

Excalibur Academies Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 August 2020



**A family of schools
Achieving excellence
Empowering individuality**

**Company Registration Number:
08146633 (England & Wales)**



Excalibur Academies Trust

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Excalibur Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	S Clarke W Dufour SDBE Corporate Member – Richard Curtis D Wilson
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Directors	A Anthistle (resigned 19 November 2020) E Butler J Butler S Clarke *# N Edmondson * (CEO & Accounting Officer) A Gould *# K Kelly L Lee J Longhurst A Parry *# N Swan * C Waldon # T Watson * (Chair)
	* members of the finance and general purposes committee # members of the audit committee

Senior Management Team: Chief Executive Officer Chief Finance Officer Head of Strategic Development Head of Secondary Education Head of Primary Education Executive Principal of St John's, Marlborough and John O'Gaunt Principal of Fairfield High School Principal of The Wren School Principal of Great Bedwyn School Principal of Lambourn Primary School Principal of Burbage Primary School Principal of St Katharine's CofE Primary School Principal of Easton Royal Academy Principal of Oare CofE Primary School Principal of Ogbourne CofE Primary School Principal of Nythe Primary School Principal of May Park Primary School	N Edmondson K Davis C Mangham L Reid A Normington I Tucker N Lewis J Broadhead (resigned 30/4/2020) J Salberg (appointed 01/08/2020) M Perrett R Duke (Resigned 31/12/2019) R Perkins (Appointed 1/9/2020) Z Garbutt N Jones B Barber-Stubbs G Osborn (appointed 1/9/2019) R Smith C El-Yorby V Spence
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Excalibur Academies Trust

Reference and Administrative Details (Continued)

Company Name	Excalibur Academies Trust
Principal and Registered Office	Granham Hill Marlborough SN8 4AX
Company Registration Number	8146633 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	Moore (South) LLP 33 The Clarendon Centre Salisbury Business Park Dairy Meadow Lane Salisbury SP1 2TJ
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 38 Market Place Devizes SN10 1JD
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards Orchard Court Bristol BS1 5WS

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report

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

Excalibur Academies Trust operates 13 primary and secondary academies in clusters in Wiltshire, Bristol, West Berkshire and Reading. It has a pupil capacity of 6545 and had a roll of 5560 in the school census of 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 Excalibur Academies Trust Limited are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Excalibur Academies Trust. In addition, each individual academy trades using its own name.

Details of the directors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 3.

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

All schools within the Trust are members of the Government RPA scheme, which provides unlimited professional indemnity cover.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Directors

The arrangements for appointing new directors are set out in the articles of association. The articles allow for 2 parent directors, 25% up to a maximum of 4 foundation directors, up to 5 community directors, the CEO, the Chair of the Chairs Forum and up to 3 co-opted directors.

Parent directors are elected by elected parent governors who are members of the academy local governing bodies. Community directors are appointed by the members. Foundation directors are appointed in conjunction with Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education and co-opted directors are appointed by the board.

With regard to the appointment of directors, the full board gives consideration to the skills mix of the directors to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute to the development of all the academies.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors

The training and induction provided to new directors depends on their individual experience – often new directors are experienced governors. All new directors are trained in use of the Trust's governance website - this includes key documents, policies, minutes of meetings and other documents needed for directors and governors to discharge their duties. The CEO, CFO with the clerk to the directors undertake induction for new directors. Mentoring from existing directors is also available for new directors. In addition, there is the Annual Directors and Governors Conference which includes training. During 2019/20 the Trust subscribed to NGA Learning Link who provide a broad programme of training including training on safeguarding. The Trust is a member of the National Governance Association.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

All governors and directors regularly receive guidance and information from the NGA and attend NGA Conferences. In October 2020, the Trust subscribed to Educare - a market-leading provider of high-quality safeguarding and duty of care e-learning services.

Organisational Structure

The Board of directors formally meets at least six times per academic year. Exceptional meetings can be called at any time if circumstances dictate. Quorum is one third of the membership, excluding vacancies.

The Annual General Meeting is held every year in December on the same date as the directors meeting.

There are a number of working committees: Local Governing Bodies at each academy; Education Scrutiny; Finance, Premises & ICT; Admissions; Staffing; Audit; plus the LGB Chairs Forum. The committees meet at least three times per year to review, evaluate and monitor the activities covered by their terms of reference. The local governing bodies meet at least six times per year and more often if priorities warrant additional time. The admissions committee meets as required.

Local Governing Bodies have delegated authority to ensure educational progression and compliance with Excalibur policies and procedures. Local Governing Bodies are specifically focused on the:

- standard and quality of education in the academy;
- welfare of the students at the academy;
- relationship between the academy and the local community.

The terms of reference for all committees were reviewed during the year. The scheme of delegation has been revised and the financial scheme of delegation is reviewed and approved each year. Details of delegated powers from the Trust board to committees, the CEO and principals are set out in the scheme of delegation. The Chief Executive Officer is the accounting officer. The financial scheme of delegation sets out the financial delegations and responsibilities of the directors and the academies' management teams. Decisions reserved for the Board are set out in the master funding agreement and articles.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel comprise the directors and executive leadership team listed in the Reference and Administrative details on page 3. No directors are remunerated for their service as a trustee. The Staffing Committee is responsible for approving trust pay and appraisal policies and keeping them under review. The Staffing Committee scrutinises and approves the organisational senior management structure, roles and responsibilities within that structure and the level of pay and remuneration for each role. The Staffing Committee considers and approves all pay recommendations related to performance of staff on the leadership scales. Salaries are determined using nationally recognised pay scales for both teaching and support staff. In addition, benchmarking data from similar schools and trusts is taken into account for determining salaries of senior staff.

Objectives for the CEO are set through an annual appraisal meeting between the CEO, Chair and other members of the Board each year. Objectives are aligned to the strategic plan, with a clear focus on school improvement. Reviews take place during the year and at the annual appraisal meeting. Decisions on whether to increase the salary within the agreed range are based on performance outcomes.

It is the Trust's policy that appointment to and performance of key management personnel is the responsibility of the CEO. In the case of the principal of each academy the CEO is supported by the chair or representative of the local governing body.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
7	6.9

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of Employees
0%	0
1%-50%	7
51%-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£18,165
Total pay bill	£22,640,560
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time,	0.08%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as:	0.114%
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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Excalibur Academies Trust is an approved DfE sponsor. Burbage Primary School, John O'Gaunt School, Lambourn CofE Primary School and May Park Primary School are sponsored academies. As a sponsor Excalibur has responsibility for raising educational standards, improving the quality of leadership and ensuring that the curriculum meets the needs of all pupils.

St John's Foundation Trust, Marlborough

St John's Foundation Trust operates independently of St John's. Its purpose is to manage and provide funds for major developments and educational projects which are not normally provided by public funding. They own and manage land, investments and a charitable fund for St John's. The assets are derived from donations and endowments, some dating back hundreds of years. The Trust Fund exists for the exclusive benefit of St John's, its students and their education in the community of Marlborough. The Trust owns the buildings and the land on which the buildings stand, both of which are leased to the Academy, the Trust paid £12,446 rent to the Foundation Trust in 2019/20. During 2019/20 St John's Foundation Trust gave a total of £50,000 to St John's - £20,000 grant to refit the Sixth Form Library and £30,000 grant towards a Climbing Wall.

Elmfield School for the Deaf, Bristol

Elmfield School is situated within Fairfield High School. Fairfield receives income for use of facilities from Elmfield. Some Elmfield students participate in lessons with students from Fairfield.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Colston's Girls' School (Venturers Trust)

Fairfield High School has a partnership to deliver Post 16 qualifications, with Fairfield staff delivering some lessons. A memorandum of understanding has been agreed between the two schools.

Lambourn Church of England School House Trust, Lambourn

The School House Trust operates independently of Lambourn Primary School. Its purpose is to enhance the education of children in the parish of Lambourn. The Trust makes donations to Lambourn school each year. In 19/20, the school received £8,892. £7,791.80 was towards the cost of operating minibuses, £600 for swimming pool costs and £500 for Year 6 Leavers.

School Associations

The majority of our academies have independent parent & supporter organisations that raise money to support individual academies.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust prioritises the wellbeing of all of its employees. It has a strong focus on open and transparent communication. This was particularly effective during the COVID-19 lockdown, during which staff were sent regular updates and newsletters, access to a variety of online training courses and regular online meetings.

During lockdown clear advice and information was provided to staff with regards to home-working, how workplaces were being made COVID secure, and individual health and safety risk assessments for individuals identified as being at higher risk.

Staff views are captured through conducting staff surveys, evaluation forms following in-house training and gathering feedback from senior leaders. The Trust also hosts an annual training day for all staff, in addition to formal networking this provides opportunities for networking and the sharing of best practice.

The Trust has also maintained good relations with Unions and their representatives across the Trust with regular communication regarding processes and policies that require consultation prior to implementation. The Trust also acknowledges the contributions of volunteers whose efforts and commitment to our schools has a hugely positive impact on the success of our students.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Trust Our Students and Customers

Excalibur Academies Trust believes in putting students first and ensuring that all children irrespective of their background have access to a high level of education to support them in maximising their potential in later life.

Engagement and involvement with our students are at the heart of everything we do. We aim to understand their needs, provide a safe and secure school life within an inclusive culture to enable them to develop the confidence, tools and skills necessary to succeed as global citizens of the next generation. School development plans, curriculum and policies provide a secure framework to engage and provide the services to our students.

We prioritise communication with our parents – all academies have regular newsletters and provide opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress at school.

