

Company No: 08561302  
(England and Wales)

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST

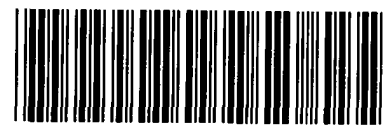
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND GROUP FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



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**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	Rt Rev'd Philip North Rev'd Canon Andrew Holliday Mr. Stephen Whittaker Mr. Stuart Harrison Rev'd Dawn Harrison (appointed 21.1.21)
<b>Trustees</b>	Rev'd Canon A Holliday (Chairman) Mrs. Carol Aspinall (appointed 10.3.21) Mr. Daniel Ballard Miss Jillian Hyde Dr. Adewale Oyeyele Mr. Andrew Stokes Mr. Paul Witkiewicz
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Mr. Stuart Colothan (Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer) Mrs. Jennifer Woodcock (Executive Headteacher) Mrs. Rose Crompton (Finance Director) Mrs. Julia Burger (Headteacher) Mr R Woods (Head of School – left role 31.3.21)
<b>Registered Number</b>	08561302 (England and Wales)
<b>Registered Office</b>	The Learning Together Trust Rectory Lane Wigan WN6 0XB
<b>Independent auditor</b>	MHA Moore and Smalley Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank 2-6 Market Street Wigan Lanes WN1 1JN
<b>Solicitors</b>	Eversheds – Sutherland LLP Bridgewater Place Water Lane Leeds LS1 15DR

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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

The Academy Trust operates four academies for pupils aged 3 to 11, serving a catchment area in the North West. It has pupil capacity of 1,295 and had a roll of 1,111 in the School Census in January 2021.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **Constitution**

The original academy was incorporated on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 as a company limited by guarantee with no share capital, registration number: 08561302. The company commenced operation as an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the academy became a Multi Academy Trust trading as The Learning Together Trust. Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery joined the trust on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School joined the Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 and Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School joined on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the academy. The initial members of the charitable company were nominated by the governing body of St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School. The MAT trustees were nominated by the Dioceses of Blackburn and Liverpool. The Articles of Association require the members of the charitable company to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the charitable company and the management of the academy.

The trustees of The Learning Together Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as The Learning Together Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

##### **Members' liability**

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

##### **Trustees' indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased professional indemnity, and directors' and officers' insurance to protect the trustees and officers from claims arising from negligence, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides indemnities of up to £20,000,000 in any one claim.

##### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

Trust board members, who are the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, are nominated by either, The Diocese of Blackburn or the Diocese of Liverpool and hold office for four years. A new Trustee has been appointed on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, following the resignation of a Trustee.

The Executive Headteachers of The Learning Together Trust act as CEO and are the executive reporting officers to the Trustees.

##### **Policies and Procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Trustees are appointed based on the skills that they will bring to the board of Trustees or based on a proposal to the board of Trustees by representative groups. On appointment, Trustees receive information relating to the trust and receive an induction pack on the role and responsibilities of trustees.

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience. All new Trustees are given information about The Learning Together Trust and the academies within it, and are encouraged to visit the individual academies and meet with staff and children. All relevant Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees.

#### **Organisational Structure**

Trustees are responsible for the strategic management of the academies; setting strategic direction, annual budgets, senior staff appointments, policy changes etc. Collectively, they make decisions on annual spending and set the budget for the year in liaison with the Executive Headteachers, Headteachers and Senior Leaders. They also offer expertise in curricular subjects, project management and capital bids. Trustees are responsible for the recruitment of staff; in particular, the appointment of the Executive Headteacher and Finance Director.

Trustees are supported in their work by Local Governing Boards at each school. The Trust has committees which comprise: St. Wilfrid's LGB, Canon Sharples LGB, St. David's LGB and St. Paul's LGB, Performance and Standards and Finance and Audit.

The Executive Headteachers are responsible for the strategic leadership of the Trust and Trust academies, with one undertaking the role of Accounting Officer. The daily management and organisation of each academy is led by the individual Executive Headteacher / Headteacher. They are supported by the senior leader in each academy. The Finance Director has responsibility for finance, capital funding and academy administration. The Head of School Improvement, appointed on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, is responsible for standards of teaching and learning, and pupil outcomes, across the Trust.

Each academy's leadership team develop policies for Board approval. The Trustees are responsible for approving shared policy, including the vision, mission statement, aims and values of the Trust. Trust leaders provide information about the standards, curriculum, pupil outcomes and attendance for Trustee information and monitoring purposes. This is verified by external inspection and monitoring reports.

Through performance management, Trust leaders challenge the senior leadership team and hold them to account regarding priorities for improvement set out in the Trust Strategic and Development School Development Plans, and individual school strategic and development plans. The School Development Plan is derived from a rigorous process of monitoring and evaluation and the school's self-evaluation.

The Board of Trustees meet twice each term to receive reports and manage its strategic objectives. The working committees also meet on a termly basis. Training is in place for the Executive Staff and the Board of Trustees.

#### **Arrangements for setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

All pay and remuneration of the Trust and Academy's key management personnel is in line with the current National School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and Wigan Council (Schools) Pay Policy.

#### **Trade Union Facility Time**

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, the following information is given:

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST** **(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

### **Relevant union officials**

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

0      0

### **Percentage of time spent on facility time**

Percentage of time      Number of employees

0%      0

1%-50%      0

51%-99%      0

100%      0

### **Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time**

**Total cost of facility time**      **0**

**Total pay bill**      **£3,978,000**

**Total pay bill spent on facility time**      **0%**

### **Paid trade union activities**

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

### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trust works closely with the Dioceses of Liverpool and Blackburn, parents and carers, our Foundation Parishes and Wigan LA / Lancashire LA to further the principal activities of the Trust.

