



# **Vale Academy Trust**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**Year ended 31 August 2019**

**Company Registration Number:  
07674473 (England and Wales)**

**Period of account: 1 September 2018 – 31 August 2019**

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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# VALE ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

<b>Members</b>	Joseph Pillman Stephen Quinton Richard Peters The Diocese of Oxford (represented by Gordon Joyner)
<b>Trustees</b>	Jennifer de la Coze (resigned 18/10/2018) Christopher Ferguson (Chair of Finance & Operations Committee) Philip Harrison Wendy Hart (appointed 13/09/2018, resigned 25/07/2019) Gina Hocking (resigned 25/07/2019) Susan Hunter (resigned (18/10/2018) Iain Littlejohn Jeffery Penfold Joseph Pillman (Chair of Board of Trustees) Kirsteen Roberts Simon Spiers (Accounting Officer) (resigned 22/04/2019) Christopher Williams Elizabeth Taylor (appointed 18/10/2018)
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Victoria Roberts
<b>Trust Leadership Team</b>	
Chief Executive Officer	Simon Spiers (until 22/04/2019), Richard Evans (from 23/04/2019)
Finance Director	Richard Quayle
Human Resources Director	Jean Creagh
Company Name & Number	Vale Academy Trust (7674473)
Registered Office	The Studio, St Mary's Convent, Denchworth Road, Wantage, OX12 9AU
Independent Auditor	<b>James Cowper Kreston LLP</b> Reading Bridge House, George Street, Reading RG1 8LS
Bankers	<b>Natwest Bank</b> 11 Market Place, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3HH <b>Lloyds Bank</b> 8 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5AP
Solicitors	<b>Stone King LLP</b> Boundary House, 91 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6HR

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the financial statements and Auditors' Report for the charitable company for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. The Annual Report serves the purposes of being both Trustees' Report, and Directors' Report under company law.

The Vale Academy Trust was established on 1st October 2013, when King Alfred's School, a single school academy converter since 1st August 2011, joined with two of its partner primary schools, Charlton Primary School, and Wantage CE Primary School, to create one of the first trusts to include both secular and church schools working together as part of the same entity. Since then, one more secondary school and four more primary schools have joined the Trust, bringing the total to eight. All eight schools are located in South Oxfordshire based in two Hubs (Wantage and Abingdon).

Our aim is to ensure that every child in the Trust has access to high quality and exciting education from 3-18, with our staff being able to focus on the important aspects of teaching and learning, progress and attainment, behaviour and leadership, while leaving the non-teaching aspects of the Trust to a dedicated specialist central team.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

**Constitution**

The Vale Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of Vale Academy Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Vale Academy Trust.

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

**Members' Liability**

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

**Trustees' Indemnities**

There were no provisions required for third party indemnity. In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business.

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

Up until 22nd April 2019, the holder of the CEO role was also a trustee (on an ex-officio basis). With the appointment of the new CEO, who took up post on 23rd April 2019, the role no longer includes a trusteeship.

For the year under review the Board of Trustees was comprised of ten trustee positions: three appointed by the Diocese of Oxford; seven appointed by the Members. The number of Members remains at four, comprising the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Diocese of Oxford, and two others. The only Member also serving as a trustee is the Chair of the Board of Trustees, so a high degree of separation is maintained between Members and the Board.

The term of office for a trustee is four years, subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of trustee. Any trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. When a vacancy arises for a Diocese appointed Trustee, close collaboration takes place between the Board and the Diocese to ensure a suitable candidate is appointed with the appropriate skills and knowledge required to be an effective Trustee.

Trustees continually monitor the Board's balance of skills and experience in order to identify areas where additional resource would be beneficial, with particular attention given to new challenges emerging from Trust growth and development. In support of this, the Trust operates an online skills audit tool, which is used by individual Trustees to self-assess their strengths and weaknesses. The results from these assessments are compiled into a skills matrix for the Board and used to help determine person specifications for new Trustee

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

appointments. The Trust also sources Trustee candidates through a number of other channels, including national governance recruitment agencies and local business networking.

Diversity is taken into account when considering Board composition, as we seek to reflect as wide a range as possible of gender, ethnicity, background, opinions, skills and experiences. Where possible, the Trust endeavours to attract new Trustees who live and/or work within the catchment areas of the Trust, but will consider candidates from further afield when they are thought to have exceptional skills and experience.

**Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees and Governors**

**Induction**

Before their first formal governing body meeting, a new Trustee/Governor will attend a two to three hour meeting with the Trust's Head of Governance, who provides them with a Trust-wide view of governance and policy, and describes the composition, responsibilities and relationships of the Trust's governance bodies. In addition, at this meeting an induction plan is devised, tailored to suit the background, experience, role and interests of the inductee. Typical induction plans include elements such as:

- Meetings with appropriate Chairs, Trustees, Governors and central team members
- Attendance at training sessions on specific topics of interest/need
- Follow-up and ongoing support from the central governance team

**Governance Guides**

Online guides for Trustees/Governors have been developed, which provide single-source references to key Trust and education sector information, best-practice guidance, and the tools and processes associated with governance in our Trust.

**Skills Audit**

The Trust has developed an online version of the National Governance Association's skills audit, and this is undertaken by every new Trustee and Governor and fed into the skills matrix of the appropriate governing committee. All trustees and governors are required to re-take the skills audit at least once a year.

**Governance Development**

The Trust runs a governance development programme throughout the academic year, comprising a series of presentations and workshops on a wide range of governance-related subjects. All Governors and Trustees are strongly encouraged to attend all events. Typical topics include:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Inspecting Governance
- School improvement and self-evaluation
- Understanding primary and secondary data
- Budgeting and future funding cost factors
- Strategy and vision for the Trust
- Understanding PUMA and PIRA
- Data Protection and GDPR

**Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors is made up of eight individuals. There are currently two director vacancies. Appointed Directors come from diverse business backgrounds with no specific links to any member academy.

The Chief Executive reports directly to the Board on the performance and strategic position of the Trust, along with providing regular updates on the ever-changing national landscape associated with academies. The Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer and is responsible for all operational matters across the Trust. All staff ultimately report to the Chief Executive who, in turn, reports to the Board.

Headteachers are lined managed, supported and challenged by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive leads the central team and is supported by the Executive Team.

The central team is composed of two teams:

1. Operations-overseeing finance, operations and premises, including capital development, human resources, governance, marketing and media.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

2. School Improvement team which includes specialists from Early Years education through to Secondary education.

We have seen some significant changes during the past year. After the departure of the former CEO (Simon Spiers) a new CEO was appointed (Richard Evans). The finance and school improvement teams have expanded.

The Board delegates a range of responsibilities (through a revised Scheme of Delegation) to the Chief Executive, Executive team, the Board committees, headteachers and to the Local Governing Bodies. However, it is the Board that continues to be accountable to the ESFA and the Secretary of State.

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

The Trust continues to follow the National Pay and Conditions for both teaching and support staff. This brings some reassurance to schools thinking of joining the Trust and during the conversion and transition period. As such, the senior staff of the Trust, including the Chief Executive, follow the current pay scales and applicable policies.

All senior staff of the Trust undergo annual appraisal meetings with the Chief Executive and objectives for the year are discussed and set, and then reviewed throughout the year. The Chief Executive himself is also set performance objectives by a committee and, again, progress is measured during the year. Success criteria are measured against these objectives when reviewing pay awards within national pay and conditions.

Headteachers' performance (and, therefore, pay and conditions) are also governed in the same way with objectives being set by an appraisal committee made up of the Chair of the Local Governing Body, the Chief Executive and an external consultant. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Trust Pay Committee in December to review both process and recommendations to ensure consistency and fairness.

### **Trade Union Facility Time**

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

Provide the total cost of facility time	£0
Provide the total pay bill	£
Provide the percentage of the 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
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### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

The Trust is a founder member of the Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Alliance (OTSA), which is a partnership of 10 Teaching Schools who work together to deliver Initial Teacher Training, Newly Qualified Teacher Induction, Professional Development and School to School Support to schools in Oxfordshire. Up until June 2018 King Alfred's Academy was one of the Lead Teaching Schools in OTSA, and the Vale Academy Trust managed the finances of OTSA. With the change in status at King Alfred's OTSA funds transferred to the River Learning Trust as of 1 April 2019.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust.

**Objectives and Activities**

**Objects and Aims**

The Trust has a new Strapline: Building Brilliant Futures Together

The Trust has a new Vision:

- The Vale Academy Trust is a **family of schools** recognised for providing exceptional, stimulating, inclusive learning opportunities in a safe, happy environment where all can flourish.
- The Trust will **inspire the highest standards of achievement** and personal growth for the young people in our schools and everyone that works for the Trust.
- Through **working together and sharing excellent practice**, Vale Academy Trust schools will support the learning needs of all within our local communities, well into the future.

