

Company Registration Number: 07949154 (England & Wales)

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**



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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**CONTENTS**

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	Page
<b>Reference and administrative details</b>	1 - 2
<b>Trustees' report</b>	3 - 17
<b>Governance statement</b>	18 - 21
<b>Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance</b>	22
<b>Statement of Trustees' responsibilities</b>	23
<b>Independent auditor's report on the financial statements</b>	24 - 27
<b>Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity</b>	28 - 29
<b>Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account</b>	30 - 31
<b>Balance sheet</b>	32 - 33
<b>Statement of cash flows</b>	34
<b>Notes to the financial statements</b>	35 - 64

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	Amarjit Talwar MBE Prof. Monder Ram OBE Andrew Argyle (appointed 28 September 2021) Dr. Lynne Morris CBE Yvonne Wilkinson (resigned 30 June 2021)
<b>Trustees</b>	Amarjit Talwar MBE (resigned 12 November 2020) Andrew Argyle (resigned 15 September 2021) Jeremy Sagoe Laura Thursfield Dr. Lynne Morris CBE (appointed 28 September 2021) Prof. Monder Ram OBE (resigned 13 September 2021) Thomas Gibbins (appointed as Chair 15 September 2021) Adrian Packer CBE, CEO Shuang (Michelle) Wang (resigned 8 December 2020)
<b>Company registered number</b>	07949154
<b>Company name</b>	CORE Education Trust
<b>Principal/Registered office</b>	55 St Paul's Square Birmingham West Midlands B3 1QS
<b>Company secretary</b>	Joanne Tyler
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Adrian Packer
<b>Executive Team</b>	Adrian Packer, Chief Executive Officer Joanne Tyler, Chief Financial Officer Saiqa Liaqat, Director of Education (resigned 31 August 2021)
<b>Independent auditor</b>	Crowe U.K. LLP Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank 22A Great Hampton Street Birmingham West Midlands B18 6AH

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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<b>Solicitors</b>	Trowers and Hamlins 10 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2QD
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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates as an Academy Trust for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in Birmingham, with a pupil capacity of 3,550 and 3,454 pupils currently enrolled based on the October 2021 Census.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

CORE Education Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum, Articles of Association and Funding Agreement are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of CORE Education Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company is known as CORE Education Trust.

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

**b. Members' liability**

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

**c. Trustees' indemnities**

The Trustees are directors of the charitable company for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purpose of charity legislation. The Trust is part of the Department for Education Risk Protection Arrangement and has professional indemnity cover.

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

New Trustees are recruited in accordance with the Articles of Association. All new Trustees are recruited through a rigorous process which includes completion of a written application form, formal interview with the Members, skills audit, references and due diligence. The term of office for any Trustee is four years, although this time limit does not apply to the CEO.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but will always include a tour of the School(s) and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governance Association training and all Trustees receive regular National Governance Association and Confederation of School Trust updates. As there are normally only a few new Trustee appointments each year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various external organisations as appropriate.

A bespoke governance development program is operated throughout the year which allows Trustees to meet informally as a team for training, so as to keep the Trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities, and to contribute to the strategic leadership and direction of the Academy Trust. Trustees undertake a range of training to develop their skills. Trustee engagement with training and development is monitored and supported by the Head of Governance.

**f. Organisational structure**

At 31 August 2021, the Academy Trust comprised the following individual academies:

- Arena Academy
- City Academy
- Jewellery Quarter Academy
- Rockwood Academy

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

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

There is one Committee of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance and Audit Committee

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

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

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Academy Trust and its committee
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- to review and approve the pay framework for Executive Team and Headteachers

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Executive Team ('Exec'), which is led by the Chief Executive. The Exec comprises the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Education. The Chief Executive is the Academy Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Academy Trust. The Exec implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on performance.

The Board of Trustees delegates a number of functions to the Local Governing Bodies ('LGB') for each of the Trust's Academies. This is set out in detail in the Trust's scheme of delegation and includes monitoring the academy's School Improvement Plan, reviewing end of key stage results and destinations, and monitoring the academy's use of Pupil Premium and Catch Up grants.

The expectation is that each Local Governing Body deals with agreed aspects of academy standards as set out in the scheme of delegation. The following aspects of the academy should be dealt with via a single purpose panel:

- Pupil and staff discipline
- Staff capability
- Appeal committees

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

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior management team to comprise the key management personnel of the Academy Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Academy Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Academy Trust. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 11 of the financial statements respectively.

The pay of the senior management team is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees / Finance and Audit Committee in line with the Academy Trust's pay and remuneration policy and by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff.

The salaries of senior Trust staff are reviewed annually by the CEO through a performance management process which is verified by other individual specialist Trustees where appropriate; the CEO's salary is reviewed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees. All senior staff are performance managed against Trust KPIs relevant to their job role. In line with the Scheme of Delegation, incremental pay awards are recommended by the CEO through consultation with the Board of Trustees. The recommendation for the CEO's award is made by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

At the end of 2017-18, the CEO recommended an incremental pay freeze on the CEO salary. This was accepted by the Board but not as reflection of his performance, rather as a gesture of the Board's commitment to ensure that senior executive salaries do not increase at levels disproportionately beyond that of other staff across the Trust, including teachers. This arrangement has remained in place since then.

The Headteachers in the Trust were set performance management objectives through a process with the Director of Education and the Chair of the LGB.

