Company Registration Number: 10221189 (England & Wales)

INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

D Whiteley MBE

A Knight

J C O'Dor (appointed 11 March 2020)

D Crowther (resigned 4 December 2019)

T Wilkes (appointed 1 December 2020)

Trustees

Dr S White, Chair of Trustees1

G Robinson OBE, Accounting Officer (resigned 31 August 2020)1

D Whitelev MBE1

Dr E J Perry

J B Gledhill (resigned 31 December 2020)1

D Wilkinson1

J Haines

L M O'Neill

J C O'Dor (resigned 11 March 2020)

J Wainwright (resigned 31 August 2020)

T Wilkes (resigned 31 August 2020)1

Dr A Costello, Accounting Officer (appointed 1 September 2020)1

A Neesa (appointed 3 September 2020)

C White (appointed 1 December 2020)

Company registered number

10221189

Company name

Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited

Registered office

Castle Hill School Newsome Road South Newsome Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD4 6JL

Chief executive officer

G Robinson OBE (resigned 31 August 2020) Dr A Costello (appointed 1 September 2020)

¹ Member of the Resource, Audit and Risk Committee

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Senior management team

G Robinson OBE, Chief Executive Officer (resigned 31 August 2020)
Dr A Costello, Chief Executive Officer (appointed 1 September 2020)
J Rawson, Director of Finance
N Roys, Director of Operations
G Firth, Director of IT

Independent auditors

Cooper Parry Group Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor Park View One Central Boulevard Blythe Valley Park Solihull West Midlands B90 8BG

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc 1 Westgate Huddersfield HD1 2DN

Solicitors

Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited Ellenborough House Wellington Street Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 1YD

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report, including a strategic report, under company law.

The Trust operates 3 Special School Academies in West and South Yorkshire, with a combined pupil capacity of 328 and 359 pupils currently enrolled across the Academies based on the May 2020 Census.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust.

The Trustees are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year and to the date the approval of this report and the financial statements are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA'), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. The scheme protects Members, Trustees and the Local Governing Body members from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trust shall have the following Trustees, as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 9 Trustees who are appointed by the Members;
- any number of parent Trustees who are elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy Trust. The
 Articles require at least two parent trustees if there are not at least two parent governors on each Local
 Governing Body. Currently each LGB has two parent governors, however Castle Hill School are in the
 process of recruiting 1 new parent governor on to their Local Governing Body;
- any number of staff Trustees appointed by the Members (provided that the total number of Trustees, including the Chief Executive, who are employees of the Academy Trust, does not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees);
- any number of co-opted Trustees who are appointed by the Board of Trustees; and
- the Chief Executive who is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Trustee.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees (continued)

Trustees are appointed for a 4-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer who will be appointed on an Ex-Officio basis. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board of Trustees will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure the Board of Trustees has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy Trust's ongoing development.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but will always include a tour of the schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils (this may be virtual due to current COVID-19 implications). All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other any other documentation they may need to undertake their role as a Trustee.

An induction is usually provided by the Clerk to Trustees and Director of Operations and is specifically tailored to the individual. Advantage is taken of relevant courses offered by various external and online organisations as appropriate.

A bespoke governance development programme is delivered throughout each academic year which allows Trustees to meet informally as a team for training, so as to keep the Trustees updated on developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities, and to contribute to the strategic leadership and direction of the Academy Trust.

A Trustee information pack has been developed and has been shared with all new Trustees as well as existing Trustees. The information pack includes links to relevant websites, ICAT specific information along with all the legal documentation required to fulfil the duties of a Trustee.

Trustees can also take advantage of full access to the National Governors Association website, CST updates and courses, The Key for Governors and Educare which is an E-Provider of education related modules. Directors are asked to complete the Safeguarding and Prevent Duty modules as a minimum.

f. Organisational structure

At 31 August 2020, the Academy Trust comprised the following individual academies:

- Castle Hill School (joined on 1st September 2016)
- High Park School (joined on 1st April 2017)
- Milton School (joined on 1st March 2018)

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual development plan and budget, approving the annual statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making the major decisions about the direction of the Academy Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Board of Trustees normally meet 4 times each year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure (continued)

The Board of Trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Board of Trustees and other groups. It receives reports, including policies, from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each Committee. The Board of Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are 3 Committees of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Resource, Audit and Risk Committee
- Academic and Safeguarding Committee
- Remuneration Committee

Each Committee has its own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to it.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Senior Management Team including the CEO and ICAT Central Team

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Senior Management Team ('SMT'), which is led by the Chief Executive. The SMT comprises the Chief Executive and the Central ICAT Team; the Trust Director of Finance, the Trust Director of Operations, the Trust Director of I.T. The Chief Executive Officer is the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Academy Trust. The SMT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on performance.

The Board of Trustees delegates a number of functions to the Local Governing Bodies ('LGB') for each of the Trust's Academies. Each LGB reviews annual Academy Trust plans and budgets, monitors progress against targets and OFSTED standards and oversees parent and community liaison. The Chair of each Local Governing Body also sits on the Board of Trustees.

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

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team and Academy Principals to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who were also employees of the Academy.