The Trust works closely with many school networks to further the principal activities of the Academies. St Wilfrid's Trading Company is a trading subsidiary 100% owned by The Learning Together Trust as defined by the relevant Charities SORP. The Members, Directors, Trustees, senior staff and their families are regarded as related parties in accordance with the definitions in the Charities SORP.

### **Trust Vision, Mission Statement, Aims and Values**

The principal objective and aim of the charitable company is the operation of St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School and Adlington St Paul's Church of England Primary School to provide education for pupils between the ages of 3-11 years.

The schools provide an education for pupils who are preferentially drawn from the area in which the schools are situated, in line with the published admission policies. The Learning Together Trust was set up on 14th April 2015 to advance, for the public benefit, education in the Standish and Whelley areas of Wigan. St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy and Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery offer a broad and balanced primary curriculum. Subsequently, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School and Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School have joined the Trust. Each Academy's ethos and distinctiveness are firmly rooted in the Church of England.

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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Our objective has been to maintain the traditional ethos, values, standards and achievements of each school, whilst continuing to work to fulfil the school's medium and longer-term development plans.

#### Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The key public benefit delivered by the Learning Together Trust is the maintenance and development of the high-quality education provided by the Academies, to the children of Wigan and Lancashire.

In doing this, The Learning Together Trust not only offers a high-quality education, but aims to develop the whole child. A wide-range of extra-curricular activities, enrichment opportunities and unique experiences are provided to children in all Trust Academies.

#### Strategic report

Following the full reopening of school in September 2020, Trust Leaders devised a Recovery Strategy based on 8Rs. Each of the academies within the Trust, implemented this systematic approach to ensure a safe and successful return to school for all children, with a focus on wellbeing and re-engaging children in learning.

- 1. Return to School**

Working with parents/carers to ensure a safe and successful return to school for all children.

- 2. Rebuild Relationships**

Support children in reconnecting with each other and develop new relationships with new staff and children.

- 3. Re-establish Routines**

Embed new and existing arrangements to keep children safe and provide structure and stability.

- 4. Re-engage in Learning**

Motivate and engage children with a high-quality, rich, broad and balanced curriculum to reignite a love for learning.

- 5. Revise Knowledge and Skills**

Through quality first teaching, readdress prior learning to establish secure foundations for next steps in learning.

- 6. Re-assess All**

Undertake formative and summative assessment in all key areas to identify misconceptions, gaps and insecure learning.

- 7. Respond to Needs**

Following assessment, respond to individual needs through quality first teaching, targeted intervention and tuition.

- 8. Review Impact**

Evaluate impact of our Recovery Strategy against children's needs.

During the Autumn Term, Trust academies continued to provide a high-quality education that met the needs of children in each school community, reflecting the clear curriculum intent. Following the successful implementation of the Trust Recovery Strategy, children were well-supported with their wellbeing and received a broad and balanced curriculum, using each academy's long and medium-term plans.

## **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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Where individual children or whole class bubbles had to self-isolate, teachers provided remote education provision, using different digital platforms and enhanced by high-quality online subscriptions and virtual meets. Academies continued to provide enrichment opportunities for children in a COVID-secure way, for example themed days, virtual services and celebrations, online events etc.

Due to restrictions and national guidance, our academies were unable to hold Open Days and offer tours to prospective parents. Trust Leaders arranged for all schools to have a promotional video made. This offered an insight into the academies, allowing parents to view a virtual tour of each academy through the homepage of each website. Trust Leaders also arranged for a still photographer to capture some magical moments within each school and provide a bank of still photographs.

Following analysis of teacher assessment data, individual and groups of children were identified on Quality First Teaching Class Action Plans for targeted support, through our universal offer and additional intervention. Our academies have used the Education Endowment Foundation research document to inform 'catch-up' plans, with academies using teachers and tutors within the National Tuition Partnership to facilitate small group intervention over a 15-week period.

Following the Government's decision on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, to only open schools to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, academy leaders enhanced the Remote Education Provision in each academy. Our academies provided a blended approach, based on research within the Ofsted publication 'What's working well in Remote Education', to meet the needs of the children in each school community. This included 'Live Lessons', pre-recorded teaching by school staff, pre-recorded teaching videos from external sources (e.g. RWI, White Rose Maths, Oak Academy), wellbeing virtual 'Class Meets', online subscriptions and independent learning activities. Each academy published their Remote Education Provision on their respective websites.

Academy leaders continued to prioritise continuous professional development for all staff, through carefully planned staff development meetings, signposting staff to research and best-practice, and continued investment in external consultancy.

Following DfE Guidance on the full reopening of school, Operational Guidance February 2021, Trust leaders carefully planned the safe full reopening of all academies on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, reviewing and updating Risk Assessments as appropriate. Academies reimplemented our Recovery Strategy (8 Rs) within each of the academies, with a focus on wellbeing for all.

As part of the Recovery Strategy, all children were reassessed and Trust Leaders analysed data to gain a clear picture of where there had been 'learning loss', using National findings as a comparison. Teachers within each academy produced Quality First Teaching Class Action Plans, identifying any barriers and gaps in learning, and future actions to address these.

In addition to using teachers and tutors within the National Tuition Partnership to facilitate small group intervention over a 15-week period, three academies engaged in the Nuffield Early Language Intervention Programme, aimed at developing language in the Early Years.

Throughout the year, each academy provided a broad and rich curriculum to meet the needs of the children in each school community.