All pay awards for senior Trust staff are in line with annual percentage levels awarded to teaching staff in the Trust's Schools.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

The CORE & Co Foundation, which is a separate registered charity in which CORE Education Trust Trustee Adrian Packer is also a Trustee. The charity will make donations and contributions to support particular projects and facilities of the Academy Trust and its pupils and is therefore treated as a related party of the Academy Trust for the purposes of the financial statements. In 2020/21 there are no transactions to report.

The CORE Education Trustees do not consider the charity to be a connected charity as the Trustees of the charity are not appointed by the Academy Trust or the Academy Trustees, are not directed by or accountable to the Trustees of the Academy Trust and as the charity's objects differ to and are wider than those of the Academy Trust.

**i. Engagement with Employees (including Disabled Persons)**

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

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

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

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

**Objectives and activities**

**a. Objects and aims**

The principal object of the Charitable Company is the operation of CORE Education Trust and its Schools: Arena Academy; City Academy; Jewellery Quarter Academy, Rockwood Academy. The purpose is "to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum".



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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The key priorities for the period are set out in the Academy Trust's Development Plan which is available from the Chief Executive.

The key activities of the Academy Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 were focused on Year Three of a Three Year Strategic Development Plan as follows:

- Distinctive Strategic Priorities broadly focusing on partnerships, civic engagement programmes and life beyond school for students.
- Dynamic Strategic Priorities broadly focusing on core subjects, expansion plans, and coaching and curriculum development.
- Developmental Strategic Priorities broadly focusing on continuously improving student outcomes.

**c. Public benefit**

The Academy Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in Birmingham, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Academy Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

**d. Volunteers**

The Trust is grateful for the unstinting efforts of its volunteers who are involved in serving as nonexecutive Members, Trustees and Governors. It is estimated that over 3,500 volunteer hours were provided during the year.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the everchanging educational environment. On 1st September 2020, the latest stage of this evolution was completed with the confirmation of the merger between City Academy Birmingham and Central Academy. The Trust was given short notice of just over a month for this confirmation, but it had in place various contingencies to ensure practical arrangements were secure, not least for accommodating each key stage on different sites. The merged schools now make the Trust the sponsor of four schools, having previously sponsored three, then two, then six, then five. This period of on-going change has been challenging, particularly in respect of capacity, but the Trust has managed to maintain proportionate levels of central team support.

The Trust is in its eighth year of operation since conversion to an Academy Trust (as CORE, and the tenth year including PVET). The Academy Trust is committed to continuous improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The particular achievements and performance of the Academy Trust during the year ended 31 August 2021 were as follows:

The Trust was awarded the prestigious Pearson National Gold Teaching Award for Impact Through Partnerships. This high profile recognition was specifically related to the Echo Eternal project, but builds on a long track-record of the Trust building a far reaching partnership strategy since 2014. This strategy has been fundamental in the rehabilitation of the schools taken over by CORE from a position of inherited crisis and chaos (from PVET, then PBAT) on two separate occasions

All schools within the Academy Trust showed improvement in the outcome measures normally published in the national performance tables. Progress 8 and attainment 8 figures follow the trajectory for improvement set by the Trust and agreed by the schools.

The Trust continues to invest in school improvement through its Faculty of Education and Curriculum Communities. These working groups bring staff and leaders from all four schools together to plan and implement school improvement strategies.

The Trust is building on its successful remote learning regimes developed during the Covid Pandemic disruption to school-based learning.

The Trust continues to broker exceptional opportunities for students, including access to the Nike Open Doors summer programme, student leadership opportunities through CORE Leaders of Tomorrow, the CORE Hello provision for newly arrived children, CORE Works for children at risk of exclusion and high profile opportunities to showcase the diversity and vibrancy of Birmingham in the lead up to and during the Commonwealth Games next year. These successes relate directly to the first objective of the Trust's 2018-21 strategic plan which states:

CORE Education Trust Schools will promote broad educational excellence by continuing to put the concept of partnership development at the heart of its ethos.

None of these initiatives would have been possible without the significant in-kind support from strategic partners and supporters who cumulatively have contributed up to an equivalent value of at least three quarters of a million pounds support since the Trust's inception. These contributions have re-invented the entire perception of the schools now sponsored by CORE Education Trust. In that sense, the value of the in-kind support from partners is immeasurable.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

The Trust spent the whole of this year determining a new long term strategic vision and has published a new Trust Strategic Framework which is set out in nine, three and one year cycles of review. The four schools played an active role in contributing to the new Framework through consultation with school leaders and staff. They will now be held to account on the delivery of this plan.

**Covid 19 Control Measures**

In response to the pandemic and the effects on student learning and wellbeing, the Trust implemented a suite of additional curriculum, enrichment, fitness and mental wellbeing activities to supplement a newly devised distance learning offer. This was coordinated centrally. During this period the Trust monitored online attendance which indicated levels of student engagement at levels higher than reported national averages. The trust enjoyed positive responses from partner organisations and service providers who supported additional activities during this period.

The academies remained open to vulnerable students and children of key workers and supported the local authority during holiday periods, making at least one of the academies available to any vulnerable children from anywhere in the city.

The Trust implemented a Covid Recovery Plan which was overseen by the CEO. This plan specific Covid related priorities including addressed vulnerable learners; distance learning; Year 10 transition into Year 11; September 2020 Plan. A plan was also put in place to provide support for Year 11s particularly with progression related challenges,

During the summer holidays, the Trust commissioned a children activity provider to give new Year 7 students an opportunity to reengage with day to day school life in the setting of their new academy.