The Trust has new aims:

- **All children** will achieve to the peak of their ability, with access to a broad range of opportunities within their own school and across the Trust.
- The Trust's schools will provide **the best teaching and learning** environment possible for all children and staff in a collaborative environment.
- The Trust's staff will have every **opportunity** to advance their careers within and outside of the Trust through collaborative working, sharing best practice and benefiting from continuous professional development.
- Every Trust school will provide a safe, happy and caring atmosphere **for everyone**.
- **Inclusivity and access** for all will underpin the curriculum in all Trust schools.
- The Trust will **build strong local and national reputation** and be recognised as a highly successful multi academy trust.

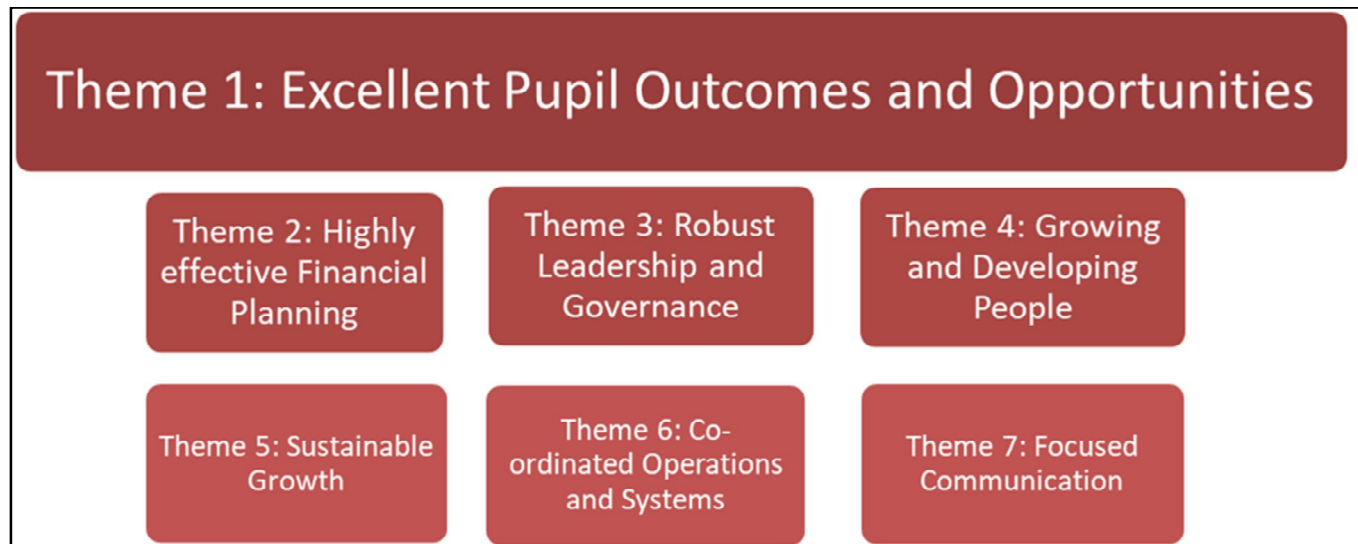
The principal object and activity of the Trust is to advance education in the area, for the benefit of the local public, by establishing, leading and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum for students of different abilities and ages, whilst recognising the individual ethos of member academies, including its Church of England schools.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

Key activities and targets are identified in the Improvement and Development Plan and are informed by the significant challenges and opportunities arising from national developments in education policy and funding, including the expansion of the Academy Programme. There are 7 key themes:



Each objective is supported by detailed targets, plans, and success criteria.

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

As a non-selective, taxpayer-funded group of academies, Vale Academy Trust's work is to the public benefit. The Trust offers a broad and balanced curriculum and a wealth of extra-curricular and enrichment activities to all its students of all abilities and from varied socio-economic backgrounds. The Trust also has regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit beyond the core provision of education to its students, and endeavours to be at the heart of its community, as it fosters many collaborative links with community and other stakeholder groups.

**Strategic Report**

**Achievements and Performance**

**Charlton Primary School**

Charlton Primary School continues to be firm in its vision to become a top performing school and its values (Be Happy, Be Responsible and Be Kind) remain strong throughout. The school continues to offer a rich and diverse curriculum that pupils enjoy and that leaves them well prepared for the next stage of their development. Strong attendance and positive feedback from all stakeholders show how much parents and pupils value the education they receive at the school.

Charlton is pleased to offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities such as numerous sports clubs, foreign languages, the arts, 'Around the World' club, problem solving, and Forest School/Environment Club. The school is proud of the ever-increasing percentage of children who take part in a range of sports and competitive events. In recognition of Charlton's commitment to PE and healthy lifestyles, the school received the Sports Mark 'Gold' award for the fourth year running.

Statutory outcomes at the end of Foundation, Year 2 and in phonics remain good, with improvement shown in certain areas compared to last year. A high proportion of pupils achieved the greater depth standard at KS1 with reading being a particular strength. Overall combined attainment at KS2 is above national average and demonstrates continued improvement over time; again, as in KS1, pupils do particularly well in reading.



**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

Following an Ofsted visit in June the school ended the year with a 'Good' overall judgement. The written report recognised the many strengths of the school.

Charlton Primary School is well-supported by the Vale Academy Trust and a strong and active Local Governing body.

King Alfred's Academy

The academic year 2018/19 was a successful one for King Alfred's Academy, as students, staff and governors worked together, under the leadership of new Headteacher Rick Holroyd, to implement and embed significant changes which rapidly and significantly impacted upon the academy's provision.

The final phase of the move from three sites to two came to an end with the refurbishment of teaching areas on West Site and the opening of the new, redesigned Sixth Form Centre. Students in all Key Stages now enjoy brand new or fully refurbished facilities that are suited to learning in the twenty first century.

The introduction of revised procedures for teaching and learning and for managing student behaviour in September 2018 brought about an improvement in the learning culture across both sites, and consequently students made impressive progress over the course of the year. This progress was reflected in the outcome of King Alfred's School Review in March 2019, during which the visiting team were able to confirm with confidence the academy's self-evaluation judgement that King Alfred's was again a 'Good' school.

The improvement across the school was also evident in two sets of very impressive outcomes at Level 2 and Level 3 in August 2019. At KS4, GCSE results improved at the academy for the second year in succession since the last inspection, with an improved Progress 8 score of 0 (which is now in line with most other very good schools).

At KS5, the A Level and BTEC results were again amongst the best in Oxfordshire and were consistent with the top 20% of all sixth forms nationally.

These impressive outcomes were supported by a whole school strategy to improve levels of literacy and reading in all years. The literacy strategy at King Alfred's had a demonstrable impact on all students, especially in terms of improving the reading ages of the most disadvantaged students. This programme attracted the interest of the Department for Education as well as other schools in the UK and Europe. The strategy will continue in 2019/20 as part of the academy's drive to improve levels of literacy across all Key Stages.

Students at King Alfred's continued to enjoy an enviable programme of trips, visits and activities, which are such a unique hallmark of provision at King Alfred's. Residential trips took place to the Ardeche, Switzerland, Normandy, Barcelona, New York, and Morocco, as well as to a wide range of destinations in the UK.

This commitment to learning in 'the outdoor classroom' was complemented by a unique Academic Enrichment Programme, as well as a rich offer of extra-curricular activities as part of the weekly Elective Programme. Furthermore, over 300 students were engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, at either Bronze, Silver or Gold level, and the production of 'In the Heights' in March 2019 continued the academy's reputation for professional quality musical productions. All of these enrichment activities are part of the academy's commitment to provide a wide range of 'Opportunity for All'.

Students, staff and governors celebrated a very successful year at King Alfred's and look forward to the next academic year with excitement and optimism. It is envisaged that Ofsted will revisit the academy during the course of this year, in order to validate the judgement of the school review and confirm that the school has moved back to a position of being a 'Good' school.

Larkmead School

Larkmead has now been part of the Trust for two and a half years and the school is making good progress. An Ofsted inspection took place in January of this year and confirmed its "Good" status with an excellent report. The school has now achieved back to back ratings of "Good"; its number on roll is rising significantly and outcomes are good. Ofsted recognised the excellent relationships between staff and students and

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

students' positive attitudes to learning, stating: "Pupils behave very well at the school. They are kind and respectful towards each other and their teachers. The stimulating and caring ethos in the school enables pupils to make strong progress and achieve well. Pupils' well-being and personal development, including their mental health, have a high priority and are very well catered for at your school".

In terms of outcomes, Larkmead are pleased to have had two years of positive progress with the combined score for English and Maths being well above the national average.

This year at A Level 59% of grades were A\* - B with 28% of grades being A\* - A, representing tremendous progress. At GCSE, 63% gained levels 9-4 in both English and Maths, equalling the school's record from last year. For the first time, both A-Level and GCSE outcomes set new records in the same year.

Larkmead School continues to facilitate a wide range of extra-curricular experiences for its students and collaboration through the Trust has enabled the school to offer a ski trip and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme this year. Collaboration with local independent schools has risen to another level, allowing Larkmead students to work with the National Theatre and specialist film professionals on script writing and promotional film production.

