

Company Registration No. 08610537 (England and Wales)

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

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THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mrs H Thorpe
Mrs A Hester
Mr P Kerr

Trustees

Miss A Mumford (Appointed as Trustee 1 July 2020) (Appointed as Headteacher/Accounting Officer 1 September 2020)
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)
Mrs J Matthews
Mrs A Hester (Resigned 8 November 2020)
Mr P Kerr
Mrs D Richards

Senior management team

- Executive Head teacher A Mumford
- SEBDOS Manager J Heath
- School Business Manager H Murray

Company secretary

Mrs R Lake

Company registration number

08610537 (England and Wales)

Registered office

The Specialist Education Trust
Queens Road
Slough
Berkshire
SL1 3QW

Independent auditor

UHY Hacker Young
Quadrant House
4 Thomas More Square
London
E1W 1YW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Slough Trading Estates, Business Centre
Lloyds TSB Business Bankings
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Solicitors

Winckworth Sherwood LLP
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London
SE1 9BB

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

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 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Specialist Education Trust (SET) incorporates Littledown Special School (38 places), A Primary Alternative Provision (17 places), and an Outreach Service called SEBDOS. It has a combined pupil capacity of 55 places.

Littledown Special School was rated as 'GOOD' by Ofsted in February 2020.

The current Headteacher / Accounting Officer has retired as at 31 August 2020. The Trust have appointed the current deputy into the Head teacher and Accounting Officer position from 1 September 2020.

COVID 19

Since March 2020, when the official Lockdown began, staff at the Trust have been very supportive of each other as a team. Until June, staff were placed on a rota where they came in to school and supported vulnerable children with a range of activities. Pupils appeared to settle in to the new routines implemented due to COVID and although asked many questions, were satisfied with answers being given.

Staff have all worked in numerous roles in order to maintain the good running of the school during Lockdown and subsequent months leading up to the end of the academic year. This has included additional cleaning duties and minibuss driving duties. All staff completed activities when they were based at home. This ranged from online CPD to preparing work for pupils. All staff maintained contact with their class either via Zoom or phone calls.

Costs incurred overall have not been significant and have been accounted within in year budgets.

On our return to school in September 2020, staff undertook two days of training that focussed on COVID secure practices, Safeguarding including the impact of online learning and safeguarding protocols for this as well as focussing on developing our "Bounce Back Recovery Curriculum".

PPE is available for staff to use when managing invasive behaviours from children (biting, spitting, licking) and individual risk assessments have been implemented for higher risk pupils. Parents have been involved in these discussions as well. An "Exceptional Circumstances Home-School Agreement" has been written and sent to parents/carers explaining what we as a school are doing to minimise risk in school and what we expect them to share with us in return.

Pupils seem happy to be back in school. Behaviour has been overall settled and children have been engaging positively with the revised curriculum. Communication with parents has been positive. There is only one child who has not returned due to parental anxiety about COVID.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The Trustees of SET are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as the Specialist Education Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

There are and were no qualifying third party indemnity provisions during the financial year to which this report relates.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

On conversion to an academy in October 2013 the Trustees appointed were from the predecessor school Local Governing Bodies (this included the Chair person).The Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this limit does not apply to the Executive Headteacher(s). Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

Thereafter when appointing new Trustees, the Board give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Academy's development.

The Trustees may appoint Staff Trustees through such process as they may determine.

The total number of Trustees including the Executive Headteacher who are employees of the Academy Trust shall not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All of the Trustees have many years' experience of school governance. The school buys into the 'KEY' as a source of information. New Governors are required to attend an induction training course. Further training and development is identified in relation to whole Governing Body needs. Specific finance training for Trustees is conducted by the Trusts Finance Team, and data training is provided by the Trust's Executive Head Teacher.

A competency survey has been undertaken on Trustees and this reveals a range of skills/competencies which match the Trustees/school's needs. This has also been useful in the recruitment of new Trustees.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of the individual local governing bodies and any other groups. It monitors the activities of the school specific local governing bodies through their minutes and updates received from those individuals who also sit on the Trusts Board. The Board itself may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The school's individual local governing bodies look to cover holistically the work of the traditional sub committees. These being Finance & Resources, Curriculum and the Personnel Committee. This joined up approach allows a more informed discussion and debate as both financial resources and curriculum needs are addressed at the one meeting and all local governors are thereby informed and take part in the decision making process.