The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees based on the annual performance management process for the Chief Executive and in line with the Trust's pay policy, which references the set point scale for the role as outlined in the CEO's contract. An annual performance management review is undertaken by 3 Trustees, who also review the CEO's remuneration levels and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

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

The pay of the ICAT Central Team is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees based on the annual performance management process and in line with the Trust's pay policy, which references the set point scale for the role as outlined in the respective contracts. An annual performance management review is undertaken by the CEO and Chair of Trustees, who also review the team's remuneration levels and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The pay of the Principals is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees based on the annual performance management process and in line with the Trust's pay policy, which references the set point scale for the role as outlined in the respective contracts. An annual performance management review is undertaken by the CEO, Chair of the LGB and one other LGB member, who also review the Principal's remuneration levels and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval.

h. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Academy Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, staff councils and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests. Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins, reports, emails and meetings which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Academy Trust's performance. Opportunities are provided for staff input and feedback.

During employment the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advanced employment opportunities are available to them to reach their full potential.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to make reasonable adjustments and that their employment within the Academy Trust continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the Academy Trust's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

i. Related Parties and Other Connected Charities and Organisations

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

j. Trade union facility time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require specified public-sector employers to report annually on paid time off provided to trade union representatives for trade union duties and activities.

No employees of the Trust were relevant Trade Union officials during the 2019/20 year and nor was any paid time off for Trade Union activities provided by any school within the Trust during the year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

The principal objects of the Academy Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to:

- advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum; and
- promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the areas in which the Academies are situated and the
 surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who
 have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity, disablement, financial hardship or social
 and economic circumstances for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of
 improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

More specifically, the vision and aims of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2020 are below:

The Multi Academy Trust has been developed to share our ideas, strengths and expertise to provide the best possible learning opportunities for all our pupils. We can extend our networks for all our children and families and collectively offer a wide range of opportunities.

- provide an atmosphere where all young people achieve to their full potential
- respect, trust and value ourselves and each other
- · aim for our personal best and share in our successes
- hear every voice
- · see change as a chance to grow
- make learning fun
- promote a climate of high expectation in which the achievements and successes are celebrated
- ensure pupils have a voice in all aspects of school life
- prepare our pupils for adulthood in order for them to become caring, confident and responsible citizens in the community

ICAT specialises in meeting the educational needs of children and young people aged 3-19 with a range of learning difficulties. We are a family of schools who are led by our Trust Members and Board of Directors, to blend the best educational and therapeutic practice. Our team approach ensures we work closely with families, carers and a wide multi-professional team to identify and meet all the needs of our young people.

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The key priorities for the period are contained in the Academy Trust's Development Plan which is available from the CEO. The key activities of the Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 were focused as follows:

- develop and implement a HR Strategy to harmonise policies and terms and conditions across the Trust.
- develop and enhance the learning environment at Milton School through SEND Sufficiency and CIF bid funding.
- support High Park to move out of an Ofsted category of concern.
- provide support to Castle Hill School to develop its leadership team and remain 'Outstanding'.

An interim emergency activity was also added to include:

effectively mitigate the risks posed by Covid-19.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Public benefit

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in the areas where the Academies are situated, and the surrounding area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Achievements and performance

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Trust is in its 4th year of operation since conversion to an Academy Trust. The total number of pupils in the year ended 31 August 2020 was 359, but this has increased to 372 at the October 2020 census due to the continued demand for places at the Academy Trust. The Academy Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self evaluation, data analysis and action planning.

The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2020 were as follows.

- High Park School was awarded 'Good' by Ofsted in January 2020.
- High Park School received full funding by Bradford Council for a two-classroom modular build, increasing learning space for their pupils.
- Castle Hill School remained 'Outstanding' when inspected by Ofsted in July 2019.
- Milton School receiving funding for two additional classrooms increasing their pupil intake capacity to 140.
- Milton School successfully applied to change their designation to include an Early Years' Provision.

b. Key performance indicators

The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring. A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves carried forward. At 31 August 2020, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £1,402,839 (2019: £1,035,386). Further details on the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy below.

As the majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers is also a key performance indictor. As noted earlier in this report, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 372 which is an increase of 5.4% of from the previous year.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Academy Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and / or Local Authority) for the year was 86.5% (2019: 85.4%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 84.8% (2019: 83.4%).

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Going concern

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

Financial review

a. Financial review

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and other organisations / funders and these are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

For the year ended 31 August 2020, the Academy Trust's total income (excluding capital grants) was £9,177,151 (2019: £8,822,654) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £8,774,194 (2019: £8,682,928), resulting in a net surplus for the year of £402,957 (2019: £139,726). The balance of reserves at 31 August 2020, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £1,402,839 (2019: £1,035,386).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2020 were £14,645,397. The fixed assets held by the Academy Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to pupils.