**a. Key performance indicators**

The Academy Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the balance sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2021, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £5,860,185 (2020: £3,927,989), which is after transfers of £378,487 to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Academy Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the Academy Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers is also a key performance indicator. As noted earlier in this report, pupil numbers at the most recent census were 3,454.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Academy Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA for the year was 61.4% (2020: 71.8%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 70.2% (2020: 83.6%).

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**b: Going concern**

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

**c. Promoting the success of the Trust**

The Trustees have acted in the way which they consider, in good faith, promotes the success of the Academy Trust for the benefit of its pupils and their parents, the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency as principal funders and regulators, its suppliers and local wider school community as a whole, and in doing so have given regard to (amongst other matters):

Our educational business relationships and community

With a highly committed and dedicated workforce, the Academy Trust takes great pride in listening to what our pupils, parents and local community want and continues to provide the level of education outcomes and results that they have come to expect. The Academy Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment, leading to the continued increase in the awareness of the Academy Trust's overall activities and educational performance.

As an educational focused charitable organisation, public benefit is also at the heart of all we do. The details in the "Objectives and Activities" and "Achievements and Performance" section of the Trustees' report above provide full details of the impact of our activities and our achievements for the year.

With respect to suppliers, the Academy Trust's policy for the payment of suppliers is to agree to terms of payment in advance in line with normal commercial practices and, provided a supplier performs in accordance with the agreement, to abide by such terms.

The Academy Trust is also committed to contributing towards combating the threat of global warming by using energy efficient measures to reduce CO2 emissions throughout its buildings, facilities and operations.

Our stakeholders

In addition to our pupils, parents, suppliers and wider local community, the Trustees also recognise the importance of their relationship with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), as principal funders, regulators and stakeholders. The Trustees are committed to the effective engagement with the DfE and the ESFA (and their representatives) and recognise that its success depends on the Trustees and senior management's ability to engage with them effectively and to work with them constructively, taking into account their guidance and best practice initiatives, whilst also working in line with the specific requirements of the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook.

Our people

The Academy Trust's key asset is its people. It employs over 320 staff, including agency workers, and it is only through the combined effort of this workforce, together with our supporters and volunteers, that we can change the lives of the children under our care. The Academy Trust encourages the involvement of all employees in decision making processes that impact on them directly and further details on our engagement with our people is

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

detailed in the "Engagement with Employees (including Disabled Persons)" section of the Trustees' report above.

Our Members

The Trustees are committed and openly engaged with our Members through the active involvement of some Members as Trustees. The Members are actively engaged in understanding our strategy and vision for the future, our culture and ethos, our people and our educational performance and standards.

Maintaining a reputation for high standards

The Academy Trust has been in existence for eight years, and is committed to continual improvement, which it achieves in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, performance management, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The Academy Trust also continually develops strategies to maintain and grow its pupil base, including looking for new schools and academies to join the Trust, and further improve relationships with our suppliers.

The information in the "Achievements and Performance" section of the Trustees' report above provide full details of our achievements during the year and the standards of educational performance we have achieved for all our stakeholders.

The COVID-19 pandemic inevitably impacted staff development. This was particularly the case with supporting teachers with their performance. The Trust took a view to approach Performance Management of all staff in a pragmatic way. Many staff were personally affected by the pandemic. In general, the view was to support staff with incremental progression.

**Financial review**

The majority of the Academy Trust's income is received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2021 and the associated expenditure of these grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA and other organisations / funders and these are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The balance of the restricted fixed asset fund is reduced by the depreciation charges on the assets acquired using these funds.

For the year ended 31 August 2021, the Academy Trust's total income (excluding capital grants) was £25,953,938 (2020: £26,984,915) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £22,883,685 (2020: £25,600,635).

The COVID19 pandemic had an impact on the financial position of the trust resulting in it exceeding the budget forecast prediction. This was mainly due to the reduction in cover staff and being unable to complete the FF&E of the new build at Rockwood Academy.

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

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**a. Reserves policy**

The Trustees review the Trust reserves policy annually. The Board of Trustees has determined that the minimum level of free reserves should maintain the aggregate of individual academy reserves, amounting to a minimum of 5% of all annual income; maintain an additional overall Trust contingency of £100,000 in order to fund any short term resource needs; review the opportunities and risks at a Trust level in order to assess the required level of resources needed to meet anticipated and unanticipated needs in the short and long term. Beyond that, the policy of the Trust is to build a prudent level of reserves designed to meet the long term needs of renewal and any other unforeseen contingencies. In line with the approach of the previous 2 years, the overall reserves are pooled to mitigate the risks related to the £1.5m liability inherited from PBAT. This liability is attributed to the ESFA as a creditor. In addition, the Trustees have considered the considerable expansion programme at Rockwood Academy with additional expenditure within the accounts.

The Trust's free reserves that are available to be used on the Trust's charitable objects as at 31st August 2021 were £5,860,185, including £537,422 of Unrestricted reserves and £5,322,763 of Restricted General reserves.

The purpose of this reserve is to provide sufficient working capital and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies or unplanned population growth as required by local circumstances. In future years, capital maintenance and development projects may be considered in the reserves policy review.