Notable successes this year include Larkmead's 'Young Enterprise' team winning an award in the county final (the only state school to feature in the final) and the senior public speaking team also achieving success. The school has continued to work with its commercial partners Ricardo PLC and Oxford Instruments, who have supported the school's award-winning careers team. This is a beneficial science/environmental collaboration in what is a 'science-rich' area of the UK, with Larkmead's students gaining useful skills and understanding.

Looking ahead, the school's highly effective curriculum group, supported by the Trust's school improvement partner, will focus on the development of a new challenging and engaging curriculum. Similarly, Larkmead's pastoral group is looking to produce an ambitious and challenging personal development curriculum based around the concept of leadership.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

Millbrook Primary School

The school has maintained its focus on developing a rich and stimulating curriculum for its pupils to increase their engagement and broaden their horizons. This included some innovative topics and involved 'immersion days' as well as events to celebrate pupils' newly acquired knowledge and skills. Highlights included a trip for Year 6 to see a West End show, a visit from a NASA scientist and a visit from the Zulu Warrior Dance company.

Music teaching has been a focus for improvement and the school has been able to widen its offer of musical enrichment. Building work over the summer resulted in a specialist music classroom for timetabled music lessons across the school, with the aim of making performing arts a real strength at Millbrook. An additional focus was the improvement of both the quality of PE teaching and the level of participation in inter school and intra school sporting events. This work was recognized by Sports Mark who awarded Millbrook School the Gold Award for the second year running.

The focus on improving behaviour through the 'Pivotal Approach' has continued, with simplified systems to ensure consistency and visibility for every pupil, parent and teacher. A trained ELSA teacher now provides more specialist support for pupils who have emotional difficulties, with a dedicated nurturing space in the heart of the school. In addition, the school has a Learning Support Mentor to support these pupils' learning needs. Millbrook also took the decision to train four Teaching Assistants to become HLTAs so that any cover teaching required can be provided in-house by staff familiar to the children.

Over the year, the school faced some challenges with regard to staffing. This included the departure of the Headteacher at Easter, as well as some members of the senior leadership team and several teachers leaving during the year. The Vale Academy Trust put in place an Acting Head to stabilise the position of the school. Since then, Millbrook has successfully recruited an Executive Headteacher, a new Deputy Headteacher and six new teachers who are settling in well. Against the backdrop of these significant changes, it was pleasing to see that outcomes in KS2 and KS1 rose last year. Whilst acknowledging that there is still much to do, the school is confident that it is heading in the right direction.

Millbrook will start the next year in a positive position with everyone buoyed by the significant building work carried out over the summer that has enhanced its learning environment, making classrooms better fit for purpose and creating two new classrooms dedicated to Music and Art/Design and Technology.

St James CE Primary School

St James' expansion project was finally completed last year, and the school started the new academic year with 154 children on roll, its largest ever. Thirty children were welcomed into the Foundation Stage, again, the largest early years intake ever. Everyone was delighted to be able to move into the new classrooms in February 2019, along with the new library and staff room in April. The impact that these new and exciting places to learn have made to the children and staff at the school cannot be overestimated. The Bishop of Dorchester performed the official opening ceremony in July with many members of the community coming on the day to view the changes at the school.

In October 2018 St James underwent a two-day Ofsted inspection, which resulted in a grading of 'Good in all areas.' The inspector commented on the effective support provided by the school's leaders and the Vale Academy Trust that contributed to the improvements in teaching, the curriculum and pupils' outcomes which remained at a steady level. Many positives were highlighted by the inspector, alongside some action points already previously highlighted in the school's development plan which remain a priority.

PE and sport continue to be important at St James, with the school achieving the Silver Sports Mark last year. Due to the building work and less space being available for sports and clubs, the school missed out on the Gold Mark, but is keen to return to 'Gold' standard this academic year.

Forest School is also a focus, and this project continues to develop at St James. There are now sufficient staff to offer this opportunity to all children in school on a regular basis. As well as the Forest School initiative, trips and visits also feature highly within the curriculum with every child experiencing at least four school trips during the year.

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**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

St Nicholas CE Primary School

The 2018/2019 academic year saw both Key Stage 2 teachers going on maternity leave and the arrival of a new SENDCo. After the initial impact of this across the school, the new staff are now fully settled into their roles.

The support from parents and the community is unwavering and continues to be hugely important to the school. The 'Friends of St Nicholas' provided much-needed funds to support the curriculum and links with the community continue to grow, with the number of volunteers supporting the school increasing last year. Parents, grandparents and villagers are supporting in classrooms, on trips and with reading on a weekly basis.

The pupils at St Nicholas continue to experience a wide range of trips and visits and the school works hard to ensure that all the children, from all sectors of the community, have access to such experiences. Visitors from a wide variety of organisations are being invited into school to spend time with the children; last year a very successful whole school drumming workshop took place, as well as a visit by a local children's author.

St Nicholas values its especially strong links with the local church. A team from the church present a weekly 'Open the Book' assembly which the children are actively involved with. The whole school visits the church for special celebrations, and benefits from an annual 'Prayer Space' initiative held at the church.

Statutory outcomes at the end of Early Years and Year 2 (including phonics) continue to remain good. Reading was a particular strength in KS1. Whilst overall, combined attainment at KS2 was lower than predicted, outcomes in writing were much better than the previous year.

The strong staff team put in place for the start of the new academic year in September 2019 will ensure that we can continue to improve both the overall provision at St Nicholas and the outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2.

Thameside Primary School

It has been another busy year at Thameside Primary School. The staff have worked hard on developing the 'Beginning with a Book' curriculum to meet the needs of pupils by giving them broad and balanced experiences which encourage lifelong learning while preparing them for the next stages for their education. Subject co-ordinators are working to ensure that all subjects have a clear progression of skills and knowledge. Thameside continues to work with Larkmead and three other South Abingdon schools to develop strong learning behaviours to create responsible, resourceful independent learners. Transition arrangements have been high on the agenda and teachers from Larkmead School have observed English and Maths lessons at Thameside. The coordinators of both these subjects were pleased, in turn, to have had the opportunity to visit lessons at Larkmead and enjoyed seeing former pupils in their secondary school setting.

Thameside Primary School acknowledges that being part of the Vale Academy Trust increases the opportunities it can provide for pupils. This year, children from the school enjoyed taking part in the Vale Academy Trust 'Mini Speaks' competition and Primary Sports Award evening. Children from KS1 and 2 took part in a wide variety of sporting events, with students from Larkmead School refereeing for house tournaments and running events at Sports Day. Older children at Thameside enjoyed their visits to Larkmead to take part in a variety of events including the 'Page Turners' book group, a maths challenge event and a debate morning.

This year Thameside School has had an increased number of dedicated volunteers from the local community who have kindly given up their time to hear readers and support Forest School sessions. The school is extremely grateful for their support.

Thameside was pleased to celebrate very positive end of KS2 results. The combined reading, writing and maths score was above the national average at 67%, whilst individual results for reading, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling were all above the national average. The good progress made validates the hard work put in by the teaching staff and the children.

Children enter the school well below national expectations, and all make better than expected progress. In the coming year, the focus will be on raising attainment in the EYFS and KS1.

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**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

Wantage CE Primary School

Andrew Browne has completed his first year in post as Headteacher at Wantage CE Primary School. Pupil numbers continue to grow, and the school ended the year with over 430 pupils on roll, including pupils attending the nursery class.

Attainment at Wantage CE Primary school remains strong in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and at Key Stage 1 (KS1); in Key Stage 2 (KS2) outcomes were strong in writing and maths.

At KS2 in 2019, the percentage of Year 6 pupils achieving expected or above was 62% in reading, 81% in writing and 69% in maths, with a combined figure of 52%.

Pupils' attainment and progress in reading at KS2 is a priority for this academic year. Central to raising attainment in reading is to develop pupils' resilience and persistence when tackling the longer reading extracts in the SATs reading paper. Disadvantaged pupils performed well in all key stages.

In July 2019, Wantage CE Primary School was inspected by Ofsted and the school was delighted to receive the judgement that it continues to be a 'Good' school. Pupils are safe, happy and enjoy their learning. The school is well-supported by the Vale Academy Trust, the local church, parents, and the wider community. This enables the school to offer pupils a broad and balanced curriculum that enables them to flourish and to live life to the full. Last year, pupils attended a full range of trips to local venues and further afield.

The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including sports clubs such as judo, rugby, netball, tennis, frisbee, water-polo, tri-golf and 'quad kids' athletics. Wantage CE Primary school is very proud of its sporting successes and the ever-increasing percentage of children who take part in a wide range of sports. The school achieved the Schools Sports Mark Platinum Award last year. The school also competed in several local maths competitions and ran popular computing and robotics clubs.

Individual instrument lessons take place in all years including flute, keyboard, piano, drums and guitar. Gordon Campbell, the Trust's music specialist, teaches one day a week, leading Key Stage choirs and whole-school singing.