Included within the Academy's balance sheet at year end is a defined benefit pension scheme liability of £9,562,000 (2019: £6,624,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the Academy(ies). Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2020 are set out in note 23 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Policies and Manual, which lays out the framework for the Academy Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, CEO, Director of Finance, Principals, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included Charges and Lettings, Asset Management and Insurance.

b. Reserves policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees also take into consideration the future plans of the Academy Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves at 5% of the gross income of the Trust, plus an additional £100,000 in order to fund any short-term resource need. This will be renewed annually by the Board. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

b. Reserves policy (continued)

The Academy Trust's current level of reserves at 31 August 2020 is £6,666,420 (2019: £9,335,881), of which £1,402,839 (2019: £1,035,386) is revenue reserves (that is, total funds less the amount held in restricted fixed asset funds and restricted pension reserve funds) of which £662,083 (2019: £595,501) is represented by free reserves (being the balance of unrestricted funds).

Although the current level of revenue reserves is above the target level identified above, the Trustees expectation is that these reserves will be utilised over the next few years to fund the ongoing development, including the need to retain key staff in light of the increasing cost pressures in future years.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2020 is £14,825,581 (2019: £15,265,233), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2020 of £9,562,000, which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of the LGPS deficit is that Academy Trust is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Trust's annual recurring income, which may significantly impact its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. The Trustees' have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

c. Investment policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect by the Academy Trust with the objective of ensuring maximum return on assets invested but with minimal risk. On a daily basis this is achieved by automatic transfer of surplus funds to an overnight deposit account with the Academy Trust's principal bankers. Where cash flow allows, sums in excess of £500,000 may be invested on deposit for extended periods with the Academy Trust's principal bankers or other reputable financial institutions.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as in relation to teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategical development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk and have agreed a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Plan, which incorporates a Risk Register.

Where significant financial risk still remains, the Trustees have ensured the Academy Trust has adequate insurance cover in place. The Risk Management Plan is constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy Trust are as follows:

Covid-19

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the Trust has primarily focused its efforts on the risks that are directly related to, or resulting from, the pandemic. It has been essential that the Trust continues to offer high-quality education despite the emergency situation and ever-changing government directive.

The Trust consists of three special schools, meaning every pupil meets the government's 'vulnerable' definition. The Trust has ensured that strategic and effective risk assessments which mitigate both the physical and mental effects of the virus to all stakeholders have been in place since the start of the pandemic.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

d. Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 the Board has held bi-weekly meetings with the Senior Management Team including the CEO, Principals and Central ICAT Team to review the impact of the virus on the principle risks to the Trust including the delivery of high quality education throughout remote learning periods.

Educational

The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all schools. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil achievements are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA (and Local Authority). In the year, approximately 97.5% of the Academy Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light continuing changes in to the National Funding Formula for schools. Continuing increases in employment costs, including pension costs association with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balance budgets in the future.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Academy Trust formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports from the Resource, Audit and Risk Committee meetings. The Resource, Audit and Risk Committee also review the financial performance and position of the Academy Trust every term, reviewing the latest management accounts and reports from the Chief Financial Officer, while the Chair of Trustees also receives and reviews the monthly management accounts.

Staffing

The success of the Academy Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff, so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. Staff wellbeing has been a particular focus for the Trust over the last academic year, especially during the pandemic, this has been reflected in both Trust policy and practice to support staff through COVID-19.

Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Academy Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Academy Trust has engaged Cooper Parry, as the external auditor, to perform a program of work aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academies Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

d. Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

At the balance sheet date, the Academy Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the Academy Trust's liquidity.

The Trustees recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Academy Trust. However, as the Trustees consider the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust raises funds for specific projects that will enhance the learning experience and environment for existing and future students, where funds cannot be accessed via existing channels such as government education funding.

Fundraising is primarily undertaken by staff or parents; no professional fundraisers or commercial participators work with the Trust currently. Fundraising is undertaken in line with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and is monitored by the central finance function of the Trust.

The Academy Trust is mindful of the requirement to protect the public, particularly vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches or undue pressure to donate. No complaints have been received in respect of fundraising activities; the general complaints policy of the trust would be applicable if so

Plans for future periods

The ICAT Trust strives to continually improve levels of attainment for all pupils, equipping them with the skills and/or qualifications necessary for adulthood. Our aim is for each pupil to achieve their full potential and be prepared for the next stage in their life, whether that be further education, employment, or care in the community. This is achieved through rigorous quality assurance of teaching and learning, underpinned by continuous staff development.

A new CEO was appointed in September 2020. She will be leading the development of new strategies for the Trust in conjunction with the Board of Directors.

The Academy Trust's plans for future periods are:

Currently in development is the new Strategic Business Plan 2020/23 which will set out the Trust's key objectives and priorities for the next three years, supported by the Trust's new Financial Plan. Our experience over the last three years shows only a modest appetite from special schools to join Multi Academy Trusts such as ours. Whilst we remain open to applications to join the Trust, our main areas of growth will be through the development of new business partnerships and alliances with schools which have high numbers of SEND pupils. The Trust will continue to promote and develop the work of the Pennine Teaching School both locally and national. We will focus on our key strength which is our expertise in SEND.

The Trust will set ambitious targets within the new Strategic Trust Development Plan 2020/23, for the academic attainment and progress of pupils attending the Trust Schools. These targets will be measured against key performance indicators. In addition, improvement plans will be in place to drive school improvement across the Trust.

