the unrestricted reserve balance (total free reserves) as at the same date £234k. The average monthly running cost of the Academy is £113k. The additional unrestricted reserves are earmarked to cover the uncertainties in government funding alongside ever increasing staff costs. The school building is currently in good repair but a programme of maintenance and redecoration is in progress.

As with other Academies and Local Authorities, our share of the Local Government Pension Scheme is in deficit and this amounted to £1,400k as at 31st August 2021.

Investment policy and powers

The Academy has looked at investment opportunities but feels there are currently insufficient funds to warrant an Investment Policy at this present time. A small amount of interest is currently received on cash in the Bank and it would require a large amount of funds to be invested for a significant period for any benefit to be seen.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact the performance of the Academy, many of which are beyond the control of the Academy Trust. The main risks that the Academy is exposed to are summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impact and seriousness are considered at Governor and Senior Leadership Team meetings:-

- **Operational and reputational:** The continuing success of the Academy depends on maintaining the high standing it has in the community together with the friendly, approachable ethos whilst maintaining education of the highest standard. Governors regularly review the aims and ethos of the Academy and ensure that student achievement is closely monitored.
- **Financial:** A material decrease in income could adversely affect provision. All schools are subject to standstill or reducing budgets whilst the costs of providing education, including staff on-costs in the form of Pension and National Insurance contributions are increasing.
- **Staff retention and recruitment:** There is currently little movement in staff from St Mary's but failure to retain key members of the team or recruit high quality staff with the necessary experience and commitment when vacancies occur would be considered a significant risk. Our Academic success depends on this.
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection:** The Governors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained and has a link Governor to oversee the operation of child protection policies and procedures, including health & safety and behaviour.
- **Governance and Management:** Failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with legislation and regulations, statutory returns etc. Governors have undergone training to review their own effectiveness across all areas and using internal and external agents, these risks are mitigated.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Fundraising

St Mary's CE Academy is very supportive of the community around it and the challenges some people face on a day to day basis. We have an active PTA who raise funds for school projects by holding events where parents and the local community can come along and enjoy many traditional activities such as Winter Wonderland and Family Fun Friday. Events are also held for children such as a sponsored bounce, where there is no pressure to raise funds but all children are treated equal and are included.

The St Mary's School Association hold regular meetings which the Head Teacher attends. They have a Chairperson (currently two parents standing as Co-chairs), a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Treasurer reports at each meeting on the Bank account balances and ensures income and expenditure for each activity is logged appropriately. Funds are spent on activities and equipment for the children of St Mary's CE Academy with the Head Teacher providing information on needs and costings at the meetings. The Finance Coordinator invoices the Association for reimbursement once costs are known.

The St Mary's School Association is a registered Charity and the Treasurer ensures compliance with reporting requirements.

The Academy also supports some national days such as Remembrance Day where Poppies are available to purchase, Children In Need, Comic/Sport Relief, British Heart Foundation Wear Red Day, Macmillan Coffee Morning and other events where families and children can contribute if they wish but this is optional. We have also supported local charities, such as The Need Project, with food donations. Any funds raised are accounted for and forwarded to the charity concerned intact.

The Trustees are mindful of the protection of the public, including vulnerable people and none of the activities undertaken are intrusive or persistent. There is never any undue pressure to donate.

Equal Opportunities and Disabled persons policies (Equalities Policy)

The schools policy on equal opportunities outlines the commitment of the staff and Governors of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold to ensure that equality of opportunity is available to all members of the school community. For our school, this means, not simply treating everybody the same but understanding and tackling the different barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for different groups of students in the school. It also means celebrating and valuing the equal opportunity achievements and strengths of all members of the school community. These include:-

- Students
- Teaching staff
- Support staff
- Parents/carers
- Community governors
- Multi-agency staff linked to the school
- Visitors to the school
- Students on placement

St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold is an Equal Opportunities Employer and is committed to the employment of people with disabilities and guarantees an interview for those who meet minimum selection criteria. St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold provides training and development for all its employees, including people with disabilities, tailored where appropriate, to ensure they have the opportunity to achieve their potential. If a St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold employee becomes disabled while in our employment, St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold will do its best to retain them, including consulting them about their requirements, making reasonable and appropriate adjustments, and providing alternative suitable provisions.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Employee Information Policy

St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold includes two staff trustees and the Head Teacher on its board. This ensures that:

- Employees views are taken into account on decisions affecting their interests; and
- There is a common awareness on the part of all employees of all factors that affect the academy's performance.