Wantage CE Primary School has strong links with the local church. A team from the church present a weekly 'Open the Book' assembly and leads collective worship. The school attends church services every long term and hosts a Prayer Space team who visit the school twice a year. Year 5 pupils are supported by nuns from the local convent to help them to understand the significance of the Passion play which the pupils write, produce and perform every Easter.

Wantage does 'Strictly Come Dancing' is organised and hosted by the school council, and this annual event provides an afternoon of fun and fund-raising for children's charities. Last year, the school council and 'Friends' worked together to raise over £12,000 to improve class libraries and reading corners, as well as providing much-needed playground equipment.

Staff development continues to remain at the heart of the school. Two Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) successfully completed their first year as full-time teachers last year, with another trainee securing an NQT post at the school for next year.

Since September 2018, school staff, parents and governors have worked together to formulate a distinctive Christian vision for the school: excellence for all in an environment of love, respect, hope, forgiveness, courage and thankfulness; where everyone flourishes, lives life to the full and is the best they can be.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Key Performance Indicators**

<b>Name of Academy</b>	<b>Date joined</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Pupils on role October 2019 (October 2018)</b>	<b>Current OFSTED Rating &amp; Date inspected</b>	<b>Expected date of next inspection</b>	<b>Pupil Attendance 2018/19</b>	<b>Pupil Attendance 2017/18</b>
Charlton Primary	01/10/2013	420	5-11	418 (419)	Good (May 2019)	Summer 2023	96.63%	96.51%
Millbrook Primary	01/12/2014	480	3-11	413 (428)	Requires improvement (September 2017)	Spring 2020	95.85%	95.66%
St James CE Primary	01/03/2016	210	5-11	155 (136)	Good (October 2018)	October 2022	96.66%	96.45%
St Nicholas CE Primary	01/10/2014	105	5-11	82 (85)	Good (September 2017)	Autumn 2021	95.20%	94.83%
Thameside Primary	01/08/2017	240	3-11	196 (196)	Awaiting first inspection as part of the Trust	Summer 2020	94.31%	95.09%
Wantage CE Primary	01/10/2013	480	3-11	433 (414)	Good (July 2019)	Summer 2023	96.03%	95.90%
King Alfred's Academy	01/10/2013	2205	11-18	1670 (1699)	Requires improvement (May 2018)	Summer 2020	93.64%	93.30%
Larkmead Secondary	01/01/2017	1060	11-18	802 (762)	Good (January 2019)	Spring 2023	94.55%	94.28%
		5200		4169 (4139)			95.35%	95.30%

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, including an assessment of the likelihood of public funds continuing to be made available to it under the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has resources available to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. In common with other taxpayer-funded entities, the Trust will need to continue to use its resources carefully and prudently. For these reasons, the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

**Financial Review**

The principal source of the Trust's public funding is grants received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), most of which are properly restricted for use for particular purposes relating to the Trust's charitable activities, its educational operations. The grants received from the ESFA during the year and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The amounts of the principal annual grants received by the Trust are known with certainty some months before the start of each financial/academic year and are received in monthly instalments during the year which enables cash flow to be managed with accuracy.

In accordance with the Trust's financial strategy, the key financial performance target has been met during the year: overall total expenditure has been contained at less than the total funding and income available, with an amount adjusted from the previous year's reserves. Reserves are held at prudent levels and will be used to contribute to on-going projects and to sustain educational provision at a time of funding uncertainty. Material cash balances are held in interest-bearing bank deposit accounts with UK banks, which are not considered to be at risk of loss to the Trust.

As a large Multi-Academy Trust, the Trust now receives School Condition Allocation (SCA) and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding with which the Trust maintains, renews and develops the Trust's capital estate for all of its partner schools. Such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned.

As set out in the notes to the Financial Statements, the Trust is responsible for meeting the employers' contributions for employees who are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) or the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Both schemes are defined-benefit schemes, and the latter scheme is a funded scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The LGPS scheme actuary has calculated a notional fund deficit at the date of these financial statements of £11.540m (2017/18 £7.322m).

Prior to conversion the trustees were advised that there are no circumstances in which an academy would be called upon to meet the pension deficit in a single transaction. Since conversion, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, Parliament has agreed that, in the event of an academy closing, outstanding pension scheme liabilities would be met by the DfE. This guarantee came into force on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The Trust holds numerous Freehold and Long-Leasehold Land and Buildings which, on a depreciated basis, exceed £53m in value. These assets ensure the Trust has no ongoing solvency concerns from the pensions.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trust's Reserves Policy is to hold in minimum reserves of 5% of GAG Income to enable educational provision and the on-going improvement and development of the teaching, learning and working environment to be continued as far as possible, whilst making proper use of funds for the current cohort. A proportion of the available revenue balances will continue to be required over the coming years in order to minimise turbulence during a period of funding uncertainty.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

The total fund balances of the Trust at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, as detailed in Note 18 to the financial statements, amounted to £60,512k (2018: £55,244k). Excluding the fixed asset fund (representing the net book value of fixed assets) of £50,521k (2018: £57,006k) and the pension deficit fund of £11,540k (2018: £7,322k), the operational fund balances amounted to £2,779k (2018: £5,559k) and are summarised as follows:

	2019	2018
	£000s	£000s
GAG funds	(130)	191
Other restricted income funds	8	679
ESFA capital project funding	1,417	734
Other restricted capital funds	253	2,423
Unrestricted funds	1,231	1,532
	<hr/> 2,779	<hr/> 5,559

As set out in the Statement of Accounting policies, property transferred on conversion is included on a depreciated cost basis which is not representative of market value.

The pension fund deficit is likely to be met in the longer term from a combination of increased employer or employee contributions, increased government funding, or a change to scheme benefits.

Restricted funds will be spent in accordance with the terms of the particular funds.

**Investment Policy**

The academy's Investment policy is to safeguard its assets by holding them in low-risk categories, principally interest-bearing accounts with UK High Street banks, and land and buildings used for its educational purposes.

**Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The Trustees and the Leadership Teams continually consider the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, including those relating to governance, health and safety, safeguarding, teaching and learning, reputation, finance, and facilities. An active and formal Risk Register is in place which records the strategies and systems in place to identify and manage all risks. The Risk Register is reviewed each term in order to assess the effectiveness of the procedures in place.

The Trust invests surplus funds in high credit rating, mainstream UK based banks to minimise risk, whilst taking steps to maximise returns on deposits made with those institutions. Main cash inflows are on a monthly basis from UK Government grants and are hence reliable and spending is co-ordinated with that income to minimise cashflow risk.

As mentioned in the main Financial Review, the Trust is part of a funded Local Government Pension Scheme and has a notional deficit of £11.54m on that scheme. There is limited risk of being required to fund that deficit to a level materially in excess of current contribution levels without Government support to do so. The Government has backed the deficits on this and other LGPS schemes, and the trust holds long-term assets in the form of land and buildings to a value materially in excess of that deficit.

**Fundraising**

The Trust's main fundraising source comprises parent teacher associations (PTAs). These are made up of parent volunteers and are independent of the Trust. The PTAs hold school events throughout the year to raise additional funds to enhance curriculum provision. No complaints have been received relating to these activities

Each PTA has a close working relationship with the relevant school's head teacher and staff.



**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Plans for Future Periods**

Between 2013 and 2017 the Trust has had a continuous period of growth. However, over the past two years the Trust has remained stable and, as such, no new academies have joined.

The Trust is now responsible for over 4169 students and over 650 members of staff. Locally, the Trust's influence has grown, and it is accepted that we are a major employer in South Oxfordshire.

The Trust remains determined to exist as an organisation focused on working Hubs and the local communities. There is scope to expand and we expect to continue talks with a number of primary schools and other Trusts about the benefits of converting and joining the Vale Academy Trust. Any new schools wishing to join the Trust must share our vision and ethos which is centred on collaboration, support and challenge, and is based on the understanding that the Trust will not be successful until all academies are doing well. The Trust has an agreed process for growth.

The Trust applied to open a new Free School in Grove required as part of a significant housing development on the site of an old airfield. We were delighted when the Department for Education approved the Trust as the preferred sponsor of the new school, which will be a 4-16 'all through school' with a large nursery for 2 and 3 year olds. The new school will also be a Church of England school, reflecting the mixed nature of our Trust which already has three primary Church of England schools. Development of the site has now finally started after numerous delays. The planned opening date for the new school is not expected until 2022.

King Alfred's 3 to 2 project is complete after 8 years of continuous building and the school is now finally operating on two sites. After numerous delays (and the eventual collapse of Carillion) Oxfordshire County Council allowed the Trust to undertake the capital expansion project for St James Primary School. The expansion is now complete.

**Equal Opportunities and Employee Consultation**

The Trust prides itself on being an equal opportunity employer and is committed to promoting equality and social inclusion for all. The Trust operates a policy which aims to ensure that unlawful or otherwise unjustifiable discrimination does not take place in any aspect of our operations, especially in the recruitment, training, career development and promotion opportunities for all staff.

