

Registered number: 08526973

St Chad's Academies Trust

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2022



St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and administrative details

Members	S Hannam The Venerable M Parker Dr A Primrose The Revd Prebendary J Allan C Shaw
Trustees	H Azima J Jackson Rev R Heath (resigned 14 December 2021) Canon J M Jones (resigned 9 May 2022) G Leverton (resigned 25 July 2022) A D Orlik P Marris Dr A Primrose, Chair of Trustees M Painter S Wedgwood, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer (resigned 1 September 2022) S Read (appointed 7 September 2022) The Revd Prebendary J H Farnworth (appointed 7 September 2022)
Company registered number	08526973
Company name	St Chad's Academies Trust
Principal and registered office	Birchills CE Community Academy Farrington Street Walsall West Midlands WS2 8NF
Company secretary	H Steel
Chief executive and Accounting Officer	S Cockshott (appointed 1 September 2022) S Wedgwood (resigned 1 September 2022)
Senior management team	S Wedgwood, Chief Executive Officer (resigned 1 September 2022) S Cockshott, Chief Executive Officer (appointed 1 September 2022) Z Heath, Director of Operations H Steel, Director of Finance P Mitchell, Director of Learning
Independent auditor	Dains Audit Limited 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 22 Conduit Street Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 6JS

St Chad's Academies Trust
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Reference and administrative details (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Solicitors	Knights Plc Two Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3HQ
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St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

St Chad's Academies Trust is a Multi Academy Trust serving the Diocese of Lichfield. Geographically, the Diocese covers the 7 local authorities of Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Shropshire, Stoke, Staffordshire and Telford and Wrekin. The Trust comprised of 20 academies to 31 August 2022 made up of 18 Primary, 1 First and 1 Middle.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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

The trustees of St Chad's Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as St Chad's Academies Trust.

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

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees, directors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on Trust business. The limit of this indemnity is £5m for trustees' liabilities and £2m for libel and slander.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Articles of Association requires that the Trustees of the Company shall comprise of;

- a. Not less than three but not subject to a maximum;
- b. Shall comprise of no fewer than five appointed under article 50 (i.e. appointed by the Members)
- c. May have Co-opted Directors (Trustees) appointed under article 58 (i.e. Trustees may appoint up to 2 for a term not exceeding four years with the consent of the Diocesan Board of Education.

The term of office for all Trustees is four years; any Trustee may be re-appointed/re-elected. All Trustee appointments are elected by Trustees and appointed by the Members.

The Trust utilizes the Academy Ambassador programme to fill Trustee vacancies and was successful in appointing 3 Trustees from this service during 2019/20. The Trustees undertake an annual self assessment to assess any requirements in terms of areas of expertise and specialisms.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new Trustees are elected by the Trustees and appointed by Members in line with the requirements of the Articles of Association. Trustees are provided with an Induction Pack which includes information surrounding the roles of the Exec, the Chair and the role of a Trustee including the Code of Practice. It also includes following;

- a) The Trusts Articles of Association,
- b) the MFA,
- c) the Terms of Reference for the Trust Board and all Trust Committees,
- d) the Trust's Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations and the Governance Handbook
- e) the Trusts Governance and Accountability Structure,
- f) the ESFA AFH,
- g) The Essential Trustee (CC3),
- h) The St Chad's Academy Strategic Plan
- i) Trust Vision mission and values,
- j) The most recent financial statements,
- k) Key policies; Whistleblowing, Safeguarding and KICSIE,
- l) NGA registration details.

New Trustees receive bespoke induction sessions with the CEO and the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

f. Organisational structure

The Trust is a multi-academy trust and at 31st August 2022 ran 20 academies as follows;

- All Saints National Academy, Walsall (sponsored)
- Birchills Church of England Community Academy, Walsall (sponsored)
- Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Primary Academy, Eccleshall, Staffordshire (converter)
- Brewood Church of England Middle Academy, Brewood, Staffordshire (converter)
- Christ Church Church of England Primary Academy, Stoke (converter)
- Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy, Rugeley, Staffordshire (converter)
- Dawley Church of England Primary Academy, Telford (sponsored)
- Havergal Church of England Primary Academy Shreshill, Staffordshire (sponsored)
- Holy Trinity Church of England Primary Academy, Oswestry (converter)
- Mereside Church of England Primary Academy, Shrewsbury (converter)
- St James Church of England Primary Academy, Longdon, Staffordshire (converter)
- St John's Church of England Primary Academy, Wednesbury (sponsored)
- St John's Church of England Primary Academy, Stafford (converter)
- St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy, Wolverhampton (sponsored)
- St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, Wheaton Aston (converter)
- St Matthew's Church of England Primary Academy, Stoke (converter)
- St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy, Staffordshire (converter)
- St Peter's Bratton Church of England Primary Academy, Telford (converter)
- Stoke Minster Church of England Primary Academy, Stoke (converter)
- Trinity Church of England Primary Academy, Wolverhampton (converter)

The long term aim is to carefully grow the number of academies in the Trust and to fully utilise the now well established infrastructure of the Communities of Practice (CoPs - 4 geographical hubs of Walsall and Sandwell, Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Shropshire, and Stoke) to allow the academies to work collaboratively, sharing resources to improve efficiencies and pool expertise such as phase and subject specialists, as well as enable peer to peer support and challenge, to establish and develop system leadership and further explore local economy of scale procurement opportunities.

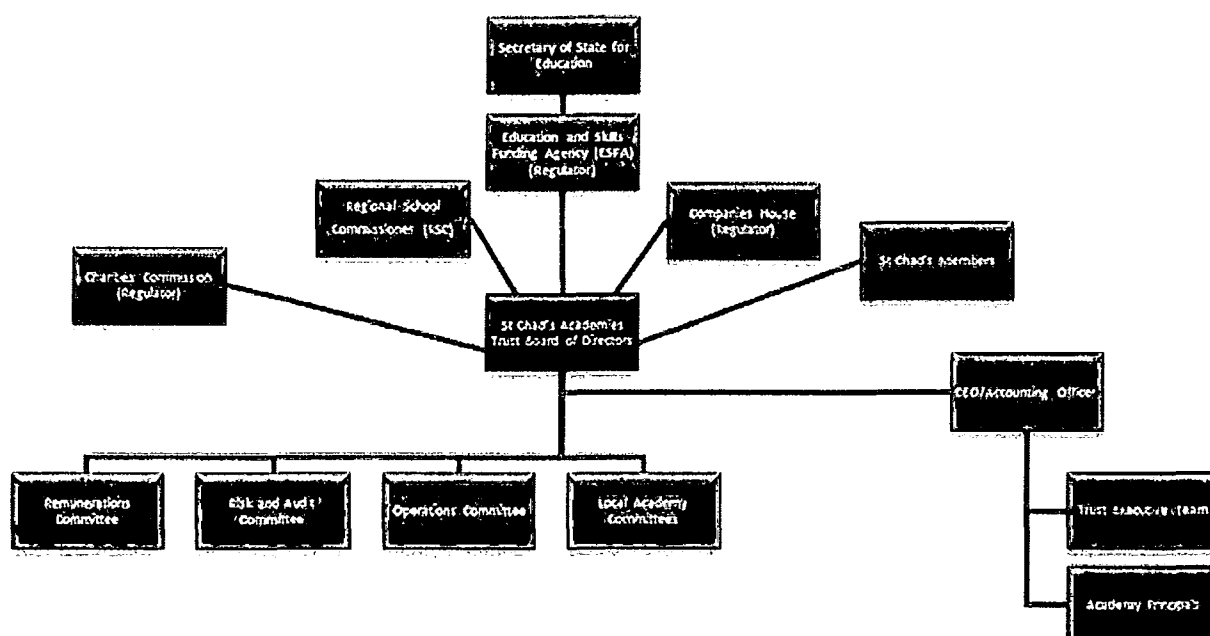
Structure, governance and management (continued)

At year end the Trust was working with one school in an associate model under an executive leadership arrangement. The Trust introduces new schools to its academies via the associate model so that converting schools are already aware of Trust procedure and practice and can experience the benefits of being part of the Trust family of schools.

St Chad's Academies Trust is managed by a Board of Directors (also referred to as the Trustees) who meets regularly and provides strategic leadership and vision to the academies. The Trust Board provides support and challenge to the academies via Committees which monitor all aspects of school management and school improvement; the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, a sub-committee which provides robust risk management and financial oversight and strengthens the independence of the audit function; the Operations Committee, a sub-committee which reviews and develops strategies, management processes and procedures and policies; an Achievement Committee which monitors all areas of school improvement, outcomes and progress at academy level and a Local Academy Committee per academy to be a local advisory body. The members of the Local Academy Committee are referred to as Committee Members to distinguish them from the Directors of the Trust. The Board operates a Remunerations Committee, made up of at least three Board members, to accept and review recommendations on leadership pay for ratification by the Board of Directors. The Trust also utilises the Raising Achievement Board to hold academy leaders to account and to provide effective support and challenge; the Raising Achievement Board is made up of the Trusts Executive Team and meets with the Principal and Chair of Local Academy Committee of each academy termly.