The development of the new Business and Development Plans will be done in a collaborative way in full consultation with members of the ICAT community.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Funds held as custodian on behalf of others

The Academy Trust and its Trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

The Trust does however hold Post 16 Bursary Funds on behalf of the ESFA, which are distributed to students as required and in line with the terms and conditions of the funds.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

The auditors, Cooper Parry Group Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 18 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr S White

Chair of Trustees

SALShite

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Interaction and Communication 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.

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Wilkinson	3	4
D Whiteley MBE	4	4
Dr E J Perry	3	4
G Robinson OBE	4	4
J Haines	4	4
J B Gledhill	1	4
J Wainwright	2	4
J C O'Dor	3	3
L M O'Neill	4	4
Dr S White	4	4
T Wilkes	2	4

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Trust's governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the Trust and are satisfied that the current structure in place is appropriate and effective for the Trust. Over the last year the composition of the Board of Trustees has changed as J O'Dor resigned as a Trustee on 11 March 2020 and Dr. J Wainwright and T Wilkes resigned as Trustees on 31 August 2020.

The Resource, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health & Safety of the Academy Trust. This Committee also acts as the Academy Trust's Audit Committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework. Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Wilkinson	1	4
D Whiteley	4	4
G Robinson OBE	2	4
J B Gledhill	0	4
Dr S White	4	4
T Wilkes	3	4

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The key issues dealt with by the Resource, Audit and Risk Committee during the year was the review of the Academy Trust's 3-year financial forecasts, the actions required to address the reduced funding expected over this period and the review of the reports received from Cooper Parry in relation to the Trust's systems of internal control and the actions undertaken to address the control weaknesses identified.

As detaled above, although the Board of Trustees has met four times throughout the academic year, additionally the Resource, Audit and Risk Committee has met four times and the Academic and Safeguarding Committee has met 3 times. The Board of Trustees feel that through these meetings, and other informal meetings with the Senior Management Team, the Board has maintained effective oversight of the Trust and its funds. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic the Trust also held bi-weekly virtual meetings with the Senior Management Team to discuss the ongoing risks and how best to mitigate the risks.

Review of value for money

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by.

- Shared use of Director of Finance, Director of Operations and Director of IT.
- Development and implementation of a strong and sustainable Reserves Policy.
- Combined purchasing.
- Common working on IT e.g. website, remote working, financial systems using skills available within the trust to benefit all schools.
- Joint work on fundraising.
- Trust-wide Continuous Professional Development and training.
- Providing a consistent approach to leadership across the Trust which is achieved by the CEO facilitating the appraisal of the Principals.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the Trust reviewed best value through:

- Shared PPE purchasing to reduce unexpected costs where possible.
- Director of IT researching best value virtual platforms for remote learning and remote working.
- Consideration was given to staffing costs and the replacement of any staff that left the Trust during this period.

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 Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Cooper Parry Group Limited as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current year covered a review of management information preparation procedures, including information prepared for and presented to the Board of Trustees.

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

The auditor has delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2020 as planned. While no significant internal control weaknesses were identified from the work completed, the Trustees and management have developed an action plan to continue to strengthen and improve internal controls over the next 12 months.

As detailed above, the Trustees have previously appointed the external auditors to undertake the internal audit services for the Trust. As a result of the changes introduced by the Financial Reporting Council's revised Ethical Standard for Auditors, the Trustees, via the Resource, Audit and Risk Committee, will be appointing another organisation to undertake the internal audit work for the Academy Trust for the 2020/21 academic year onwards.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal audit auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process, including the School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool; and
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18 January 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr S White

Chair of Trustees

Dr A Costello

Accounting Officer

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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

Dr A CostelloAccounting Officer

Date: 18 January 2021

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 18 January 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr S White

Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the 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 Academy Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of
 accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are
 authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED (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 Auditors' 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

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

Simon Atkins FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

Cosper lang Groy (1).

Park View

One Central Boulevard Blythe Valley Park Solihull West Midlands B90 8BG

21 January 2021

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

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

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

Respective responsibilities of Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Interaction and Communication Academy Trust Limited's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 23 August 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Academy Trust's income and expenditure. The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

Reviewing the internal control policies and procedures implemented by the Academy Trust and an evaluation
of their design and effectiveness to understand how the Trust has complied with the framework of
authorities:

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

Approach (continued)

- Reviewing the minutes of meetings of the Trustees, relevant sub-committees and other evidence made available to us, relevant to our consideration of regularity;
- Enquiries of the Accounting Officer, including reviewing the work undertaken by the Accounting Officer in relation to their Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance; and
- Detailed testing of the income and expenditure of the Academy Trust based on our assessment of the risk of
 material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit of the financial
 statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

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 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant

Cooper Parry Group Limited

Cosper lang Groge 16.