St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold also undertakes discussions with employees and their unions when making decisions that affect employee interests to ensure that employees views are reflected in decisions made and their interests are protected.

Plans for future periods

Our priority is to continually improve the teaching and learning of the children where we can show increased progress in line with our Good grading from Ofsted. Funds are being spent to support the work of the teaching staff.

With increased capacity in school, we need to maintain the popularity of St Mary's but manage the intake to ensure the quality of education is maintained and further built upon. Also that financial stability is maintained and affordability of staff and resources is not compromised.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

Neither St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold nor any of its Trustees act as custodian trustee.


Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 07/12/21 and signed on its behalf by:



R Thornley
Co-Chair of Governors

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that St Mary's Church Of England Academy, Stotfold 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 Headteacher, 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 St Mary's Church Of England Academy, Stotfold 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 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Rev W Britt	4	4
A Matthews (Co-Chair of Governors)	2	4
A Clarey	4	4
D Flanagan	4	4
S Bishop (Accounting Officer)	4	4
R Thornley (Co-Chair of Governors)	4	4
S Steptoe	4	4
S Crone (Chair of Resources Committee) (Resigned 4 January 2021)	1	2
E Garside	4	4
J Welch	3	4
L Cavanagh (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)	4	4
C Chessum (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)	4	4
L Seymour (Appointed 1 September 2021)		

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Governance Overview

- Head's Report for Full Governor Meetings continues to follow the four Ofsted Areas of Achievement, Teaching and Learning, Behaviour and Safety, Leadership and Management. Governors appreciate the clarity of reports and the Ofsted Action Plan is regularly updated and discussed at meetings.
- The Clerk has attended and passed an in depth Clerking Course run by the NGA.
- The Heads Report, Governors Agenda and Minutes have a sharper focus on priorities.
- Matters Arising features towards the end of each meeting as a lot of areas are already on the Agenda allowing the meetings to focus on more current important points. Meetings are more productive and informative.
- Governors now ask more questions and the Clerk incorporates these into the body of all Minutes.
- Governors now attend new parents evenings and other events to liaise with and get to know parents.
- The School Council regularly meets and discusses ideas which they put to staff.
- Learning Walks are more focused and priorities listed on the feedback forms. Governors have spoken to both staff and children about what they are particularly looking at and this has been fed back to other Governors. Book scrutinies have been undertaken.
- Governors together with the Head Teacher monitor the website to ensure this meets requirements.
- Performance Management and teaching staff pay progression has been improved with formal procedures in place.
- An accurate Action Plan is updated regularly with evidence against it on what has been implemented.
- The use and impact of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium are now more closely monitored and records are in place to reflect this.

A Governance review and Skills Audit was undertaken in the Summer Term 2021.

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. The Resources Committee meets at least once a term but more frequent meetings can be arranged if necessary.

The main responsibilities of the Resources Committee are detailed in written terms of reference which have been authorised by the governing body. The main responsibilities include:

- The initial reviews and authorisation of the annual budget;
- The regular monitoring of actual expenditure and income against budget;
- Ensuring the annual accounts are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the DFE guidance issued to academies;
- Authorising the award of contracts over £10,000;
- Authorising changes to the academy personnel establishment and ensure the school provides a safe educational environment.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Matthews (Co-Chair of Governors)	4	5
D Flanagan	5	5
S Bishop (Accounting Officer)	5	5
S Steptoe	5	5
S Crone (Chair of Resources Committee) (Resigned 4 January 2021)	1	2
L Cavanagh (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)	4	4
C Chessum (Co-Chair of Resources Committee)	4	4

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Review of value for money

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

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

Improving educational results:

- Teaching staff performance targets have focused on raising attainment and improving the quality of teaching, which has led to improved standards and results.
- Teaching Assistants are tasked with ensuring they are aware of all vulnerable groups and how to support them, alongside their peers.

Focus on individual pupils:

- Across both Key Stages, additional support is still given in small group settings for children of all capabilities covering those with SEN and more able children.
- Pupil Premium children all have individualised education plans and their progress and attainment is tracked.
- Half termly pupil progress meetings are held between staff and Senior Leadership team to monitor individual pupil performance.
- Both our Safeguarding and SEN lead staff are given additional time to attend meetings and undertake their additional workload to ensure children receive any support that is available from the appropriate authorities.