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees to consider. These decisions include any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy and its committee structure, to appoint or remove the chairman at Board and local governing body level, to appoint the Headteacher and the clerk to the Board. Also, to approve the Annual Budget.

The Board is responsible for setting the general policy, adopting the annual budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Academy by use of budgets and other data and making major decisions about the strategic direction of the Academy.

The Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academy Trust to the Executive Headteacher and the Senior Management Team (SMT). They implement the policies laid down by the Board and report back to their individual local governing bodies and the Board on performance.

The Executive Headteacher and the local governing body are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; this responsibility is governed by the approved financial scheme of delegation. The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the appointment of staff and a Governor presence is required for senior appointments

The Executive Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Headteacher's pay and remuneration is reviewed annually and agreed by the Trust Pay Committee. The Committee is advised by an external advisor and meets annually with the Headteacher.

The Pay Committee also reviews the Trust's pay policy annually. This policy follows the teachers pay and conditions document. All teaching posts include the maximum SEN allowance.

All non teaching posts have been harmonised as part of the Borough's job evaluation review process. The job descriptions have been matched to job profiles which evaluate the competencies of the role and then matches the skills and qualifications required. This process was carried out in consultation with governors, unions and HR professionals. The salary scale is reviewed annually in line with the Slough pay scales for non teaching posts.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no 'Related Party Relationships' and no formally connected organisations.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the trust is the operation of a Primary Special school, coupled with 4-11 aged settings of alternative provision and an all aged pupil behaviour support service.

The aims of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2020 are summarised below:

- To continue to raise standards of educational attainment and achievement of pupils;
- To develop students as more effective learners;
- To develop the Trust's sites so that it enables students to achieve their full potential;
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing tuition and care;
- To provide value for money for the funds expended;
- To continue to develop strong relationships with primary mainstream schools within the borough;
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- To develop the Academy Trust's capacity to manage change; and
- To conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Key priorities for the year are contained in our Academy Action Plan. These are:

- Promoting and deploying Outreach Services within the Trust;
- To develop and expand Trust Provision.
- To ensure that all academies / schools within the Trust are at least good and this judgement is sustained within the changing Ofsted framework.

Key Stage 1 and 2 Targets

The Trust has previously used The DfE Progression Guidance to set class and individual student targets for the coming year for Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. Governors, teachers and school leaders then meet to validate these targets, ensuring they provide suitable challenge.

Ofsted have confirmed that inspectors expect all pupils in mainstream schools, including those with SEN, to make the same amount of progress in each Key Stage.

However, some pupils will not achieve this target, and in these situations, it will be for schools to explain why this is the case. The Trust aims to consider progress as part of a holistic approach, recognizing that sometimes progress in emotional development or consistent attendance or behaviour may be a pre cursor to academic progress. Any pupil who has not achieved their academic targets will be subject to a case study which will detail all areas of progress and the interventions in place.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Public benefit

In setting the objectives, the Governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

It should be noted that due to Coronavirus lockdown there were no National curriculum tests taken and progress in the summer term was limited as most pupils were working from home. The school did not complete summative assessments in May 2020.

Achievements and performance

Pupils making expected progress at the end of KS2 from baseline when starting the school. (the figures in brackets are from KS1 official data not from baseline when starting the school which can often be lower as children may have been out of school)

Subject	% making expected progress			
	2017	2018	2019	2020 (9 pupils)
Reading	33 (29)	58 (8)	50 (0)	44
Writing	83 (14)	67 (8)	50 (13)	44
Maths	33 (0)	58 (8)	63 (0)	44
Science	33	67	50	44

Pupils making expected progress at the end of KS1 from baseline when starting the school.

Subject	% making expected progress			
	2017	2018	2019	2020 (4 pupils)
Reading	67	100	40	25
Writing	67	100	40	25
Maths	100	50	80	0
Science	100	50	20	100

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
KS1-KS2 reading progress measure	-5.9	-4.8	-7.7	-11.9	No test
KS1-KS2 writing progress measure	-5.2	-7.7	-7.2	-5.3	No test
KS1-KS2 maths progress measure	-4.8	-8.8	-8.9	-12.3	No test

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

Key performance indicators

Attainment data.