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

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2021 is £58,041,194 (2020: £44,563,005), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2021, which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of the LGPS deficit is that Academy Trust is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Trust entity's annual recurring income, which may significantly impact its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. The Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

The COVID19 pandemic resulted in the trust increasing its reserves position against the forecast. An element of this will increase expenditure in 2020/21 due to the handover of the new building at Rockwood Academy.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**b. Investment policy**

The Trust receives its income from the ESFA on a monthly basis which covers recurring income. Cash balances are maintained at appropriate level. The aims of the investment policy are:

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the current accounts to cover the day to day working capital requirements of the schools
- To minimise the risk of loss of capital
- To optimize returns on invested funds

During the year the Trust did not invest any money and all funds remained in the current accounts.

**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

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

Educational

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

Safeguarding and child protection

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

Financial

The Academy Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the year, approximately 99% of the Academy Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light of continuing changes in the National Funding Formula for schools.

Continuing increases in employment costs, including pension costs associated with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme(s), and premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balanced budgets in the future.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Academy Trust formally every quarter, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees and Finance and Audit Committee meetings.

The Trust continues to pay the inherited debt of £1.44m from Perry Beeches Academy Trust due to unpaid Pupil Number Adjustments (PNA). The outstanding debt at 31 August 2021 is £620,778.

Pupil Numbers

The significant change to amalgamate City Academy Birmingham and Central Academy was approved in July 2020 and the new School, City Academy, opened on 1 September 2020. The new school is operating a split site until funding can be secured to expand the Langley Walk site. This school still has no sports facilities which

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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continues to be an added issue when securing pupils. The new school was approved with a PAN of 200 in agreement with the Local Authority (LA). This figure has not been achieved in September 2021 and will be reviewed with the LA in relation to the Pupil Placement Planning requirements. Arena Academy accepted an additional 60 pupils in Year 7 in September 2020 (PAN 240), this will reduce to 30 in September 2021 (PAN 210) and will revert to its published PAN of 180 in September 2022. Rockwood Academy continues to increase its year on year growth with a PAN of 210. With the completion of the new building in September 2020 the school now has a capacity of 1,050 pupils.

**Staffing**

The success of the Academy Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

**Failures in governance and / or management**

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

**Fraud and mismanagement of funds**

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

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

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

**COVID 19**

In 2020/21 the academy trust has already seen a high increase in the cost of supply staff and cleaning. This will have an impact on the financial position of the trust.

**Fundraising**

The Academy Trust has not undertaken any material fundraising activities during the year ended 31 August 2021.



**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Streamlined energy and carbon reporting**

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	5,666,169	5,127,503
<b>Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>		
Gas consumption	668.41	601.62
Owned transport	1.62	1.62
<b>Total scope 1</b>	<u>670.03</u>	<u>603.24</u>
<b>Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>		
Purchased electricity	<u>470.48</u>	<u>430.35</u>
<b>Scope 3 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>		
Business travel in employee-owned or rental vehicles	<u>0.37</u>	<u>0.78</u>
<b>Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent):</b>	<u>1,140.88</u>	<u>1,034.37</u>
<b>Intensity ratio:</b>		
Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil	<u>0.29</u>	<u>0.31</u>

Quantification and reporting methodology:

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

CORE Education has four academies all using gas fuelled boilers and purchased electricity, the Trust has five diesel mini buses and has approx. 15 staff members who claim business mileage

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have installed smart meters across all sites which now provides data which will enable us to track potential wastage with a view to increasing efficiencies in practice and usage. In addition, individual schools have installed LED lights with the aim of reducing the electricity consumption and costings by 30% per year.

There has been a funding bid submitted for a change to boilers; moving to a cleaner ground sourced heat solution to help increase efficiencies with a view to reducing gas consumption by 25% following the installation of the new heating and water systems.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)**

Due to COVID 19 we have increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings which has seen a noticeable reduction in travel to meetings and mileage claims.

We plan to conduct an energy audit in our Trust and understand the actions we need to take to reduce our carbon footprint. We are working with Salix to secure funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to look at ways to reduce our Carbon Footprint. Smart meter installation will improve our understanding of energy consumption and allow us to work on steps to reduce consumption and waste

Arena Academy is a PFI academy. The trust pays a contribution of 57.16% towards the cost and receive an invoice for the PFI contribution. Bills have been requested to get an accurate figure but not forthcoming, an estimated figure of 800,000 kwh used to calculate Arena gas figure using figures across the estate

**Plans for future periods**

The Academy Trust strives to continually improve levels of attainment for all pupils, equipping them with the qualifications, skills and character to follow their chosen pathway, whether it is into further and higher education or employment, as well as promoting the continued professional development of its staff.

The Academy Trust's plans for future periods are:

To focus the vision of our new Strategic Framework of optimism, ambition and oneness so that stakeholders are invested in this vision.

To ensure our Personal Development programme CORE Cares becomes a consistently applied entitlement for all our students.

To build on our exceptional partnership work to focus activities towards the most vulnerable and at risk children and, in line with this aspiration, develop a more robust trust wide pupil premium strategy and impact review cycle.

To develop a model of financial excellence to explore how pooling of GAG funding can maximise student opportunities and experiences.

To focus relentlessly on opportunities for children who at risk of permanent exclusion and vulnerable to criminality.

The Trust has no short-term plans to expand the number of academies it sponsors but student numbers have increased at Rockwood and Arena academies. However, next year, the Trust intend to set out a roadmap for the potential sponsorship of more academies over the next three years.

**Funds held as custodian on behalf of others**

The Trust holds funds for the Combined Cadet Force Association. The funds are held on behalf of the cadets and will be drawn down by the cadets upon application to the Trust.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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**Disclosure of information to auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

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

 14.12.21

**Thomas Gibbins**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**Scope of responsibility**

As Trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that CORE 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.