Better income generation and on site activity monitoring:

- Income owed to us is recovered.
- The After School Hours Club and Children's Centre are invoiced regularly to recoup full costs of utility expenditure incurred by the academy on their behalf.
- The After School Hours Club provides term time provision only which is very successful and the Club made a very modest profit during the year. INSET days have limited uptake so are covered in conjunction with Premier Sport.

The purpose of the system of internal control

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

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes 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.

Internal Audit

The Governing Board appointed an external service provider, a parent who is employed by a local Accounting firm to act as Internal Auditor.

The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular the checks requested by the Board to be carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of procurement systems
- testing of bank reconciliations
- testing of income sources through Iris PlusPay to banking and reconciliation
- testing of expenditure system and processes
- checks on fraud, theft and bribery
- checks on monthly reporting

However, partly due to restrictions on accessing the school due to the pandemic lockdowns combined with the Internal Auditor contracting Covid and being hospitalised. The internal audit function has been ineffective with the Internal Auditor not reporting formally to the Board during the financial year or since.

Because of this, the Governing Board are actively looking to appoint an alternative qualified professional to undertake the Internal Audit work for 2021/22.

In conjunction with looking to appoint a new Internal Auditor, the Governing Board have been able to appoint a new Governor from the 1st September 2021, who holds an accountancy qualification. This will address the previous financial skills weakness of the Board and better enable the Board to hold the Internal auditor to account along with giving them clear direction on the scope of the work they are engaged to undertake.

These measures alongside the proposed appointment of a qualified Bursar who will be employed solely for financial responsibilities including Budget, Monthly Management Accounts, Cash flow Forecasts and Fixed Assets should strengthen our reporting requirements and financial control, making for a more robust position moving forward. An Interim Board meeting has already been scheduled to discuss Internal Audit requirements and this is also to become a standing item on all meeting agendas.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Review of effectiveness

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

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

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on .07/12/21 and signed on its behalf by:



A Matthews
Co-Chair of Governors



S Bishop
Accounting Officer

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD


STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's 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 2020.

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



S Bishop
Accounting Officer

07/12/21

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees (who are also the directors of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on .07/12/21 . and signed on its behalf by:



R Thornley
Co-Chair of Governors

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' 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 statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

Use of our report

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

Christopher Nisbet

Christopher Nisbet BA(Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

14/12/2021
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

5 Yeomans Court
Ware Road
Hertford
Hertfordshire
United Kingdom
SG13 7HJ

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 July 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 March 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Conclusion

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

Azets Audit Services

Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services
5 Yeomans Court
Ware Road
Hertford
Hertfordshire
SG13 7HJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 14/12/2021

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	331	-	7,015	7,346	8,261
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,283,337	-	1,283,337	1,192,587
Other trading activities	5	78,876	-	-	78,876	90,373
Investments	6	29	-	-	29	132
Total		<u>79,236</u>	<u>1,283,337</u>	<u>7,015</u>	<u>1,369,588</u>	<u>1,291,353</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	1,471,114	48,211	1,519,325	1,446,680
Total	7	<u>-</u>	<u>1,471,114</u>	<u>48,211</u>	<u>1,519,325</u>	<u>1,446,680</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		79,236	(187,777)	(41,196)	(149,737)	(155,327)
Transfers between funds	17	(59,953)	64,777	(4,824)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(132,000)	-	(132,000)	(232,000)
Net movement in funds		19,283	(255,000)	(46,020)	(281,737)	(387,327)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		214,944	(1,145,000)	369,514	(560,542)	(173,215)
Total funds carried forward		234,227	(1,400,000)	323,494	(842,279)	(560,542)

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2020		funds	General	Fixed asset	2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	1,392	-	6,869	8,261
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,192,587	-	1,192,587
Other trading activities	5	90,373	-	-	90,373
Investments	6	132	-	-	132
Total		91,897	1,192,587	6,869	1,291,353
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	115,068	1,274,627	56,985	1,446,680
Total	7	115,068	1,274,627	56,985	1,446,680
Net expenditure		(23,171)	(82,040)	(50,116)	(155,327)
Transfers between funds	17	(10,151)	-	10,151	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(232,000)	-	(232,000)
Net movement in funds		(33,322)	(314,040)	(39,965)	(387,327)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		248,266	(830,960)	409,479	(173,215)
Total funds carried forward		214,944	(1,145,000)	369,514	(560,542)