Phonics test summary

	Littledown 2016	Littledown 2017	Littledown 2018	Littledown 2019	Littledown 2020
Year 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	No test
Year 2	40%	67%	50%	0%	No test

KS1 results

Littledown KS1 teacher assessment 2020 (4 pupils)				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	Science
EXS	25%	25%	75%	100%
WTS	25%		25%	
HNM				
PKF	50%	75%		
BLW				

KS2 results

Littledown KS2 teacher assessment 2020 (9 pupils)				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	Science
EXS	67%	78%	67%	100%
WTS	33%	22%	11%	
HNM				
PKS			22%	

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Exclusions

Permanent exclusions and the number and length of fixed term exclusions in Slough primary schools remains below the national average due to the collaborative work between Littledown and local primary schools.

Littledown Exclusions	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Total number of pupils on roll	34	45	47	41	47
Permanent Exclusions					
	0	0	0	1	1
Fixed term Exclusions					
Total number of pupils	15 (44%)	17 (38%)	15 (32%)	18 (44%)	14 (30%)
Total number of days	147	100.5	84	77	45.5
Average length of exclusion	2.6 days	1.54 days	1.42 days	2.7 days	2.6 days

Reintegration to mainstream school

The following information is based on number of pupils returning to mainstream education from the special school.

2015-16	2016-2017	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
9%	7.5%	15.7%	7%	11%

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

Attendance data

Attendance data					
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 up to lockdown date
Whole school %	92.21	90.86	90.87	81.07	88.16
90% + attendance					
Number of pupils	24	26	35	41	47
%	71	58	75	71	64

In addition to reports on specific issues of achievement and performance Trustees receive a comprehensive report from the Executive Headteacher and Local Governing Bodies receive detailed reports on a termly basis. The Chair of the Trustees meets frequently with the Executive Headteacher to review progress on key objectives and to discuss strategy.

Key Performance Indicators

The following are the KPIs for the Trust: -

- Develop a culture of excellence in teaching, learning and assessment at Key Stage 1 and 2;
- Have a shared vision, values, culture and ethos based on the highest expectations of all members of the school community;
- To develop a culture of positive learning behaviour;
- To improve the delivery of numeracy across the curriculum;
- To ensure that pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment; and
- To continue to offer support to reduce exclusions in school and across the LA.

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.

Financial review

The Trust receives its main funding via the GAG the majority of which is pupil led. However, a significant proportion is generated from the income trading of the Trust, that being SEBDOS. The Academy also received grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting for Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

On 1 October 2013, the Academy inherited a staff body at Littledown Special School, through the TUPE process. This staff body included membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), and the deficit on conversion at 1 October 2013 of £599,000 relating to members was transferred.

Under the Charities SORP, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the LGPS, which is provided to support staff, to a restricted fund. This results in reducing reserves shown in the total funds of the academy. It should be noted that this does not present the Academy with any current liquidity problem, the employer contributions are currently being assessed and it is expected that they will increase to bring a further reduction in this pension deficit in future.

Covid-19 has created a number of challenges since March 2020 but there has been no significantly adverse effect on the budget for 2019/2020, however these issues have been monitored carefully throughout 2020 and will continue to do so for 2020/2021 financial year.

A finance procedure document determines the way the school operates finances from day-to-day and this is informed by the Academy Financial Handbook issued by the DfE. A Responsible Officer undertakes regular checks of procedure and reports directly to Trustees via the Trust Finance & Resources Committee. There were no issues requiring action identified during the year.

Reserves policy

Reserves of £2,760,884 are held as at 31 August 2020. Via the Trust's Finance Committee reserves are monitored. They are used to improve the school's buildings stock and where possible to increase accommodation. However, a prudent policy for the use of reserves is followed in view of uncertainty about future funding and in particular the introduction of a national funding formula. The Academy relies heavily 'Top Up's' from the Local Authority and the levels required to ensure placements are sustainable cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, projected budgets over a 5-year period show a need to hold reserves to allow the Academy to manage expenditure efficiently over a period of time as funding becomes tighter and staffing costs increase through pay rises, increased NI costs and increased pension contributions together with inflationary pressures.

Investment policy

Funds, surplus to day to day requirements, are invested in Lloyds Bank Plc in short term or medium-term accounts in order to earn interest for the benefit of school funds. There are no social, environmental or ethical considerations necessary to take into account.

The security of any investment is paramount and will only be made once the Board of Trustees are satisfied that it does not pose a risk to the Trust and that they will be made only with institutions approved by the Board of Trustees in the context of advice from a qualified accountant. Formal approval must be obtained from the Board of Trustees to proceed with any investment.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees identified a potential risk to the Academy when the Local Authority began to share information outlining funding pressures on the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and in particular across Special Education Needs Funding (SEN). This financial pressure aligned to the increase in required SEN places is closely monitoring via the Trust's risk register.