During the year the Trust Board reviewed the structure of the Board Committees in light of the changing needs of the Trust; the Board concluded that the Trust required a Compliance Committee which will be established in 2022/23. This will take the place of the Operations Committee.

The Trust's Accountability and Governance Structure for 2021-22 is as follows;



Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

Performance Management of Principals is managed by the Raising Achievement Board on behalf of the Trust Board and subsequent pay awards which are considered are in line with School Teachers Pay and Conditions and the scope of individual leadership bands upon successful achievement of performance targets. The Raising Achievement Board make evidence based recommendations to the Remunerations Committee (made up of at least 3 Trustees) for robust review and challenge as appropriate.

Performance Management of executive leaders and central staff is undertaken by line managers via a robust target based process which is evidenced by a Professional Development Portfolio. This is an evidence based process reflecting upon targets and on staff roles and responsibilities. Decisions on executive and central staff pay are made by the Trust Board upon receipt of evidence based recommendations by the Remunerations Committee.

Remuneration for staff employed at academies within St Chad's Academies Trust follows the national terms and conditions of service for teachers or the terms and conditions of service for support staff.

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	4
Full-time equivalent employee number	3

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	4
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	£
Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	27,057,082
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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Structure, governance and management (continued)

i. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

Employees have been consulted on issues of concern to them by means of regular consultative committee and staff meetings and have been kept informed on specific matters directly by management. The Multi Academy Trust carries out exit interviews for all staff leaving the organisation and has adopted a procedure of upward feedback for senior management and the Trustees.

The Multi Academy Trust has implemented a number of detailed policies in relation to all aspects of personnel matters including:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Volunteers' policy
- Health & safety policy

In accordance with the Multi Academy Trust's equal opportunities policy, the Multi Academy Trust has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of disabled staff.

Full details of these policies are available from the Multi Academy Trust's offices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Trust has been reactive to assess and address concerns or working situations in terms of CV and CEV members of staff; this has included risk assessment, medical health questionnaires, reasonable adjustments. All Trust practices have been in line with NJC and Teachers Standards of Employment in respect of the management of the pandemic, and the movement to the management of COVID-19 as an infectious disease, to ensure that we have not created undue detriment to staff due to COVID-19, to ensure equal and fair practice.

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal activities of St Chad's Academies Trust are to provide an inclusive, balanced and broadly based curriculum and education in line with the principles of the Church of England for children and young people of all abilities. The Trust provides free education for young people (currently 4-13) who live mainly within the Diocese of Lichfield.

The Company's object is 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:

(i) Church of England schools 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 having regard to any advice issued by the Diocesan Board of Education; and

(ii) Other Academies whether with or without a designated religious character; but in relation to each of the Academies to recognise and support their individual ethos, whether or not designated Church of England.

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust's educational vision is founded upon its commitment to promoting a 'Children First' approach, where all decision making is based upon the furtherance of the provision for our children and young people.

The Trust has procured a bespoke Christian Distinctiveness Adviser whose role is to support the continuance of the promotion and nurturing of the Christian distinctiveness of the academy and to provide a whole-school approach to monitoring progress.

The overarching principles of St Chad's Academies Trust are that-

- All academies can improve to become good and outstanding.
- All pupils have the right to the best education that can be provided so that standards continually rise resulting in all children and young people achieving their best.
- All children and young people in our care have an entitlement to spiritual care and guidance. By continuing and developing the historical role of the church in education the Trust champions the ethos and values enabling children and young people clearly to identify themselves as children of God.
- All staff and academy committee members should have access to support for their spiritual welfare.
- All staff should have access to a well-planned and strong career progression route. This professional development will be tailored to meet the needs of the academy and the individual teacher, resulting in a professional body of the highest quality.
- Presence, partnership and participation of academies and their leaders will bring about significant improvement and help to develop system leaders of the future

The Trust's strategy is to drive academy improvement through system leadership, encouraging academies to support other individual academies, or groups of academies, within the CoP and whole Trust family network. This strategy embraces senior leaders, academy committee members and teachers. The Trust is committed to high quality continuous professional development for staff, and to ensuring that leaders and staff can become key agents of change. The Trust's aim is to establish vibrant, successful learning communities, where all children and young people are able to achieve; 'Children First'.

The Raising Achievement Board provides challenge and support to academies on a termly basis. Each academy has an assigned Diocesan Improvement Adviser, whose role is to add capacity to the leadership team in an academy and also to provide on-going advice, support and challenge to Principals. Each academy is also assigned a Financial Accounting Officer to provide financial management challenge and support and a dedicated HR Officer assigned to support all staffing and employment related issues. Governance support is provided to all academy Local Academy Committees' via the Trust's Governance Officer. The infrastructure in place provides 'a team around the academy' to both support and challenge, working in collaboration to swiftly identify and address any potential issues.

The Trust looks to develop partnership working with other external multi academy trust partners, ensuring an outward facing approach to both learn from, and share, successes.

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. The key public benefit delivered by St Chad's Academies Trust is the maintenance and development of a high quality education, which is free of charge. It is the Trustees' aim to deliver outstanding learning to all of its students during the journey of improvement towards excellence. It is a priority to ensure the public benefit for all young people in the areas in which the Trust operates.

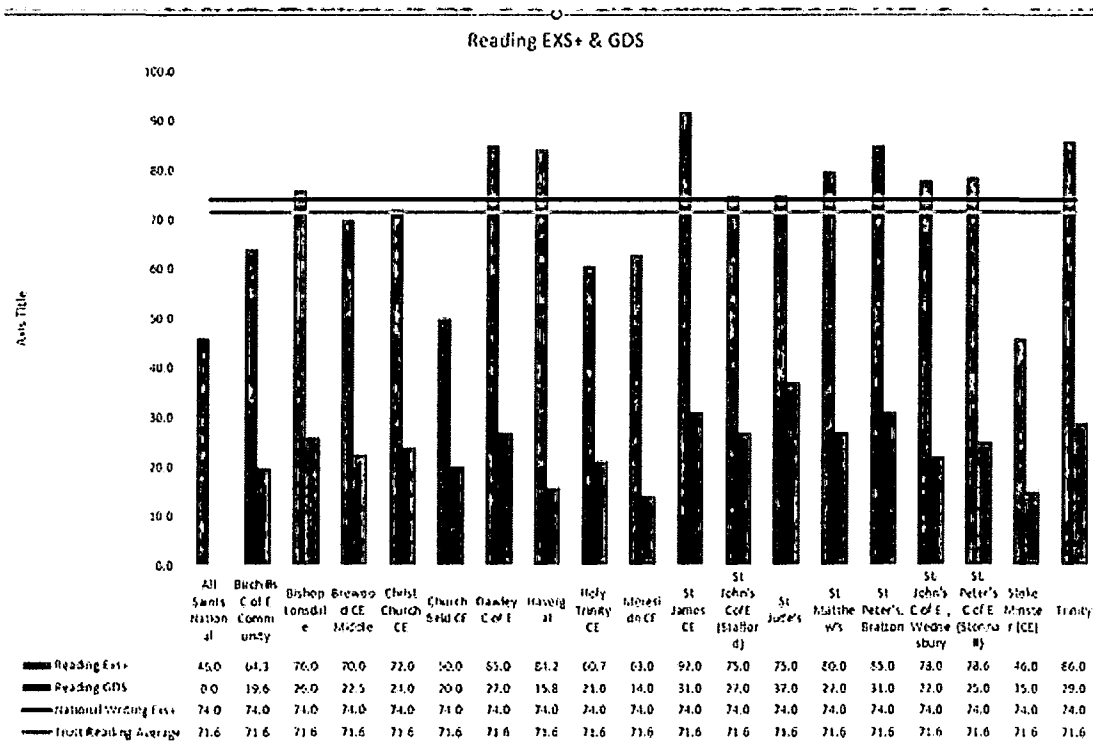
In doing this, St Chad's Academies Trust not only offers a broadly based academic education but aims to educate the whole individual and to encourage their spiritual development. A wide-range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits are offered to students.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