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		321,412		368,827
Current assets					
Stocks	13	6,561		4,907	
Debtors	14	29,508		23,325	
Cash at bank and in hand		257,862		239,744	
		<u>293,931</u>		<u>267,976</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(57,622)		(52,345)	
Net current assets			236,309		215,631
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>557,721</u>		<u>584,458</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(1,400,000)		(1,145,000)
Total net liabilities			<u>(842,279)</u>		<u>(560,542)</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			323,494		369,514
- Pension reserve			(1,400,000)		(1,145,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>(1,076,506)</u>		<u>(775,486)</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		234,227		214,944
Total funds			<u>(842,279)</u>		<u>(560,542)</u>

The accounts on pages 30 to 52 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on .. 07/12/21 and are signed on their behalf by:



R Thornley
Co-Chair of Governors

Company Number 07999942

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		13,370		(22,097)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		29		132	
Capital grants from DfE Group		7,015		6,869	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(796)		(17,020)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			6,248		(10,019)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of long term bank loan		(1,500)		(3,000)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(1,500)		(3,000)
Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			18,118		(35,116)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			239,744		274,860
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			257,862		239,744

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

St Mary's Church of England Academy, Stotfold meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

1.3 Income

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

Grants receivable

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Sponsorship income

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the Academy Trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, Trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

The Academy Trust occupies land and buildings at Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold, part of which are owned by the Diocese of St Albans. The Academy Trust occupies the land and buildings under a licence on the same basis as when it was a maintained school. The continuing permission of the Diocesan Trustees is pursuant to and subject to the Trustees' charitable objects and is part of the Church of England's commitment to provide state funded education in partnership with the state. Under the terms of an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Academy Trust the Diocesan Trustees will give the Academy Trust not less than two years' notice to terminate the occupation of the land and buildings. The Governors have concluded that the value of land and buildings occupied by the Academy Trust should not be recognised in the balance sheet as the Diocese of St Albans has the right to consent to works, including capital works. The Governors have therefore concluded that the academy Trust does not have control as defined by the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

Moreover, the Governors have decided not to account for the Academy Trust's occupancy of the land and buildings by means of a notional annual rental charge in the accounts, offset by income from a notional annual donation or gift of equivalent value from the Diocesan Trustees as owners of the freehold interest. The Governors have been unable to identify any objective method for calculating such a notional rent.

The School playing fields are leased from the Local Authority over a period of 125 years and have therefore been included in fixed assets but not depreciated.

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

Land and buildings	2% on buildings only. Land is not depreciated
Computer equipment	25% & 5%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25%

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Leasing commitments

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Stock

Unsold uniform and catering stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.10 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

There are no critical areas of judgement.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Capital grants	-	7,015	7,015	6,869
Other donations	331	-	331	1,392
	<u>331</u>	<u>7,015</u>	<u>7,346</u>	<u>8,261</u>

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,025,987	1,025,987	935,941
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
UFSM	-	57,798	57,798	51,785
Pupil premium	-	42,986	42,986	40,475
Teachers pension grants	-	36,238	36,238	34,655
Others	-	57,990	57,990	33,375
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,220,999</u>	<u>1,220,999</u>	<u>1,096,231</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	61,019	61,019	96,356
Other government grants	-	1,319	1,319	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>62,338</u>	<u>62,338</u>	<u>96,356</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>1,283,337</u>	<u>1,283,337</u>	<u>1,192,587</u>

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department for Education and ESFA, the academy trust's funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals, Pupil Premium, and Teachers Pension Grants is no longer reported under the Other DfE Group grants heading, but as separate lines under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Catering income	18,390	-	18,390	13,869
Trip income	2,832	-	2,832	5,276
Other income	57,654	-	57,654	71,228
	<u>78,876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,876</u>	<u>90,373</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Short term deposits	29	-	29	132
	<u>29</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>132</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	858,784	-	48,342	907,126	874,170
- Allocated support costs	385,607	102,744	123,848	612,199	572,510
	<u>1,244,391</u>	<u>102,744</u>	<u>172,190</u>	<u>1,519,325</u>	<u>1,446,680</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7,900	7,330
- Other services	2,850	2,790
Operating lease rentals	1,983	1,058
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	48,211	56,985
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	19,000	15,000
	<u>79,944</u>	<u>83,163</u>