Trustees are provided with budget forecasts over a 5-year period. These indicate possible financial pressure in the future and are based on the latest funding formula data, but expenditure rising through inflation, pay rises, an increase in national insurance contributions and further increases in pension contributions. In addition, there is still uncertainty around the introduction of a national funding formula.

The Academy has always been able to balance expenditure against income on a yearly basis without recourse to carry forward balances. This has meant that the Academy is currently in a healthy financial position as far as carry forward balances are concerned, and these are being held in reserve for future estate building costs and to cushion any future budget pressures. There is also an increasing deficit on the LGPS and this is reflected in our Balance Sheet. This position is kept under review.

A risk register is maintained with all the significant risks identified and this is reviewed annually.

Fundraising

Approach to fundraising

Trustees are alive to the issue of fundraising and have considered letting out the premises at Littledown School to produce an income. No clear way forward has been presented without their being a risk to the condition of the premises, but this will be continually kept in mind.

Work with, and oversight of, any commercial participators / professional fundraisers

Trustees have not engaged with any professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Fundraising conforming to recognised standards

See comment above.

Monitoring of fundraising carried out on its behalf

See comment above.

Fundraising complaints

None.

Protection of the public, including vulnerable people, from unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches, and undue pressure to donate.

Not applicable.

Plans for future periods

The stand-alone Academy became a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1 October 2013. The Trust has sponsorship status and would naturally look to grow. Although background work has taken place to determine any viable expansion opportunities, nothing material has resulted.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The Trust does not hold any funds as a custodian for others.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 1.01.21/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Thorpe
Chair

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Scope of responsibility

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

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

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Miss A Mumford (Appointed as Trustee 1 July 2020) (Appointed as Headteacher/Accounting Officer 1 September 2020)		
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)	4	4
Mrs J Matthews	4	4
Mrs A Hester (Resigned 8 November 2020)	4	4
Mr P Kerr	4	4
Mrs D Richards	4	4

There have been no significant changes to the board of trustees during the year 2019/20.

A competency audit was conducted during the year.

The quality of data used by the board is outstanding both in terms of assessment of pupil's progress and attainment and in terms of financial monitoring.

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to agree the budget for the Trust and to recommend formal acceptance by the Board of Trustees. A 5-year projected budget is produced, and this ensures that there is effective financial planning going forward. It also monitors the annual budget for the school during the year. Extensive budget projections and monitoring information is provided by the Finance Office of the Trust. Experience shows that predictions are accurate, and the Trustees have confidence in the quality of information provided in order for them to make effective decisions. The committee met 4 times during the year.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs H Thorpe (Chair)	4	4
Mrs J Matthews	4	4
Mrs A Hester (Resigned 8 November 2020)	4	4
Mr P Kerr	4	4
Mrs D Richards	4	4

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher (supported by the Finance Office) 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 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:

- Undertaking a general review of contracts;
- Implementing the financial procedures approved by Trustees to ensure that an appropriate number of quotations/tenders are received before contracts are agreed;
- Undertaking competitive tendering where appropriate; and
- Generally ensuring that 'best price' applies to all purchases.

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 Specialist Education Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. An independent Responsible Officer oversees financial procedures and ensures that they are followed in practice.

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 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 SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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 Trustees;
- regular reviews by the audit committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks

The Trustees have considered the need for a specific internal audit of procedures and controls and have appointed an external Responsible Officer.

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

- testing of payroll systems;
- testing of purchase systems; and
- testing of control account/ bank reconciliations.
- testing of incoming resources
- review of VAT returns
- review of pension returns
- review of budget monitoring
- review of fixed asset register
- review of debt management & recovery

On a quarterly basis, the Responsible Officer reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. All reports during the year have found no requirements for action.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Executive Headteacher, 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 Responsible Officer (Internal Scrutiny);
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the Head of Finance and Admin within the Academy Trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance Committee and no weaknesses have been identified by auditors or the Responsible Officer.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10/12/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Thorpe
Chair

Mrs J Matthews
Trustee

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST


STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As Accounting Officer of the Specialist Education Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust's Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, 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 Trust's Board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

Mrs J Matthews
Accounting Officer until 31 August 2020

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THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Trustees (who act as Governors of the Specialist Education Trust and 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 Annual 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10/12/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs H Thorpe
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information, which comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIALIST
EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

Use of our report

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



**Colin Wright (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young**

12 December 2020

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON
REGULARITY TO THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND
SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 December 2013 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 The Specialist Education Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Specialist Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Specialist Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 23 September 2013 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Evaluation of the general control environment;
- Confirmation that the internal delegations have been approved by the governing body, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education;
- Review of the declaration of interests to ensure completeness;
- Review of minutes for evidence of declaration of interest;
- A sample of payments has been reviewed to confirm that each item has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities;
- A sample of cash payments were reviewed for unusual transactions;
- A sample of expenditure items were reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement;
- Formal representations have been obtained from the governing body and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities for matters relating to regularity and propriety.