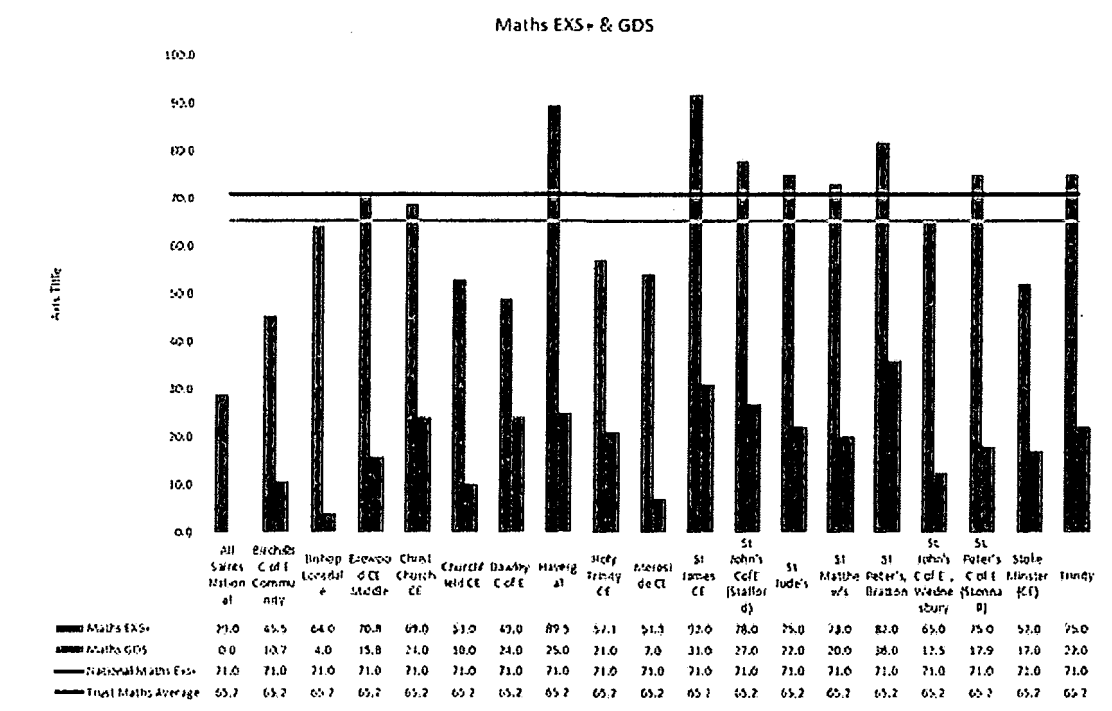
a. Overview

Given statistical variance the Trusts results are in line with National Outcomes. (NB the Trust has a higher % of pupils from more deprived backgrounds therefore the difference to national statistically). Maths is a focus for the Trust especially the manipulation of fractions.



Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)



Progress across the Trust is in line with national averages as outlined in the IDSR

NB Progress is not directly comparable due to the impact of Covid

Amber= Statistical difference to national
Green= In line with statistical progress
Blue = Statistically above National Average

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

	Reading	Writing	Maths
Birchills			
Bishop Lonsdale			
Brewood			
Christchurch			
Chruchfield			
Dawley			
Havergal			
Holy Trinity			
Mereside			
St James			
St John's Stafford			
St John's Wed			
St Jude's			
St Mary's			
St Matthew's			
St Peter's Bratton			
St Peter's Stonnall			
Stoke Minster			
Trinity			

The focus of phonics has had impact across the Trust and the average is in line with National Averages.

EYFS is also in-line with National Averages – Communication as per the national picture continues to be a focus for the Trust

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

All Pupils			Expected (MET)	
Trust			#	%age
Building Relationships				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (431)	352 / 431	81.7%
Managing Self				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	357 / 430	83%
Self-Regulation				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	347 / 430	80.7%
Speaking				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	329 / 430	76.5%
Listening Attention and Understanding				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	334 / 430	77.7%
Fine Motor Skills				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	349 / 430	81.2%
Gross Motor Skills				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	386 / 430	89.8%
Writing				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (486)	324 / 486	66.7%
Word Reading				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (487)	344 / 487	70.6%
Comprehension				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (431)	326 / 431	75.6%
Numerical Patterns				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (397)	282 / 397	71%
Number				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (430)	301 / 430	70%
Past and Present				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (363)	264 / 363	72.7%
The Natural World				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (359)	282 / 359	78.6%
People Culture and Communities				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (397)	292 / 397	73.6%
Being Imaginative and Expressive				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (318)	252 / 318	79.2%
Creating with Materials				
Reception	St Chad's	Summer 2 2021/22 (334)	279 / 334	83.5%

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Key performance indicators

KPIs for all academies within the St Chad's Academies Trust:

1. Quality of Teaching to be consistently good or better
2. To be judged at least Good at the first Ofsted inspection following conversion
3. To be judged at least Good at the first SIAMS inspection following conversion
4. Outcomes for pupils at KS1 and KS2 to be in line or above national in reading, writing and mathematics
5. Progress for pupils at KS1 and KS2 to be in line or above national in reading, writing and mathematics
6. Governance to be judged to be good.
7. Attendance to be in line with national
8. All academies are compliant with safeguarding legislation
9. All academies to be compliant with Health and Safety legislation
10. All academies to be financially stable and viable demonstrated in the 5 year plans.

KPI's are integrated into Principal's performance management targets determined by the Raising Achievement Board (Autumn Term).

c. Going concern

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

Financial review

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the Department for Education via the Education Funding Agency in the form of the General Annual Grant (GAG); the use of which is restricted to particular purposes i.e. the objects of the Trust. The GAG received during the period covered by this report and the associated expenditure is shown in the restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activity.

The Trustees agreed the following key financial performance indicators for 2021-22:-

- Robust financial monitoring; the Trustees monitor the financial position regularly by reviewing financial year to date and year-end projections which are supported by management accounts in line with ESFA AFH requirements.
- Achieving value for money through effective financial management procedures and procurement initiatives.
- Academies comply with the Trust's Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegation and the ESFA AFH.
- Monitor and maintain a positive cash flow with sufficient cash balances to cover monthly expenditure.
- Review of income and expenditure with particular emphasis on pay costs as a percentage of ESFA income.
- Review of financial and performance KPIs including pay costs and pupil/teacher and pupil/adult ratios.
- Monitoring of changes in the number on roll and the associated impact in both the short and the long term.
- Production of annual 5 year forecasts for all academies.

While COVID-19 had a negative impact on financial capital plans last year, during 2021-22 the Trust was able to move forward with its 5 year capital investment plan, investing in buildings and infrastructure to ensure that all children have an appropriate learning environment. The Trust been negatively impacted financially by spiraling supply staff costs, due to both COVID related sickness / absence and an increased requirement to provide additional support for an increasing number of ECHP pupils.

Strategic report (continued)

a. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels regularly as part of the financial reports throughout the year. Reserves are held to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and the receipt of grants and to allow for unexpected situations such as urgent maintenance work or in extreme circumstances to bridge areas of lagged funding. In addition, reserves are built up in line with identified capital improvements/developments informed by detailed, prioritised condition surveys for each academy which are scheduled to occur within the next 5 years and are built in to the academy budget forecast plans. This ensures a strategic approach and a practical application of reserves in future years to maintain and improve the learning environments and address any building health and safety concerns. Academies are asked to contribute around 2% of their annual budget to their reserves which is considered an appropriate cushion.

b. Investment policy

St Chad's Academies Trust has no realisable investments; all cash is held for operational activities or for investment in capital. With respect to cash holdings, the Board of Trustees has adopted a low risk strategy. The Academy Trust maintains current accounts with its bankers. The Trustees will review a Trust investment policy for forthcoming financial years to ensure maximum efficiency for cash balances and the application of School Condition Allocation.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Trust from a financial perspective are rising inflation, increased gas and electric costs and unfunded pay awards going in to 2022/23. While the Trust budgeted prudently based on all known factors at time of budget setting, the financial picture in future years has been negatively impacted and there will need to be consequential actions to ensure financial viability in the long term.

Long term funding continues to be an uncertainty, with announcements relating to funding and teacher and support staff pay continuing to be announced on an annual basis. The timing of the pay announcements in particular is a risk; payroll is around 78% of the Trust budget and is a measurable KPI, so when announcements happen post budget setting financial benchmarking and long term viability is impacted.

There are further considerations following the impact of the McCloud judgement and the Harper Brazel case. SEN funding is a risk, as we are asked to support increasing numbers of children with little or delayed funding.

Recruitment and retention has become an increased risk over the past 12 months, with recruitment in particular for SEND being particularly challenging. It has become difficult to source staff to cover both teaching and non-teaching vacancies, with supply agencies also reporting problems with recruitment.

There continue to be risks in respect of fraud and cybercrime but controls and systems are in place to mitigate all manageable risks.