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	907,126	874,170
Support costs		
Educational operations	612,199	572,510
	<u>1,519,325</u>	<u>1,446,680</u>

Analysis of costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Direct costs		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	863,630	810,252
Staff development	6,699	13,784
Educational supplies and services	36,797	50,134
	<u>907,126</u>	<u>874,170</u>

Support costs		
Support staff costs	385,607	349,563
Depreciation	48,211	56,985
Maintenance of premises and equipment	18,820	9,353
Cleaning	3,534	2,805
Energy costs	16,959	16,298
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	10,378	11,158
Insurance	4,842	4,590
Catering	44,395	33,063
Finance costs	19,000	15,000
Legal costs	17,749	20,555
Other support costs	32,355	42,559
Governance costs	10,349	10,581
	<u>612,199</u>	<u>572,510</u>

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	878,328	839,228
Social security costs	68,012	58,621
Pension costs	295,166	250,281
Staff costs - employees	1,241,506	1,148,130
Agency staff costs	2,355	5,024
Staff restructuring costs	530	7,844
	1,244,391	1,160,998
Staff development and other staff costs	11,545	12,601
Total staff expenditure	1,255,936	1,173,599

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	530	-
Severance payments	-	7,844
	530	7,844

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	12	12
Administration and support	38	38
Management	1	1
	51	51

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,000- 70,000	1	1

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £284,627 (2020: £277,129).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

S Bishop (Headteacher and Governor)

Remuneration £60,000-£65,000 (2020: £60,000-£65,000)

Employer Pension Contributions £15,000-£20,000 (2020: £10,000-£15,000)

D Flanagan (staff governor)

Remuneration £35,000-£40,000 (2020: £35,000-£40,000)

Employer's Pension Contribution £5,000-£10,000 (2020: £5,000-£10,000)

J Welch (staff governor)

Remuneration £40,000-£50,000 (2020: £40,000-£50,000)

Employer's Pension Contribution £5,000-£10,000 (2020: £5,000-£10,000)

During the period no trustee expenses were reimbursed.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	280,013	146,769	199,344	626,126
Additions	-	-	796	796
At 31 August 2021	280,013	146,769	200,140	626,922
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	40,000	88,440	128,859	257,299
Charge for the year	5,000	13,598	29,613	48,211
At 31 August 2021	45,000	102,038	158,472	305,510
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	235,013	44,731	41,668	321,412
At 31 August 2020	240,013	58,329	70,485	368,827

13 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Uniform	6,561	4,907

14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	188	295
VAT recoverable	6,650	2,980
Prepayments and accrued income	22,670	20,050
	29,508	23,325

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Government loans	-	1,500
Trade creditors	7,444	4,664
Accruals and deferred income	50,178	46,181
	57,622	52,345

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Deferred Income

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	30,733	30,733
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	30,733	29,316
Released from previous years	(30,733)	(29,316)
Resources deferred in the year	30,733	30,733
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	30,733	30,733

At the balance sheet date the academy was holding funds received in advance for free school meals.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,025,987	(1,090,764)	64,777	-
UIFSM	-	57,798	(57,798)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	42,986	(42,986)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	36,238	(36,238)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	57,990	(57,990)	-	-
Other government grants	-	62,338	(62,338)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,145,000)	-	(123,000)	(132,000)	(1,400,000)
	<u>(1,145,000)</u>	<u>1,283,337</u>	<u>(1,471,114)</u>	<u>(67,223)</u>	<u>(1,400,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	368,827	7,015	(48,211)	(4,824)	322,807
Private sector capital sponsorship	687	-	-	-	687
	<u>369,514</u>	<u>7,015</u>	<u>(48,211)</u>	<u>(4,824)</u>	<u>323,494</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(775,486)</u>	<u>1,290,352</u>	<u>(1,519,325)</u>	<u>(72,047)</u>	<u>(1,076,506)</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	214,944	79,236	-	(59,953)	234,227
Total funds	<u>(560,542)</u>	<u>1,369,588</u>	<u>(1,519,325)</u>	<u>(132,000)</u>	<u>(842,279)</u>

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Universal Free School Meals: Income received from the ESFA to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2.

Pupil Premium: Income received from the ESFA to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England.

Teachers Pension Grants: Income received from the ESFA to support schools with the cost of the increase in employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

Other DfE/ESFA grants: This includes sports premium, teachers pay grant and Covid-19 support.