Conclusion

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

UHY Hacker Young

Reporting Accountant

Dated: *12 December 2020*

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	5,013	5,013	1,303,478
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,889,830	-	1,889,830	1,899,150
Other trading activities	5	312,223	12,726	-	324,949	274,368
Investments	6	6,857	-	-	6,857	12,727
Total		<u>319,080</u>	<u>1,902,556</u>	<u>5,013</u>	<u>2,226,649</u>	<u>3,489,723</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	63	1,046	-	1,109	1,489
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	2,227,299	181,473	2,408,772	2,404,784
Total	7	<u>63</u>	<u>2,228,345</u>	<u>181,473</u>	<u>2,409,881</u>	<u>2,406,273</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		319,017	(325,789)	(176,460)	(183,232)	1,083,450
Transfers between funds	17	(20,342)	-	20,342	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	98,000	-	98,000	(238,000)
Net movement in funds		298,675	(227,789)	(156,118)	(85,232)	845,450
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>965,659</u>	<u>(506,251)</u>	<u>2,386,708</u>	<u>2,846,116</u>	<u>2,000,666</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,264,334</u>	<u>(734,040)</u>	<u>2,230,590</u>	<u>2,760,884</u>	<u>2,846,116</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

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

Comparative year information		Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
Year ended 31 August 2019		funds	General	Fixed asset	2019
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	195	1,303,283	1,303,478
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	1,899,150	-	1,899,150
Other trading activities	5	269,068	5,300	-	274,368
Investments	6	12,727	-	-	12,727
Total		281,795	1,904,645	1,303,283	3,489,723
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	1,489	-	-	1,489
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	2,277,835	126,949	2,404,784
Total	7	1,489	2,277,835	126,949	2,406,273
Net income/(expenditure)		280,306	(373,190)	1,176,334	1,083,450
Transfers between funds	17	(38,396)	-	38,396	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(238,000)	-	(238,000)
Net movement in funds		241,910	(611,190)	1,214,730	845,450
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		723,749	104,939	1,171,978	2,000,666
Total funds carried forward		965,659	(506,251)	2,386,708	2,846,116

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		2,230,590		2,395,703
Current assets					
Debtors	13	41,470		79,922	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,267,957		2,078,666	
		<u>2,309,427</u>		<u>2,158,588</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(122,133)		(102,175)	
Net current assets			<u>2,187,294</u>		<u>2,056,413</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>4,417,884</u>		<u>4,452,116</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	18		(1,657,000)		(1,606,000)
Total net assets			<u><u>2,760,884</u></u>		<u><u>2,846,116</u></u>
Funds of the trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			2,230,590		2,386,708
- Restricted income funds			922,960		1,099,749
- Pension reserve			(1,657,000)		(1,606,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>1,496,550</u>		<u>1,880,457</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		<u>1,264,334</u>		<u>965,659</u>
Total funds			<u><u>2,760,884</u></u>		<u><u>2,846,116</u></u>

The accounts on pages 24 to 52 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 10/12/2020 and are signed on their behalf by:



 Mrs H Thorpe
 Chair

Company Number 08610537

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19		193,781		(21,098)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		6,857		12,727	
Capital grants from DfE Group		5,013		10,868	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		-		4,415	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(16,360)		(62,674)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(4,490)		(34,664)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			189,291		(55,762)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			2,078,666		2,134,428
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			2,267,957		2,078,666
Relating to:					
Bank and cash balances			801,066		618,345
Short term deposits			1,466,891		1,460,321

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

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

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions, including the current and future impact of COVID-19, that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. It is difficult to determine the full impact of COVID-19 to the trust, however after due considerations the Trustees have concluded that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue its operational activities and continue as a going concern. The Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the trust 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 (GAG) is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where performance-related conditions do not exist) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including: audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants they are capitalised and are depreciated as below. The related grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Buildings under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value certified and other direct costs incurred to 31 August. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