The Trust also has a range of customers through the lettings of its property to local communities and provide competitive rates for use. Our customers can range from community groups and clubs, private organisations and charities.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Our Suppliers

To enable us to achieve our aims and deliver services, we are supported by a large number of local, regional and national suppliers.

Major services include catering, cleaning, utilities, building maintenance and ICT contracts, and relationships are managed at both Trust and local level. Positive engagement with suppliers enables us to develop and maintain long-term and sustainable relationships and helps ensure that the Trust purchase products and services competitively, responsibly and in line with policies. Regular contract review meetings, data and reporting, proof of best value and adhering to Government procurement processes is vital in maintaining these relationships and providing an optimum level of education for our students.

Others – Government Departments & Local Authorities

The Trust and its senior leaders maintain an open and productive working relationship with regulators such as DfE, ESFA, Ofsted, HMRC and Local Authorities to ensure compliance to regulatory requirements.

Equal Opportunities

Equality and diversity statement

Excalibur Academies Trust recognises the benefits of a diverse workforce and is committed to equal opportunities for all staff, volunteers and applicants. We aspire to an environment where all staff and students are equally valued and respected. We are committed to providing a fair, equitable and mutually supportive learning and working environment for students and staff.

The Trust endeavours to attract, recruit and retain staff of high calibre by ensuring that the best possible candidates are appointed. We support the principle of equal opportunities and oppose discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics. The Trust aims to ensure no applicant receives less favourable treatment because of age, sex, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity.

The Trust has effective policies in place for equal opportunities, dignity at work and code of conduct.

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal objects are:

- to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum, and which shall include:
 - academies other than those designated Church of England, whether with or without a designated religious character; and
 - Church of England academies designated as such which shall be 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, and in having regard to any advice and following any directives issued by the Diocesan Board of Education,
- in relation to each of the academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England; and
- to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the academies are situated the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The vision of Excalibur Academies Trust is to provide an excellent education, empowering individuals to thrive and grow within a caring, aspirational and outward-looking culture.

Our aims are to:

- **Achieve educational excellence** so that every child receives high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities and fulfils their potential regardless of background or prior attainment.
- **Value and develop our people** ensuring every member of the Excalibur family is treated fairly and with respect and is empowered to develop and thrive as an individual and to make a positive difference in the world.
- **Ensure sustainability as we grow** with a relentless focus on improvement and providing the best education to as many children as possible within an organisation committed to environmental sustainability.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The overall strategic objective of the Trust is to provide an excellent education and a safe place to learn to as many children as possible within our hubs situated along the M4 corridor between Bristol and Reading. This includes developing their wellbeing, confidence and life skills to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution in the world.

Public Benefit

The directors have given consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

The Trust clearly states these public benefit credentials in its objects.

It provides education to children and young people that:

- is balanced and broadly based;
- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society;
- prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life;
- promotes, sustains and increases individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise.

The admissions policy of each school within Excalibur Academies Trust is fair and equitable. All academies within the Trust welcome students from all backgrounds. An individual's economic status, gender, ethnicity, race, religion or disability does not form part of our assessment processes. Priority is given to students who live within the designated catchment areas or areas of priority. Details of the admissions criteria are published on the Trust's and individual schools' websites.

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

Key Achievements in 2019/20

All external examinations were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. At GCSE, A Level and BTEC, centre-assessed grades were used to award grades to students. At primary level, teachers have given an assessment of children's achievement based on their expected trajectory of learning had they been at school. Of particular note were the improvements in pupil achievement and progress at Lambourn CofE Primary School, A Level results and the high number of St John's pupils securing their first choice of university course, and outstanding progress and achievement for students, particularly disadvantaged students, at both St John's and Fairfield.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Our steady growth continues - May Park Primary in Bristol joined the Trust as a sponsored academy in September 2019, and Nythe Primary School in Swindon joined in February 2020.

We continued to build on our previous successes, with a core focus on ensuring excellence in all we do.

To meet our aim of achieving educational excellence we have:

- invested in staff and infrastructure to implement our IT strategy more rapidly
- improved the quality of education and pupil achievement through the implementation of Plans for Rapid Improvement (PRIs) in two of our sponsored academies
- ensured that all academies were prepared for the new Ofsted framework
- further developed the curriculum, with a particular focus on effective progression from KS2 to KS3.
- implemented new maths and literacy strategies across our schools
- reviewed SEND provisions and developed a strong strategy to achieve excellence in all of our schools.

To meet our aim of valuing and developing our people we have prioritised:

- further development of our high quality and effective professional development programmes to help recruit, retain and equip staff
- promoting wellbeing for staff and pupils.

To meet our aim of sustainability we have:

- developed and begun implementing our environmental sustainability and climate crisis strategy. This has led to a significant reduction in energy consumption across the academies. Fairfield reduced their carbon tonnes by 36%, St John's by 15% and Wren by 13%.

Schools were closed to most pupils from March to July due to the pandemic. This meant that we were not able to fulfil all of our plans, and many of these are continuing into the next academic year. One positive to come from this situation has been the rapid roll-out of our IT strategy, enabling all schools to provide remote learning on Office 365 for pupils working at home.

Key Performance Indicators

Exam Results

Not reported in 2019/20 due to cancellation of public exams. 2019/20 results were in line with expectations. GCSE and A level examination results were awarded as centre assessed grades and primary results were based on teacher assessment.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Excalibur Teaching School Alliance Initial Teacher Training

The Trust is prioritising teacher training to address recruitment challenges.

	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018
Number of trainees starting programme	10	16	9
Number of trainees completing course			
- Primary	1	7	1
- Secondary	7	7	6
Number of trainees recruited to Excalibur Schools	1	3	2
Number of Trainees specialising in English, Maths or Science	4	4	3
Trainees confirmed as employed as teachers	6	11	9
Number of trainees recruited for next academic year			
- Primary	0	2	7
- Secondary	10	8	8

Key Financial Performance Indicators

Admissions

Excalibur schools continue to be popular and over-subscribed in their communities.

Year of entry	PAN	Sept 2020		Sept 2019		Sept 2018	
		Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted	Applications	Accepted
St John's	263	290	249	379	263	369	263
Fairfield	216	571	216	554	216	538	222
Wren	168	589	168	676	196*	n/a	n/a
John O'Gaunt	120	89	76	104	92	68	68
May Park	90	77	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Great Bedwyn	30	45	28	50	30	51	30
Lambourn	30	25	24	31	28	n/a	n/a
Nythe	30	21	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Burbage	29	19	19	15	15	12	12
St Katharine's	15	17	15	16	15	10	10
Ogbourne	15	12	12	17	15	18	15
Oare	17	6	6	5	5	10	10
Easton Royal	9	2	2	7	7	33	9

*extra 28 pupils accepted on request of Reading Borough Council

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board has a reasonable expectation that the 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. In making this assessment the Board has considered:

- pupil numbers, based on actual and forecast numbers
- medium term planning cycle and budgets
- the reliability of income streams from the ESFA and Local Authorities
- the requirements from the ESFA for the repayment of St John's deficit
- the financial plans at John O'Gaunt and May Park
- growth of the Trust and the impact of new academies joining the Trust
- educational standards in the academies
- financial impact of COVID-19 in 2019/20.

For this reason the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the company

The directors continue to ensure the Trust achieves its charitable purposes. This is clearly demonstrated in the Strategic Report section of this document.

Financial Review

The detailed accounts are contained in Page 33 onwards and include the following statements:

- Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows.

Notes to the Financial Statements are contained from pages 37 to 72.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The highlights for the year ending 31 August 2020 are:

2019/2020	£
Total Income for the year (less conversion balances)	33,601,989
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,538,161
Adjustments for	
Remove fixed assets on conversion	(13,188,163)
Remove Capital Grant Income	(1,103,202)
Add back FRS 102 Pension Costs	1,178,000
Add back FRS 102 Liability on Conversion	1,660,000
Add back depreciation	2,071,522
Remove contributions from revenue to capital	(368,567)
Revenue Surplus	787,751

In addition to Devolved Formula Capital (DfE funds ring fenced for capital projects), the Trust received funds from a number of sources that have been used to improve the buildings and facilities at our schools. In 2019/2020 the Trust continued to utilise the School Condition Allocation capital funds, and the focus for use of these funds is on keeping students 'safe, warm and dry.'

The COVID-19 pandemic meant additional costs were incurred at all academies. This was due to the provision of free school meal vouchers and meals during the early stages of the pandemic, additional cleaning costs, and additional costs to provide resources to students to enable remote education. Lettings income and income from parents for school meals and childcare provision was reduced to nil during the lockdown. 16 staff across 4 academies were furloughed and the Trust received £22,819.54. The Trust received 51 laptops for disadvantaged students from the DfE in June 2020.

Specific individual projects that have had a positive impact on pupils, staff and the wider school community include:

- investment in IT infrastructure and O365 platform to support remote learning
- refurbished annexe at Fairfield providing additional flexible teaching space
- new canopy at St Johns enabling students to sit outside in all weathers, providing much needed space to support social distancing
- new outdoors catering pod to expand catering provision at St Johns
- LED lights at Burbage, Easton Royal and Great Bedwyn
- new boilers at John O'Gaunt
- new nursery facility at Nythe
- replacement roof at May Park
- pool renovation in Lambourn.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Reserves Policy

The Academy Trust aims to carry forward a prudent level of funds to cover the costs of renewal and replacement of assets, for major unforeseen contingencies, to mitigate against falling grant income and to contribute to major developments of school facilities.