The Trust engages through various mediums with all its staff throughout the year via regular bulletins, briefings, workshops and training. On a more formal basis, the Trust has not diverged from the core employment terms or conditions agreed with recognised unions for all schools in Oxfordshire and continues to engage with employees through those union channels wherever needed and appropriate, as part of the wider Oxfordshire schools community which includes most other academy and local authority maintained schools in the county.

**Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

The Trust holds no Assets and Funds as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Auditor**

Insofar 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.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the Company Directors, on 17th December 2019 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



**Joseph Pillman**

Chair of the Board of Trustees

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Scope of Responsibility**

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the Vale Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**Governance**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

The Board delegates certain responsibilities to the local governing bodies (LGBs) whose purpose is to provide support and challenge to each academy on behalf of the Board. A comprehensive Scheme of Delegated Authority and Terms of Reference is in place to ensure LGB consistency and accountability to the Board. The Board has formally met nine times during the year, and attendance was as follows:

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Joseph Pillman	9	9
Simon Spiers	5	5
Philip Harrison	9	9
Gina Hocking	6	9
Christopher Ferguson	8	9
Jennifer de la Coze	0	0
Jeffrey Penfold	9	9
Susan Hunter	0	0
Kirsteen Roberts	9	9
Iain Littlejohn	8	9
Christopher Williams	8	9
Wendy Hart	4	8
Elizabeth Taylor	3	7

Effective oversight of the Trust was maintained through the meetings of the Board of Trustees and its comprehensive committee structure. The Trust's five specialist committees, Education, Finance & Operations, Audit & Risk, Discipline, and Pay, each met at least three times during the year. The Chairs' Forum met three times, and each Local Governing Body for each school met at least six times.

**Governance Reviews**

The Trust commissioned an externally led governance review in October 2018 and based on recommendations in the subsequent report has introduced a link-trustee programme, whereby trustees attend a number of LGB meetings as observers. The objective is to give the Board a greater understanding of the LGBs and their effectiveness. Also, as a result of the external review, the Board has decided to expand the membership of the Chairs' Forum to include headteachers, and to change its terms of reference to deliver a tighter focus on Trust performance, strategy and implications for schools.

An annual Trust Self-Evaluation was completed in June 2019, using the South West Regional Schools Commissioner's suggested template. Findings from the evaluation were used to help the Trust develop a new, clearer vision and strategy.

During the year a comprehensive review of the Trust's Scheme of Delegated Authority (SoDA) was undertaken,

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

resulting in a new SoDA which will come into force at the start of the 2019/2020 academic year. The new SoDA is designed to bring greater clarity on responsibilities and decision making across the Trust.

Each year the Trust requires that every trustee and governor complete an online self-review, which is based on the core skills template from the National Governance Association. The results from these reviews are used by the Board and the individual LGBs to identify gaps in skills and experience, which in turn is used to inform recruitment, training and committee composition.

**Committees**

**The Finance and Operations Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its terms of reference include responsibility for monitoring financial strategy, agreeing the formal budget plans and financial statements for each year, and for recommending their approval by the Board of Trustees. The committee also monitors major capital and asset planning and expenditure. Not all Trustees attended the full six meetings as the committee comprises a core membership, with others attending on an ad hoc basis – see table below. During this reporting period some of the key tasks for the committee were:

- Oversight of Capital Projects
- Oversight of the centralisation of Trust-wide finance
- Approval of Trust budget for AY 19/20

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

**Finance & Operations Committee (Chair: Christopher Ferguson)**

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Christopher Ferguson	5	6
Simon Spiers	3	3
Philip Harrison	6	6
Gina Hocking	1	6
Jennifer de la Coze	0	0
Jeffrey Penfold	4	6
Susan Hunter	0	0
Joseph Pillman	3	6
Christopher Williams	4	6
Iain Littlejohn	4	6
Kirsteen Roberts	2	6
Wendy Hart	2	6
Elizabeth Taylor	1	5

**The Audit & Risk Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. It was established to provide assurance over the suitability of, and compliance with, the Trust's financial systems and operational controls. Its terms of reference include responsibility for agreeing that an effective audit process is in place. The committee has met three times during the year. Not all trustees attend the meetings as the committee comprises a core membership of a minimum of three persons and a maximum of five, with others attending on an ad hoc basis – see table below. During this reporting period some of the key tasks for the committee were:

- Review of the Trust's Risk Register
- Review of the Audit & Risk Committee schedule of work
- Review of internal audit reports

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

**Audit & Risk Committee (Chair: Philip Harrison)**

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Philip Harrison	3	3
Christopher Williams	1	1
Jeffrey Penfold	3	3
Wendy Hart	1	3
Jane Bardell (External Member)	3	3
Ed Byrne (External Member)	3	3

**The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Vale Academy Trust for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 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 academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 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 academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures, including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

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

The Board of Trustees has considered its determination and obligation to have in place processes for checking its financial systems, controls, transactions and risks. Through the Audit & Risk Committee the Board has identified the significant risks that the Trust faces and devised a programme of work to assess how these risks are being dealt with. This programme of work included targeted meeting agendas, at which senior officers and staff of the Trust were robustly challenged to evidence how identified, particular, and high level risks are dealt with e.g. Procurement; Whistleblowing; Conflicts of Interest and Loyalties; the Site Rationalisation Project and Due Diligence on academy conversions. The work of the Audit & Risk Committee supplements that carried out by the external auditors, who conduct field work testing during visits twice a year. The Trustees can confirm that the programme of work of the Audit & Risk Committee has been dealt with as planned and that there have been no material control issues arising requiring remedial action.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**Review of Effectiveness**

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

- the work of the Audit & Risk Committee;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the senior teams within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer will ensure continuous improvement of the control systems is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 17th December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



**Joseph Pillman**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees



**Richard Evans**  
Accounting Officer

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As accounting officer of Vale Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the 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 Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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



**Richard Evans**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 17th December 2019

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 17 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



**Joseph Pillman**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees



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

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Vale Academy Trust (the 'trust') for the year ended 31 August 2019 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF VALE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Other information includes the Reference and administrative details, the Trustees' report including the Strategic report, and the Governance statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF VALE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

**Use of our report**

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



**Alexander Peal BSc (Hons) FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**James Cowper Kreston**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
Reading Bridge House  
George Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 8LS

Date: 17 December 2019

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 27 September 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Vale Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 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 Vale Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Vale Academy 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 Vale Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Vale Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 15 February 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2018, 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 2018 to 2019. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 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 Trust's income and expenditure.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*James Cowper Kreston*

**James Cowper Kreston**

Reading Bridge House  
George Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 8LS

Date: *17 December 2019*

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	106,921	4,376,423	4,483,344	1,949,243
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		-	20,003,096	-	20,003,096	20,078,871
Other income for educational operations		1,760,335	66,131	-	1,826,466	1,668,574
Teaching schools		-	493,954	-	493,954	724,510
Other trading activities		146,191	-	-	146,191	110,489
Investments	6	20,356	-	-	20,356	19,399
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,926,882</b>	<b>20,670,102</b>	<b>4,376,423</b>	<b>26,973,407</b>	<b>24,551,086</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		2,227,941	22,678,070	2,074,723	26,980,734	25,818,068
Teaching schools		-	727,233	-	727,233	565,876
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,227,941</b>	<b>23,405,303</b>	<b>2,074,723</b>	<b>27,707,967</b>	<b>26,383,944</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(301,059)</b>	<b>(2,735,201)</b>	<b>2,301,700</b>	<b>(734,560)</b>	<b>(1,832,858)</b>
Transfers between funds	18	-	282,476	(282,476)	-	-
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(301,059)</b>	<b>(2,452,725)</b>	<b>2,019,224</b>	<b>(734,560)</b>	<b>(1,832,858)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	(2,757,000)	-	(2,757,000)	2,394,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(301,059)</b>	<b>(5,209,725)</b>	<b>2,019,224</b>	<b>(3,491,560)</b>	<b>561,142</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,531,996	(6,452,146)	60,163,831	55,243,681	54,682,539
Net movement in funds		(301,059)	(5,209,725)	2,019,224	(3,491,560)	561,142

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Note					
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,230,937</b>	<b>(11,661,871)</b>	<b>62,183,055</b>	<b>51,752,121</b>	<b>55,243,681</b>

All of the Academy's activities derive from continuing operations.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07674473**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019**

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	15	<b>60,511,883</b>	57,005,997
		<b>60,511,883</b>	57,005,997
<b>Current assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		<b>60,000</b>	60,000
Debtors	16	<b>871,404</b>	4,376,540
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>4,301,400</b>	6,795,006
		<b>5,232,804</b>	11,231,546
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(2,452,566)</b>	(5,671,862)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>2,780,238</b>	5,559,684
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>63,292,121</b>	62,565,681
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<b>63,292,121</b>	62,565,681
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	<b>(11,540,000)</b>	(7,322,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>51,752,121</b>	55,243,681
<b>Funds of the Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	<b>62,183,055</b>	60,163,831
Restricted income funds	18	<b>(121,871)</b>	869,854
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	<b>62,061,184</b>	61,033,685
Pension reserve	18	<b>(11,540,000)</b>	(7,322,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	<b>50,521,184</b>	53,711,685
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18	<b>1,230,937</b>	1,531,996
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>51,752,121</b>	55,243,681

The financial statements on pages 28 to 64 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 17 December 2019 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**Joseph Pillman**  
Trustee

The notes on pages 32 to 64 form part of these financial statements.