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 CORE 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 6 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Amarjit Talwar MBE	0	2
Andrew Argyle (resigned 11/9/21)	5	6
Jeremy Sagoe	5	6
Laura Thursfield	6	6
Prof. Monder Ram OBE	0	6
Thomas Gibbins (appointed Chair 14/9/21)	6	6
Adrian Packer CBE, CEO	6	6
Shuang (Michelle) Wang	2	2

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Trust's governance structure during the year to evaluate its impact and effectiveness. The Board of Trustees has a wide range of skills that contribute to the successful governance of the Trust and are satisfied that the current structure in place is appropriate and effective for the Trust.

Although the Board of Trustees met less than six times during the year, they have maintained effective financial oversight and governance through the formal work undertaken by the Finance and Audit Committee as detailed further below. This is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees and they met 5 times during the year. The minutes of these sub-committee meetings are provided to the full Board of Trustees at each Board of Trustees meeting, and the Chair of this sub-committee reports to each full Board of Trustee meeting on the key matters considered at their meetings and the impact for consideration by the full Board of Trustees.

Since March 2020 all meetings have taken place remotely and no meetings were cancelled.

The scheme of delegation sets out clearly the responsibilities of the office holders in the governance and executive teams within the Trust. The scheme ensures that all the headteachers in the schools continue to be held to account by the Local Governing Bodies with the involvement of the CEO, Executive team and Head of Governance to provide additional guidance and professional advice.

The Finance and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health & Safety of the Academy Trust. This committee also acts as the Academy Trust's Audit

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Governance (continued)**

Committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework.

Attendance at meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee during the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Adrian Packer	5	5
Laura Thursfield	5	5
Kiran Vithal	5	5
Joanne Tyler	5	5
Tom Gibbins	5	5

**Review of value for money**

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

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

- Renegotiating key contracts such as Catering, Photocopying and IT support.
- Introducing more robust performance management systems.
- Improved sharing of resources across the schools.
- Review of the Curriculum across the trust as part of Curriculum Financial Planning.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been a few instances where it was not possible to procure goods and services through the trust's financial handbook.

**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 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 CORE Education Trust for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The Risk and Control Framework**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Dains LLP to undertake the internal scrutiny work for the Academy Trust from May 2020 onwards.

As detailed above, the Trustees have previously appointed the external auditors to undertake the internal scrutiny services for the Academy Trust. As a result of the changes introduced by the Financial Reporting Council's revised Ethical Standard for Auditors, the Trustees, via the Finance and Audit Committee, have appointed Dains LLP to undertake the internal scrutiny work for the Academy Trust from May 2020.

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

- review of and testing of income recognition and recording systems and procedures
- review of and testing of payroll systems and procedures
- review of and testing of procurement systems and procedures
- review of and testing of bank control procedures
- Review of management information preparation procedures, including information prepared for and presented to the Board of Trustees

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

The auditor has delivered their program of work during the year ended 31 August 2021 as planned. While no significant internal control weaknesses were identified from the work completed, the Trustees and management have developed an action plan to continue to strengthen and improve internal controls over the next 6 months.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Review of Effectiveness**

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on their behalf by:

 14.12.21

**Tom Gibbins**  
Chair of Trustees

and signed on



**Adrian Packer CBE**  
Accounting Officer

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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

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

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



**Adrian Packer CBE**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 14th December 2021



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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 14.12.21

**Thomas Gibbins**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF CORE  
EDUCATION TRUST**

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**Opinion**

have audited the financial statements of CORE Education Trust (the 'academy') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**Other information**

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

have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

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

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

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

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 opinion:

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

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

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

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

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

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charitable company/group operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction and the Academy Trust Handbook. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company/group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company/group for fraud. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context were General Data Protection Regulation, health and safety legislation, Ofsted and employee legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquire of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing and completeness of income recognition and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the ESFA, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

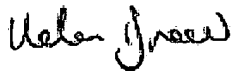
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Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

**Use of our report**

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



**Helen Drew (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Crowe U.K. LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
Black Country House  
Rounds Green Road  
Oldbury  
West Midlands  
B69 2DG

Date: 15 December 2021

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 May 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by CORE Education Trust during the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of CORE Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of CORE Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the Academy's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the academy and specific transactions identified from our review.

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

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**Conclusion**

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

*Crowe U.K. LLP*

**Crowe U.K. LLP**

Reporting Accountant

Black Country House  
Rounds Green Road  
Oldbury  
West Midlands  
B69 2DG

Date: 15 December 2021

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	7,670	207,500	14,504,975	14,720,145	768,201
Other trading activities	6	34,402	-	-	34,402	43,229
Investments		783	-	-	783	5,241
Charitable activities	4	72,366	25,631,217	-	25,703,583	26,920,991
<b>Total income</b>		<u>115,221</u>	<u>25,838,717</u>	<u>14,504,975</u>	<u>40,458,913</u>	<u>27,737,662</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds		89,532	-	-	89,532	51,774
Charitable activities	7	67,142	23,458,011	1,405,273	24,930,426	26,952,596
Transfer out of Academy Trust		-	-	-	-	4,944,152
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>156,674</u>	<u>23,458,011</u>	<u>1,405,273</u>	<u>25,019,958</u>	<u>31,948,522</u>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<u>(41,453)</u>	<u>2,380,706</u>	<u>13,099,702</u>	<u>15,438,955</u>	<u>(4,210,860)</u>
Transfers between funds	17	-	(378,487)	378,487	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<u>(41,453)</u>	<u>2,002,219</u>	<u>13,478,189</u>	<u>15,438,955</u>	<u>(4,210,860)</u>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(1,248,000)	-	(1,248,000)	(2,378,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(41,453)</u>	<u>754,219</u>	<u>13,478,189</u>	<u>14,190,955</u>	<u>(6,588,860)</u>