At the end of the period under review, the component balances held across the restricted and unrestricted funds were as follows:

Restricted General Grant funds	£2,299,410
Restricted loan balance	£(885,448)
Restricted funds	£234,596
Unrestricted funds	£75,762
Total	£1,724,320
Revenue funds comprise:	
GAG funding	£2,299,410
Teaching School	£30,900
PE Grant	£109,360
Lambourn Sponsor Grant	£19,085
May Park Sponsor Grant	£15,788
Liden Conversion Grant	£23,006
Other restricted	£14,096
Pupil Premium	£22,408
St John's conversion deficit	£(885,448)
Unrestricted	£75,762

The reserves policy within the Trust is for an overall level of revenue reserves of 3.5% of GAG, and in addition it aims for the following level of unrestricted revenue reserves:

- £15,000 for an academy of 0-120 pupils
- £25,000 for an academy of 120-300 pupils
- £50,000 for an academy of 300-500 pupils
- £100,000 for an academy of 500-1000 pupils
- £150,000 for an academy of greater than 1,000 pupils

At the end of 2019/20 the Trust met its overall reserves target. All schools with the exception of John O'Gaunt met the reserves policy.

Funds in Deficit

Prior to conversion to academy status St John's School & Community College had an agreed licensed deficit with Wiltshire Council of £1.4m. At conversion there was an agreed undertaking with the ESFA for this to continue.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The licensed deficit was entirely as a result of the school self-financing the construction of new premises which opened in December 2009. The old school was totally unfit for purpose, on a split site and over 40 classes were in temporary mobiles; but repeated applications to the DfE and Local Authority for capital funding were not successful. The new buildings have provided students and staff with an outstanding teaching and learning environment. The total cost of the project was £26.5m, including the provision of a new access road that cost over £1m. Of the total cost only £2m was granted from Wiltshire Council and Kennet District Council. The remaining funds were raised from DfE approved disposal of land, fundraising, and a loan from Wiltshire Council. The Wiltshire Council loan was re-negotiated and restructured during 2015/16, annual payments are due until 2025.

The Trust has agreed a repayment plan with the ESFA regarding re-payment of the original £863,115 debt. The repayment period is 7 years, the repayments commenced May 2019.

The size and fluctuations of pension deficit is consistent with other academies and due to liabilities exceeding performance of assets and reducing mortality rates. The deficit is outside of the control of the Trust. The Trust is bound by its funding agreement to provide access to the Teacher Pension Scheme and the Local Government Scheme to staff.

2019/20 has seen the Trust maintain balanced budgets through tight fiscal management.

In 2020/21 the Trust will continue to tightly control expenditure. The realterms decline in funding, further expected increases in employer pension contributions for the LGPS, and premium rates for specialists who teach shortage subjects will continue to challenge our capacity to build an adequate surplus to re-pay the deficit without impacting on the quality of education delivered to our students. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic consequences of this leaves a greater uncertainty of government spend for education from 2021/22 and beyond.

Investment Policy

The FP&I Committee review on a regular basis the financial position of the individual academies. As part of this review they assess the short, medium and long-term needs of the academies, balancing the need to reduce the deficit and continuing to invest. Decisions and statements relating to these regular reviews are contained in the minutes of the Finance Committee. The Trust has an approved Investment Policy. Investment is limited to use of a higher interest account provided by the Trust's bankers. Surplus funds may be held in a 32 day notice base rate linked account to maximise potential income from interest. Where cash flow allows reserves of over £100,000 are transferred to a higher interest account. Day to day management of surplus funds is delegated to the CFO & CEO. Current low interest rates are such that the additional income generated is low.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Directors have assessed the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust, relating to finance, teaching and the provision of facilities. Systems are in place (for example supervision of students when they are not in lessons, vetting of all new employees, and financial controls) to mitigate and minimise risk.

The Trust has appropriate insurance cover through the Risk Protection Arrangement to minimise financial risks to the Trust.

The Trust has a formal risk management process in place to assess risk and implement risk management strategies. A detailed risk register at both academy and trust level is maintained and reviewed by senior management and directors on a regular basis. The Audit Committee has specific responsibility for risk management. Directors review the financial health of the Trust monthly; reviewing financial performance against budgets and cash flow forecasts to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet all known and anticipated expenditure. The Audit Committee also receive regular external Health & Safety assessments.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

The principal risks impacting the Trust are:

Educational

The national lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 led to two terms' worth of face to face education to our pupils being lost. The impact of this on the pupils is considerable both in terms of their academic achievement and their wellbeing. Different methods of teaching and learning have needed to be created and delivered rapidly which has led to pressures on resources, upskilling teachers and rewriting curriculum and schemes of work to create a more blended learning approach. There continues to be much uncertainty and the risk of underachievement of students for 2021 is high. Specific plans for utilisation of the COVID-19 Catch Up Funding are already being implemented in October 2020.

Impact on pupil wellbeing

Being away from school during lockdown has led to a range of challenges for our students on their mental wellbeing. The lack of a daily school structure and opportunities to socialise with friends and peers has affected the general mental health of a high number of students.

Availability of staff

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the population the Trust is faced with staff shortages due to managing a higher number of staff absences. Clear plans and guidance documentation have been implemented across the Trust to support schools in managing staffing levels, absence and cover of lessons.

Our ongoing challenge particularly in our secondary schools is finding high quality teachers. Links with Universities, Teacher Training placements and the School Direct Programme all supports the development of teachers from within the Trust.

Financial

All the academies are significantly reliant on government funding through the ESFA and LA; and this is driven by numbers on role. Demand for places within the majority of our academies is strong. The lack of certainty over levels of future funding and the fact that funding allocations are not confirmed in a timely manner mean that it is challenging to plan in the medium term to adjust staffing and curriculum provision.

The Trust is monitoring the reducing populations of school aged children in rural communities which may impact numbers on roll in some of our primary schools.

Employer pension contributions particularly for the LGPS are exceptionally high, in 2019/20 Wiltshire academies are paying 28.7% - this level of contribution will adversely impact the future level of staffing in schools. Employer contributions for the Teachers Pensions Scheme increased significantly in 2018, from 16.48% to 23.68%, the Government has committed to fund the additional costs in the short term but there is no clarity on longer term funding levels. The Board recognise the significant liability of the Pension Scheme, and the directors consider that the Trust will be able to meet the known contribution commitments for the foreseeable future.

Wiltshire Council have indicated that schools may face a severe reduction in funding in 2021/22 due to the Council needing to comply with the amendments to The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 to cover a £10.5M projected deficit. Wiltshire Council are lodging a disapplication request to the Secretary of State indicating that the ESFA will be flexible and allow the Council to repay the deficit over a number of years.

Reputational

The continuing success of the Trust is reliant on the academies continuing to attract students and quality staff. To ensure the academies maintain the highest standards significant emphasis is placed on the monitoring of student success and achievements.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Safeguarding & Child Protection

The directors ensure that the Trust is compliant with all relevant legislation and the highest standards are maintained in safeguarding and health & safety, including online safety. All students, staff, governors and directors receive update training.

Fraud & mismanagement of Funds

The Trust has appointed an internal auditor to review compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook and monitor financial systems and processes. A trust officer, Head of Finance and Compliance adds a further level of scrutiny. Finance staff attend network and training opportunities on a regular basis to keep abreast of best practice and ensure the Trust has staff with the financial knowledge and skills required.

Fundraising

Each school undertakes fundraising locally. Schools raise money for local or national charities - usually the students themselves will choose the charities they support. Fund raising for school projects is often led and managed by the independent Parent, Teacher and Friends Associations local to each school. The level of fundraising activities undertaken in 2019/2020 was significantly curtailed by COVID-19.

Income from fundraising projects and requests run by the schools are used to benefit students directly and support the costs of resources, educational visits, activities, and improvements to educational facilities at individual schools. Publicity for fund raising events is measured and is restricted to students at the school, their family members and the local community. The Trust is mindful of the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and guidance from the Charities Commission to protect the wider public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonable, intrusive or persistent fundraising and undue pressure to donate. Any fundraising complaints would be reported to the Trust Board.

For trips that occur during the school day, parents are requested to make a voluntary donation towards the costs of the trip. Parents are made aware that there is no obligation to contribute and no student will be omitted from the trip if their parents do not contribute, but the trip may not take place if sufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.

The Trust does not work with any third-party commercial participators or professional fundraisers to raise funds. There have been no fundraising complaints during 2019/20.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (SECR)

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020	
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,568,995
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
Gas consumption	514.594
Oil consumption (kerosene)	5.805
Oil consumption (gas oil)	122.762
LPG consumption	18.938
Owned transport – mini buses	16.359
Total scope 1	678.458
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
Purchased electricity	480.630
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	13.466

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	1,172.553
<u>Intensity ratio</u> Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.211

During the year the Trust has committed to a sustainability strategy and set up a working group with representatives from its schools to focus on energy saving and raising awareness. Examples of some of main activities and achievements are:

- students are actively engaged in school-based environmental action groups. Students have been at the forefront of behaviour changes in schools – focusing on small things that make a difference such as switching off lights and increasing recycling
- energy consumption reviews took place in our secondary schools. Three were externally recognised as making a significant improvement to energy usage through the Powerful Allies 2020 Carbon Challenge and Awards. The Wren School reached the final of the DfE Sustainability Award
- LED lighting has continued to be installed in a number of our schools
- travelling has been reduced as staff, volunteers and partners have become more comfortable with use of on-line meetings
- the three largest secondary schools operate a Building Energy Management system and have had independent reviews to ensure that it is working efficiently
- desktop computers are automatically switched off in secondary schools
- new efficient boilers were installed in John O'Gaunt.