Other government grants: This includes local authority grants.

Other restricted funds: This includes fundraisers and charitable donations with specific restrictions.

DfE group capital grants: This includes grants received to be expenditure on capital items

Private sector capital sponsorship: This includes a grant received from a charity.

General funds: This includes fundraising, catering income and club income.

Transfer between funds: this relates to the purchase of fixed assets in the year and the use of unrestricted funds to support the Academy's educational activities.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	935,941	(935,941)	-	-
UIFSM	-	51,785	(51,785)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	40,475	(40,475)	-	-
Teachers pension grants	-	34,655	(34,655)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	33,375	(33,375)	-	-
Other government grants	-	96,356	(96,356)	-	-
Other restricted funds	40	-	(40)	-	-
Pension reserve	(831,000)	-	(82,000)	(232,000)	(1,145,000)
	<u>(830,960)</u>	<u>1,192,587</u>	<u>(1,274,627)</u>	<u>(232,000)</u>	<u>(1,145,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	408,792	6,869	(56,985)	10,151	368,827
Private sector capital sponsorship	687	-	-	-	687
	<u>409,479</u>	<u>6,869</u>	<u>(56,985)</u>	<u>10,151</u>	<u>369,514</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(421,481)</u>	<u>1,199,456</u>	<u>(1,331,612)</u>	<u>(221,849)</u>	<u>(775,486)</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>248,266</u>	<u>91,897</u>	<u>(115,068)</u>	<u>(10,151)</u>	<u>214,944</u>
Total funds	<u>(173,215)</u>	<u>1,291,353</u>	<u>(1,446,680)</u>	<u>(232,000)</u>	<u>(560,542)</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	321,412	321,412
Current assets	234,227	57,622	2,082	293,931
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(57,622)	-	(57,622)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,400,000)	-	(1,400,000)
Total net assets	<u>234,227</u>	<u>(1,400,000)</u>	<u>323,494</u>	<u>(842,279)</u>

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	368,827	368,827
Current assets	214,944	52,345	687	267,976
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(52,345)	-	(52,345)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,145,000)	-	(1,145,000)
Total net assets	214,944	(1,145,000)	369,514	(560,542)

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £98,255 (2020: £99,798).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.6% for employers and 5.5 to 6.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2021 £	2020 £
Employer's contributions	94,000	84,000
Employees' contributions	23,000	21,000
Total contributions	117,000	105,000

Principal actuarial assumptions	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9	3.3
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.6

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.9	22.2
- Females	24.3	24.3
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.9	23.4
- Females	26.0	26.1

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

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2021 Fair value £	2020 Fair value £
Equities	1,249,000	1,048,000
Bonds	333,000	249,000
Property	166,000	146,000
Other assets	39,000	93,000
Total market value of assets	1,787,000	1,536,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £179,000 (2020: £70,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	198,000	151,000
Interest income	(24,000)	(26,000)
Interest cost	43,000	41,000
Total operating charge	217,000	166,000

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations		(Continued)	
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2021	2020
		£	£
At 1 September 2020		2,681,000	2,261,000
Current service cost		198,000	151,000
Interest cost		43,000	41,000
Employee contributions		23,000	21,000
Actuarial loss		287,000	276,000
Benefits paid		(45,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August 2021		3,187,000	2,681,000
Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets		2021	2020
		£	£
At 1 September 2020		1,536,000	1,430,000
Interest income		24,000	26,000
Actuarial gain		155,000	44,000
Employer contributions		94,000	84,000
Employee contributions		23,000	21,000
Benefits paid		(45,000)	(69,000)
At 31 August 2021		1,787,000	1,536,000
20 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities		2021	2020
		£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(149,737)	(155,327)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(7,015)	(6,869)
Investment income receivable		(29)	(132)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable		104,000	67,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost		19,000	15,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		48,211	56,985
(Increase) in stocks		(1,654)	(2,079)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(6,183)	18,473
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		6,777	(15,148)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		13,370	(22,097)

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY, STOTFOLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2021 £
Cash	239,744	18,118	257,862
Loans falling due within one year	(1,500)	1,500	-
	<u>238,244</u>	<u>19,618</u>	<u>257,862</u>

22 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts due within one year	2,644	2,644
Amounts due in two and five years	1,322	3,966
	<u>3,966</u>	<u>6,610</u>

23 Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

24 Members' liability

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