**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
(CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	578,875	(5,755,456)	44,563,005	39,386,424	45,975,284
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>537,422</u>	<u>(5,001,237)</u>	<u>58,041,194</u>	<u>53,577,379</u>	<u>39,386,424</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07949154**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	56,204,158	43,327,690
		<u>56,204,158</u>	<u>43,327,690</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	1,011,767	1,225,904
Cash at bank and in hand		8,399,933	6,108,306
		<u>9,411,700</u>	<u>7,334,210</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,714,479)	(2,628,691)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>7,697,221</u>	<u>4,705,519</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>63,901,379</u>	<u>48,033,209</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	-	(301,785)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		<u>63,901,379</u>	<u>47,731,424</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(10,324,000)	(8,345,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>53,577,379</u></u>	<u><u>39,386,424</u></u>
<b>Funds of the academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	17	58,041,194	44,563,005
Restricted income funds	17	5,322,763	2,589,544
		<u>63,363,957</u>	<u>47,152,549</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	63,363,957	47,152,549
Pension reserve	17	(10,324,000)	(8,345,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	17	<u>53,039,957</u>	<u>38,807,549</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	17	537,422	578,875
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>53,577,379</u></u>	<u><u>39,386,424</u></u>

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07949154**

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**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021.**

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The financial statements on pages 30 to 64 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on  
and are signed on their behalf, by:

 14.12.21

**Thomas Gibbins**  
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 35 to 64 form part of these financial statements.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	2,394,268	521,014
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	224,017	31,197
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	21	(326,658)	(453,843)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		2,291,627	98,368
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,108,306	6,009,938
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	23, 24	<u>8,399,933</u>	<u>6,108,306</u>

The notes on pages 35 to 64 form part of these financial statements

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

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

**1.2 Company status**

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered in England and Wales (registration no. 07949154). The registered office is CORE Education Trust, 55 St Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1QS. The members and directors of the company are named on page 1. In the event of the trust being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the trust.

**1.3 Going concern**

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

**1.4 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the academy)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy's accounting policies.

**1.6 Expenditure**

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

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.6 Expenditure (continued)**

• **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

The trust has agreed to accept historical pupil number adjustment deficits of certain Perry Beeches The Academy Trust schools, in the form of a loan that will be repaid out of each schools future GAG entitlement. This loan has been accounted for as charitable donation expenditure through the sofa with an equal and opposite loan on the Balance sheet. This loan is considered to meet the definition of a concessionary loan. Further details are provided in the notes to the financial statements.

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	- between 10 and 125 years
Furniture and fixtures	- 10 years
Motor vehicles	- 4 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years

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

**1.8 Operating leases**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.9 Taxation**

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

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

**1.10 Debtors**

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

**1.11 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

**1.12 Liabilities and provisions**

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

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

**1.13 Financial instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.



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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.14 Pensions**

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

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

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

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

**1.15 Agency arrangements**

The academy trust is acting as an agent to distribute a one-off amount from the Combined Cadet Force Association. These funds are being held on behalf of the cadets and will be drawn down by the cadets from the academy trust. These funds have been excluded from the statement of financial activities as the academy trust does not have control over the charitable application of funds.

The funds received and paid and any balance held are disclosed in note 29.

**1.16 Transfer out of Academies**

The transfer out of an existing Academy within the Trust involves the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for a £Nil consideration.

In the prior period the assets and liabilities of Nansen Primary Academy were transferred out of the Trust at fair value in accordance with the accounting policies set out for CORE Education Trust. The amounts were removed from the appropriate balance sheet categories with corresponding amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. 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.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	7,670	207,500	-	215,170
Capital grants	-	-	692,392	692,392
Capital donation	-	-	13,812,583	13,812,583
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>7,670</b>	<b>207,500</b>	<b>14,504,975</b>	<b>14,720,145</b>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Donations	15,454	-	15,454
Capital grants	-	752,747	752,747
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>15,454</i>	<i>752,747</i>	<i>768,201</i>

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Funding for educational operations (note 5)	-	25,631,217	25,631,217
School trip income	10,242	-	10,242
Catering income	86	-	86
Other income	62,038	-	62,038
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>72,366</b>	<b>25,631,217</b>	<b>25,703,583</b>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**4. Income from charitable activities (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Funding for educational operations (note 5)	-	26,727,408	26,727,408
School trip income	117,457	-	117,457
Catering income	19,921	-	19,921
Other income	56,205	-	56,205
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>193,583</u>	<u>26,727,408</u>	<u>26,920,991</u>

**5. Funding for the academy's educational operations**

	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>		
General annual grant (GAG)	22,347,616	22,347,616
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Pupil premium	1,673,999	1,673,999
Teachers' pension grant	654,867	654,867
Other DfE/EFA grants	440,670	440,670
	<u>25,117,152</u>	<u>25,117,152</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>		
Local authority grants	50,372	50,372
<b>Other income</b>	41,853	41,853
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>		
Catch-up premium	275,320	275,320
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)</b>		
Covid-19 mass testing	146,520	146,520
	<u>25,631,217</u>	<u>25,631,217</u>