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

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold Improvements	10 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

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

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Liabilities

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

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the School 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. As stated in note 18, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources that are applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency and the Department for Education where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education Funding Agency and the Department for Education.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.12 Financial Assets

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. The transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 Financial liabilities

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Trust after deducting all of its liabilities. Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Trust's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The 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 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees must establish which areas of judgement are critical to the academy trust's financial statements. There are no judgements critical to the academy trust's financial statements.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Private sponsorship	-	-	-	195
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	1,288,000
Capital grants	-	5,013	5,013	10,868
Other donations and sponsorships	-	-	-	4,415
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,013</u>	<u>5,013</u>	<u>1,303,478</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>5,013</u></u>	<u><u>5,013</u></u>	<u><u>1,303,478</u></u>

For details on donated fixed assets, refer to note 12 of the financial statements.

4 Funding for the trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	551,357	551,357	536,709
Other DfE group grants	-	95,056	95,056	51,740
	<u>-</u>	<u>646,413</u>	<u>646,413</u>	<u>588,449</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>646,413</u></u>	<u><u>646,413</u></u>	<u><u>588,449</u></u>
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,243,417	1,243,417	1,307,701
Other grants	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,243,417</u>	<u>1,243,417</u>	<u>1,310,701</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,243,417</u></u>	<u><u>1,243,417</u></u>	<u><u>1,310,701</u></u>
Total funding	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,889,830</u></u>	<u><u>1,889,830</u></u>	<u><u>1,899,150</u></u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Hire of facilities	-	105	105	210
Catering income	1,635	-	1,635	1,790
Courses and training income	305,845	-	305,845	256,906
Other income	4,743	12,621	17,364	15,462
	<u>312,223</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>324,949</u>	<u>274,368</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Short term deposits	6,857	-	6,857	12,727
	<u>6,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,857</u>	<u>12,727</u>

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	1,109	1,109	1,489
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,453,956	-	87,970	1,541,926	1,618,610
- Allocated support costs	404,167	257,147	205,532	866,846	786,174
	<u>1,858,123</u>	<u>257,147</u>	<u>294,611</u>	<u>2,409,881</u>	<u>2,406,273</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	9,500	9,500
- Other services	3,500	3,500
Operating lease rentals	607	1,444
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	181,473	126,949
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	29,000	32,000
	<u>223,980</u>	<u>203,893</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8 Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	1,541,926	1,618,610
Support costs		
Educational operations	866,846	786,174
	<u>2,408,772</u>	<u>2,404,784</u>

	2020	2019
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	404,167	392,558
Depreciation	181,473	126,949
Technology costs	34,056	32,353
Premises costs	75,674	57,046
Legal costs	87,136	89,178
Other support costs	71,590	76,840
Governance costs	12,750	11,250
	<u>866,846</u>	<u>786,174</u>

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,298,135	1,289,062
Social security costs	125,124	127,307
Pension costs	348,692	307,174
	<u>1,771,951</u>	<u>1,723,543</u>
Staff costs - employees	1,771,951	1,723,543
Agency staff costs	79,110	153,079
	<u>1,851,061</u>	<u>1,876,622</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	25,378	38,503
	<u>1,876,439</u>	<u>1,915,125</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 Staff

(Continued)

Staff numbers

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

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Teachers	8	7
Administration and support	26	28
Management	4	4
	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£100,000 - £110,000	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the trust was £344,351 (2019: £320,398).

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. During the year, travel and subsistence payments totalling £nil (2019: £nil) were reimbursed to 0 Trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration was as follows:

	Remuneration	
	2020	2019
J Matthews (Executive Head* and Trustee)	£105,000 - £110,000	£100,000 - £105,000

	Employer's pension contributions	
	2020	2019
J Matthews (Executive Head* and Trustee)	£20,000 - £25,000	£15,000 - £20,000

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

(*Headteacher until 31 August 2020)

11 Insurance for Trustees and officers

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business.