There are risks relating to academy performance, standards and consequential reputational damage, however a strong team is in place and all methods of support are being explored or utilised to ensure that the Trust delivers quality first education.

A risk relating to leadership and management following the retirement of the CEO (31 August 22) has been recognised, thoroughly assessed and mitigated

Risk Management

The Trust undertakes regular, comprehensive assessments of possible risks to the Trust. The potential risks that have been identified are recorded on the Trust's Risk Register. The areas regularly reviewed include Strategic,

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Compliance, Standards, Operational, Financial Management and Control, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Governance and Land and Buildings. The Risk Register is a standing item on the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee meeting agendas to ensure regular review.

The principal risks currently identified are outlined below

Potential Risk	Mitigating controls
Academy performance and standards - failure to ensure all Ofsted Inspections judge academies to be Good or better across the Trust.	Targeted improvement plans in place closely monitored by Director of Learning. Regular Progress Boards in place for any academy causing concern to monitor and challenge interventions, outcomes and impact. School improvement support provided from the Trust and internal reviews take place. Staffing review in all academies causing concern to ensure quality of teaching and teaching support is good. Robust performance management targets are set to ensure leadership is focused on results
Strategic; succession planning	Succession strategies are in place for key members of the Trust's senior leadership team and academy Principals. School to school support provides opportunities for staff development at all levels and a focus on growing leaders and system leadership are areas of key focus. Academies impacted by changes in leadership are supported via close school to school support models and close links with the Local Academy Committee, as well as CoP groups. Plans in place to run an Aspiring Leaders programme in 2022/23 to support this are further.
Land and Buildings compliance – buildings do not meet Health and Safety requirements or become unfit for purpose. Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete risk – as per national guidance.	Commissioned support of a single Trust appointed estates partner to provide regular audits of buildings. Establishment of Estates Group to monitor compliance. Use of School Condition Allocation to address priority areas and main areas of concern in line with the Trust's capital investment plan. Audits of all academies in terms of RAAC.
Financial – unfunded pay increases, national costs pressures in terms of inflation and energy costs.	Monthly management accounts and robust forecasting undertaken. <u>5 year</u> budget plans to highlight any areas of risk to viability. Budget forecasts are regularly reviewed in both short and long term. Monitoring all sector financial announcements to ensure the Trust can react swiftly. Impact of all cost pressures, including the McCloud/Sargent and Harper/Brazel case measured.
Compliance	Compliance Officer job role created at the central team for 2022/23; role will monitor all areas of compliance and take necessary actions as appropriate to ensure that the Trust is compliant in all areas.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding reviews were undertaken throughout the Trust in 2021/22 to ensure compliance and appropriate use of systems/reporting. Annual reviews will be scheduled in for 22/23 going forward to ensure this high priority area remains compliant.
Health and Safety	A review of all Health and Safety documents was undertaken by the Trust in 2021/22 and associated instructions/actions taken. From 22/23 onwards the Compliance Officer will conduct annual reviews to ensure this high priority area remains compliant.

d. Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee meet at the beginning of each year to agree the scope of the Internal Audit Review for the forthcoming year. The Internal Audit scope of work for the 2021/22 year involved financial management and control, HR and a capacity review. ICT, including cyber security, has been identified for audit going forward to the 2022/23 year, together with another review of financial management and control which is a standing area of internal audit each year.

All financial operating offices receive visits and review from the Trust's appointed Internal Auditors. Internal audit reports are analysed by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and findings are reported to Principals and Chairs of the Local Academy Committee to be shared at with full LAC. Progress is measured and recorded via the Trust's 'Financial Improvement Plan' which is an active document and highlights areas for action and development.

Financial operations are supported and monitored monthly by the Trust via monthly support sessions and management account production and review. Academy management accounts are presented to Local Academy Committees regularly. Consolidated management accounts are presented to the Board and to the Chair in line with the requirements of the ESFA AFH.

All academies have received and work to the Trust's Governance Handbook, Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation, which are updated annually in line with the most recent regulatory documents; i.e. the ESFA AFH, DFE's Governance Handbook.

Half termly forums for Principals and termly forums for Academy Business Managers operate to reinforce effective financial control and risk management. The Raising Achievement Board quality assures these controls each term.

All financial systems are fully visible by the Trust which maintains effective oversight of academy transactions and commitments.

Fraud Awareness is an annual agenda item for Principals, SLT, Academy Business Managers and any associated administrative support roles and central staff to ensure the risks of fraud are prevalent and are considered by all relevant staff members, and that mitigating action is taken to review systems and procedures within financial operations. Cyber awareness is also included in this training provision. The Trust has developed robust procedures to mitigate third party fraud and has tailored the Financial Management System and online banking system to ensure that appropriate segregation of duty is in place and validation is undertaken.

Fundraising

As in previous years, the Trust does not currently operate a high level of fundraising activities. Fundraising across the academies within the Trust is usually generated via non-uniform, costume or charity bake sale days where schools request a donation from parents or carers. Parents are made aware of the beneficiary of their donations in advance of any event which may be to support a local or national charity of the students' choice or to financially support a specified event being organised by the school or students. Contributions are not compulsory.

Some academies have made bids to local and/or national charitable trusts through specifically targeted bids. Those who have been successful have benefitted support a range of resource provision.

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by LAC members and the Trustees via the management accounts.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

Plans for future periods

As a Multi Academy Trust, St Chad's Academies Trust continues to aim to increase the number of academies within the Trust through a managed growth plan. In the short term the Trust is focussed on consolidation, but in the medium to long term, further growth is planned.

At year end there was one academy working with the Trust via an associate member arrangement, under an executive leadership model with one of the Trust's academies in Staffordshire. The Trust is looking to develop the 'associate' offer further on a more formal basis for those schools looking to work with a MAT rather than join a MAT in the short term, within the context of the Government's White Paper.

In 2022/23, MAT to MAT support models will be developed further and it is hoped that the Trust will expand on the structures already established to ensure that we can learn from, and share, successes and best practice.

Work will be undertaken to review the current support structures within the Trust following the outcome of the Trust's capacity review, taking on board findings and revising the funding structures in place to support requirements while also looking to provide cost efficiencies and procurement opportunities. In line with that, work is taking place to review and develop school improvement strategies, financial and operational support structures and procedures and to enhance the corporate governance and strategic capacity of the Trust. The Trust executive leaders continually reflect and refine on Trust processes to improve on the St Chad's support offer.

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

The Trust holds no funds on behalf of others as a custodian trustee.

Disclosure of information to auditor

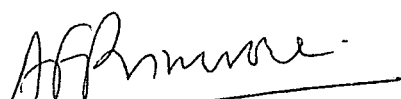
Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Auditor

The auditor, Dains Audit Limited, has indicated his willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditor at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 15 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:


Dr A Primrose
Chair of Trustees

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that St Chad's 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.

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

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

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year including the AGM. The Trust Board were kept up to date and well informed throughout the year, receiving full reports from the CEO including information from all Directorates via email. There is a clear communication strategy in place to enable Trustees to communicate with the Executive Team and to raise any queries and receive responses. Formal meetings this year have been undertaken virtually via conference /video call to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Attendance during the year at formal meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H Azima	4	6
J Jackson	2	6
Rev R Heath (Resigned 14 December 2021)	1	3
Canon J M Jones (Resigned 18 July 2022)	2	5
G Leverton	2	6
A D Orlik	6	6
P Marris	1	6
Dr A Primrose, Chair of Trustees	6	6
M Painter	5	6
S Wedgwood, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer (Resigned 31 August 2022)	6	6

The Trust will undergo an NGA led Governance review early in the 2022/23 academic year. Matters raised during the Governance review finalised in 20/21 were acted upon and a summary action report provided to Trustees and Members; overall it was found that there was substantial assurance in terms of governance structures and control and risk management across the Trust, noting that there was an overall sound system of internal control but with some minor tweaks needed in design. The reporting that the Board receives was quality assured as part of our internal audit governance review in 2020/21.

During 2021/22, the Trust further reviewed reporting in line with NGA template guidance and other MAT exemplars to make sure that Trust reporting was as effective as possible. The Board is presented with a range of data in varying formats to suit all parties, ranging from, graphs, tables, data extracts, spreadsheets and narrative.

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance (continued)

The Trust operates the following Committees;

The **Finance, Risk and Audit Committee** is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to monitor finance, risk and compliance and oversees and receives reports on matters of audit. The Committee also has the remit for the approval of the application of SCA funding.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Jackson (Chair)	2	3
Dr A Primrose	3	3
S Wedgwood	3	3
P Marris	3	3
H Azima	1	3

S Wedgwood acts as an officer when audit matters are discussed.