Plans for Future Periods

We will continue to build on our previous success, with a core focus on ensuring excellence in all we do. We are working closely with Liden Primary and Nursery school and expect them to join the Trust in Spring 2021.

To meet our aim of achieving educational excellence we will:

- implement a COVID-19 Catch-Up plan in every academy to ensure that all children catch up rapidly and make good progress
- ensure rapid improvement in our sponsored academies and Liden Academy, which is currently judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement
- secure Good Ofsted judgements in two of our sponsored academies due for inspection this academic year
- further develop our literacy strategy
- further develop cross-phase curriculum progression.

To meet our aim of valuing and developing our people we plan to prioritise:

- developing our Talent Management strategy
- establishing and promoting an Equalities strategy to challenge inequalities of any kind and celebrate diversity.

To meet our aim of sustainability we will:

- continue to develop and implement our Environmental Sustainability and Climate Crisis strategy.
- Develop further the effective use and impact of remote learning technologies.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Directors' Report (Continued)

Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

The Trust and its directors do not act as the custodian directors of any other charity. Funds are held on behalf of staff at St John's Marlborough for the Staff Common Room Committee. Staff contribute to the SCR, and funds are used for social events and to purchase gifts to staff.

Auditor

Insofar as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the directors 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 Moore (South) LLP be reappointed as auditor of the academy trust will be put to the members.

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



Toby Watson

Chair

11 December 2020

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of Responsibility

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

The directors have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The Board of directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Excalibur Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board of directors any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The Board of directors has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of directors was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible 6
A Anthistle	6	6
E Butler	5	6
J Butler	6	6
S Clarke	6	6
N Edmondson	6	6
A Gould	6	6
K Kelly	6	6
L Lee	6	6
J Longhurst	6	6
G Mortimer	0	0
A Parry	5	6
N Swan	6	6
C Waldon	4	6
T Watson	6	6

At the beginning of the year the Board considered the Ofsted and RAG rating of the schools in the Trust. There was an understanding that since the Excalibur Academies Trust had been founded in 2012 the regulatory framework had changed fundamentally and crucially there was little incentive for schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted to join a Trust. Always mindful of the capacity needed to maintain the education standards in its high performing schools and raise the standards in those where improvement was required, the Board formed a working group to review and analyse the current situation in the Education Sector. Its brief was to make recommendations to the Board on how and when the Trust should grow. The opportunity was taken to capture in that document the overview of the schools in the Trust, and the processes undertaken as part of the due diligence assessment and the acquisition timetable and process. The Board received this guidance in December 2019.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

The Trust's Annual Governance Conference in October 2019 was well attended. One of the key issues identified was clarification of the role of Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) within the Trust's governance structure. The Governance Working Party looked at current practice and understanding and published a document called the Framework for LGBs supported by a guidance note on the role and responsibilities of local governors. This was considered at the LGB Forum and adopted as best practice. COVID-19 saw a pause in rolling out this guidance.

To operate in a new way during the COVID-19 pandemic the Trust Board and its committees met online ensuring that it continued to support, scrutinise and take the decisions required to enable the schools to function. Strategically the Board decided that government guidance should be followed and because of the pace of change resources should be focused on the immediate needs of the students and staff rather than significant forward planning. The Board scrutinised the risk assessments for each school so that the schools could continue to operate safely for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students and plan for them to reopen to the whole school community safely.

The Board agreed an amendment to the scheme of financial delegation as an interim measure to ensure existing business processes continued and finance was available to schools to meet the additional resources needed. Not only to make the schools COVID-19 safe but to invest in the technology needed to deliver lessons remotely and also to provide technology to the students to enable them to access the learning, and at the most basic level to ensure that students did not go hungry. The Trust Board continues to monitor the financial impact of COVID-19.

Work being undertaken to deliver the Trust's wellbeing strategy was redirected to provide support for staff delivering remote learning during the lockdown and preparing them for schools reopening in September 2020.

Safeguarding, always a priority for the Trust, was brought into sharper focus by COVID-19 and discussions at the Board and the Education Scrutiny Committee about educational standards took into account the added pressures on the vulnerable student and those involved in pastoral care as the Trust continued to deliver school improvement.

The Finance, Premise & ICT (FP&I) committee is a committee of the main board of directors. Its primary purpose is to monitor and review the financial health and resources of the Trust to ensure long term viability.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Clarke	6	6
N Edmondson	6	6
A Gould	6	6
A Parry	5	6
N Swan	6	6
T Watson	6	6

The Audit committee is also a committee of the main Board. Its primary purpose is to assist the directors in ensuring that suitable internal financial controls are in place and adhered to; receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements and recommend to the Board; oversee the risk management process, including considering the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and ensuring compliance of Health & Safety and GDPR.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Clarke	3	3
A Gould	3	3
A Parry	2	3
C Waldon	3	3

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for ensuring that the 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.

COVID-19 impacted the approach to procurement. The Trust wrote to all providers making them aware of PPN02/20 (Procurement Policy Note – supplier relief due to Coronavirus) and worked with them to determine whether this was an appropriate way forward. The trust was mindful to ensure future provision was not at risk and suppliers continued to be paid whilst not providing the full service. This included exam board fees, after school clubs provision, cleaning and catering. Schools are not benefiting from the income from catering in the same way as surpluses have been reduced. All PPN 02/20 and PPN 04/20 arrangements ceased by 31st August 2020.

During lockdown, there were a few instances where proof of best value was not evidenced fully due to scarcity of supplies or reduced capacity and availability of suppliers. This included the purchase of hand sanitisers in St Johns, furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) for the new sixth form facilities at The Wren School, PPE for schools across the Trust and free school meal provision. This was fully documented for auditing purposes and reviewed by the accounting officer and board.

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

- Improving educational outcomes
 - The primary focus remains on student achievement and wellbeing – academic standards are high and continuously improving. Safeguarding and the wellbeing of our pupils is paramount, and an awareness of procedures, continuous training and specialist support is available in addition to schools working closely with other providers and local authorities.
 - All the academies provide opportunities for wider personal development, through a programme of trips, and extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.
- Robust governance and financial performance
 - Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning, including the use of key performance indicators, is embedded within the schools.
 - All academies are operating within agreed budgets.
 - Officers are held to account through committees of the Board.
 - Clear delegated authority levels are in place and all staff have been trained in the need for best value and financial processes.
- Maximising income streams
 - Facilities are let to local organisations and clubs in the evening and at weekends. As well as being a being a much-valued community resource, the academies benefit from the letting income.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

- Tight fiscal controls
 - The tendering policy ensures that quotes are obtained to ensure we obtain value for money with any major contract or purchase.
 - Academies are required to operate within their available cash resources – preventing school-based deficits building.

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 Excalibur Academies Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and monthly financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of directors
- 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.

The Board considered the need for a specific internal audit function and decided in 2019/20:

- to appoint Moore (South) LLP to undertake additional procedural checks. The board are aware of the changes to the revised FRC Ethical Standard for 2020/21 and are undergoing a procurement process to select new internal auditors for 2020/21.

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

- Testing of payroll and controls at The Wren School;
- Testing of controls, transactions and systems at Easton Royal Academy
- Testing the Approach to the School Condition Allocation Spend
- Actions taken during the COVI-19 pandemic, including furlough claims.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Governance Statement (Continued)

During 2019/20, the internal auditors were only able to physically visit a limited number of academies in the Trust due to the COVID-19 lockdown. However, some of this work was carried out remotely to ensure the assurance testing was maintained. It is envisaged that future internal audit work will follow this method.

Reports were provided to the audit committee. No material control issues were identified, and all recommendations have been reviewed and implemented if appropriate.

Assurance of Health & Safety compliance is provided by external H&S Advisors and regular H&S self-evaluations using the Trust framework. GDPR compliance has been reviewed using a programme of internal audit conducted by a member of the central team.

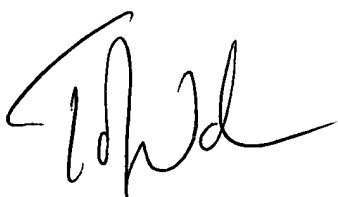
Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor
- the work of the external auditor
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit committee, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of directors on **11 December 2020** and signed on its behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair



Nicky Edmondson
Accounting Officer

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of Excalibur Academies Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education.

As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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



Nicky Edmondson
Accounting Officer
11 December 2020

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors (who also act as trustees for Excalibur Academies Trust) are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued 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 directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

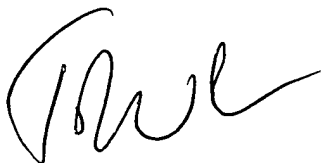
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on **11 December 2020** and signed on its behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Other information

The directors 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. Other information includes the directors' report (incorporating the strategic report and the trustees' report) the governance statement and the statement of regularity, propriety and compliance. 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.

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 directors' report (which includes the strategic report) for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the directors' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with the 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 strategic report or directors' report.

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Excalibur Academies Trust (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors 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 directors 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 directors 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 directors either intend to liquidate the academy trust, 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.