St. Wilfrid's provides a bespoke 'Literacy-Rich' Curriculum, designed to deepen knowledge and develop skills, with literacy at the heart. Reading is high profile and number of new reading initiatives were launched, including Half-Termly Reading Challenge, Author of the Month, Reading Round Up and 'The Masked Reader'. St. Wilfrid's also welcomed their new Patron of Reading, children's author, Simon Adeptun, to school to work with children. Two new additions joined St. Wilfrid's: Reading Rabbits, 'Murphy' (named after author Jill Murphy) and 'Kipling' (named after author Rudyard Kipling). Other initiatives included World Maths Day and 'Let's Get Active Challenge!' St. Wilfrid's was named in the Sunday Times 'Top 250' State Primary Schools in England in November 2020, putting the academy in the top 1% Nationally.



# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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Canon Sharples delivers the four-stage approach of the Cornerstone Curriculum, which engages, develops and innovates and expresses children's knowledge, skills and understanding of the wider curriculum. 'Doorways to learning' were effectively relaunched and children enjoyed re-engaging with the rich curriculum and responded with enthusiasm, curiosity, awe and wonder. Canon Sharples was invited to record a podcast to share 'best practice' to be used as a case study, as an exemplary ambassador of Cornerstones. Visitors were welcomed to provide curriculum enrichment across the school during the 'engage' phase, including Curious Critters as part of the 'Big, Wide World' topic in Early Years and a Rockpool experience as part of the 'Coastline' topic in Year 2. The 'Thrive Approach' was embedded across Canon Sharples, through training, resources, screening and targeted interventions.

St. David's follows the Cornerstones Curriculum and work was undertaken to devise a cohesive and progressive long-term curriculum map. Children were 'Engaged' at the start of each topic, through interesting 'hooks', which included enticing 'Doorways to Learning'. Topics were celebrated through exciting ways of 'Expressing' what they have learnt, which included art exhibitions. Trust leaders made the decision to introduce 'Read Write Inc' and 'Literacy and Language' for the English Curriculum at St. David's. The academy invested in high-quality training and resources, to ensure successful implementation. St. David's prioritises Reading and the academy has invested in new class reading books for KS2 to promote and encourage a love of reading. 'Forest School' recommenced with the children enjoying this enrichment opportunity.

St. Paul's delivers 'Read Write Inc.' across school and offer the Cornerstones Curriculum. St. Paul's celebrated 'Science Week' with a whole school curriculum focus on farming. The academy also participated in 'The Great Science Share', in which weekly Science themes were used to enhance learning, which included 'Explore the Outdoors', 'Clean Air', 'War on Waste', 'Find some Space' and 'Take Action'. Reading remains high profile, with reading areas, whole class reading sessions and an investment in 'Remarkable Reads' for each year group, promoting diversity and making links with the wider curriculum. Other whole school themed events have been 'Mental Health Awareness Week' and 'Walk to School Week'.

### **Key Performance Indicators: Strategic Plan 2018-21**

#### **1) National levels of attainment and progress are achieved**

No statutory assessments at the end of 2020 – 2021 due to COVID-19.

#### **2) Attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils is in line with peers and national**

No statutory assessments at the end of 2020 – 2021 due to COVID-19.

#### **3) All teaching good and majority outstanding**

**St. Wilfrid's:** Good or better teaching 100%, 62% outstanding

**Canon Sharples:** Good or better teaching 100%, 36% outstanding

**St. David's:** Good or better teaching 60%, 0% outstanding and 40% Requires Improvement

**St. Paul's:** Good or better teaching 87%, 25% outstanding and 13% Requires Improvement

#### **4) All schools judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted**

**St. Wilfrid's:** Outstanding (September 2007)

**Canon Sharples:** Good (June 2018)

**St. David's:** Good (November 2014)

**St. Paul's:** Inadequate (November 2017 and Monitoring Visit September 2018)

#### **5) All schools judged as Good or Outstanding in SIAM's inspection**

**St. Wilfrid's:** Outstanding (January 2018)

**Canon Sharples:** Outstanding (November 2016)

**St. David's:** Outstanding (May 2016)

**St. Paul's:** Good (October 2014)

#### **6) School improvement increasingly led by system leaders**

System leadership is well established and is at the heart of school improvement. We have appointed a Head of School Improvement to the central team, with a clear focus on raising standards in teaching and learning. Our Trust continues to work with a range of other system leader groups.

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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#### **7) Trust board and LGBs are at full complement and individual members have 85% attendance**

At Trust Board we have a full complement.

Six Directors at 100% and one Director at 80%

#### **At LGB (2020 – 2021):**

**St. Wilfrid's:** No vacancies and ten governors at 100%, two at 75%, one at 50% and one at 0%.

**Canon Sharples:** Two vacancies (two Foundation) and six governors at 100%, one at 75%, one at 50% and one at 25%.

**St. David's:** Three vacancies (three Foundation) and seven governors at 100% and one at 75%

**St. Paul's:** Two vacancies (two Foundation) and four governors at 100%, two at 75%, two at 25% and one at 0%.

#### **8) Board members and LGB governors clearly understand their individual roles and responsibilities and are effective in their challenge and support**

Directors and Governors have a good understanding of their roles and effectively hold senior leaders to account. Induction procedures are in place and Directors and Governors attend relevant training for these roles (see minutes).

#### **9) Leadership is at least good in each school**

In each school's SEF, Leadership and Management is judged: **St. Wilfrid's:** Outstanding, **Canon Sharples:** Outstanding, **St. David's:** Good, **St. Paul's:** Good.

#### **10) Each academy operates at least at break-even point, regardless of additional funding streams**

Two out of four schools have achieved a balanced budget this year 2020 – 2021 (St. Wilfrid's and St. David's).

St. Paul's has set a budget using a minimal amount of prior year surplus, which it is hoped to recover by achieving savings in-year.

Canon Sharples has utilised a significant amount of prior year surplus in order to maintain the staffing levels necessary for the effective running of the school and current needs.