The membership Trust also operated the following other Committees during the year;

- 1) Achievement Committee; this Committee was created in the 2021/22 academic year and met 3 times. Its remit is to maintain effective oversight of the Trust's Academy Improvement Strategy and to monitor progress and attainment across the Trust. the impact and effectiveness of school improvement
- 2) Operations Committee; during the year the Trust reviewed the effectiveness of this Committee in meeting the Trust's current need; they resolved to dissolve this Committee for 2022/23 and agreed that a Compliance Committee would be created in its place.
- 3) Remunerations Committee; met once during the period.
- 4) Local Academy Committees (x 19); meet every half term during the year.

The Trust has planned a Strategy Day in September 2022 which will include the Trust Board, the Trust Executive Team and a representation of Trust Executive Principals. The focus will be to agree the Trust's strategic aims for the next 5 years, under the leadership of a new CEO, reflecting on input from relevant bodies and the Government's White Paper.

Review of value for money

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

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

- Further development of the Executive Principal and SLT leadership models; system leadership and sharing of best practice across the Trust
- Development of MAT to MAT support to share best practice and to support our communities.
- Joint procurement ventures. Procurement partners ESPO help review current procurement practices and establish joint procurement opportunities throughout the Trust. CoP joint working and buying power; localised procurement opportunities.
- Ongoing contract reviews; e.g the development of a Trust wide SIMS contract in year which created better value for money, saving schools over 5%+ on their fees.
- Establishing system leadership models utilising staff from within the Trust and utilising the expertise within the Trust to help academies in need of additional support and capacity.
- Utilising the support of Local Academy Chairs across the Trust to support with committees where

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of value for money (continued)

- impartiality was key.
- Seeking further opportunities to work in collaboration with Local Authority initiatives
- Catering contract review for 2x academies which has provided better value for money.

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 Multi Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St Chad's Academies Trust for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Multi Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Multi Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The CEO has undertaken appropriate training specifically in relation to Risk Management and how to effectively control and monitor risk. Going forward, the new CEO has also undertaken Risk Management training as part of the CEO induction package procured by the Trust.

All members of the Executive Team are 'Risk Owners' in line with risks relating to their areas of expertise; risks, actions and mitigating factors are all recorded on the Trust's Risk Register which is reviewed by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. The Trust is self-reflective of 'lessons learned' and also reflects upon issues highlighted in the sector as a whole, reviewing issues and establishing mitigations where appropriate.

The Raising Achievement Board, Achievement Committee, Remunerations Committee, Finance Risk and Audit Committee and Operations Committees provide additional layers of risk management and mitigation and provide appropriate challenge and support to the CEO in relation to elements of risk. Going forward, this will be strengthened further by the appointment of a Compliance Officer and the establishment of a Compliance Committee in 2022/23.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget which is agreed by the Board of Trustees and monthly financial reports which are reviewed by the Trustees six times a year and the Chair of the Board in line with the requirements of the ESFA AFH;
- regular reviews by the Local Academy Committee and the Trust's Financial Support team of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programs;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties via the Trust's Financial Regulations and Scheme of

Governance Statement (continued)

The risk and control framework (continued)

- delegation;
- identification and management of risks.

The Risk Management Strategy is led by the Executive Team and monitored efficiently and effectively by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. The Executive team meet monthly to evaluate progress and mitigating factors, as well as to bring to the fore any new risks or concerns to the Trust's Vision and Values, strategic and operational plans and short and long term viability. All additions to and removals from the Risk Register are approved by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. Should there be a requirement for action outside of the scope of the timing of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee meeting, the Chair of the Committee is approached for permission to act via Chair's Action.

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Academy Advisory Limited as internal auditor.

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

- financial health and reporting
- testing of payroll reporting
- testing of personnel records
- testing of financial control
- financial health and reporting
- testing of procurement processes
- testing of income and debtors
- testing of expenditure and creditors
- testing of bank reconciliations
- testing of card transactions and banking
- testing of journals
- business and pecuniary interests
- trust internal support structure and service provision
- spend per pupil/staffing ratios
- trust capacity

The Internal Auditors have concluded their review of Governance and Risk Management Structures across the Trust. Also reviewed during the year was the process and procedures around Pupil leg funding claims.

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares an annual summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The Internal Auditors have delivered their schedule of work. The Internal Auditors provided details of any issues as a result of the internal audit processes in year; no significant control issues were found during the course of the year.

The Trust operates an annual calendar which outlines all reporting requirements for the Trust to meet with statutory and regulatory reporting requirements.

To ensure compliance with Safeguarding Regulations, the Trust provides training and regular updates to trustees, all relevant staff and Local Academy Committee members. Safeguarding checks are performed as part of our annual review processes.

Governance Statement (continued)

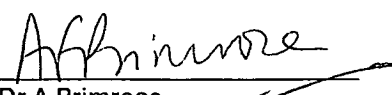
Review of effectiveness

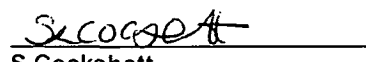
As accounting officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor; review of financial management and control, HR practice, payroll procedures, Trust capacity and sector benchmarking.
- the work of the external auditor; review of financial control measures and findings in line with the Management Letter
- review of Local Academy Committee minutes and Principal's Reports
- Raising Achievement Board (x3);
- Review of the monthly financial management accounts
- the work of the Exec. Team and Local Academy Committee members within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- The challenge and support offered by the Trust Board and Committee framework.
- Reports to DfE and Ofsted conversations.
- The work of the Trust's Estates Partner in relation to capital work priorities and health and safety considerations.
- Review of progress in terms of the progress of the Risk Register.
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:


Dr A Primrose
Chair of Trustees


S Cockshott
Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

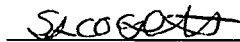
St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of St Chad's Academies Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Multi 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 Multi Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Multi 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 2021.

I confirm that I and the Multi Academy Trust board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Multi Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2021.

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



S Cockshott

Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

Date: 15 December 2022

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 15 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr A Primrose
Chair of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of St Chad's Academies Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Chad's Academies Trust (the 'multi academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Multi Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of St Chad's Academies Trust
(continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of St Chad's Academies Trust
(continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 3 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and

St Chad's Academies Trust
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Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements to the Members of St Chad's Academies Trust
(continued)

- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable Multi 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 charitable Multi 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 charitable Multi Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Dains Audit Limited

Andrew Morris FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Birmingham

15 December 2022

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 October 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Chad's Academies Trust during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to St Chad's Academies Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to St Chad's 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 St Chad's Academies Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Chad's Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 June 2013 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to St Chad's Academies Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Dains Audit Limited

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Birmingham

Date: 15 December 2022

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfer from local authority on conversion		81,875	(597,000)	-	(515,125)	-
Other donations and capital grants		492,000	-	1,166,572	1,658,572	1,521,449
Charitable activities:	4					
Funding for the multi academy trust's educational operations		-	32,364,340	-	32,364,340	29,421,494
Other trading activities	5	730,584	-	-	730,584	486,417
Investments	6	1,010	-	-	1,010	815
Total income		1,305,469	31,767,340	1,166,572	34,239,381	31,430,175
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:	7					
Multi academy trust's educational operations		358,514	34,086,727	546,210	34,991,451	30,284,219
Total expenditure		358,514	34,086,727	546,210	34,991,451	30,284,219
Net income/ (expenditure) before transfers		946,955	(2,319,387)	620,362	(752,070)	1,145,956
Transfers between funds	19	(966,553)	(462,002)	1,428,555	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(19,598)	(2,781,389)	2,048,917	(752,070)	1,145,956
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	19,729,000	-	19,729,000	(3,402,000)
Net movement in funds		(19,598)	16,947,611	2,048,917	18,976,930	(2,256,044)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,689,294	(21,528,187)	5,203,250	(12,635,643)	(10,379,599)
Net movement in funds		(19,598)	16,947,611	2,048,917	18,976,930	(2,256,044)
Total funds carried forward		3,669,696	(4,580,576)	7,252,167	6,341,287	(12,635,643)

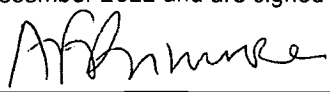
The notes on pages 35 to 69 form part of these financial statements.