**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2019</b> <b>£</b>	2018 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	<b>2,493,482</b>	(1,057,440)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	<b>(2,773,849)</b>	5,012,954
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	21	<b>(2,213,239)</b>	(3,334,393)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(2,493,606)</b>	621,121
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>6,795,006</b>	6,173,885
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	23	<b>4,301,400</b>	6,795,006

The notes on pages 32 to 64 form part of these financial statements

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Vale Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**1.2 Going concern**

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

**1.3 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **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.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Taxation**

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

**1.6 Intangible assets**

Intangible assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £5,000 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 requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

In accordance with FRS102, the Trust applies the obligations of paragraph 17.6 on component accounting. Component accounting requires the splitting out of any item of property, plant and equipment into differing elements where those elements have materially different remaining useful economic lives. Refurbishment or replacement expenditure that adds significant useful economic value is therefore capitalised and the component being replaced or refurbished, is written out of the accounts.

The Trust applies these obligations to all expenditure following the initial conversion to an academy by an individual school for all refurbishment and replacement expenditure that exceeds £5,000.

For the overall school buildings value at conversion, the Trust does not apply the provisions of FRS102 paragraph 17.6 because there is no reasonable approach that can be used to reliably split the value of the buildings coming to the Trust into their component parts (such as IT infrastructure, electricals, boilers, roofs, walls, plumbing, etc). The unique nature of school buildings and equipment mean they have no readily available or reliable market value for other usage. Overall value at conversion is materially estimated using the depreciated replacement cost method.

The Directors have assessed that this diversion from FRS102 still enables a true and fair view of the net book value and periodic depreciation charges as:

- The depreciated replacement cost of the overall buildings and equipment reflects a materially reasonable average estimate of value, taking into account age, obsolescence, wear and modern replacement costs; and
- The depreciation on those buildings materially reflects the continuing usage of economic value of those assets over time, such that older components being replace/ refurbished are reaching zero remaining net book value at the point that new refurbishment/ replacement assets on a component accounting basis are added.

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 35 years from conversion
Long-term leasehold property	- 30-50 years from conversion
Building improvements	- 10-35 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 5 years
ICT equipment	- 3 years
Motor vehicles	- 5 years

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

**1.8 Debtors**

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

**1.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**1.10 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 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.

**1.11 Provisions**

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

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.12 Financial instruments**

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

*Financial assets* - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

*Financial liabilities* - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

**1.13 Finance leases and hire purchase**

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the Trust. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors, net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the statement of financial activities so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

**1.14 Agency arrangements**

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The academy trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 30.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.15 Pensions**

The Trust operates a defined benefit pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Trust to the fund in respect of the year.

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

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

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

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

**1.16 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. 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.



**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Devolved formula capital grant	-	2,733,176	2,733,176
School condition allocation	-	1,643,247	1,643,247
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-
Other donations	106,921	-	106,921
	<u>106,921</u>	<u>4,376,423</u>	<u>4,483,344</u>

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Devolved formula capital grant	-	160,875	160,875
School condition allocation	-	1,643,257	1,643,257
Donated fixed assets	80,602	-	80,602
Other donations	64,509	-	64,509
	<u>145,111</u>	<u>1,804,132</u>	<u>1,949,243</u>

**4. Funding for the Trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	18,087,625	18,087,625
Pupil premium	-	734,629	734,629
Other DfE Group grants	-	662,730	662,730
Early Years funding	-	307,010	307,010
Local authority revenue funding	-	232,160	232,160
Trip and activity income	671,978	-	671,978
Transport charges	70,019	-	70,019
Catering income	535,189	-	535,189
Other income	483,149	45,073	528,222
	<u>1,760,335</u>	<u>20,069,227</u>	<u>21,829,562</u>

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

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

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	18,089,203	18,089,203
Pupil premium	-	773,277	773,277
Other DfE Group grants	-	573,881	573,881
Early Years funding	-	310,547	310,547
Local authority revenue funding	-	331,963	331,963
Trip and activity income	429,297	-	429,297
Transport charges	85,351	-	85,351
Catering income	477,945	-	477,945
Other income	540,724	135,257	675,981
	<u>1,533,317</u>	<u>20,214,128</u>	<u>21,747,445</u>

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Hire of facilities	146,191	<b>146,191</b>	106,895
Catering income from other schools	-	-	3,594
	<u>146,191</u>	<u><b>146,191</b></u>	<u>110,489</u>

All of 2018 income was in relation to unrestricted funds.

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2019 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2019 £</b>	Total funds 2018 £
Short term deposits	20,356	<b>20,356</b>	19,399
	<u>20,356</u>	<u>20,356</u>	<u>19,399</u>

All of 2018 income was in relation to unrestricted funds.

**7. Teaching school income**

	<b>Restricted funds 2019 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2019 £</b>
National College grants	-	-
OTSA SCITT	493,954	<b>493,954</b>
	<u>493,954</u>	<u><b>493,954</b></u>

	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
National College grants	40,900	40,900
OTSA SCITT	683,610	683,610
	<u>724,510</u>	<u>724,510</u>

**VALE ACADEMY TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**8. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs 2019 £</b>	<b>Premises 2019 £</b>	<b>Other 2019 £</b>	<b>Total 2019 £</b>
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	16,779,735	-	89,827	<b>16,869,562</b>
Allocated support costs	3,081,775	1,115,102	5,914,295	<b>10,111,172</b>
Teaching school	160,989	-	566,244	<b>727,233</b>
	<u>20,022,499</u>	<u>1,115,102</u>	<u>6,570,366</u>	<u><b>27,707,967</b></u>
	<b>Staff Costs 2018 £</b>	<b>Premises 2018 £</b>	<b>Other 2018 £</b>	<b>Total 2018 £</b>
Educational operations:				
Direct costs	15,162,116	-	2,076,344	17,238,460
Allocated support costs	4,091,540	1,751,765	2,736,303	8,579,608
Teaching school	129,910	962	435,004	565,876
	<u>19,383,566</u>	<u>1,752,727</u>	<u>5,247,651</u>	<u>26,383,944</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

**9. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2019 £	Support costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Educational operations	16,869,562	10,111,172	<b>26,980,734</b>

	Activities undertaken directly 2018 £	Support costs 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Educational operations	17,238,460	8,579,608	25,818,068

**Analysis of support costs**

	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
FRS102 pension	216,000	233,000
Staff costs	5,562,996	3,858,540
Depreciation	2,074,723	1,733,741
Technology costs	81,846	33,858
Premises costs	1,153,974	1,626,673
Other support costs	992,121	1,048,442
Governance costs	29,512	45,354
	<b>10,111,172</b>	<b>8,579,608</b>

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**10. Net (expenditure)/income**

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Operating lease rentals	<b>44,972</b>	5,502
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>2,074,723</b>	1,733,741
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- Audit	<b>13,900</b>	15,860
- Audit related assurance	<b>-</b>	3,000
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**11. Staff costs**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>14,371,984</b>	14,226,061
Social security costs	<b>1,534,545</b>	1,272,896
Pension costs	<b>3,600,887</b>	3,408,770
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
	<b>19,507,416</b>	18,907,727
Agency staff costs	<b>241,048</b>	186,916
Apprenticeship Levy	<b>58,035</b>	55,923
Finance cost	<b>216,000</b>	233,000
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
	<b>20,022,499</b>	19,383,566

**b. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teachers	<b>283</b>	300
Administration and support	<b>361</b>	348
Management	<b>9</b>	11
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>
	<b>653</b>	659

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**11. Staff costs (continued)**

**c. Higher paid staff**

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

	<b>2019 No.</b>	2018 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>5</b>	4
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>1</b>	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>3</b>	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	<b>1</b>	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	-	1
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>

**d. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £305,122 (2018: £303,050).

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**12. Central services**

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

- Central costs funded by central services contributions include central leadership team staff costs, teaching staff costs, premises and general insurance, external administration and support services and external professional services.

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Each member school in the trust contributes proportionately to the cost of central services that benefit the whole trust.