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

Park View One Central Boulevard Blythe Valley Park Solihull West Midlands B90 8BG

Date: 21 January 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020	Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	29,023	24,154	138,217	191,394	(21,736)
Charitable activities	4	119,261	8,756,363	-	8,875,624	8,674,248
Teaching schools	28	-	247,559	-	247,559	135,279
Investments	5	791	-	-	791	618
Total income		149,075	9,028,076	138,217	9,315,368	8,788,409
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	15,844	9,627,890	272,635	9,916,369	9,768,841
Teaching schools	28	-	115,460	-	115,460	142,721
Total expenditure		15,844	9,743,350	272,635	10,031,829	9,911,562
Net income/(expenditure)		133,231	(715,274)	(134,418)	(716,461)	(1,123,153)
Transfers between funds	17	(66,649)	31,145	35,504		
Net movement in funds before other recognised			(684,129)	(98,914)	(716,461)	(1,123,153)
gains/(losses) Other recognised gains/(losses):						(1,120,100)
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	23		(1,953,000)	_	(1,953,000)	(2,418,000)
pension schemes	20	_	(1,955,000)	_	(1,955,000)	(2,410,000)
Net movement in funds		66,582	(2,637,129)	(98,914)	(2,669,461)	(3,541,153)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	17	595,501	(6,184,115)	14,924,495	9,335,881	12,877,034
Net movement in funds		66,582	(2,637,129)	(98,914)	(2,669,461)	(3,541,153)
Total funds carried forward	17	662,083	(8,821,244)	14,825,581	6,666,420	9,335,881

The notes on pages 28 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION ACADEMY TRUST LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee) REGISTERED NUMBER: 10221189

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note		2020 £		2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		14,645,397		14,842,485
			14,645,397		14,842,485
Current assets			14,043,397		14,042,403
Debtors	15	259,479		178,453	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,438,302		1,046,741	
		1,697,781		1,225,194	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one		, , -		, -, -	
year	16	(114,758)		(107,798)	
Net current assets			1,583,023		1,117,396
Total assets less current liabilities			16,228,420		15,959,881
Net assets excluding pension liability			16,228,420		15,959,881
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23		(9,562,000)		(6,624,000)
Total net assets			6,666,420		9,335,881
Funds of the Academy Trust Restricted funds:					
	47	44.005.504		44.004.405	
Fixed asset funds Restricted income funds	17 17	14,825,581 740,756		14,924,495 439,885	
Pension reserve	17	(9,562,000)		(6,624,000)	
T CHISIOTTE SCIVE	17	(9,302,000)			
Total restricted funds	17		6,004,337		8,740,380
Unrestricted income funds	17		662,083		595,501
Total funds			6,666,420		9,335,881

The financial statements on pages 25 to 53 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 January 2021 and are signed on their behalf, by:

SAWhite

Dr S WhiteChair of Trustees

The notes on pages 28 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	328,100	52,158
Cash flows from investing activities	20	63,461	4,149
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		391,561	56,307
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,046,741	990,434
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	1,438,302	1,046,741

The notes on pages 28 to 53 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

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 Academy Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Taxation

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

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

1.4 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Income

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

Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the 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.

Other income

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

1.6 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.

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

• Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Interest receivable

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

1.8 Operating leases

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

1.9 Tangible fixed assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding 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.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property - 50 years straight line for buildings, leasehold

land is depreciated over the term of the lease

Furniture and equipment - 10% straight line
Motor vehicles - 15% reducing balance
Computer equipment - 20% straight line

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.

1.10 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.

1.11 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Liabilities and provisions

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

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

1.13 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary 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 Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

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

1.14 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing the 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. Further details of the transactions are set out in note 25.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Financial instruments

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement 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 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. 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.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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

Critical areas of judgement:

The classification of expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds is considered as a critical area of judgement as certain expenditure can be applied to both funds. Where this is the case and the amounts in question are considered material the expenditure is apportioned to both funding streams on an appropriate basis.

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Adjustment to the value of assets inherited on conversion	_	_	_	_	(100,000)
Genversion					(100,000)
		-	-	-	(100,000)
Donations	29,023	24,154		53,177	12,509
Capital Grants	· -	-	138,217	138,217	65,756
Subtotal	29,023	24,154	138,217	191,394	78,265
	29,023	24,154	138,217	191,394	(21,735)
Total 2019	12,509	<u>-</u>	(34,244)	(21,735)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
DfE/ESFA grants	_	_	_	_
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,583,914	3,583,914	3,680,092
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	417,720	417,720	294,076
Other government grants	-	4,001,634	4,001,634	3,974,168
Local Authority grants and funding	-	4,723,449	4,723,449	4,410,608
	-	4,723,449	4,723,449	4,410,608
Other funding				
Catering income	15,844	-	15,844	25,661
Other income	103,417	31,280	134,697	263,810
	119,261	31,280	150,541	289,471
	119,261	8,756,363	8,875,624	8,674,247
Total 2019	207,484	8,466,763	8,674,247	
Investment income				
		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £

In 2019, all of the investment income of £618 related to unrestricted funds.

5.

Bank interest

791

791

618

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Educational operations:					
Direct costs	7,170,487	-	231,617	7,402,104	7,167,423
Support costs	1,187,961	531,460	794,844	2,514,265	2,601,418
Teaching school	96,029	-	19,431	115,460	142,721
	8,454,477	531,460	1,045,892	10,031,829	9,911,562
Total 2019	8,076,301	592,825	1,242,436	9,911,562	

Of the total expenditure for the year of £10,031,829 (2019: £9,911,562), £15,844 (2019: £47,470) related to unrestricted funds, £9.743,350 (2019: £9552,458) related to restricted funds and £272,635 (2019: £311,635) related to restricted fixed asset funds.