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 08526973

Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	14	96,583	110,844
Tangible assets	15	6,214,043	4,868,161
		<u>6,310,626</u>	<u>4,979,005</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	1,622,223	1,309,534
Cash at bank and in hand		8,988,542	8,474,344
		<u>10,610,765</u>	<u>9,783,878</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(3,948,801)	(3,995,684)
Net current assets		<u>6,661,964</u>	<u>5,788,194</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>12,972,590</u>	<u>10,767,199</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(65,303)	(26,842)
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>12,907,287</u>	<u>10,740,357</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	(6,566,000)	(23,376,000)
Total net liabilities		<u><u>6,341,287</u></u>	<u><u>(12,635,643)</u></u>
Funds of the Multi Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Restricted fixed asset funds	19	7,252,167	5,203,250
Restricted income funds	19	1,985,424	1,847,813
Pension reserve	19	(6,566,000)	(23,376,000)
Total restricted funds	19	<u>2,671,591</u>	<u>(16,324,937)</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>3,669,696</u>	<u>3,689,294</u>
Total funds		<u><u>6,341,287</u></u>	<u><u>(12,635,643)</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 69 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 December 2022 and are signed on their behalf, by:


Dr A Primrose
 Chair of Trustees

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	1,266,690	2,571,231
Cash flows from investing activities	23	(798,645)	(881,318)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	46,153	(3,935)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		514,198	1,685,978
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		8,474,344	6,788,366
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u>8,988,542</u>	<u>8,474,344</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 69 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

General information

St Chad's Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered number of the company is 08526973 and its registered office is Birchills CE Community Academy, Farringdon Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 8NF. The principal activity of the trust is given in the Trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Multi Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Multi Academy Trust's functional and presentational currency is GBP. The financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

- **Grants**

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

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

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

- **Sponsorship income**

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

- **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 year it is receivable and to the extent the Multi 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 'Stocks' and 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from Other Trading Activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from Other Trading Activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from Other Trading Activities'.

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Multi Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Multi Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Taxation

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

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

1.7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Computer software	- 10 % straight line
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1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

The multi academy trust occupies:

Land and buildings provided to it by site trustees under a mere licence (also referred to as a Church Supplemental Agreement) which contains a two year notice period.

Having considered the fact that the multi academy trust occupies the land and such buildings as may be or may come to be erected on it by a mere licence that transfers to the multi academy trust no rights or control over the site save that of occupying it at the will of the site trustees under the terms of the relevant site trust, the Trustees have concluded that the value of the land buildings occupied by the multi academy trust will not be recognised on the balance sheet of the multi academy trust.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Site improvements	- 2% straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

1.9 Debtors

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

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 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 Multi Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.12 Provisions

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

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

1.13 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 17 and 18. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.14 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

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

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

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

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

1.16 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to a Multi Academy Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £NIL consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Mereside Church of England Primary School, Brewood Middle Church of England Primary School and St Mary's Church of England First School to the Multi Academy Trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate Balance Sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Income from Donations and Capital Grants in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

Further details of the transaction are set out in note 26.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.17 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Multi Academy Trust 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 27, 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 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals requires the Trustees to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results in the future could differ from those estimates. In this regard, the Trustees believe that the critical accounting policies where judgements or estimating are necessarily applied are summarised below.

Depreciation

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

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	492,000	-	13,769	505,769
Grants	-	-	1,152,803	1,152,803
Transfer from local authority on conversion	81,875	(597,000)	-	(515,125)
	<u>573,875</u>	<u>(597,000)</u>	<u>1,166,572</u>	<u>1,143,447</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	92,398	308,693	401,091
Grants	-	1,120,358	1,120,358
Transfer from local authority on conversion	-	-	-
	<u>92,398</u>	<u>1,429,051</u>	<u>1,521,449</u>

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

4. Funding for the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
DfE/ESFA grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG)	25,363,932	25,363,932
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
UFSM	855,208	855,208
Pupil premium	2,292,934	2,292,934
Sports premium	483,922	483,922
Teachers pension grant	32,928	32,928
Teachers pay grant	13,925	13,925
Other DfE/ESFA grants	391,066	391,066
	<u>29,433,915</u>	<u>29,433,915</u>
Other Government grants		
Local authority grants	717,152	717,152
Early years funding	1,058,288	1,058,288
	<u>1,775,440</u>	<u>1,775,440</u>
Other income from the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations	788,470	788,470
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)		
Catch-up Premium	333,690	333,690
Coronavirus exceptional support	32,825	32,825
	<u>366,515</u>	<u>366,515</u>
	<u><u>32,364,340</u></u>	<u><u>32,364,340</u></u>

During the year the Multi Academy Trust received £333,690 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £333,690. No amounts have been carried forward into 2022/23.

Also during the year the Multi Academy Trust received £32,825 of funding for Coronavirus exceptional support and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £32,825. No amounts have been carried forward into 2022/23.

4. Funding for the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
DfE/ESFA grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG)	22,137,668	22,137,668
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
UFSM	700,580	700,580
Pupil premium	2,196,592	2,196,592
Sports premium	227,868	227,868
Teachers pension grant	720,753	720,753
Teachers pay grant	254,481	254,481
Other DfE/ESFA grants	269,115	269,115
	<u>26,507,057</u>	<u>26,507,057</u>
Other Government grants		
Local authority grants	699,598	699,598
Early years funding	1,002,299	1,002,299
	<u>1,701,897</u>	<u>1,701,897</u>
Other income from the Multi Academy Trust's educational operations	879,671	879,671
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)		
Catch-up Premium	264,645	264,645
Coronavirus exceptional support	68,224	68,224
	<u>332,869</u>	<u>332,869</u>
	<u><u>29,421,494</u></u>	<u><u>29,421,494</u></u>

During the year the Multi Academy Trust received £264,645 of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £264,645. No amounts have been carried forward into 2021/22.

The Multi 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 "COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)". Funding of £68,224 was received and spent during 2020/21.

St Chad's Academies Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

5. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lettings	43,003	43,003
Music tuition	5,945	5,945
Other income	61,002	61,002
Insurance receipts	88,562	88,562
Fundraising income	17,099	17,099
Higher Education Student Income	120,769	120,769
Private nursery income	56,284	56,284
Kids Club Income	332,306	332,306
Photograph income	5,614	5,614
	<u>730,584</u>	<u>730,584</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings	43,559	-	43,559
Music tuition	1,865	-	1,865
Other income	77,843	400	78,243
Insurance receipts	110,050	-	110,050
Fundraising income	8,289	-	8,289
Higher Education Student Income	113,422	-	113,422
Private nursery income	26,651	-	26,651
Kids Club Income	100,732	-	100,732
Photograph income	3,606	-	3,606
	<u>486,017</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>486,417</u>

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

6. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	1,010	1,010

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	815	815

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Multi Academy Trust's Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	22,798,503	60,071	3,380,415	26,238,989
Allocated support costs	4,324,124	1,639,271	2,789,067	8,752,462
	<u>27,122,627</u>	<u>1,699,342</u>	<u>6,169,482</u>	<u>34,991,451</u>

	Staff Costs 2021 £	Premises 2021 £	Other 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Multi Academy Trust's Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	20,030,118	38,057	2,436,110	22,504,285
Allocated support costs	3,789,180	1,558,252	2,432,502	7,779,934
	<u>23,819,298</u>	<u>1,596,309</u>	<u>4,868,612</u>	<u>30,284,219</u>

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Educational Operations	26,238,989	8,752,462	34,991,451

	Direct costs 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Educational Operations	22,504,285	7,779,934	30,284,219

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Pension finance costs	410,000	309,000
Staff costs	22,798,503	20,030,118
Depreciation and amortisation	546,210	325,419
Educational supplies	251,573	189,046
Examination fees	4,651	5,514
Staff development	158,528	94,092
Technology costs	900,764	752,790
Educational consultancy	496,265	435,225
Other direct costs	567,753	259,985
Supply teacher insurance	104,742	103,096
	<u>26,238,989</u>	<u>22,504,285</u>

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	4,324,124	3,789,180
Staff development	24,462	12,474
Educational consultancy	24,734	23,365
Travel and subsistence	61,844	13,503
Other direct costs	448,737	431,177
Maintenance of premises	564,290	562,283
Maintenance of equipment	359,495	243,599
Cleaning	499,404	476,289
Rates	97,201	94,684
Water rates	72,847	63,186
Energy	439,501	361,810
Insurance	123,060	130,741
Catering costs	1,229,341	1,081,673
Other occupancy costs	342,373	375,772
Governance costs	141,049	120,198
	<u>8,752,462</u>	<u>7,779,934</u>

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease rentals	28,147	41,328
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	531,949	311,158
Amortisation of intangible assets	14,261	14,261
Auditor's remuneration	45,000	41,500
	<u>619,357</u>	<u>408,247</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	19,319,179	17,256,523
Social security costs	1,687,043	1,488,983
Pension costs	6,050,860	4,968,162
	<u>27,057,082</u>	<u>23,713,668</u>
Staff restructuring costs	65,546	105,630
	<u>27,122,628</u>	<u>23,819,298</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2022 £	2021 £
Redundancy payments	65,546	99,130
Severance payments	-	6,500
	<u>65,546</u>	<u>105,630</u>

b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £Nil (2021: £6,500).

c. Staff numbers

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	266	274
Support	491	500
Management	4	4
	<u>761</u>	<u>778</u>

10. Staff (continued)

c. Staff numbers (continued)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Teachers	223	247
Support	311	334
Management	4	4
	<u>538</u>	<u>585</u>

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2022 No.	2021 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	10	10
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	2
	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Multi Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Multi Academy Trust was £398,917 (2021 £381,590).