During the period under review each primary school contributed a sum equivalent to 5% of its government revenue funding, and each secondary school contributed a sum equivalent to 4% of its government revenue funding, as follows:

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
King Alfred's School	<b>343,188</b>	370,818
Wantage CoE Primary School	<b>70,200</b>	79,745
Charlton Primary School	<b>71,700</b>	64,074
Larkmead School	<b>147,072</b>	158,112
Thameside Primary School	<b>38,148</b>	46,332
Millbrook Primary School	<b>68,484</b>	79,236
St James CoE Primary School	<b>26,184</b>	29,218
St Nicholas CoE Primary School	<b>21,336</b>	23,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>786,312</b>	851,225



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**13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

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

		<b>2019</b>	2018
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
S Spiers, Chief Executive and Trustee	Remuneration	<b>85,000 -</b>	135,000 -
		<b>90,000</b>	140,000
	Pension contributions paid	<b>15,000 -</b>	20,000 -
		<b>20,000</b>	25,000

During the year ended 31 August 2019, expenses totalling £338 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2018 - £NIL).

**14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

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

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**15. Tangible fixed assets**

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2018	62,210,324	670,083	712,873	74,039	63,667,319
Additions	5,434,694	73,755	72,160	-	5,580,609
At 31 August 2019	67,645,018	743,838	785,033	74,039	69,247,928
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2018	5,527,375	389,105	689,489	55,353	6,661,322
Charge for the year	1,940,549	92,108	33,837	8,229	2,074,723
At 31 August 2019	7,467,924	481,213	723,326	63,582	8,736,045
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2019	60,177,094	262,625	61,707	10,457	60,511,883
At 31 August 2018	56,682,949	280,978	23,384	18,686	57,005,997

**Leasehold arrangements**

The leasehold buildings column includes long leasehold interests for King Alfred's School (Centre and West sites), Charlton Primary School, Larkmead School, Millbrook Primary School and Thameside Primary School, together with Supplemental Agreements with Church land trustees for the use of the land and buildings at Wantage Church of England Primary School, St Nicholas Church of England Primary School and St James Church of England Primary School. Under the Supplemental Agreements, the Academy Trust has permission to use the land and buildings for an indefinite period, subject to a 2 year termination notice period. A desktop depreciated replacement cost value of the buildings is recognised on the balance sheet on the basis that the Academy Trust has the economic benefit arising from their use.

Due to restrictions in the leases on the use of the leasehold land, the Trustees consider that the land has no value and as such it is included in the financial statements at nil value.

Additions represent capital building works and improvements on existing sites. There are no assets under construction as at 31 August 2019 (2018: £2,174,916).

**Freehold additions and disposals**

Freehold land at King Alfred's East Site, was sold in the year ended 31 August 2018 with ESFA permission as part of the project to build a new Science Block and other infrastructure at Centre Site to support an expansion of pupil numbers at the location. The ESFA loan in note 17 is in relation to this project.

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**16. Debtors**

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	298,297	897,741
Other debtors	11,793	2,265,305
Prepayments and accrued income	386,074	605,528
VAT recoverable	175,240	607,966
	<u>871,404</u>	<u>4,376,540</u>

**17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2019 £	2018 £
Loans	-	2,213,239
Salix loan	4,530	4,530
Trade creditors	880,694	880,068
Other taxation and social security	332,636	323,259
Other creditors	297,396	300,840
Accruals and deferred income	937,310	1,949,926
	<u>2,452,566</u>	<u>5,671,862</u>

	2019 £	2018 £
Deferred income at 1 September	1,461,334	323,947
Resources deferred during the year	774,161	1,461,334
Amounts released from previous periods	(1,461,334)	(323,947)
	<u>774,161</u>	<u>1,461,334</u>

Deferred income represents funding received specifically for next financial year, together with trips and activities income received in advance.

The loan of £nil (2018: £2,213,239) derived from the ESFA. Interest was payable at 1.37% per annum and the repayment date was 31 January 2019. The loan was to support the project to dispose of King Alfred's East Site and construct modern expanded facilities at King Alfred's Centre Site.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Unrestricted funds	<u>1,531,996</u>	<u>1,926,882</u>	<u>(2,227,941)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,230,937</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	191,010	18,087,621	(18,691,263)	282,476	-	(130,156)
Pupil Premium funding	-	734,628	(734,628)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ ESFA funding	-	550,193	(550,193)	-	-	-
Local authority revenue funding	-	219,351	(219,351)	-	-	-
OTSA	589,776	493,954	(1,075,445)	-	-	8,285
Early years funding	-	307,019	(307,019)	-	-	-
Sports related funding	89,068	125,347	(214,415)	-	-	-
Donations	-	106,920	(106,920)	-	-	-
Sweatbox	-	45,069	(45,069)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(7,322,000)	-	(1,461,000)	-	(2,757,000)	(11,540,000)
	<u>(6,452,146)</u>	<u>20,670,102</u>	<u>(23,405,303)</u>	<u>282,476</u>	<u>(2,757,000)</u>	<u>(11,661,871)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
School Condition Allocation	733,200	1,643,258	-	(958,673)	-	1,417,785
ACMF/ CIF projects	1,169	-	-	-	-	1,169
Devolved Formula Capital	105,363	303,190	-	(234,073)	-	174,480
Healthy pupil capital fund	64,426	-	-	(20,000)	-	44,426
Capital transferred on conversion	33,312	-	-	-	-	33,312
ESFA capital loan	(2,313,239)	-	-	2,313,239	-	-

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Net proceeds of property sale restricted for capital reinvestment	4,533,603	759,501	-	(5,293,104)	-	-
St James Extension	-	1,670,474	-	(1,670,474)	-	-
Fixed asset fund	57,005,997	-	(2,074,723)	5,580,609	-	60,511,883
	<u>60,163,831</u>	<u>4,376,423</u>	<u>(2,074,723)</u>	<u>(282,476)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,183,055</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>53,711,685</u>	<u>25,046,525</u>	<u>(25,480,026)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,757,000)</u>	<u>50,521,184</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>55,243,681</u></u>	<u><u>26,973,407</u></u>	<u><u>(27,707,967)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,757,000)</u></u>	<u><u>51,752,121</u></u>

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

In April 2019 'OTSA' the teaching school fund was transferred to River Learning Trust; the remaining funds totalled £667,271.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2019.

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2019 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charlton Primary School	<b>60,444</b>	67,467
King Alfred's School - General	<b>719,384</b>	845,517
King Alfred's School - OTSA	<b>8,285</b>	589,776
Larkmead School	<b>106,815</b>	226,174
Millbrook Primary School	<b>118,413</b>	230,761
St James CoE Primary School	<b>27,177</b>	38,346
St Nicholas CoE Primary School	<b>20,963</b>	23,367
Thameside Primary School	<b>39,264</b>	140,924
Wantage CoE Primary School	<b>96,770</b>	193,581
Central services	<b>(88,449)</b>	45,937
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	<b>1,109,066</b>	2,401,850
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>62,183,055</b>	60,163,831
Pension reserve	<b>(11,540,000)</b>	(7,322,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,752,121</b>	55,243,681
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2019 £
King Alfred's School	6,638,539	913,032	924,256	1,757,756	<b>10,233,583</b>
Wantage CoE Primary Sch	1,370,512	137,659	81,623	295,830	<b>1,885,624</b>
Charlton Primary School	1,215,943	112,652	82,135	307,520	<b>1,718,250</b>
St Nicholas CoE Primary SI	366,291	36,350	25,209	105,665	<b>533,515</b>
Millbrook Primary School	1,372,211	145,847	88,044	293,564	<b>1,899,666</b>
St James CoE Primary Sch	475,234	30,187	45,014	131,777	<b>682,212</b>
Larkmead School	2,911,940	684,295	288,144	674,266	<b>4,558,645</b>
Thameside Primary School	761,432	162,287	44,160	178,133	<b>1,146,012</b>
Central services	398,824	781,633	7,908	326,372	<b>1,514,737</b>
Other finance costs and pension costs	-	-	-	1,461,000	<b>1,461,000</b>
<b>Trust</b>	<b>15,510,926</b>	<b>3,003,942</b>	<b>1,586,493</b>	<b>5,531,883</b>	<b>25,633,244</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 August 2018 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	1,309,981	1,663,205	(1,533,317)	92,127	1,531,996
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	492,651	18,089,203	(18,544,412)	153,568	191,010
Other DFE/ESFA funding	-	460,001	(460,001)	-	-
Local authority revenue funding	-	403,194	(403,194)	-	-
OTSA	539,824	724,510	(565,876)	(108,682)	589,776
Early Years funding	-	310,547	(310,547)	-	-
Sports related funding	27,439	113,880	(52,251)	-	89,068
Donations received	-	64,509	(64,509)	-	-
Sweatbox	8,666	64,026	(89,247)	16,555	-
Pension reserve	(8,438,000)	-	(1,278,000)	2,394,000	(7,322,000)
	<u>(7,369,420)</u>	<u>20,229,870</u>	<u>(21,768,037)</u>	<u>2,455,441</u>	<u>(6,452,146)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
School Condition Allocation	1,235,674	1,643,257	(575,572)	(1,570,159)	733,200
ACMF/CIF projects	30,953	-	-	(29,784)	1,169
Devolved Formula Capital	54,026	96,449	-	(45,112)	105,363
Healthy pupil capital fund	-	64,426	-	-	64,426
Other capital income	-	80,602	-	(80,602)	-
Capital funds transferred on conversion	33,312	-	-	-	33,312
ESFA capital loan	(5,543,102)	-	-	3,229,863	(2,313,239)
Net Proceeds of property sale restricted for capital reinvestment	11,711,431	-	-	(7,177,828)	4,533,603
Fixed asset fund	53,219,684	-	(1,733,741)	5,520,054	57,005,997
	<u>60,741,978</u>	<u>1,884,734</u>	<u>(2,309,313)</u>	<u>(153,568)</u>	<u>60,163,831</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>53,372,558</u>	<u>22,114,604</u>	<u>(24,077,350)</u>	<u>2,301,873</u>	<u>53,711,685</u>