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

Direct costs 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
7,402,104	2,514,265	9,916,369	9,768,841
7,167,423	2,601,418	9,768,841	
	Educational operations 2020	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
	7,170,487	7,170,487	6,835,855
	6,557	6,557	14,741
	225,060	225,060	316,827
	7,402,104	7,402,104	7,167,423
	2020 £ 7,402,104	Direct costs 2020 £ £ £ 7,402,104 2,514,265	Direct costs costs funds 2020 2020 2020 £ £ £ 7,402,104 2,514,265 9,916,369 7,167,423 2,601,418 9,768,841 2020 £ £ 7,170,487 7,170,487 6,557 225,060 225,060

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
LSPS FRS103 net interest cost	117,000	117,000	86,000
Staff costs	1,187,961	1,187,961	1,118,583
Depreciation	272,635	272,635	311,635
Technology costs	61,514	61,514	52,850
Premises costs	531,460	531,460	592,825
Other costs	330,006	330,006	410,249
Governance costs	13,689	13,689	29,276
	2,514,265	2,514,265	2,601,418

Included within other costs are legal costs relating to other general legal matters of £8,820.

8. Net income/(expenditure)

9.

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Operating lease rentals	275,997	275,997
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	272,635	311,634
Auditors' remuneration		
	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to the Academy Trust's auditor for the audit of the Academy Trust's annual accounts	8,000	7,500
Fees payable to the Academy Trust's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	7,930	9,508

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	5,821,415	5,740,861
Social security costs	457,278	418,994
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,911,582	1,702,550
	8,190,275	7,862,405
Agency staff costs	247,738	213,896
Staff restructuring costs	16,464	-
	8,454,477	8,076,301
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
	2020 £	2019 £
Severance payments	16,464	-
	16,464	-

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

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory / non-contractual severance payments totalling £8,738 (2019: £nil). Individually, the payments were £8,738.

c. Staff numbers

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	34	35
Administration and support	272	265
Management	23	20
	329	320

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10. Staff (continued)

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	2
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
In the band £130,001 - £140,000		1

All of the above members of staff participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the value of employer contributions to the scheme during the year ended 31 August 2020 were £88,020 (2019: £56,679).

e. 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 £287,784 (2019 £260,435).

11. Central services

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

- School improvement
- HR
- Finance
- IT

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

- For Ofsted graded outstanding and good schools, 5% of GAG income, while for all other schools, 6% of GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

2020 £	2019 £
58,777	58,777
76,995	76,995
60,000	72,000
195,772	207,772
	58,777 76,995 60,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive only receives remuneration in undertaking the role of Chief Executive under their employment contract. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was:

		2020	2019
		£	£
G Robinson	Remuneration	110,000 -	135,000 -
		115,000	140,000
	Pension contributions paid	25,000 -	20,000 -
		30,000	25,000

During the current year, expenses totalling £729 (2019: £2,300) were reimbursed to 1 Trustee (2019: 1).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department of 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 membership.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 September 2019	15,360,619	133,906	67,565	62,953	15,625,043
Additions	33,098	26,798	15,651	-	75,547
At 31 August 2020	15,393,717	160,704	83,216	62,953	15,700,590
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	704,818	28,597	27,252	21,891	782,558
Charge for the year	233,761	16,071	16,644	6,159	272,635
At 31 August 2020	938,579	44,668	43,896	28,050	1,055,193
Net book value					
At 31 August 2020	14,455,138	116,036	39,320	34,903	14,645,397
At 31 August 2019	14,655,801	105,309	40,313	41,062	14,842,485

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

15. Debtors

		2020 £	2019 £
Due w	vithin one year		
Trade	debtors	92,199	40,845
VAT r	epayable	34,486	39,906
Other	debtors	74,766	44,349
Prepa	yments and accrued income	58,028	53,353
		259,479	178,453
16. Credi	tors: Amounts falling due within one year		
		2020 £	2019 £
Trade	creditors	35,131	24,108
Other	creditors	13,709	-
Accru	als and deferred income	65,918	83,690
		114,758	107,798
		2020 £	2019 £
Defer	red income	Ĺ	L
	red income at 1 September 2019	53,656	72,258
	rces deferred during the year	44,812	53,656
	nts released from previous periods	(53,656)	(72,258)
		44,812	53,656

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals and SEN funding, which will be utilised during the year ending 31 August 2021.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds	_		_			
General Funds	595,501	149,075	(15,844)	(66,649)	-	662,083
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grants (GAG)	355,386	3,583,914	(3,477,889)	45,382	-	506,793
Other DfE/ESFA grants Teaching	8,103	417,720	(410,272)	-	-	15,551
Schools Council funding Pennines Teaching	37,678	15,500	(15,500)	(37,678)	-	-
Schools funding	30,974	232,059	(99,960)	37,678	-	200,751
Local Authority funding Other income	-	4,723,449	(4,723,449)	-	-	-
and donations	7,744	55,434	(31,280)	(14,237)	-	17,661
Pension reserve	(6,624,000)	-	(985,000)	-	(1,953,000)	(9,562,000)
	(6,184,115)	9,028,076	(9,743,350)	31,145	(1,953,000)	(8,821,244)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Capital grants	82,010	138,217	-	(40,043)	-	180,184
Fixed assets	14,842,485	-	(272,635)	75,547	-	14,645,397
	14,924,495	138,217	(272,635)	35,504	-	14,825,581
Total Restricted funds	8,740,380	9,166,293	(10,015,985)	66,649	(1,953,000)	6,004,337
Total funds	9,335,881	9,315,368	(10,031,829)	-	(1,953,000)	6,666,420