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

11. Central services

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

- Payroll services
- Financial services
- Education services
- HR services
- Legal services

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

5% of General Annual Grant

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
All Saints National Academy	67,592	72,904
Birchills Church of England Community School	93,767	89,517
Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Primary School	45,162	42,729
Brewood Church of England Middle School	97,255	89,726
Christ Church Church of England Primary Academy	49,577	49,007
Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy	34,627	36,056
Dawley Church of England Primary Academy	47,468	46,528
Havergal Church of England Primary School	30,935	32,247
Holy Trinity Church of England Primary Academy & Nursery	56,116	53,253
Mereside Church of England Primary School	71,137	64,599
St James Church of England Primary Academy	23,886	21,951
St John's Church of England Primary School (Stafford)	76,924	78,460
St John's Church of England Primary School	48,898	45,769
St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy	92,956	90,436
St Mary's Church of England First School	20,069	20,612
St Matthew's Church of England Primary School	20,686	21,883
St Peter's Church of England Primary School	33,331	34,494
Stoke Minster Church of England Primary Academy	84,827	87,169
Trinity Church of England Primary School	140,785	129,343
St Peters Bratton Church of England Academy	81,202	-
Total	1,217,200	1,106,683

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2022	2021
		£	£
S M Wedgwood, Chief Executive Officer	Remuneration	95,000 -	90,000 -
		100,000	95,000
	Pension contributions paid	10,000 -	10,000 -
		15,000	15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £3,123 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2021 - £NIL to Trustee).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Multi Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity elements from the overall cost of the academy trusts insurance.

14. Intangible assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	142,612
At 31 August 2022	142,612
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2021	31,768
Charge for the year	14,261
At 31 August 2022	46,029
Net book value	
At 31 August 2022	96,583
At 31 August 2021	110,844

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Site improvements £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 September 2021	2,697,447	2,003,234	1,093,498	5,794,179
Additions	953,581	710,361	302,285	1,966,227
Disposals	(46,075)	(43,243)	-	(89,318)
At 31 August 2022	3,604,953	2,670,352	1,395,783	7,671,088
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2021	71,283	311,712	543,023	926,018
Charge for the year	60,071	208,408	263,470	531,949
On disposals	(922)	-	-	(922)
At 31 August 2022	130,432	520,120	806,493	1,457,045
Net book value				
At 31 August 2022	3,474,521	2,150,232	589,290	6,214,043
At 31 August 2021	2,626,164	1,691,522	550,475	4,868,161

16. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	35,409	8,646
Other debtors	94,081	1,803
VAT repayable	396,889	400,598
Prepayments and accrued income	1,095,844	898,487
	1,622,223	1,309,534

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17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	13,675	5,983
Trade creditors	1,246,496	1,035,024
Other taxation and social security	380,031	352,057
Other creditors	476,167	404,651
Accruals and deferred income	1,832,432	2,197,969
	<u>3,948,801</u>	<u>3,995,684</u>

Included within other loans are interest free Salix loans relating to an Energy Efficiency loan held by Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy and Havergal Church of England Primary School. The loans are to be repaid over 7 and 8 years through annual repayments of £2,048 and £3,935 respectively.

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	622,585	429,361
Resources deferred during the year	395,894	622,585
Amounts released from previous periods	(622,585)	(429,361)
	<u>395,894</u>	<u>622,585</u>

At the balance sheet date the Multi Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for free school meals funding and rates relief.

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	<u>65,303</u>	<u>26,842</u>

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	2022 £	2021 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	-	4,531
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,531</u>

Included within other loans are interest free Salix loans relating to an Energy Efficiency loan held by Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy and Havergal Church of England Primary School. The loans are to be repaid over 7 and 8 years through annual repayments of £2,048 and £3,935 respectively.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	3,689,294	1,305,469	(358,514)	(966,553)	-	3,669,696
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,693,552	25,363,933	(24,901,044)	(462,002)	-	1,694,439
UIFSM	-	855,208	(855,208)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,292,934	(2,292,934)	-	-	-
Sports premium	-	483,922	(483,922)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	32,928	(32,928)	-	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	13,925	(13,925)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	391,066	(391,066)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,781,011	(1,781,011)	-	-	-
Other restricted grants/income	154,261	782,898	(646,174)	-	-	290,985
Catch-up premium	-	333,690	(333,690)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	32,825	(32,825)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(23,376,000)	(597,000)	(2,322,000)	-	19,729,000	(6,566,000)
	<u>(21,528,187)</u>	<u>31,767,340</u>	<u>(34,086,727)</u>	<u>(462,002)</u>	<u>19,729,000</u>	<u>(4,580,576)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Other DfE / EFSA capital grants	4,996,204	158,528	(546,210)	1,725,172	-	6,333,694
SCA Income	207,046	1,008,044	-	(296,617)	-	918,473
	<u>5,203,250</u>	<u>1,166,572</u>	<u>(546,210)</u>	<u>1,428,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,252,167</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(16,324,937)</u>	<u>32,933,912</u>	<u>(34,632,937)</u>	<u>966,553</u>	<u>19,729,000</u>	<u>2,671,591</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(12,635,643)</u></u>	<u><u>34,239,381</u></u>	<u><u>(34,991,451)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>19,729,000</u></u>	<u><u>6,341,287</u></u>

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Restricted funds

This fund represents grants and other income received for the multi academy trust's operational activities and development.

Pension reserve

The pension reserve included within restricted general funds represents the multi academy trust's share of the pension liability arising on the LGPS fund.

Restricted fixed assets funds

Thus fund represents grants and other income received to carry out works of a capital nature.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2022.

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as shown on the next page:

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

19. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	3,699,998	579,230	(224,701)	(365,233)	-	3,689,294
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,000,352	22,137,668	(20,937,964)	(367,334)	-	1,832,722
UIFSM	-	700,580	(700,580)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	2,196,592	(2,196,592)	-	-	-
Sports premium	-	227,868	(227,868)	-	-	-
Teachers pension grant	-	720,753	(720,753)	-	-	-
Teachers pay grant	-	254,481	(254,481)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	269,115	(254,024)	-	-	15,091
Other government grants	-	1,701,897	(1,701,897)	-	-	-
Other restricted grants/income	-	880,071	(880,071)	-	-	-
Catch-up premium	-	264,645	(264,645)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	68,224	(68,224)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(18,447,000)	-	(1,527,000)	-	(3,402,000)	(23,376,000)
	<u>(17,446,648)</u>	<u>29,421,894</u>	<u>(29,734,099)</u>	<u>(367,334)</u>	<u>(3,402,000)</u>	<u>(21,528,187)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Other DfE / EFSA capital grants	2,678,209	446,170	(233,712)	2,141,062	-	5,031,729
SCA Income	688,842	982,881	(91,707)	1,408,495	-	171,521
	<u>3,367,051</u>	<u>1,429,051</u>	<u>(325,419)</u>	<u>732,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,203,250</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>(14,079,597)</u>	<u>30,850,945</u>	<u>(30,059,518)</u>	<u>365,233</u>	<u>(3,402,000)</u>	<u>(16,324,937)</u>

St Chad's Academies Trust
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Notes to the Financial Statements
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds	(10,379,599)	31,430,175	(30,284,219)	-	(3,402,000)	(12,635,643)
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Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
All Saints National CE Academy	81,415	225,527
Birchills CECommunity Academy	679,473	670,759
Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary Academy	186,255	244,560
Brewood CofE Middle School	181,570	203,081
Christ Church CE Primary Academy	200,267	127,475
Churchfield CE Primary Academy	154,733	185,784
Dawley CE Primary Academy	213,041	273,382
Havergal CE Primary Academy	94,254	209,407
Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy & Nursery	330,645	147,832
Mereside CE Primary School	79,472	50,939
St James CE Primary Academy	53,904	54,606
St John's CE Primary Academy (Stafford)	592,890	612,796
St John's CE Primary Academy	413,345	441,005
St Jude's CE Primary Academy	473,296	397,539
St Mary's CE First School	57,906	74,522
St Matthew's CE Primary Academy	120,285	123,791
St Peter's CE Primary Academy	96,016	114,758
St Peter's Bratton CE Primary Academy	49,195	-
Stoke Minster CE Primary Academy	328,317	281,109
Trinity CE Primary Academy	972,563	845,967
Central services	296,278	252,268
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	5,655,120	5,537,107
Restricted fixed asset fund	7,252,167	5,203,250
Pension reserve	(6,566,000)	(23,376,000)
Total	6,341,287	(12,635,643)