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



**Ann Mathias (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore (South) LLP**

22 December 2020

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on the Regularity to Excalibur Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

For the year ended 31 August 2020

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 August 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Excalibur Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Excalibur Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Excalibur Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 15 February 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on the Regularity to Excalibur Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officers statement on regularity, propriety and compliance.
- analytical procedures on the general activities of the academy trust;
- a review of minutes of committees and board meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel including the accounting officer and governing body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity;
- substantive testing of individual transactions

Conclusion

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

Moore(South) LLP

Reporting Accountant

Moore (South) LLP
33 The Clarendon Centre
Salisbury Business Park
Dairy Meadow Lane
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 2TJ

Dated: *22 December 2020*

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Financial Activities

Including Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 August 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds: General	Fixed asset	Total 2020	Total 2019 As restated
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	14,585	55,443	1,045,282	1,115,310	903,795
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	29	-	(1,443,656)	13,246,081	11,802,425	(454,631)
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust	29	-	-	-	-	33,755,969
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	30,685,716	-	30,685,716	22,382,734
- Funding for teaching school	28	-	34,054	-	34,054	16,290
Other trading activities	5	1,723,832	37,529	-	1,761,361	1,991,379
Investments	6	5,548	-	-	5,548	7,334
Total		1,743,965	29,369,086	14,291,363	45,404,414	58,602,870
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Grants	9	-	63,422	63,422	126,844	112,286
- Educational operations	10	1,724,288	30,913,300	2,008,100	34,645,688	26,444,349
- Teaching school	28	-	93,721	-	93,721	374,137
Total	7	1,724,288	31,070,443	2,071,522	34,866,253	26,930,772
Net income/(expenditure)		19,677	(1,701,357)	12,219,841	10,538,161	31,672,098
Transfers between funds	19	-	(368,567)	368,567	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	(906,000)	-	(906,000)	(2,094,000)
Net movement in funds		19,677	(2,975,924)	12,588,408	9,632,161	29,578,098
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		56,085	(6,692,518)	86,676,238	80,039,805	50,461,707
Total funds carried forward		75,762	(9,668,442)	99,264,646	89,671,966	80,039,805

Excalibur Academies Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (Continued)

Including Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Comparative year information		Unrestricted funds:			Total
Year ended 31 August 2019		funds	General	Fixed asset	2019 As restated
Notes	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments					
Donations and capital grants	3	29,289	104,338	770,168	903,795
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	29	3,369	(458,000)	-	(454,631)
Donations - transfer of existing academy into the trust	29	115,759	(199,892)	33,840,102	33,755,969
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	22,382,734	-	22,382,734
- Funding for teaching school	28	-	16,290	-	16,290
Other trading activities	5	1,917,730	73,649	-	1,991,379
Investments	6	7,334	-	-	7,334
Total		<u>2,073,481</u>	<u>21,919,119</u>	<u>34,610,270</u>	<u>58,602,870</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Grants	9	-	112,286	-	112,286
- Educational operations	10	2,133,894	22,794,225	1,516,230	26,444,349
- Teaching school	28	-	374,137	-	374,137
Total	7	<u>2,133,894</u>	<u>23,280,648</u>	<u>1,516,230</u>	<u>26,930,772</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(60,413)	(1,361,529)	33,094,040	31,672,098
Transfers between funds	19	-	104,567	(104,567)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	(2,094,000)	-	(2,094,000)
Net movement in funds		(60,413)	(3,350,962)	32,989,47	29,578,098
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>116,498</u>	<u>(3,341,556)</u>	<u>53,686,765</u>	<u>50,461,707</u>
Total funds carried forward		56,085	(6,692,518)	86,676,23	80,039,805

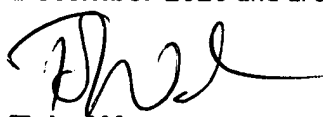
Excalibur Academies Trust

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 August 2020

		2020		2019 as restated	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		98,407,907		85,887,091
Current assets					
Debtors	15	1,029,560		1,345,519	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,608,792		4,062,408	
		<u>6,638,352</u>		<u>5,407,927</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(3,274,236)		(2,708,615)	
Net current assets			<u>3,364,116</u>		<u>2,699,312</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			101,772,023		88,586,403
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(783,057)		(973,598)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability			<u>100,988,966</u>		<u>87,612,805</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	21		(11,317,000)		(7,573,000)
Total net assets			<u>89,671,966</u>		<u>80,039,805</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	19				
- Fixed asset funds			99,264,646		86,676,238
- Restricted income funds			1,648,558		880,482
- Pension reserve			(11,317,000)		(7,573,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>89,596,204</u>		<u>79,983,720</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19		<u>75,762</u>		<u>56,085</u>
Total funds			<u>89,671,966</u>		<u>80,039,805</u>

The accounts on pages 33 to 72 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 11 December 2020 and are signed on their behalf by:



Toby Watson
Chair

Company Number 08146633

Excalibur Academies Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 August 2020

		2020		2019 as restated	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	22		1,854,851		236,465
Cash funds transferred on conversion			274,263		258,850
			<u>2,129,114</u>		<u>495,315</u>
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,548		7,334	
Capital grants from DfE Group		913,130		750,410	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		132,152		19,758	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(1,382,575)</u>		<u>(608,040)</u>	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(331,745)		169,462
Cash flows from financing activities					
New salix loan		-		96,163	
Repayment of government loans (see note 17)		(204,155)		(79,685)	
Repayment of other loans (see note 17)		(37,616)		(29,308)	
Finance costs		<u>(9,214)</u>		<u>(10,295)</u>	
Net cash used in financing activities			(250,985)		(23,125)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			1,546,384		641,652
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			<u>4,062,408</u>		<u>3,420,756</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			<u>5,608,792</u>		<u>4,062,408</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting policies

Excalibur Academies Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 4 and the nature of its operations are set out in the Directors' 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.

I.1 Basis of preparation

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

I.2 Going concern

The directors 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 directors 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.

The Trust board has considered a number of factors in reaching its conclusion and these are set out in the Directors' Report in the going concern statement.

For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

I.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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting Policies (Continued)

Grants

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

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

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

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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting Policies (Continued)

Transfer of assets on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred on conversion is recognised within donations and capital grant income. See the basis of valuation of land and buildings in the critical accounting estimates and assumptions in note 2.

Transfer of assets from existing academies

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

I.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 a percentage of GAG income, 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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting policies (Continued)

I.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, 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	50 years
Assets under construction	Not depreciated until asset has been brought into use
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	9 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

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

I.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 of services it must provide.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting policies (Continued)

I.7 Leased assets

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

I.8 Financial instruments

The only financial instruments held by the school are debtors and creditors. These are categorised as "basic" in accordance with section 11 of FRS 102 and are initially recorded at transaction price. These are subsequently measured at their transaction price less any impairment.

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.

I.9 Taxation

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

I.10 Pensions benefits

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

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

I Accounting policies (Continued)

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.

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.

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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 and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and 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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

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 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

On conversion to an academy trust, the assets and liabilities of the School are measured at fair value. This includes any buildings. The valuation of the buildings involves a significant degree of estimation, refer to note 14 for further detail of this estimation. The trust policy has been to adopt the ESFA desktop valuations for the land and buildings introduced. In absence of an ESFA valuation then the directors make an educated estimate based on the price per square metre of educational property in the local area. Once the ESFA valuation has been received that valuation is adopted and amended as a prior year adjustment.

Critical areas of judgement

On conversion to an academy trust and transfer of an existing academy trust, the asset and liabilities of the Trust are measured at fair value. This includes any land and buildings. The valuation of the land and buildings involves a significant degree of estimation refer to note 14 for further detail of this estimation.

The value of the donation of occupying Diocese property rent free has also been considered. A notional rental value has not been included as it cannot be reliably measured.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Capital grants	-	994,730	994,730	750,410
Other donations	14,585	105,995	120,580	153,385
	<u>14,585</u>	<u>1,100,725</u>	<u>1,115,310</u>	<u>903,795</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	26,235,973	26,235,973	20,042,745
Other DfE group grants	-	3,127,416	3,127,416	1,531,547
	<u>-</u>	<u>29,363,389</u>	<u>29,363,389</u>	<u>21,574,292</u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,283,858	1,283,858	778,877
Other government grants	-	15,650	15,650	29,565
Exceptional government				
Coronavirus job retention scheme grant	-	22,819	22,819	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,322,327</u>	<u>1,322,327</u>	<u>808,442</u>
Other funding				
Teaching School	-	34,054	34,054	16,290
	<u>-</u>	<u>34,054</u>	<u>34,054</u>	<u>16,290</u>
Total funding	<u>-</u>	<u>30,719,770</u>	<u>30,719,770</u>	<u>22,399,024</u>

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

- The academy furloughed some of its catering and after school club staff under the government's CJRS. The funding received of £23k relates to staff costs in respect of 16 staff which are included within note 11 below as appropriate.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Hire of facilities	211,082	-	211,082	212,397
Catering income	601,411	-	601,411	692,211
Parental contributions	391,516	-	391,516	641,752
Teaching School	-	37,529	37,529	73,649
Other income	519,823	-	519,823	371,370
	<u>1,723,832</u>	<u>37,529</u>	<u>1,761,361</u>	<u>1,991,379</u>

Parental contributions are for trips, activities, exams re-marks and educational resources.

Other income includes income from other schools, income from trading activities, insurance claim income and nursery fee income.