The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2020 was not separately identifiable and has been included in the total insurance cost.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold buildings	Leasehold Improvements	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 September 2019	1,179,969	1,288,000	154,191	67,711	78,698	2,768,569
Additions	-	-	4,360	12,000	-	16,360
At 31 August 2020	1,179,969	1,288,000	158,551	79,711	78,698	2,784,929
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2019	85,339	75,133	116,229	40,720	55,445	372,866
Charge for the year	15,013	128,800	17,274	10,886	9,500	181,473
At 31 August 2020	100,352	203,933	133,503	51,606	64,945	554,339
Net book value						
At 31 August 2020	1,079,617	1,084,067	25,048	28,105	13,753	2,230,590
At 31 August 2019	1,094,630	1,212,867	37,962	26,991	23,253	2,395,703

13 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,081	38,754
VAT recoverable	5,301	5,203
Prepayments and accrued income	32,088	35,965
	41,470	79,922

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	31,917	31,222
Other creditors	26,302	23,091
Accruals and deferred income	63,914	47,862
	<u>122,133</u>	<u>102,175</u>

15 Deferred income

	2020	2019
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	7,112	1,148
	<u>7,112</u>	<u>1,148</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	1,148	638
Released from previous years	(1,148)	(638)
Resources deferred in the year	7,112	1,148
	<u>7,112</u>	<u>1,148</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	<u>7,112</u>	<u>1,148</u>

Deferred income relates to UIFSM and PRU funding for 2020-21 which was received during the year.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,230,590	2,230,590
Current assets	1,264,334	1,045,093	-	2,309,427
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(122,133)	-	(122,133)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,657,000)	-	(1,657,000)
	<u>1,264,334</u>	<u>(734,040)</u>	<u>2,230,590</u>	<u>2,760,884</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,264,334</u>	<u>(734,040)</u>	<u>2,230,590</u>	<u>2,760,884</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	2,395,703	2,395,703
Current assets	965,659	1,192,929	-	2,158,588
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(93,180)	(8,995)	(102,175)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(1,606,000)	-	(1,606,000)
Total net assets	965,659	(506,251)	2,386,708	2,846,116

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,099,749	551,357	(728,146)	-	922,960
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	95,056	(95,056)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,243,417	(1,243,417)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	12,726	(12,726)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,606,000)	-	(149,000)	98,000	(1,657,000)
	<u>(506,251)</u>	<u>1,902,556</u>	<u>(2,228,345)</u>	<u>98,000</u>	<u>(734,040)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	1,094,630	-	(15,013)	-	1,079,617
DfE group capital grants	26,891	5,013	(37,660)	20,342	14,586
Fixed Assets donated to Academy	1,212,867	-	(128,800)	-	1,084,067
Other donations and sponsorships	52,320	-	-	-	52,320
	<u>2,386,708</u>	<u>5,013</u>	<u>(181,473)</u>	<u>20,342</u>	<u>2,230,590</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,880,457</u>	<u>1,907,569</u>	<u>(2,409,818)</u>	<u>118,342</u>	<u>1,496,550</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>965,659</u>	<u>319,080</u>	<u>(63)</u>	<u>(20,342)</u>	<u>1,264,334</u>
Total funds	<u>2,846,116</u>	<u>2,226,649</u>	<u>(2,409,881)</u>	<u>98,000</u>	<u>2,760,884</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

(Continued)

The specific purposes that the funds are applied to are as follows:

General Annual Grant

The General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running costs of the Trust including salary costs, overheads, premises costs and curriculum costs. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Other DfE/EFA and government grants

Other grants include funding received from the DfE and Local Education Authorities for specific purposes.

Fixed asset fund

The fixed asset fund includes grants received from the DfE and other sources to finance the purchase of tangible fixed assets.

Pension reserve

The pension reserve is the element of the local government pension fund liability attributable to the Academy (see note 18).

Transfer between funds

A transfer from unrestricted funds to the restricted funds was necessary to fund capital and revenue expenditure carried out during the year.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,323,939	536,709	(760,899)	-	1,099,749
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	51,740	(51,740)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,310,701	(1,310,701)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	5,495	(5,495)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,219,000)	-	(149,000)	(238,000)	(1,606,000)
	<u>104,939</u>	<u>1,904,645</u>	<u>(2,277,835)</u>	<u>(238,000)</u>	<u>(506,251)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	1,112,453	-	(15,013)	(2,810)	1,094,630
DfE group capital grants	7,205	10,868	(31,116)	39,934	26,891
Fixed Assets donated to Academy	-	1,288,000	(75,133)	-	1,212,867
Other donations and sponsorships	52,320	4,415	(5,687)	1,272	52,320
	<u>1,171,978</u>	<u>1,303,283</u>	<u>(126,949)</u>	<u>38,396</u>	<u>2,386,708</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>1,276,917</u>	<u>3,207,928</u>	<u>(2,404,784)</u>	<u>(199,604)</u>	<u>1,880,457</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>723,749</u>	<u>281,795</u>	<u>(1,489)</u>	<u>(38,396)</u>	<u>965,659</u>
Total funds	<u>2,000,666</u>	<u>3,489,723</u>	<u>(2,406,273)</u>	<u>(238,000)</u>	<u>2,846,116</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Pension and similar obligations