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2022 £
All Saints National Academy	1,465,162	144,787	14,066	346,964	1,970,979
Birchills CE Community	1,761,568	258,698	11,829	443,604	2,475,699
Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary	1,059,756	141,185	9,485	308,209	1,518,635
Brewood CE Middle School	1,590,490	265,602	36,244	463,393	2,355,729
Christ Church CE Primary	923,178	104,662	7,101	309,685	1,344,626
Churchfield CE Primary	827,047	145,158	2,217	174,955	1,149,377
Dawley CE Primary	887,833	124,407	15,984	288,347	1,316,571
Havergal CE Primary	638,624	105,779	18,087	145,260	907,750
Holy Trinity CE Primary & Nursery	1,026,175	141,481	6,144	270,259	1,444,059
Mereside CE Primary School	1,346,132	191,773	11,160	418,946	1,968,011
St James CE Primary	408,629	95,664	1,598	145,802	651,693
St John's CE Primary (Stafford)	1,482,233	223,420	7,962	304,755	2,018,370
St John's CE Primary	849,212	157,534	5,031	229,148	1,240,925
St Jude's CE Primary	1,789,262	435,705	19,178	476,279	2,720,424
St Mary's CE First School	362,745	63,023	5,098	177,232	608,098
St Matthew's CE Primary	409,848	78,007	6,461	109,841	604,157
St Peter's CE Primary	609,714	89,809	6,540	206,046	912,109
Stoke Minster CE Primary	1,736,311	263,373	9,848	463,682	2,473,214
Trinity CE Primary	2,499,677	296,805	33,206	729,358	3,559,046
St Peter's Bratton CE Primary	1,534,907	220,797	5,384	373,102	2,134,190
Central services	-	776,455	23,601	271,523	1,071,579
Multi Academy Trust	23,208,503	4,324,124	256,224	6,656,390	34,445,241

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £
All Saints National CE	1,395,428	137,099	12,171	372,473	1,917,171
Birchills CE Community	1,691,517	255,804	11,988	351,424	2,310,733
Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary	958,161	127,941	2,160	293,620	1,381,882
Brewood CofE Middle School	1,465,767	278,224	21,000	268,389	2,033,380
Christ Church CE Primary	885,740	125,797	10,521	269,159	1,291,217
Churchfield CE Primary	748,135	122,265	1,640	172,391	1,044,431
Dawley CE Primary	787,317	118,882	13,558	275,207	1,194,964
Havergal CE Primary	568,714	95,919	8,535	120,946	794,114
Holy Trinity CE Primary & Nursery	90,560	140,311	6,513	362,005	599,389
Mereside CE Primary School	1,252,786	165,982	6,820	357,416	1,783,004
St James CE Primary	371,968	81,687	1,012	135,369	590,036
St John's CE Primary (Stafford)	1,389,809	211,410	7,083	317,811	1,926,113
St John's CE Primary	710,865	137,366	3,607	239,147	1,090,985
St Jude's CE Primary	1,697,248	416,879	19,564	388,707	2,522,398
St Mary's CE First School	377,885	60,562	7,612	117,510	563,569
St Matthew's CE Primary	314,722	66,323	4,740	133,373	519,158
St Peter's CE Primary	549,797	95,731	7,212	136,775	789,515
Stoke Minster CE Primary	1,775,099	265,053	8,592	371,255	2,419,999
Trinity CE Primary	2,427,600	231,306	26,129	643,883	3,328,918
Central services	-	654,639	14,103	309,082	977,824
Multi Academy Trust	19,459,118	3,789,180	194,560	5,635,942	29,078,800

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	6,214,043	6,214,043
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	96,583	96,583
Current assets	3,669,696	5,926,534	1,014,535	10,610,765
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,941,110)	(7,691)	(3,948,801)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(65,303)	(65,303)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(6,566,000)	-	(6,566,000)
Total	3,669,696	(4,580,576)	7,252,167	6,341,287

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,868,161	4,868,161
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	110,844	110,844
Current assets	3,689,294	5,843,497	251,087	9,783,878
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,995,684)	-	(3,995,684)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(26,842)	(26,842)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(23,376,000)	-	(23,376,000)
Total	3,689,294	(21,528,187)	5,203,250	(12,635,643)

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

21. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(752,070)	1,145,956
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges	546,210	325,419
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,166,572)	(1,429,051)
Interest receivable	(1,010)	(815)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	597,000	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	2,322,000	1,527,000
Increase in debtors	(312,689)	(27,399)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(54,575)	1,327,705
Donated fixed assets	-	(298,214)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	88,396	630
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,266,690	2,571,231

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement on borrowing	46,153	(3,935)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	46,153	(3,935)

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank interest received	1,010	815
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,966,227)	(2,311,184)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,166,572	1,418,572
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	10,479
Net cash used in investing activities	(798,645)	(881,318)

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	8,988,542	8,474,344
Total cash and cash equivalents	8,988,542	8,474,344

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	Transfer from local authority on conversion £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	8,474,344	514,198	-	8,988,542
Debt due within 1 year	(5,983)	-	(7,692)	(13,675)
Debt due after 1 year	(26,842)	-	(38,461)	(65,303)
	8,441,519	514,198	(46,153)	8,909,564

26. Conversion to an academy trust

On 1 September 2021 St Peter's Bratton Church of England Primary converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to St Chad's Academies Trust from Telford and Wrekin Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - 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.

	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets		
Cash - representing budget surplus on LA funds	128,028	128,028
Non-current liabilities		
Salix loan	(46,153)	(46,153)
LGPS pension deficit	(597,000)	(597,000)
Net liabilities	<u>(515,125)</u>	<u>(515,125)</u>

27. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £417,103 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £385,484) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,379,569 (2021 - £2,178,338).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £2,144,000 (2021 - £1,874,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,789,000 (2021 - £1,549,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 355,000 (2021 - £325,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.7 per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 26 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Multi Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Multi 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.

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2022	2021
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.94	3.76
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.21	3.04
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.48	1.76
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.43	2.32

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

	2022	2021
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	22.67	22.91
Females	25.27	25.52
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	23.95	24.30
Females	27.07	27.32

Sensitivity analysis

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(587,000)	(988,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	588,000	1,006,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	816,000	1,466,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(767,000)	(1,435,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	82,000	811,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(81,000)	(798,000)

St Chad's Academies Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Equities	10,470,000	8,959,000
Gilts and bonds	2,746,000	2,390,000
Property	1,247,000	909,000
Cash and other liquid assets	618,000	433,000
Asset backed securities	573,000	1,022,000
Total market value of assets	15,654,000	13,713,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £380,000 (2021 - £1,665,000).

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Current service cost	(3,701,000)	(2,767,000)
Interest income	251,000	184,000
Interest cost	(661,000)	(493,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(4,111,000)	(3,076,000)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	37,089,000	28,418,000
Conversion of academy trusts	904,000	-
Current service cost	3,701,000	2,767,000
Interest cost	661,000	493,000
Employee contributions	355,000	325,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(20,339,000)	5,255,000
Benefits paid	(147,000)	(169,000)
At 31 August	22,224,000	37,089,000

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

27. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Multi Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
At 1 September	13,713,000	9,971,000
Conversion of academy trusts	307,000	-
Interest income	251,000	184,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(610,000)	1,853,000
Employer contributions	1,789,000	1,549,000
Employee contributions	355,000	325,000
Benefits paid	(147,000)	(169,000)
At 31 August	15,658,000	13,713,000

28. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2022 the Multi Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than 1 year	36,940	28,147
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	29,919	28,925
Later than 5 years	-	945
	66,859	58,017

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Multi Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Multi 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 period of account:

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

During the year the Multi Academy Trust made purchases of £20,663 (2021: £11,981) in respect of Christian distinctiveness work from the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education, a member of the Church of England Central Education Trust. At 31 August 2022, the Multi Academy Trust owed £Nil (2021: £Nil).

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustee's remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

30. Controlling party

The immediate parent undertaking at the balance sheet date is the Church of England Central Education Trust (CECET), a charitable company registered in England and Wales.

The ultimate parent undertaking and ultimate controlling at the balance sheet date is the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education, a charitable company registered in England and Wales.

31. Members' liability

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