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Other investment income	<u>5,548</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,548</u>	<u>7,334</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £ as restated
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	17,866,161	2,071,522	2,517,492	22,455,175	16,940,882
- Allocated support costs	8,184,757	2,129,623	1,876,133	12,190,513	9,503,467
Grants - support costs	-	126,844	-	126,844	112,286
Teaching school					
- Direct costs	42,046	-	11,222	53,268	326,139
- Allocated support costs	39,669	-	784	40,453	47,998
	<u>26,132,633</u>	<u>4,327,989</u>	<u>4,405,631</u>	<u>34,866,253</u>	<u>26,930,772</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

7 Expenditure

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2020	2019 as restated
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	18,900	16,500
- Other services	8,250	6,930
- Internal scrutiny	3,050	4,860
Operating lease rentals	123,720	132,336
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,071,522	1,507,081
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	9,149
Bank and loan interest	9,214	10,295
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	164,000	128,000

8 Central services

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

- School and Educational Support
- Governance Support
- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Premises Management

The Trust charges for these services as follows:

- All schools were charged 4.5% of GAG income

In 2019 the Trust charged 4.5% of GAG to all schools, excluding John O'Gaunt who was charged a flat rate of £55,000, and the Marlborough hub primary schools were charged an additional 3.25% of GAG income less an adjustment for maintenance contract with Ergo.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	18,675	25,978
Oare CofE Primary School	13,913	17,069
Fairfield High School	256,157	224,164
Burbage Primary School	22,277	36,741
Easton Royal Academy	15,190	19,680
St John's Marlborough	350,000	338,363
John O'Gaunt School	92,242	55,000
St Katharine's CofE Primary School	18,731	27,231
Great Bedwyn CofE School	33,015	33,427
Lambourn CofE Primary School	33,284	20,806
The Wren School	192,496	78,155
May Park Primary School	121,716	-
Nythe Primary School	18,850	-
	<u>1,186,546</u>	<u>876,614</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

9 Analysis of grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Improvements to diocesan property occupied by the academy trust	-	126,844	126,844	112,286

Maintenance of premises and equipment includes the following costs relating to improvements to Diocesan property;

- Oare CofE Primary School - £6,066 LED lights (2019 playground markings £6,562)
- Ogbourne CofE Primary School - £7,755 LED lights (2019: playground equipment and canopy £8,952)
- St Katherine's CofE Primary School - £nil (2019 new boiler and new kitchen £10,843)
- Great Bedwyn CofE School - £41,188 LED lights, security fencing, reception class play area extension, boiler spend and gate and fencing works (2019 running track playground markings, radiators and fire doors £77,756)
- Lambourn CofE Primary School - £8,412 LED lights and roof repairs (2019 swimming pool covers and playgroup fencing £8,172)

10 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 as restated £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	1,724,288	20,730,887	22,455,175	16,940,882
Teaching school	-	53,268	53,268	326,139
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	12,317,357	12,317,357	9,615,753
Teaching school	-	40,453	40,453	47,998
	<u>1,724,288</u>	<u>33,141,965</u>	<u>34,866,253</u>	<u>26,930,772</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

10 Charitable activities

Analysis of costs	Teaching school	Educational operations	Total 2020	Total 2019 as restated
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Teaching and educational support staff costs	42,046	17,871,325	17,913,371	13,114,972
Staff development	2,615	87,942	90,557	87,167
Depreciation	-	2,071,522	2,071,522	1,516,230
Technology costs	100	286,426	286,526	269,906
Educational supplies and services	278	603,664	603,942	492,686
Examination fees	-	285,539	285,539	265,361
Educational consultancy	7,727	571,590	579,317	345,006
Other direct costs	502	677,167	677,669	1,175,693
	<u>53,268</u>	<u>22,455,175</u>	<u>22,508,443</u>	<u>17,267,021</u>
Support costs				
Support staff costs	39,669	8,184,757	8,224,426	6,069,161
Technology costs	45	276,644	276,689	221,970
Recruitment and support	-	58,291	58,291	44,325
Maintenance of premises and equipment	-	1,095,956	1,095,956	710,181
Cleaning	-	370,486	370,486	299,615
Energy costs	-	424,129	424,129	415,068
Rent, rates and other occupancy costs	-	266,230	266,230	216,262
Insurance	-	99,666	99,666	87,035
Security and transport	84	179,257	179,341	187,375
Catering	655	978,138	978,793	898,909
Finance costs	-	173,214	173,214	138,295
Legal costs - conversion	-	6,615	6,615	-
Legal costs - other	-	83,534	83,534	50,390
Other support costs	-	87,444	87,444	291,954
Governance costs	-	32,996	32,996	33,211
	<u>40,453</u>	<u>12,317,357</u>	<u>12,357,810</u>	<u>9,663,751</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

II Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	18,532,970	13,956,100
Social security costs	1,820,661	1,382,657
Pension costs	5,321,495	3,149,369
Staff costs - employees	25,675,126	18,488,126
Agency staff costs	404,874	663,172
Staff restructuring costs	52,633	28,579
	26,132,633	19,179,877
Staff development and other staff costs	95,721	91,423
Total staff expenditure	26,228,354	19,271,300

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	52,633	28,579
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Staff numbers

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Teachers	365	303
Administration and support	457	339
Management	17	12
	839	654

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Teachers	310	253
Administration and support	256	180
Management	15	12
	581	445

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

11 Staff

Higher paid staff

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	12	10
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	2	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the directors and the senior management team as listed on page 3. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,416,898 (2019: £1,087,698).

12 Directors' remuneration and expenses

The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of CEO, and not in respect of their services as a director. Other directors did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as directors. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £1,951 (2019: £1,767) were reimbursed to 1 directors (2019: 1 director).

The value of directors' remuneration was as follows:

Nicola Edmondson (CEO)

Remuneration £115,000 - £120,000 (2019: £110,000 - £115,000)

Employer's pension contributions £25,000 - £30,000 (2019: £15,000 - £20,000)

Other related party transactions involving the directors are set out within the related parties note.

13 Insurance for directors and officers

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. 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 covers trustees and officers up to £5,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 September 2019 as restated	88,968,174	-	1,001,411	1,898,580	46,641	91,914,806
Transfer on conversion	13,188,163	-	-	-	-	13,188,163
Additions	272,973	320,931	325,476	484,795	-	1,404,175
Disposals	-	-	-	(8,000)	-	(8,000)
At 31 August 2020	102,429,310	320,931	1,326,887	2,375,375	46,641	106,499,144
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2019 as restated	4,887,801	-	313,497	788,346	38,071	6,027,715
On disposals	-	-	-	(8,000)	-	(8,000)
Charge for the year	1,523,215	-	255,302	285,095	7,910	2,071,522
At 31 August 2020	6,411,016	-	568,799	1,065,441	45,981	8,091,237
Net book value						
At 31 August 2020	96,018,294	320,931	758,088	1,309,934	660	98,407,907
At 31 August 2019	84,080,373	-	687,914	1,110,234	8,570	85,887,091

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

14 Tangible Fixed Assets

The St John's, Marlborough and Easton Royal Primary School land and buildings were valued on the depreciated replacement cost method in an exercise undertaken by the ESFA as at the 31 March 2013. The land at St John's, Marlborough was valued at £8,873,000 and the buildings at £20,347,000. At St John's, Marlborough the land and buildings are owned by St John's Foundation Trust Marlborough and leased to the multi academy trust on a peppercorn basis. In 2016 St John's, Marlborough completed the build of a sixth form which has been included at cost of construction of £1,194,855 and the corresponding project management fees of £28,350.

The Easton Royal Primary School land was valued at £483,000 and the building was valued £789,000 by the ESFA.

An ESFA valuation was obtained as at 31 March 2014 for Burbage Primary School, the land was valued at £303,000 and the buildings were valued at £966,000. Burbage Primary School lease was effective from 1 June 2018, the new lease agreement includes the land from the nursery which was transferred from the council. The original lease was surrendered on 1 June 2018. The new lease was agreed with Wiltshire Council for a term of 125 years.

The Fairfield High School land and building has been adjusted via a prior year adjustment this year. An ESFA valuation has been obtained as at 1 September 2019 and valued the buildings at £13,270,000 and land at £3,820,000. The original cost recognised on conversion for the buildings and land were £35,070,619 and £986,000 respectively and was based on insurance values. There has been an asset in construction included during this year related to building works ongoing as at the year end in relation to construction and refurbishment of classrooms valued at £320,931 at the year end.

The John O'Gaunt School land and building has been adjusted via a prior year adjustment this year. An ESFA valuation has been obtained as at 1 September 2019 and valued the buildings at £2,715,000 and land at £1,520,000. The original cost recognised on conversion for the buildings and land were £4,632,181 and £2,198,037 respectively and was based on directors' estimation.

In 2016/17 Excalibur Academies Trust granted a temporary lease to Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd for a section of land at Fairfield High School. Agreed rental terms were £7,000 per annum running to December 2018. This lease was to enable Network Rail to access the railway line to undertake improvement works and was approved by the ESFA before the lease commenced.

Great Bedwyn CofE School playing field land was gifted from Wiltshire County Council on 1 April 2018 under a 125 year lease. The value brought into the financial statements was based on the price of education property per student in the local area in the absence of ESFA valuation. The land was valued at £301,528.

Oare CofE Primary School, Ogbourne CofE Primary School, St Katharine's CofE Primary School, Lambourn CofE Primary School and Great Bedwyn CofE School land and buildings are not included in the accounts as they are Church owned operated by the trust on a Church Supplementary Agreement. A notional rent value has not been included.