#### **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust and the academies have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies note of the financial statements.

#### **Financial review**

Most of the trusts income is obtained from the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants to each school, some of which is restricted to purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31st August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

The Trust's financial position for the year to 31 August 2021 demonstrates total income of £6,703k (2020: £6,104k) with a deficit for the year of £167k (2020: deficit of £183k), excluding depreciation and actuarial gain on the LGPS pension reserve). The deficit has been allocated to reserves.

The principal financial management policies adopted in the year are:

- regular financial reviews of income and expenditure versus planned budgets at Finance and Audit committee meetings; and
- consideration as to whether income streams demonstrate a robust and stable position to continue to enable the provision of resources of sufficient quality to fulfil the academy's educational obligations.

The reserves will be utilised for supporting the staffing structure and an investment in property to create a Trust Head office.

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees review the reserve levels of each academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure stream, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent of up to 1 month of the income, approximately £517,110. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

Free reserves as at 31 August 2021 were £1,056k.

### **Investment policy**

In a period of financial uncertainty and low interest rates, the Learning Together Trusts policy has been to maximise liquidity and minimise risk. The academy had no financial investments during the financial year ended 31 August 2021. The policy will be kept under review.

### **Risk management**

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which the Trust is exposed and documented this in a working Risk Register. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to mitigate risks that the academies face, especially in the operational areas and in relation to the control of finance.

Where significant financial risk still remains, Trustees have ensured that they have adequate insurance cover. The academies have an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following statement:

Internal audit (Haines Watts) have been appointed for the financial year 2020 – 2021 and their role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust financial systems. The Trust confirms that this function has been fully delivered in line with ESFA's requirements and no material control issues were identified.

### **Financial and risk management objectives and policies**

The academy trust's activities expose it primarily to cash flow risk. The Board of Trustees continually monitor cash flows to ensure The Learning Together Trust and subsequently each academy has sufficient funds available to meet commitments as they fall due. The Board of Trustees maintain significant cash reserves at all times.

The Board of Trustees acknowledge the defined benefit pension scheme deficit. It considers that the Trust is able to meet its known contribution commitments for the foreseeable future.

### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trustees have identified the following principal risks and uncertainties facing The Learning Together Trust:

#### **Staff**

- Losing an industrial tribunal case brought by an employee.
- Costs incurred due to a long-term absence of a member of staff
- Loss of key staff
- Being unable to recruit staff

#### **Governance**

- Trust Board lacks relevant skills or commitment.
- Directors have conflicts of interest

#### **Admissions**

- Planned admission numbers not met

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Premises**

- Prosecution following non-compliance with premises-related Health & Safety issues.
- Inadequate servicing and maintenance leads to significant future expenditure
- Accident to a pupil / member of staff / member of the public results in a claim against the school.
- Land and/or Building owners invoke their right to terminate the lease in accordance with the Church Supplemental Agreement

### **Financial**

- Failing to prepare a coherent and manageable Revenue and Capital budget.
- Becoming financially insecure due to poor financial control, falling roll or other factors.
- Not complying with corporate and charitable statutory requirements in respect of accounting, filing of accounts, VAT and deductions of income tax.
- Not complying with changes in financial operating and funding procedures advised by Department for Education/Education Skills Funding Agency.
- Fraudulent activity due to lack of control.
- LGPS deficit impacts adversely on budgets
- Termination of Funding Agreement by the Secretary of State

### **Curriculum and Standards**

- Failure of a school may affect the reputation of our Trust
- Decline in results and/or negative aspects of a statutory inspection

### **Pupil**

- Safeguarding incidents within and outside school for pupils
- High numbers/ proportion of SEND pupils/ behaviour concerns where children need to be supported with high levels of staff without funding prior to EHCP or without fully costed funding in receipt of EHCP

### **Other**

- Disruption to education due to COVID-19
- Schools in our Trust become inward facing within the local and wider community
- Back office Central Services cannot support Trust Growth.
- Management information systems failure
- Increased layers of management could increase bureaucracy
- Non GDPR compliance
- Negative publicity in media and social media

### **Fundraising**

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

### **Plans for future periods**

The Learning Together Trust priorities for 2021 – 2022 are:

- Develop opportunities for children across our Trust to be 'Global Citizens'.
- Develop opportunities for staff to engage with and participate in development of school improvement initiatives across our schools.
- Develop a clear strategy for developing teaching staff throughout their careers.
- Develop subject expertise across our schools.
- Develop a common assessment cycle and shared system for moderation across our Trust.
- Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation cycle, to provide quality assurance and accountability.
- Develop opportunities to reflect on Trust Board effectiveness, welcoming external review.
- Develop consistently effective financial systems and reporting mechanisms, maintaining robust internal controls and value for money.

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Auditor**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that MHA Moore and Smalley be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the Members.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 13/12/2021..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....

**Rev'd Canon A Holliday  
Chairman**

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Scope of responsibility**

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteachers, with one as named 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 The Learning Together Trust (St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy, Canon Sharples CE Primary School and Nursery, St. David Haigh and Aspull CE Primary School and Adlington St. Paul's CE Primary School) and the Secretary of State for Education. The Executive Headteachers are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees for 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 responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met six times in the period 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021. Committees comprising of the Local Governing Board of each school, Finance and Audit Committee and Performance and Standards Committee also meet each term and receive detailed reports from the Trust Leadership Team.

During the year 2021 – 2022, Mrs Carol Aspinall (who is an educational consultant) joined the Board of Trustees.