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

The General Annual Grant funding must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy Trust in line with its funding Agreement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17. Statement of funds (continued)

Other DfE/ESFA grants, which include start-up grants, sponsor capacity grants, UIFSM and pupil premium funding and all Local Authority funding are all used in accordance with the restrictions of the individual grants or funding which are all for the provision of education to pupils of the Academy Trust.

Teaching Schools Council and Pennines Teaching Schools funding are provided for the Teaching School and Teaching School Council activities undertaken by Castle Hill School and the Trust's Chief Executive respectively.

Other restricted income and donations are all used in accordance with the specific restrictions of the individual funding and donations provided.

Restricted fixed asset funds represent the investment in fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and includes the value of fixed assets transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion of the Schools within the Academy Trust and the value of fixed assets transferred from academies joining the Trust in the current or previous years, together with any capital expenditure funded from restricted or unrestricted funds. Unspent capital grants and capital income are also held in this fund and their use is restricted to the capital projects for which the grant awarded.

The pension reserve represents the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Castle Hill School	1,199,971	737,837
High Park School	212,910	159,925
Milton School	(53,752)	979
Central fund	43,710	136,645
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	1,402,839	1,035,386
Restricted fixed asset fund	14,825,581	14,924,495
Pension reserve	(9,562,000)	(6,624,000)
Total	6,666,420	9,335,881

Milton School is carrying a net deficit of funds at 31 August 2020 of £53,752. This deficit balance of funds has arisen due to incorrect pupil funding being received from the Local Authority, along with an increase in pupil numbers. The Principal and Director of Finance are addressing the funding position with the Local Authority to ensure it is corrected. With the increased pupil numbers and correct funding from the Local Authority, the Trustees expect the School to generate a surplus going forward and to return to overall surplus funds position in future years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17. 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 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Castle Hill School High Park School Milton School Central fund	2,349,863 2,323,389 1,572,411 155,853	323,541 539,305 243,424 78,690	84,445 127,560 32,082	464,737 208,466 197,176 73,253	3,222,586 3,198,720 2,045,093 307,796	3,137,720 3,210,594 2,033,622 300,992
Academy Trust	6,401,516	1,184,960	244,087	943,632	8,774,195	8,682,928
Comparative infor	·	ect of the prece	eding year is as	follows:		
	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	547,994	232,099	(47,470)	(137,122)	-	595,501
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grants (GAG) Other DfE/ESFA	202,639	3,680,092	(3,724,074)	196,729	-	355,386
grants Teaching Schools	66,329	294,076	(287,554)	(64,748)	-	8,103
Council funding Pennines Teaching	58,608	63,154	(84,084)	-	-	37,678
Schools funding	17,487	72,125	(58,638)	-	-	30,974

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Local Authority funding Other income	-	4,410,608	(4,410,608)	-	-	-
and donations	7,744	70,500	(70,500)	-	-	7,744
Pension reserve	(3,289,000)	-	(917,000)	-	(2,418,000)	(6,624,000)
	(2,936,193)	8,590,555	(9,552,458)	131,981	(2,418,000)	(6,184,115)
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Capital grants	73,339	65,756	-	(57,085)	-	82,010
Fixed assets	15,191,894	(100,000)	(311,635)	62,226	-	14,842,485
	15,265,233	(34,244)	(311,635)	5,141	-	14,924,495
Total Restricted funds	12,329,040	8,556,311	(9,864,093)	137,122	(2,418,000)	8,740,380
Total funds	12,877,034	8,788,410	(9,911,563)	<u>-</u>	(2,418,000)	9,335,881

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,645,397	14,645,397
Current assets	662,083	855,514	180,184	1,697,781
Creditors due within one year	-	(114,758)	-	(114,758)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(9,562,000)	-	(9,562,000)
Total	662,083	(8,821,244)	14,825,581	6,666,420

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

			Restricted	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	fixed asset	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	2019	2019	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,842,485	14,842,485
Current assets	595,501	547,683	82,010	1,225,194
Creditors due within one year	-	(107,798)	-	(107,798)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(6,624,000)	-	(6,624,000)
Total	595,501	(6,184,115)	14,924,495	9,335,881

19. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(716,461)	(1,123,153)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	272,635	311,634
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(138,217)	(65,756)
Bank interest	(791)	(618)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	868,000	831,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	117,000	86,000
Increase in debtors	(81,026)	(40,075)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	6,960	(46,874)
Assets inherited on conversion	-	100,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	328,100	52,158

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20. Cash flows from investing activities

	· ·			
			2020	2019
	Dividende interest and name from investments		£	£
	Dividends, interest and rents from investments		791	618
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(75,547)	(62,225)
	Capital grants from DfE Group		138,217	65,756
	Net cash provided by investing activities		63,461	4,149
21.	Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
21.	Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
			2020 £	2019 £
	Cash in hand		1,438,302	1,046,741
	Total cash and cash equivalents		1,438,302	1,046,741
22.	Analysis of changes in net debt			
		At 1 September 2019	Cash flows	At 31 August 2020
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	1,046,741	391,561	1,438,302
		1,046,741	391,561	1,438,302

23. Pension commitments

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

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

Contributions amounting to £13,592 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £ -) and are included within creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £514,406 (2019 - £352,480).