Land and buildings at The Wren School were transferred into the Trust on 1 February 2019 at net book value of £26,105,756 buildings and £6,600,000 land. The land had previously been valued at the ESFA valuation of the purchase price and the buildings had been valued at construction cost.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Both Nythe Primary School and May Park Primary School were introduced at directors' valuation based on the price of education property per square metre in the local area in the absence of ESFA valuation. Nythe Primary School was introduced on 1 February 2020 with a building valuation of £1,355,259 and land value of £300,570. May Park Primary School was introduced on 1 September 2019 with a building valuation of £7,464,903 and land valuation of £4,607,431. During the year Nythe made refurbishments to its nursery facilities which amounted to £47,132. May Park Primary School made improvements to their roof during the year which amounted to £216,374.

15 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	21,707	43,806
VAT recoverable	245,803	161,237
Other debtors	386,794	706,292
Prepayments and accrued income	375,256	434,184
	<u>1,029,560</u>	<u>1,345,519</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Government loans	164,261	204,157
Other loans	26,281	37,615
Trade creditors	1,087,694	699,019
Other creditors	918,623	700,972
Accruals and deferred income	1,077,377	1,066,852
	<u>3,274,236</u>	<u>2,708,615</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Government loans	710,935	875,194
Other loans	72,122	98,404
	<u>783,057</u>	<u>973,598</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Analysis of loans		
Not wholly repayable within five years by instalments	49,114	234,596
Wholly repayable within five years	924,485	980,774
	<u>973,599</u>	<u>1,215,370</u>
Less: included in current liabilities	(190,542)	(241,772)
	<u>783,057</u>	<u>973,598</u>
 Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	190,542	241,772
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	181,528	190,542
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	552,414	548,460
Due in more than five years	49,114	234,596
	<u>973,598</u>	<u>1,215,370</u>

Included within the government loans is a balance of £657,611 from the ESFA on the following terms: £164,403 was repaid during 2019/20, followed by 5 annual instalments of £123,302 from 2020/21 to 2024/25, with a final payment of £41,101 to be made in 2025/26.

Also within the government loans is a balance of £217,583 from Wiltshire Council repayments of £47,551 are to be made annually until 2024. Interest is charged of 3.03%.

The other loan balance includes £10,254 from St Johns Foundation Trust. A balancing payment of £10,358 is due in 2020/21, interest is charged on the loan of 1%.

All the above loans relate to agreements prior to the conversion of St John's School & Community College on 1 September 2012.

Finally, within the other loans balance is £88,149 from Salix Finance Ltd to be repaid in half yearly instalments of £8,014 from March 2020 to September 2025.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

18 Deferred income

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	355,483	306,163
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	306,163	250,138
Released from previous years	(306,163)	(250,138)
Resources deferred in the year	355,483	306,163
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	355,483	306,163
Deferred income relates to the following:	£	
Trips relating to 2020/21	119,157	
Free School Meals Grant (UIFSM)	127,863	
Rates Grant rebate	53,386	
Fairfield Elmfield Occupation	23,325	
Teachers' Pension Grant reclaim	20,933	
Others	10,819	
Total	355,483	

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 as restated £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,562,714	26,235,973	(24,888,755)	(610,522)	2,299,410
Other DfE / ESFA grants	183,126	3,127,416	(3,120,895)	-	189,647
Other government grants	169,708	1,322,327	(1,486,991)	-	5,044
Teaching school	53,038	71,583	(93,721)	-	30,900
Other restricted funds - loans	(1,119,207)	-	(8,196)	241,955	(885,448)
Other restricted funds	31,103	271,787	(293,885)	-	9,005
Pension reserve	(7,573,000)	(1,660,000)	(1,178,000)	(906,000)	(11,317,000)
	<u>(6,692,518)</u>	<u>29,369,086</u>	<u>(31,070,443)</u>	<u>(1,274,567)</u>	<u>(9,668,442)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	-	13,246,081	-	(57,918)	13,188,163
DfE group capital grants	86,583,468	994,730	(2,071,522)	458,580	85,965,256
Private sector capital sponsorship	92,770	50,552	-	(32,095)	111,227
	<u>86,676,238</u>	<u>14,291,363</u>	<u>(2,071,522)</u>	<u>368,567</u>	<u>99,264,646</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>79,983,720</u>	<u>43,660,449</u>	<u>(33,141,965)</u>	<u>(906,000)</u>	<u>89,596,204</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>56,085</u>	<u>1,743,965</u>	<u>(1,724,288)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,762</u>
Total funds	<u>80,039,805</u>	<u>45,404,414</u>	<u>(34,866,253)</u>	<u>(906,000)</u>	<u>89,671,966</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

19 Funds

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

Restricted General Funds are those which are supplied for a specific duty and the funds spent only in accordance with the agreement or restriction placed upon each. Prior to conversion to academy status St John's School & Community College had an agreed licensed deficit with Wiltshire Council of £1.4 million. At conversion there was an agreed undertaking with the ESFA for this to continue. This has been reduced year on year with payments made to the Wiltshire Council and St John's Foundation Trust.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds are those which have been capitalised as a result of a donation from the original school on conversion to an academy or assets purchased from one of the other funds since gaining academy status and transferred.

Unrestricted Funds are all other sources of income generated by the academy through trading or fundraising and to which no restrictions apply regarding the way they are spent.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

19 Funds

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 as restated £	Income £	Expenditure as restated £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 as restated £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,130,311	20,042,745	(19,596,257)	(14,085)	1,562,714
Other DfE / ESFA grants	122,876	1,531,547	(1,471,297)	-	183,126
Other government grants	315,542	793,550	(939,384)	-	169,708
Teaching school	337,236	89,939	(374,137)	-	53,038
Other restricted funds - loans	(1,228,201)	-	(9,658)	118,652	(1,119,207)
Other restricted Pension reserve	41,680 (4,061,000)	104,338 (643,000)	(114,915) (775,000)	- (2,094,000)	31,103 (7,573,000)
	<u>(3,341,556)</u>	<u>21,919,119</u>	<u>(23,280,648)</u>	<u>(1,989,433)</u>	<u>(6,692,518)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	53,613,753	34,590,512	(1,516,230)	(104,567)	86,583,468
Private sector capital sponsorship	73,012	19,758	-	-	92,770
	<u>53,686,765</u>	<u>34,610,270</u>	<u>(1,516,230)</u>	<u>(104,567)</u>	<u>86,676,238</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>50,345,209</u>	<u>56,529,389</u>	<u>(24,796,878)</u>	<u>(2,094,000)</u>	<u>79,983,720</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>116,498</u>	<u>2,073,481</u>	<u>(2,133,894)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,085</u>
Total funds	<u>50,461,707</u>	<u>58,602,870</u>	<u>(26,930,772)</u>	<u>(2,094,000)</u>	<u>80,039,805</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

19 Funds

Total funds analysis by academy

	2020	2019
	£	as restated £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:		
Excalibur Academies Trust	233,897	174,637
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	101,302	73,656
Oare CofE Primary School	39,391	37,684
Fairfield High School	826,131	556,808
Burbage Primary School	54,941	40,210
Easton Royal Academy	33,632	38,864
St John's Marlborough	(350,617)	(417,358)
John O'Gaunt School	(23,482)	172,878
St Katharine's CofE Primary School	37,194	38,938
Great Bedwyn CofE School	52,221	79,804
Lambourn CofE Primary School	141,435	98,524
The Wren School	186,541	41,922
May Park Primary School	239,595	-
Nythe Primary School	152,139	-
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	1,724,320	936,567
Restricted fixed asset fund	99,264,646	86,676,238
Pension reserve	(11,317,000)	(7,573,000)
Total funds	89,671,966	80,039,805

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

19 Funds

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other staff £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Excalibur Academies Trust	550,629	396,228	54,033	358,269	1,359,159	1,289,475
Ogbourne CofE Primary School	286,101	63,593	36,207	72,921	458,822	431,743
Oare CofE Primary School	210,269	97,668	26,010	58,278	392,225	389,521
Fairfield High	3,268,913	1,550,450	542,950	714,189	6,076,502	5,782,313
Burbage Primary	305,333	181,514	51,788	77,668	616,303	697,919
Easton Royal	206,272	107,155	34,898	48,747	397,072	370,163
St John's	5,418,546	1,768,233	886,828	1,027,367	9,100,974	8,850,483
John O'Gaunt	1,392,059	484,801	241,211	324,815	2,442,886	2,378,483
St Katharine's CofE Primary	273,946	110,519	37,182	68,675	490,322	496,506
Great Bedwyn CofE School	489,624	250,037	63,082	154,370	957,113	928,487
Lambourn CofE Primary School	456,247	391,036	51,088	119,265	1,017,636	957,175
The Wren	3,033,674	719,028	341,600	568,200	4,662,502	2,067,278
May Park	1,757,113	946,393	111,634	294,268	3,109,408	-
Nythe Primary	264,646	143,772	45,039	82,351	535,808	-
	<u>17,913,372</u>	<u>7,210,427</u>	<u>2,523,550</u>	<u>3,969,383</u>	<u>31,616,732</u>	<u>24,639,546</u>

20 Analysis of net assets between

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	98,407,907	-	98,407,907
Current assets	75,762	5,617,702	944,888	-	6,638,352
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(3,258,209)	(16,027)	-	(3,274,236)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(710,935)	(72,122)	-	(783,057)
Defined benefit pension	-	(11,317,000)	-	-	(11,317,000)
Total net assets	<u>75,762</u>	<u>(9,668,442)</u>	<u>99,264,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,671,966</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds:		Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
		General £	Fixed asset £		
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are					
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	85,887,091	-	85,887,091
Current assets	56,085	4,466,532	885,310	-	5,407,927
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(2,700,601)	(8,014)	-	(2,708,615)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	(885,449)	(88,149)	-	(973,598)
Defined benefit pension	-	(7,573,000)	-	-	(7,573,000)
Total net assets	56,085	(6,692,518)	86,676,238	-	80,039,805

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

21 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. 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.