### **Learning Together Trust Meeting Attendance 2020 - 2021**

#### **Full Board**

	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
Mrs Carol Aspinall	2	2
Mr Daniel Ballard	6	6
Mr Stuart Colothan (EHT)	6	6
Mrs Rose Crompton (FD)	6	6
Mrs Jan Grant (Clerk)	6	6
Rev Andrew Holliday (Chair)	6	6
Miss Jillian Hyde	6	6
Mrs Leanne Morgan Hillam (HOSI)	2	2
Dr Ade Oyeyele	5	6
Mr Andrew Stokes	6	6
Mr Paul Witkiewicz	6	6
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (EHT)	6	6

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Performance and Standards Committee**

	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
Mrs Carol Aspinall	1	1
Mr Stuart Colothan (EHT)	3	3
Mrs Jan Grant (Clerk)	3	3
Rev Andrew Holliday (Chair)	3	3
Miss Jillian Hyde	3	3
Mrs Leanne Morgan Hillam (HOSI)	1	1
Mr Andrew Stokes	3	3
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (EHT)	3	3

**Finance and Audit Committee**

	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Out of a Possible</b>
Mr Daniel Ballard	2	3
Mr Stuart Colothan (EHT)	3	3
Mrs Rose Crompton (FD)	3	3
Mrs Jan Grant (Clerk)	3	3
Rev Andrew Holliday (Chair)	1	1
Mrs Leanne Morgan Hillam (HOSI)	1	1
Dr Ade Oyeyele	3	3
Mr Paul Witkiewicz	3	3
Mrs Jennifer Woodcock (EHT)	3	3

There have been no issues arising from any financial reports submitted to the ESFA during this time.

**Review of value for money**

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

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

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Improving Educational and Wider Outcomes for Pupils**

Examples of activities to improve education include:

- Sharing of specialist provision, including staff expertise and resources.
- Shared executive leadership from the Executive Headteachers, Finance Director and Head of School Improvement.
- Centrally employed staff, including admin and IT support.
- Collaboration in the advancement of IT delivering economies of scale through shared contractors.
- Joint staff training and development days.
- School to school support and collaboration.
- Support for external schools.

### **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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's 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 at the Learning Together Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### **Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which The Learning Together Trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

### **The risk and control framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines; delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has appointed Haines Watts, as internal auditors. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial and other systems, in particular checks carried out in the current period include:

- testing of recruitments processes
- testing of business continuity process
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations



**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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On a termly basis, the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance and Audit Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustee's financial responsibilities and annually prepare a 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.

**Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process; and
- the work of the Finance Director within the Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Audit Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

13/12/2021

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:



**Rev'd Canon A. Holliday**



**Mr. S. Colothan**

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust's Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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

  
**Mr. S. Colothan**

**Accounting Officer**

14/12/2021

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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The trustees (who are also the directors of The Learning Together Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of members of the board of trustees on 9 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



**Rev'd Canon A Holliday**  
Chairman

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

---

### **Opinion**

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

### **Basis for opinion**

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

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or 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.

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes Reference and Administrative details, Trustees Report incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors Report, the Governance Statement, the Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance and the Trustees Responsibility Statement. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent 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 group or the parent academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

- Enquiries with management, including governors, about any known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing internal audit reports;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

Because of the field in which the client operates, we identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health & Safety; compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook; safeguarding and child protection; employment law; data protection and compliance with the UK Companies Act.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognize the non-compliance.

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

### **Use of our report**

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

*Nicola Mason*

**Nicola Mason (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of  
MHA Moore and Smalley  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Richard House  
Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

16/12/2021  
.....

## **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 November 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Learning Together Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of The Learning Together Trust 's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Learning Together Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 April 2015 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes an evaluation of the control environment of the School together with enquiry, analytical review, substantive testing of transactions and consideration of governance issues.

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Conclusion**

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

*MHA Moore and Smalley*

**Reporting Accountant  
MHA Moore and Smalley  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Richard House  
Winckley Square  
Preston  
PR1 3HP

16/12/2021  
.....



**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<b>Income and endowments:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	1	-	360	361	115
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	260	5,910	-	6,170	5,819
Other trading activities	5	172	-	-	172	169
Investment income	6	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>433</b>	<b>5,910</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>6,703</b>	<b>6,104</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>						
Raising funds	7	-	-	-	-	9
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	382	6,479	9	6,870	6,278
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>382</b>	<b>6,479</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6,870</b>	<b>6,287</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>(569)</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>(167)</b>	<b>(183)</b>
Transfers between funds		-	58	(58)	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	21	-	(590)	-	(590)	(305)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>(1,101)</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>(757)</b>	<b>(488)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	17	941	(2,167)	68	(1,158)	(670)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>992</b>	<b>(3,268)</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>(1,915)</b>	<b>(1,158)</b>

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**BALANCE SHEETS**

**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021**

		Group		Trust	
	Note	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12	74	13	74	13
Investments	13	-	-	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	484	207	499	222
Cash at bank and in hand		1,069	1,202	1,020	1,145
		1,553	1,409	1,519	1,367
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(210)	(155)	(210)	(153)
<b>Net current assets</b>		1,343	1,254	1,309	1,214
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		1,417	1,267	1,383	1,227
Defined pension scheme liability	21	(3,332)	(2,425)	(3,332)	(2,425)
<b>Total net assets</b>		(1,915)	(1,158)	(1,949)	(1,198)
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	17				
- Fixed asset funds		361	68	361	68
- Restricted income funds		64	258	64	258
- Pension reserve		(3,332)	(2,425)	(3,332)	(2,425)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		(2,907)	(2,099)	(2,907)	(2,099)
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17	992	941	958	901
<b>Total funds</b>		(1,915)	(1,158)	(1,949)	(1,198)

The accounts set out on pages 22 to 45 were approved by the governing body and authorised for issue on 9 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



**Rev'd Canon A Holliday**  
**Chairman**

Company Number 08561302

**THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

		2020		2020	
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	19		(423)		(305)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-		1	
Capital grants from DfE and ESFA		360		83	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(70)		(16)	
			290		68
<b>Movement in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			(133)		(237)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward			1,202		1,439
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	20		1,069		1,202

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

---

### 1 Accounting policies

The Learning Together Trust is a charitable company incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

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

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these accounts are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000 unless otherwise indicated.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The result of the subsidiary is consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP. The trust's deficit for the year for Companies Act purposes was £1,038,000 (2020: £420,000).