The academy received £275,320 of funding for catch-up premium of which £17,800 was spent in the year, the remaining balance of £257,520 has been carried forward for future use.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**5. Funding for the academy's educational operations (continued)**

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>		
General annual grant (GAG)	22,680,877	22,680,877
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Pupil premium	2,019,867	2,019,867
Teachers' pension grant	698,306	698,306
Other DfE/EFA grants	752,866	752,866
	<u>26,151,916</u>	<u>26,151,916</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>		
Local authority grants	553,722	553,722
<b>Other income</b>	21,770	21,770
	<u>26,727,408</u>	<u>26,727,408</u>

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department of Education and ESFA, the academy's funding for Pupil Premium and Teachers' Pension Grants is no longer reported under the Other DfE Group grants heading, but as separate lines under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

**6. Income from other trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
Hire of facilities	21,003	21,003
Sale of goods	2,927	2,927
Other income	10,472	10,472
	<u>34,402</u>	<u>34,402</u>
<b>Total 2021</b>	<u>34,402</u>	<u>34,402</u>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**6. Income from other trading activities (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Hire of facilities	23,247	23,247
Sale of goods	5,195	5,195
Other income	14,787	14,787
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>43,229</u>	<u>43,229</u>

**7. Expenditure**

	<b>Staff Costs 2021 £</b>	<b>Premises 2021 £</b>	<b>Other 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	31,475	58,057	89,532
Funding for educational operations:				
Direct costs	13,858,317	-	1,415,763	15,274,080
Support costs	2,938,807	3,912,228	2,805,311	9,656,346
<b>Total 2021</b>	<u>16,797,124</u>	<u>3,943,703</u>	<u>4,279,131</u>	<u>25,019,958</u>

	<i>Staff Costs 2020 £</i>	<i>Premises 2020 £</i>	<i>Other 2020 £</i>	<i>Total 2020 £</i>
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	38,034	13,740	51,774
Funding for educational operations:				
Direct costs	15,419,777	-	1,618,871	17,038,648
Support costs	3,367,295	3,657,457	2,889,196	9,913,948
Transfer out of academy	-	-	4,944,152	4,944,152
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>18,787,072</u>	<u>3,695,491</u>	<u>9,465,959</u>	<u>31,948,522</u>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2021 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
Educational operations	15,274,080	9,656,346	24,930,426

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2020 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Educational operations	17,038,648	9,913,948	26,952,596

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Activities 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
Staff costs	2,938,807	2,938,807
Depreciation	1,405,273	1,405,273
Premises costs	3,417,619	3,417,619
Cleaning	494,609	494,609
Legal fees	30,448	30,448
Other support costs	938,613	938,613
Governance costs	77,825	77,825
Professional fees	353,152	353,152
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>9,656,346</b>	<b>9,656,346</b>

Included within governance costs are any costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the trust's activities. These costs include statutory requirements including the audit of the statutory accounts and other legal costs.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs (continued)**

	<i>Activities 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Staff costs	3,367,295	3,367,295
Depreciation	1,403,735	1,403,735
Premises costs	3,103,305	3,103,305
Cleaning	554,152	554,152
Legal fees	63,927	63,927
Other support costs	944,857	944,857
Governance costs	32,326	32,326
Professional fees	444,351	444,351
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>9,913,948</u>	<u>9,913,948</u>

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

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Operating lease rentals	1,134,510	1,289,369
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,405,273	1,403,735
Transfer out of Academy	-	4,944,152
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	22,300	21,650
- other services	4,760	4,625
	<u>1,566,833</u>	<u>7,663,531</u>



**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**10. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	11,720,495	13,131,029
Social security costs	1,265,725	1,378,116
Pension costs	3,028,796	3,354,093
	<u>16,015,016</u>	<u>17,863,238</u>
Agency staff costs	757,890	923,557
Staff restructuring costs	24,218	277
	<u><u>16,797,124</u></u>	<u><u>18,787,072</u></u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Redundancy payments	24,218	277
	<u>24,218</u>	<u>277</u>

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

Included in severance and redundancy payments were 12 (2020 - 1) severance payments totalling £24,218 (2020 - £277). Of this total none related to non-contractual payments (2020: None).

**c. Staff numbers**

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Teachers	198	217
Administration and support	118	173
Management	36	43
	<u>352</u>	<u>433</u>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**10. Staff (continued)**

**d. Higher paid staff**

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	2
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	2	4
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
In the band £160,001 - £170,000	-	1
In the band £170,001 - £180,000	1	-
	1	-

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy was £515,511 (2020 £565,767).

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

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

		2021 £	2020 £
Adrian Packer, CEO	Remuneration	170,000 - 175,000	165,000 - 170,000
	Pension contributions paid	40,000 - 45,000	35,000 - 40,000

During the year ended 31 August 2021, expenses totalling £558 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2020 - £Nil)

**12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2021. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**13. Tangible fixed assets**

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Assets under construction £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 September 2020	45,754,808	1,025,569	2,000,096	25,050	81,602	48,887,125
Additions	13,818,486	229,667	233,588	-	-	14,281,741
Transfers between classes	81,602	-	-	-	(81,602)	-
At 31 August 2021	<u>59,654,896</u>	<u>1,255,236</u>	<u>2,233,684</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,168,866</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2020	3,848,247	239,275	1,446,863	25,050	-	5,559,435
Charge for the year	879,504	100,287	425,482	-	-	1,405,273
At 31 August 2021	<u>4,727,751</u>	<u>339,562</u>	<u>1,872,345</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,964,708</u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2021	<u><u>54,927,145</u></u>	<u><u>915,674</u></u>	<u><u>361,339</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>56,204,158</u></u>
At 31 August 2020	<u><u>41,906,561</u></u>	<u><u>786,294</u></u>	<u><u>553,233</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>81,602</u></u>	<u><u>43,327,690</u></u>

The trust occupies long leasehold land and buildings that have been provided to the trust by Birmingham City Council on 125 year leases. The legal owner of the properties is Birmingham City Council and The Secretary of State for Department of Education.