The 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 the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Both are defined-benefit schemes.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of both schemes related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £26,221 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, unfunded, defined benefit occupational scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act (1972) and Public Service Pensions Act (2013) and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – contributions from members, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Acts.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme has now taken place, in line with directions issued by HM Treasury and using membership data as at 31 March 2016. As a result of this valuation TPS employers will pay an increased contribution rate of 23.68% from September 2019 (this includes the administration levy of 0.08%). The timing of the implementation is to align its introduction with employers' budget planning cycles. Until then, employers will pay the current rate of 16.48%.

A copy of the latest valuation report can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

Scheme changes

The arrangements for a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme, in line with the recommendations made by Lord Hutton, in particular the introduction of a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, were implemented from 1 April 2015.

In December 2018, the Court of Appeal held that transitional protection provisions contained in the reformed judicial and firefighter pension schemes, introduced as part of public service pension reforms in 2015, gave rise to direct age discrimination and were therefore unlawful. The Supreme Court, in a decision made in June 2019, have rejected the Government's application for permission to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling. The case will now be referred to an Employment Tribunal for a decision regarding the remedy which will need to be offered to those members of the two schemes who were subject of the age discrimination.

HM Treasury are clear that the ruling has implications for the other public service schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Those implications are currently being considered and any impact on scheme costs is expected to be looked at within the next scheme valuation, which is currently scheduled to be based on April 2020 data and implemented in April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £115,539 (2019: £78,321).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees and 19.6% for employers.

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.

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Total contributions made	2020	2019
	£	£
Employer's contributions	113,000	108,000
Employees' contributions	35,000	35,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total contributions	148,000	143,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2020	2019
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.25	3.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.25	2.2%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.6	1.85%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.25	2.2%
Inflation assumption (RPI)	2.25	2.25
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

	2020	2019
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.5	22.1
- Females	24.1	24.0
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.9	23.7
- Females	25.5	25.8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Pension and similar obligations	(Continued)	
The trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2020	2019
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	552,000	617,000
Other Bonds	124,000	161,000
Cash	90,000	87,000
Target Return Portfolio	29,000	53,000
Property	134,000	140,000
Other assets	17,000	51,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	946,000	1,109,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
The actual return on scheme assets was £(276,000) (2019: £61,000).		
Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	2020	2019
	£	£
Current service cost	233,000	205,000
Past service cost	-	20,000
Interest income	(21,000)	(25,000)
Interest cost	50,000	57,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating charge	262,000	257,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2020	2019
	£	£
At 1 September 2019	2,715,000	2,134,000
Current service cost	233,000	205,000
Interest cost	50,000	57,000
Employee contributions	35,000	35,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(395,000)	274,000
Benefits paid	(35,000)	(10,000)
Past service cost	-	20,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2020	2,603,000	2,715,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

18 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the trust's share of scheme assets

	2020	2019
	£	£
At 1 September 2019	1,109,000	915,000
Interest income	21,000	25,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(297,000)	36,000
Employer contributions	113,000	108,000
Employee contributions	35,000	35,000
Benefits paid	(35,000)	(10,000)
	<u>946,000</u>	<u>1,109,000</u>

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

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(183,232)	1,083,450
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(5,013)	(1,303,283)
Investment income receivable	(6,857)	(12,727)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	120,000	117,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	29,000	32,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	181,473	126,949
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	38,452	(21,271)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	19,958	(43,216)
	<u>193,781</u>	<u>(21,098)</u>

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2019	Cash flows	31 August 2020
	£	£	£
Cash	618,345	182,721	801,066
Cash equivalents	1,460,321	6,570	1,466,891
	<u>2,078,666</u>	<u>189,291</u>	<u>1,466,891</u>

THE SPECIALIST EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

21 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2020	2019
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	791	882
Amounts due in two and five years	988	1,779
	<u>1,779</u>	<u>2,661</u>
	<u><u>1,779</u></u>	<u><u>2,661</u></u>

22 Related party transactions

Except as disclosed in note 10, no related party transactions took place in the year ended 31 August 2020.

23 Members' liability

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