#### 1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts. The trustees have considered the impact of the Government response to Covid 19 on the activity of the Academy Trust in terms of both increased costs of compliance with guidelines and catch up in learning and also reduced income. The trustees have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

#### 1.3 Income

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

##### Grants

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

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

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.3 Income (continued)

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

##### Sponsorship income

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

##### Donations

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

##### Other income

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

##### Donated goods, facilities and services

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

##### Donated fixed assets

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

#### 1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Land and buildings	2%
Computer equipment	20%
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20%
Motor Vehicles	20%

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

Land and buildings occupied under license are not recognised in the accounts, any subsequent improvements made to these land and buildings are expensed on the basis that they are not considered to be under the control of the Trust. The alternative treatment where the Academy Trust's occupation for the period may therefore be recognisable as a notional donation has also not been adopted as the donated amount cannot be reliably measured.

Land at Canon Sharples CE Primary and Nursery School and Adlington St Pauls CE Primary School is leased to the Trust under a 125 year lease. The value of the land held under lease was not separately identifiable from the value of land owned by the Diocese and therefore this land is not included in the accounts.

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

#### 1.6 Liabilities

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

#### 1.7 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

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

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

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

##### Financial assets

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

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

##### Financial liabilities

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

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

#### 1.9 Taxation

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

#### 1.10 Investments

The Trust's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, St Wilfrid's Trading Company Limited, is initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any impairment in the Trust balance sheet. An assessment for impairment is made at each reporting date.

#### 1.11 Pension benefits

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

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

# THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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### **1 Accounting policies (continued)**

#### **1.11 Pension benefits (continued)**

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

#### **1.12 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

### **2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (continued)**

*Impairment of trade debtors*

At each balance sheet date, management undertake a review of outstanding debtor balances and consider whether there is any indication of impairment or any balances requiring provision.

This calculation is based on the financial position of the customers, the payment history and any ongoing discussions.

*Valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

*Classification and valuation of long leasehold land and buildings owned by the Church*

Some of the buildings occupied by the trust, and the land on which the buildings are situated are the subject of a deed from the Church, which grants the school the use of these land and buildings until the earlier of the termination of the funding agreement or the Church giving the school two years notice to leave. The land and buildings are not included in the accounts.

*Classification of finance and operating leases*

At the inception of each lease, management undertake an assessment of the terms of the lease including the payments to be made over the life of the lease, the fair value of the asset subject to the lease, the length of the lease and whether the terms of the lease transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.

Based on this assessment, management will determine whether the lease should be classified as a finance or operating lease.

**3 Donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Capital grants	-	360	360	112
Other donations	1	-	1	3
	1	361	361	115

The income from donations and capital grants was £361,000, (2020: £115,000) of which £1,000 was unrestricted (2020: £3,000), £nil was restricted (2020: £nil) and £360,000 was restricted fixed assets (2020: £112,000).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,609	4,609	4,375
Pupil premium	-	330	330	332
UFSM	-	155	155	153
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	280	280	286
	-	5,374	5,374	5,146
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	446	446	483
	-	446	446	483
<b>Exceptional government grants</b>				
Coronavirus exceptional support	-	90	90	-
	-	90	90	-
<b>Other funds</b>				
Other incoming resources	260	-	260	190
	260	-	260	190
<b>Total funding</b>	260	5,910	6,170	5,819

The income from funding for educational operations was £6,170,000 (2020: £5,819,000) of which £260,000 was unrestricted (2020: £190,000) and £5,910,000 was restricted (2020: £5,629,000).

The Trust has received £90k of funding for catch-up premium and other covid support. This has been fully spent in the year.

**5 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Hire of facilities	21	-	21	15
Trading company	151	-	151	154
	172	-	172	169

The income from other trading activities was £172,000 (2020: £169,000) of which £172,000 was unrestricted (2020: £169,000) and £nil was restricted (2020: £nil).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**6 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	1
	-	-	-	1

The income from funding for investment income was £nil, (2020: £1,000) of which £nil was unrestricted (2020: £1,000) and £nil was restricted (2020: £nil).

**7 Expenditure**

	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>	-	-	-	-	9
<b>Academy's educational operations:</b>					
- Direct costs	4,351	7	321	4,679	4,433
- Allocated support costs	806	768	617	2,191	1,845
	5,157	775	938	6,870	6,287

**Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:**

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	11	11
- Other services	6	5
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	9	3
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	43	37

**Central services**

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services

The academy trust charges for these services based on 6.0% (2020: 4.7%) of each academy's General Annual Grant funding.

The amounts charged during the period were as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
St Wilfrid's	120	86
Canon Sharples	75	57
St David's	36	29
St Paul's	45	33
	276	205

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
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**8 Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	255	4,424	4,679	4,433
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	127	2,064	2,191	1,845
	382	6,488	6,870	6,278

The expenditure on educational operations was £6,870,000, (2020: £6,278,000) of which £382,000 was unrestricted (2020: £301,000), £6,479,000 was restricted (2020: £5,974,000) and £9,000 was restricted fixed assets (2020: £3,000).