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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 August 2018 £
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>54,682,539</b>	<b>23,777,809</b>	<b>(25,610,667)</b>	<b>2,394,000</b>	<b>55,243,681</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	60,511,883	<b>60,511,883</b>
Current assets	2,005,098	1,556,534	1,671,172	<b>5,232,804</b>
Creditors due within one year	(774,161)	(1,678,405)	-	<b>(2,452,566)</b>
Pension scheme liability	-	(11,540,000)	-	<b>(11,540,000)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,230,937</u>	<u>(11,661,871)</u>	<u>62,183,055</u>	<u><b>51,752,121</b></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	57,005,997	57,005,997
Current assets	1,531,996	4,323,947	5,375,603	11,231,546
Creditors due within one year	-	(3,454,093)	(2,217,769)	(5,671,862)
Pension scheme liability	-	(7,322,000)	-	(7,322,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,531,996</u>	<u>(6,452,146)</u>	<u>60,163,831</u>	<u>55,243,681</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2019 £	2018 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per statement of financial activities)	<b>(734,560)</b>	(1,832,858)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>2,074,723</b>	1,733,741
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(2,786,404)</b>	(1,884,734)
Interest receivable	<b>(20,356)</b>	(19,399)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>1,245,000</b>	1,045,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>216,000</b>	233,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	<b>3,505,136</b>	(718,019)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>(1,006,057)</b>	385,829
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>2,493,482</b>	(1,057,440)

**21. Cash flows from financing activities**

	2019 £	2018 £
Repayments of borrowing	<b>(2,213,239)</b>	(3,334,393)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(2,213,239)</b>	(3,334,393)

**22. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2019 £	2018 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	<b>20,356</b>	19,399
Proceeds from the sale of tangible assets	-	8,628,875
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(5,580,609)</b>	(5,520,054)
Capital grants from DfE Group	<b>2,786,404</b>	1,804,132
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	-	80,602
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(2,773,849)</b>	5,012,954

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2019 £	2018 £
Cash in hand	4,301,400	6,795,006
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>4,301,400</b>	<b>6,795,006</b>

**24. Contingent liabilities**

There are no contingent liabilities that require disclosure.

**25. Members' liability**

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

**26. Capital commitments**

	2019 £	2018 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	-	3,200,000

**27. Pension commitments**

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

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

Contributions amounting to £291,506 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2019 (2018 - £284,754) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,529,353 (2018 - £1,510,106).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the [Teachers' Pensions website](#).

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2019 was £1,124,000 (2018 - £1,098,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £856,000 (2018 - £837,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 268,000 (2018 - £261,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.7% per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% per cent 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.

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.8</b>	3.4
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.3</b>	2.4
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>1.8</b>	2.8
Inflation assumption (CPI)	<b>2.3</b>	2.4
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<b>50</b>	50

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

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>22.7</b>	23.4
Females	<b>24.3</b>	25.5
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>24</b>	25.7
Females	<b>25.7</b>	27.9

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	<b>22,491</b>	17,316
Discount rate -0.1%	<b>23,575</b>	18,108

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

	<b>At 31 August 2019</b>	Fair value at 31 August 2018
	£	£
Equities	<b>8,293,110</b>	7,273,000
Bonds	<b>2,523,990</b>	1,766,000
Property	<b>721,140</b>	831,000
Cash and other liquid assets	<b>480,760</b>	520,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>12,019,000</b>	10,390,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £327,000 (2018 - £717,000).

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	<b>2019</b> £	2018 £
Current service cost	<b>1,665,000</b>	1,882,000
Net interest on the defined liability (asset)	<b>216,000</b>	233,000
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities</b>	<b>1,881,000</b>	2,115,000

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

	<b>2019</b> £	2018 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>17,712,000</b>	17,194,000
Changes in demographic assumptions	<b>(1,575,000)</b>	-
Current service cost	<b>2,101,000</b>	1,882,000
Interest cost	<b>521,000</b>	473,000
Employee contributions	<b>268,000</b>	261,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	<b>3,084,000</b>	(1,984,000)
Benefits paid	<b>(127,000)</b>	(114,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>21,984,000</b>	17,712,000

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

	<b>2019</b> £	2018 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>10,390,000</b>	8,756,000
Interest income	<b>305,000</b>	240,000
Actuarial gains	<b>327,000</b>	410,000
Employer contributions	<b>856,000</b>	837,000
Employee contributions	<b>268,000</b>	261,000
Benefits paid	<b>(127,000)</b>	(114,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>12,019,000</b>	10,390,000

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**28. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2019 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2019</b> £	2018 £
Amounts due within one year	<b>33,721</b>	41,051
Amounts due between one and five years	<b>87,976</b>	123,972
Amounts due after five years	<b>177,687</b>	179,333
	<b><u>299,384</u></b>	<u>344,356</u>



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**29. Related party transactions**

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

In addition, relatives of Trustees/Directors may be employed by the Trust, in accordance with the Trust's selection procedures, and on terms that are no more or less favourable than those applying to the Trust's employees generally. The employment of related parties is disclosed in the Trust's Register of Interests.

Transactions with related parties during the year comprised:

Mrs J Spiers (spouse of Simon Spiers, Trustee/Director, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer) is employed by the Trust as a teacher, having previously been employed by the predecessor local authority maintained school since 1 September 2000. Mrs Spiers' remuneration during the year was £13,441 (2018: £22,380) and employer pension contributions amounted to £2,245 (2018: £3,818).

Mrs V Harrison (spouse of Philip Harrison, Trustee/Director) is employed by the Trust as a teacher, having previously been employed by the predecessor local authority maintained school since 1 September 2008). Mrs Harrison's remuneration during the year was £43,936 (2018: £43,118) and employer pension contributions amounted to £7,241 (2018: £7,106).

Mr S Hocking (spouse of Gina Hocking, Trustee/Director) is employed by the Trust as a management coach. Mr Hocking's remuneration during the year was £11,564 (2018: £12,322) and employer pension contributions amounted to £nil (2018: £nil).

Ms L Quinton Maryon (daughter of S Quinton, Member) has been employed by the Trust since 1 March 2016. Ms L Quinton Maryon's remuneration during the year was £28,447 (2018: £30,741) and employer pension contributions amounted to £5,327 (2018: £5,363).

The husband of Mrs Sue Hunter (Trustee/Director), Mr Alastair Hunter, is a Trustee of the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage and has been involved in the lease of a property at the Convent to the Trust.

Mrs L Littlejohn (spouse of Iain Littlejohn, Trustee/Director) has been employed by the Trust as a Cover Teacher. Mrs Littlejohn's remuneration during the year was £nil (2018: £3,275) and employer pension contributions amounted to £nil (2018: £540). Miss H Littlejohn (daughter of Iain Littlejohn, Trustee/Director) is employed by the Trust as a casual cleaner. Miss Littlejohn's remuneration during the year was £942 (2018: £nil) and employer pension contributions amounted to £110 (2018: £nil).

**30. Agency arrangements**

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting year ending 31 August 2019 the trust received £12,670 (2018: £12,401) and disbursed £18,493 (2018: £9,584) from the fund. An amount of £4,789 (2018: £10,612) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA.

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**31. Teaching school trading account**

	2019 £	2019 £	2018 £	2018 £
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Direct income</b>				
Other income	493,954		724,510	
<b>Total income</b>		493,954		724,510
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Direct expenditure</b>				
Direct staff costs	47,774		81,046	
Other direct costs	234,602		392,649	
<b>Total direct expenditure</b>	282,376		473,695	
<b>Other expenditure</b>				
Support staff costs	67,434		48,864	
Premises	-		962	
Other support costs	58,364		42,355	
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	125,798		92,181	
<b>Total expenditure</b>		408,174		565,876
<b>Transfers between funds excluding depreciation</b>		-		(108,682)
<b>Transfer to River Learning Trust</b>		(667,271)		-
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) from all sources</b>		85,780		49,952
<b>Teaching school balances at 1 September 2018</b>		589,776		539,824
<b>Teaching school balances at 31 August 2019</b>		8,285		589,776