Contributions amounting to £485,834 (2019: £334,031) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 and are included within creditors.

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.

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%.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

21 Pension and similar obligations

The TPS valuation for 2016 determined an employer rate of 23.68%, which was payable from September 2019. The next valuation of the TPS will be at March 2020 and will be based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2023.

The pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £3,024,315 (2019: £1,601,662)

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 for employers are disclosed below and for employees are between 5.5 - 12.5%. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £589,000 (2019: £511,000) for the Wiltshire Scheme, £406,000 (2019: £217,000) for the Avon Scheme and £228,000 (2019: £182,000) for the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund.

The Academy has agreed to pay the default contributions rates using contribution rate relief, these future rates are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Employer Contribution Rate
Wiltshire Pension Fund	
2020/21	27.5%
Avon Pension Fund	
2021/21	18% (plus £107,000 deficit recovery contribution)
Royal County of Berkshire Fund	
2020/21	19.6%

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

21 Pension and similar obligations

As described in note 29 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Total contributions made	2020 £	2019 £
Employer's contributions	1,229,000	883,000
Employees' contributions	294,000	215,000
Total contributions	<u>1,523,000</u>	<u>1,098,000</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.6 - 3.8	2.6 - 3.7
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.2 - 2.4	2.1 - 2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>1.7 - 1.8</u>	<u>1.8 - 1.9</u>

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

	2020 Years	2019 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.6	22.1
- Females	25.1	24.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.9	23.5
- Females	<u>25.4</u>	<u>26.1</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

21 Pension and similar obligations

Changes in assumption at 31 August 2020

	Approximate increase in employer liability	%	Approximate monetary amount (£000)
Wiltshire Pension Fund			
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	12%		1,108
1 year increase in member life expectancy	3-5%		273-455
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%		159
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	10%		927
Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund			
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate			93
1 year increase in member life expectancy			99
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate			8
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate			84
Avon Pension Fund			
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate			103
1 year increase in member life expectancy			74
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate			22
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate			103

Defined benefit pension scheme net liability

Scheme assets	11,300,000	8,638,000
Scheme obligations	(22,617,000)	(16,211,000)
Net liability	<u>(11,317,000)</u>	<u>(7,573,000)</u>

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

	2020 Fair value £	2019 Fair value £
Equities	6,050,840	5,675,300
Bonds	2,768,480	1,178,200
Cash	211,000	228,600
Other	968,000	527,000
Property	1,301,680	1,028,900
Total market value of assets	<u>11,300,000</u>	<u>8,638,000</u>

The actual return/(loss) on scheme assets was £(99,000) (2019: £519,000).

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

21 Pension and similar obligations

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	1,014,000	442,000
Past service cost	1,000	205,000
Interest income	(194,000)	(210,000)
Interest cost	358,000	338,000
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	(1,000)	-
Total operating charge	<u>1,178,000</u>	<u>775,000</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2020 £
At 1 September 2019	16,211,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	3,050,000
Current service cost	2,231,000
Interest cost	358,000
Employee contributions	294,000
Actuarial loss	624,000
Benefits paid	(152,000)
Past service cost	1,000
At 31 August 2020	<u>22,617,000</u>

Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2020 £
At 1 September 2019	8,638,000
Assets acquired on conversion	1,390,000
Interest income	183,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(282,000)
Employer contributions	1,229,000
Employee contributions	294,000
Benefits paid	(152,000)
At 31 August 2020	<u>11,300,000</u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

22	Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2020	2019
		£	£
	Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	10,538,161	31,672,098
	Adjusted for:		
	Net (surplus)/deficit on conversion to academy	(11,802,425)	454,631
	Net surplus on transfer of academy in the trust	-	(33,755,969)
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,045,282)	(770,168)
	Investment income receivable	(5,548)	(7,334)
	Finance costs payable	9,214	10,295
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	1,014,000	647,000
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	164,000	128,000
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,071,522	1,507,081
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	9,149
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	294,358	(557,285)
	Increase in creditors	616,851	1,053,581
	Stocks, debtors and creditors transferred on conversion	-	(154,614)
	Net cash provided by operating activities	1,854,851	236,465

23	Analysis of changes in net funds	1 September 2019	Cash flows	31 August 2020
		£	£	£
	Cash	4,062,408	1,546,384	5,608,792
	Loans falling due within one year	(241,772)	51,230	(190,542)
	Loans falling due after more than one	(973,598)	190,541	(783,057)
		2,847,038	1,788,155	4,635,193

24 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2020	2019
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	86,080	87,152
Amounts due in two and five years	104,102	124,599
	190,182	211,751

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

25 Capital commitments

	2020 £	2019 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	35,623	-

Capital commitments of £35,623 are in relation to construction of an Annex at Fairfield High School.

26 Related party transactions

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

Expenditure related party transaction

SALED Ltd provide services to the trust. This company is controlled by the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education and provided services related to the training of staff, trustees and governors, SIAMS inspections and annual partnership service agreement subscriptions. The Salisbury Diocese Board of Education is a related party of the Trust due to its power to appoint a corporate member and approve the appointment of Foundation Directors. The total services invoiced in the period were £930 (2019: £3,138). There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

Callia Web Ltd have provided website creation and hosting services to St Katharine's School during the year. The wife of a Local Governor at St Katharine's School is a Director of Callia Web Ltd. The total services invoiced in the period were £642 (2019: £Nil). There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

In entering into these transactions, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

There were no other related party transactions.

27 Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he 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.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

28 Teaching school trading account

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Direct income				
Other income		34,054		16,290
Other income				
Fundraising and other trading activities		37,529		73,649
Direct costs				
Direct staff costs	42,046		151,457	
Technology costs	100		100	
Educational supplies and services	278		241	
Staff development	2,615		878	
Educational consultancy	7,727		124,594	
Other direct costs	502		48,869	
	<u>53,268</u>		<u>326,139</u>	
Other costs				
Support staff costs	39,669		41,952	
Technology costs	45		-	
Transport	84		3,989	
Catering	655		1,851	
Other support costs	-		206	
	<u>40,453</u>		<u>47,998</u>	
Total operating costs		<u>(93,721)</u>		<u>(374,137)</u>
Deficit from teaching school		<u>(22,138)</u>		<u>(284,198)</u>
Teaching school balances at 1 September 2019		<u>53,038</u>		<u>337,236</u>
Teaching school balances at 31 August 2020		<u><u>30,900</u></u>		<u><u>53,038</u></u>

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

29 Conversion to an academy

On 1 September 2019 the May Park Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Excalibur Academies Trust from the Local Authority for £nil consideration.

On 1 February 2020 the Nythe Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Excalibur Academies Trust from the Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfers have been accounted for as combinations that are in substance gifts. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the statement of financial activities as donations – transfer from local authority on conversion.

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

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
May Park Primary School	Bristol	1 September 2019		
Nythe Primary School	Swindon	1 February 2020		

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2020
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Net assets transferred:		£	£	
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	13,188,162	13,188,162
Cash	-	216,344	57,919	274,263
Pension scheme deficit	-	(1,660,000)	-	(1,660,000)
	-	(1,443,656)	13,246,081	11,802,425

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2020
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
Funds surplus/(deficit)		£	£	
Fixed assets funds	-	-	13,246,081	13,246,081
LA budget funds	-	216,344	-	216,344
LGPS pension funds	-	(1,660,000)	-	(1,660,000)
	-	(1,443,656)	13,246,081	11,802,425

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

30 Prior period adjustment

		1 September 2018 £	31 August 2019 £
Reconciliation of funds	Notes		
Funds as previously reported		68,685,411	97,816,649
Adjustments arising:			
Adjustment to depreciation charge in year -	1	-	-
Adjustment to depreciation charge in year -	2	-	-
Adjustment to land and building valuation -	1	(15,871,241)	(15,459,557)
Adjustment to land and building valuation -	2	(2,352,463)	(2,317,287)
Funds as restated		<u>50,461,707</u>	<u>80,039,805</u>

		2019 £
Reconciliation of net income for the	Notes	
Net income as previously reported		31,225,238
Adjustments arising:		
Adjustment to depreciation charge in year -	1	411,684
Adjustment to depreciation charge in year -	2	35,176
Adjustment to land and building valuation -	1	-
Adjustment to land and building valuation -	2	-
Net income as restated		<u>31,672,098</u>

Notes to restatement

Fairfield High School

Fairfield High School converted into the trust on 1 February 2015. As at 31 August 2015 the Trust did not have a valuation for the land and buildings from the ESFA. In the absence of the ESFA valuation the Trust introduced the building at insurance valuation of £35,070,619 and the land at £986,000. The Trust received the ESFA valuation on 1 September 2019 and per the Trust's policies had adopted its valuation as deemed depreciated cost. The valuation of £13,270,000 for buildings and £3,820,000 for land. This has been amended in the financial statements to reflect this.

Excalibur Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

John O'Gaunt

John O'Gaunt converted into the trust on 1 October 2016. As at 31 August 2017 the Trust did not have a valuation for the land and buildings from the ESFA. In the absence of the ESFA valuation the Trust introduced the building at directors estimation based on local education property price per square meter of £4,632,181 and the land at £2,198,037. The Trust received the ESFA valuation on 1 September 2019 and per the Trust's policies had adopted its valuation as deemed depreciated cost. The valuation of £2,715,000 for buildings and £1,520,000 for land. This has been amended in the financial statements to reflect this.