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	806	630
Depreciation and amortisation	2	-
Premises costs	693	486
Other support costs	485	500
Governance costs	205	229
	2,191	1,845

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**9 Staff costs**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Wages and salaries	3,283	3,342
Social security costs	314	290
Pension costs	1,088	1,008
	<b>4,685</b>	<b>4,640</b>
Supply staff costs	154	76
	<b>4,839</b>	<b>4,716</b>

**Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Teachers	63	58
Administration and support	96	98
Management	5	6
	<b>164</b>	<b>162</b>

**Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	-	2
£70,001 - £80,000	1	
£80,001 - £90,000	2	1
	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

The above employees participated in the Teacher's Pension Scheme, during the year, pension contributions on behalf of these employees were £37,879 (2020: £51,285).

**Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £30,000 (2020: £nil).

**Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £488,379 (2020: £502,760).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

No trustees were paid any remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

During the year, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2020: £nil) were reimbursed to trustees.

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

**11 Trustees' and officers' insurance**

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10m. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

**12 Tangible fixed assets – Group and Trust**

	<b>Fixtures, Furniture &amp; equipment £'000</b>	<b>Computer equipment £'000</b>	<b>Total Total £'000</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 September 2020	-	29	29
Additions	13	57	70
<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 September 2020	-	16	16
Charged in period	2	7	9
<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 31 August 2021</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>At 31 August 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**13 Investments**

The parent academy trust owns the entire £1 issued share capital of St Wilfrid's Trading Company Ltd (registered office: St Wilfrid's C of E Primary Academy, Rectory Lane, Standish, Wigan, WN6 0X8), with company number 08563916.

The trading subsidiary, raises funds for The Learning Together Trust by providing services relating to Clubs and Lettings. A summary of the trading results of the subsidiary for the year and it's financial position at the year end is shown below.

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
<b>Turnover</b>	149	154
Cost of sales	(10)	(9)
Administrative expenses	(107)	(105)
Gift aid donation to parent company	(40)	(108)
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	(8)	(68)
Taxation	-	-
<b>Profit for the year</b>	-	-
Share capital	-	-
Profit and loss reserves	32	40
<b>Net assets</b>	32	40

**14 Debtors**

	Group		Trust	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
VAT recoverable	43	49	43	49
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	-	15	15
Prepayments and accrued income	441	158	441	158
	484	207	499	222

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	Group		Trust	
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trade creditors	-	-	-	-
Other taxation and social security	-	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	2	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	210	153	210	153
	210	155	210	153

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**16 Deferred income**

	<b>Group</b>		<b>Trust</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Deferred income is included within:				
Creditors due within one year	77	87	77	87
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	87	86	87	86
Released from previous years	(87)	(86)	(87)	(86)
Amounts deferred in the year	77	87	77	87
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2021</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87</b>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding grant income relating to the Universal Infant Free School Meals received from the ESFA in advance of the related expenditure.

**17 Funds**

	<b>Balance at1 September 2020 £'000</b>	<b>Income £'000</b>	<b>Expenditure £'000</b>	<b>Gains, losses and transfers £'000</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2021 £'000</b>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	258	4,609	(4,861)	58	64
Pupil premium	-	330	(330)	-	-
UIFSM	-	155	(155)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	280	(280)	-	-
Other government grants	-	536	(536)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,425)	-	(317)	(590)	(3,332)
	(2,167)	5,910	(6,479)	(532)	(3,268)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE group capital grants	55	360	(3)	(92)	320
Capital expenditure from GAG	13	-	(6)	34	41
	68	360	(9)	(58)	361
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>(2,099)</b>	<b>6,270</b>	<b>(6,488)</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>(2,907)</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	901	282	(225)	-	958
<b>Total funds for the Trust</b>	<b>(1,198)</b>	<b>6,552</b>	<b>(6,713)</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>(1,949)</b>
Trading subsidiary	40	151	(157)	-	34
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>(1,158)</b>	<b>6,703</b>	<b>(6,870)</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>(1,915)</b>



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**17 Funds (continued)**

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running expenses of the School and any amounts carried forward at the end of a financial period must be used in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Other DfE/ESFA grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Other government grants includes Local authority and Central government funding for educational purpose which includes Special Educational Needs, Nursery grants and other smaller grants for specific projects.

Other restricted funds include contributions received for school trips and non-public donations and the related expenditure.

The pension reserve represents the value of the School's share of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Restricted fixed asset funds include assets inherited on conversion and expenditure out of GAG and other capital grants during the period. Depreciation is charged against the fund.

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

	Balance at1 September 2019 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £'000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	259	4,375	(4,429)	53	258
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	771	(771)	-	-
Other government grants	-	483	(483)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,829)	-	(291)	(305)	(2,425)
	(1,570)	5,629	(5,974)	(252)	(2,167)
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	12	112	-	(69)	55
Capital expenditure from GAG and other funds	-	-	(3)	16	13
	12	112	(3)	(53)	68
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	(1,558)	5,741	(5,977)	(305)	(2,099)
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	780	209	(88)	-	901
<b>Total funds for the Trust</b>	(778)	5,950	(6,065)	-	(1,198)
Trading subsidiary	108	154	(222)	-	40
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	(670)	6,104	(6,287)	(305)	(1,158)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**17 Funds (continued)**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:		
St Wilfrid's	120	280
Canon Sharples	594	611
St David's	159	133
St Paul's	165	151
Central services	(16)	(16)
St Wilfrid's Trading	34	40
Total before fixed asset fund and pensions reserve	1,056	1,199
Restricted fixed asset fund	361	68
Pension reserve	(3,332)	(2,425)
Total funds	(1,915)	(1,158)

**Total cost analysis by academy**

Expenditure incurred by each academy and trading company (other than restricted fixed assets, pension costs and costs on conversion) during the year was as follows:

	<b>Teaching &amp; educational support staff costs £'000</b>	<b>Other support staff costs £'000</b>	<b>Educational supplies £'000</b>	<b>Other costs excluding depreciation £'000</b>	<b>2021 Total £'000</b>	<b>2020 Total £'000</b>
St Wilfrid's	1,803	124	126	684	2,737	2,407
Canon Sharples	1,261	89	82	310	1,742	1,628
St David's	488	42	53	208	791	723
St Paul's	643	47	47	144	881	905
Central services	156	411	2	24	593	507
St Wilfrid's Trading	-	93	10	14	117	114
	4,351	806	320	1,384	6,861	6,284

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**18 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	74	74
Current assets	992	274	287	1,553
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(210)	-	(210)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(3,332)	-	(3,332)
	992	(3,268)	361	(1,915)
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13	13
Current assets	941	413	55	1,409
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(155)	-	(155)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(2,425)	-	(2,425)
	941	(2,167)	68	(1,158)

**19 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flows from operating activities**

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net expenditure for the reporting period	(167)	(183)
Adjusted for:		
Net deficit/(surplus) transferred on conversion	-	-
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(360)	(112)
Investment income	-	(1)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	274	254
Defined benefit pension net finance cost/(income)	43	37
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	9	3
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(277)	56
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	55	(359)
<b>Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(423)</b>	<b>(305)</b>

**20 Analysis of changes in net funds**

	At 1 September 2020 £'000	Cashflows £'000	Other non- cash changes £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,202	(133)	-	1,069
	1,202	(133)	-	1,069

# **THE LEARNING TOGETHER TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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### **21 Pension and similar obligations**

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Greater Manchester Pension Fund and Lancashire County Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £nil (2020: £nil) were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included within creditors.

#### **Teachers' Pension Scheme**

##### **Introduction**

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

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

##### **Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £564,190 (2020: £526,105).

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.7% for employers and 5.5 to 8.5% for employees.

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

<b>Total Contributions made</b>	<b>2021 £'000</b>	<b>2020 £'000</b>
Employer's contributions	207	193
Employee's contributions	61	58
Total contributions	268	251

**Greater Manchester Pension Fund**

<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2021 %</b>	<b>2020 %</b>
Rate of increase in salaries	3.65	3.00
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	2.90	2.20
Discount rate	1.65	1.70

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 55% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to HMRC limits for pre April 2008 and 60% of the maximum tax-free cash for post April 2008 service.

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

	<b>2021 Years</b>	<b>2020 Years</b>
Retiring today		
- Males	20.5	20.5
- Females	23.3	23.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.9	22.0
- Females	25.3	25.0

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
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**21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

**Lancashire County Pension Fund**

<b>Principal actuarial assumptions</b>	<b>2021</b> %	<b>2020</b> %
Rate of increase in salaries	4.3	3.8
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	2.9	2.4
CPI inflation	2.8	2.3
Discount rate	1.7	1.8

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

	<b>2021</b> Years	<b>2020</b> Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.4	22.3
- Females	25.1	25.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.9	23.8
- Females	26.9	26.8

The following schedule provides an analysis of the sensitivity of results of the calculations to changes in the actuarial assumptions used, including the projected income and expenditure figures for the following year:

**Greater Manchester Pension Fund**

<b>Change in assumptions at 31 August 2021:</b>	<b>Approximate % increase to employer liability</b>	<b>Approximate monetary amount £'000</b>
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	3%	151
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	0%	18
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate (CPI)	2%	130
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	239
Projected service cost for next year		523
Projected net interest cost for next year		54

**Lancashire County Pension Fund**

	<b>Central £000</b>	<b>Sensitivity 1 + 0.1% p.a. discount rate £000</b>	<b>Sensitivity 2 + 0.1% p.a. inflation £000</b>	<b>Sensitivity 3 + 0.1% p.a. pay growth £000</b>	<b>Sensitivity 4 1 yr increase in life expectancy £000</b>
Liabilities	436	427	445	437	449
Assets	(198)	(198)	(198)	(198)	(198)
Deficit	238	229	247	239	251
Projected service cost for next year	74	72	76	74	77
Projected net interest cost for next year	4	4	4	4	4

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
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**21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Equities	2,140	1,562
Bonds	441	362
Property	221	173
Cash	269	244
Total market value of assets	3,071	2,341

Actual return on scheme assets – gain/(loss)	478	(127)
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**Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Current service cost (net of employer contributions)	273	254
Net interest cost	43	37
Past service cost	1	-
Total operating charge	317	291

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**21 Pension and similar obligations (continued)**

<b>Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations</b>	<b>2021 £'000</b>	<b>2020 £'000</b>
Obligations at 1 September 2020	4,766	4,060
Current service cost	479	446
Interest cost	85	81
Employee contributions	61	58
Actuarial loss	1,026	134
Benefits paid	(15)	(13)
Past service cost	1	-
At 31 August 2021	6,403	4,766

<b>Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets</b>	<b>2021 £'000</b>	<b>2020 £'000</b>
Assets at 1 September 2020	2,341	2,231
Interest income	42	44
Actuarial gain/(loss)	436	(171)
Employer contributions	207	193
Employee contributions	61	58
Admin expenses	(1)	(1)
Benefits paid	(15)	(13)
At 31 August 2021	3,071	2,341

**22 Related party transactions**

Owing to the nature of the academy trust's operations and the composition of the governing body being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the academy trust has an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

A connected party to Mr A Stokes, a trustee, is a teaching assistant at the Trust. Total remuneration paid in the year was £15,765 (2020: £14,830).

**23 Members' liability**

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

**24 Capital commitments**

	<b>2021 £'000</b>	<b>2020 £'000</b>
Capital commitments	287	64