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23. Pension commitments (continued)

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 2020 was £709,000 (2019 - £693,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £524,000 (2019 - £511,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 185,000 (2019 - £182,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.9% and 20.6% per cent for employers depending on the LGPS scheme and 5.5% to 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.

Principal actuarial assumptions

West Yorkshire Pension Fund

	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45	3.35
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.20	2.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.70	1.90
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.20	2.10

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

	2020 Years	2019 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.8	22.2
Females	24.6	25.4
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.5	23.2
Females	25.7	27.2
		
South Yorkshire Pension Fund		
South Yorkshire Pension Fund	2020	2019
	2020 %	%
South Yorkshire Pension Fund Rate of increase in salaries		
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	% 3.55	3.25
Rate of increase in salaries Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	% 3.55 2.40	% 3.25 2.10

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23. Pension commitments (continued)

	2020	2019
Detiring today	Years	Years
Retiring today Males	22.4	23.1
Females	25.2	25.1 25.9
	25.2	25.9
Retiring in 20 years Males	23.9	25.3
Females	27.1	28.3
remales		28.3
Sensitivity analysis		
West Yorkshire Pension Fund (change in reported value of d	efined benefit obligations)	
	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(411)	(276)
Discount rate -0.1%	426	282
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(548)	(393)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	548	398
CPI rate +0.1%	350	175
CPI rate -0.1%	(335)	(172)
South Yorkshire Pension Fund (change in reported value of c	defined benefit obligations)	_
(3 1	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(66)	(62)
Discount rate -0.1%	68	62
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	77	46
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(75)	(46)
CPI rate +0.1%	68	63
CPI rate -0.1%	(66)	(63)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23. Pension commitments (continued)

Share of scheme assets

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the combined schemes was:

	2020 £	2019 £
Equities	6,241,000	5,947,000
Government bonds	860,000	874,000
Corporate bonds	455,000	386,000
Property	399,000	392,000
Cash and other liquid assets	161,000	164,000
Other	272,000	213,000
Total market value of assets	8,388,000	7,976,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(203,000) (2019 - £544,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities of the combined schemes are:

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	(1,389,000)	(991,000)
Past service cost	-	(349,000)
Interest income	157,000	200,000
Interest cost	(274,000)	(286,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(1,506,000)	(1,426,000)

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

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	14,600,000	10,124,000
Current service cost	1,389,000	991,000
Interest cost	274,000	286,000
Employee contributions	185,000	182,000
Actuarial losses	1,593,000	2,762,000
Benefits paid	(91,000)	(94,000)
Past service costs		349,000
At 31 August	17,950,000	14,600,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

23. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	7,976,000	6,835,000
Interest income	157,000	200,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(360,000)	344,000
Employer contributions	524,000	511,000
Employee contributions	185,000	182,000
Benefits paid	(91,000)	(94,000)
Administration expenses	(3,000)	(2,000)
At 31 August	8,388,000	7,976,000

24. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2020 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Within1 year	279,644	280,171
Between 1 and 5 years	1,185,600	1,186,548
After more than 5 years	2,129,291	2,411,908
	3,594,535	3,878,627

The Academy Trust has an ongoing financial commitment under an agreement with Kirklees Council for annual service charge payments in relation to the Private Finance Initiative agreement for Castle Hill School. The commitments above include £3,577,051 (2019: £3,845,008) which is payable over the next 12 years.

25. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year ended 31 August 2020, the Trust received £10,935 (2019: £11,364) and distributed £3,487 (2019: £4,843) from the fund. An amount of £15,551 (2019: £8,103) is carried forward as undistributed funds at year end.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

26. Related party transactions

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

There were no related party transactions in the current or preceding year, other than certain Trustees remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

27. Members' liability

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

28. Teaching school trading account

	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Income	_		_	_
Direct income				
Teaching School Council grants	15,500		63,154	
Pennine Teaching Schools grants	203,550		40,000	
Other income	28,509		32,125	
Total direct income	247,559		135,279	
Total income		247,559		135,279
Expenditure				
Direct expenditure				
Direct staff costs	96,029		110,164	
Educational costs	15,338		10,795	
Total direct expenditure	111,367		120,959	
Other expenditure				
Other staff costs	-		11,700	
IT equipment	690		-	
Other support costs	3,403		10,062	
Total other expenditure	4,093		21,762	
Total expenditure		115,460		142,721
Surplus/(deficit) from all sources		132,099		(7,442)
Teaching school balances at 1 September 20)19	68,652		76,094
Teaching school balances at 31 August 2020)	200,751		68,652