**14. Debtors**

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	28,360	66,373
Other debtors	-	15,200
Prepayments and accrued income	765,266	853,480
Tax recoverable	218,141	290,851
	<u><u>1,011,767</u></u>	<u><u>1,225,904</u></u>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	1,162,184	1,967,975
Other creditors	37,579	44,837
Accruals and deferred income	220,595	296,886
ESFA pupil number adjustment	294,121	318,993
	<u>1,714,479</u>	<u>2,628,691</u>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	44,144	142,924
Resources deferred during the year	49,232	44,144
Amounts released from previous periods	(44,144)	(142,924)
	<u>49,232</u>	<u>44,144</u>

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of entitlement for the 21-22 academic year.

**16. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
ESFA pupil number adjustment	-	301,785
	<u>-</u>	<u>301,785</u>

On 1 March 2018, the trust inherited a pupil number adjustment from Perry Beeches the Academy Trust as part of the re-brokerage of Arena Academy, Central Academy, City Academy and Jewellery Quarter Academy.

This adjustment was repayable over the following 5 years out of future GAG funding, agreed as part of an interest free, repayment plan with the ESFA.

The loan is considered to meet the definition of a concessionary loan.

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**17. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	578,875	115,221	(156,674)	-	-	537,422
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant	3,210,322	22,347,616	(19,820,088)	(2,378,487)	-	3,359,363
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	2,977,036	(2,977,036)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	50,372	(50,372)	-	-	-
Covid-19 catch-up premium	-	275,320	(17,800)	-	-	257,520
Covid-19 mass testing funding	-	146,520	(146,520)	-	-	-
ESFA PNA adjustment	(620,778)	-	326,658	-	-	(294,120)
Capital project designation	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Non government grants	-	41,853	(41,853)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(8,345,000)	-	(731,000)	-	(1,248,000)	(10,324,000)
	<u>(5,755,456)</u>	<u>25,838,717</u>	<u>(23,458,011)</u>	<u>(378,487)</u>	<u>(1,248,000)</u>	<u>(5,001,237)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted Fixed Assets	43,327,690	-	(1,405,273)	14,281,741	-	56,204,158
Capital grants	1,235,315	692,392	-	(90,671)	-	1,837,036
Capital donation	-	13,812,583	-	(13,812,583)	-	-
	<u>44,563,005</u>	<u>14,504,975</u>	<u>(1,405,273)</u>	<u>378,487</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,041,194</u>

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

	<b>Balance at 1 September 2020</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Transfers in/out</b>	<b>Gains/ (Losses)</b>	<b>Balance at 31 August 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	38,807,549	40,343,692	(24,863,284)	-	(1,248,000)	53,039,957
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total funds</b>	39,386,424	40,458,913	(25,019,958)	-	(1,248,000)	53,577,379
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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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

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

**Unrestricted funds**

This fund represents unrestricted funds accumulated over time that can be spent at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the charitable objects.

**Restricted general funds**

This fund represents grants received for the trust's operational activities and development to be spent on the furtherance of the Trust's charitable objects. A designation has been made within the restricted general funds for £2m to represent an upcoming capital project which will require funding from the General Annual Grant fund.

**Restricted fixed asset fund**

This fund represents the carrying value of the fixed assets that have been funded by grants from the ESFA plus amounts received to be expended in the future on fixed assets.

**Gains and losses**

These represent the actuarial gains and losses on the Local Government Pension Scheme.

**Transfers**

These represent funds transferred from GAG to fund capital purchases and transfers between funds where costs have been borne out of different funds.

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

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2019</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	625,542	257,507	(304,174)	-	-	578,875
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant	2,527,509	22,680,877	(21,343,773)	(654,291)	-	3,210,322
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	3,471,039	(3,471,039)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	553,722	(553,722)	-	-	-
Covid-19 catch-up premium	-	21,770	(21,770)	-	-	-
ESFA PNA adjustment	(1,074,621)	-	453,843	-	-	(620,778)
Pension reserve	(8,805,000)	-	2,838,000	-	(2,378,000)	(8,345,000)
	<u>(7,352,112)</u>	<u>26,727,408</u>	<u>(22,098,461)</u>	<u>(654,291)</u>	<u>(2,378,000)</u>	<u>(5,755,456)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Restricted Fixed Assets	52,146,786	-	(9,545,887)	726,791	-	43,327,690
Capital grants	555,068	752,747	-	(72,500)	-	1,235,315
	<u>52,701,854</u>	<u>752,747</u>	<u>(9,545,887)</u>	<u>654,291</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,563,005</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>45,349,742</u>	<u>27,480,155</u>	<u>(31,644,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,378,000)</u>	<u>38,807,549</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>45,975,284</u></u>	<u><u>27,737,662</u></u>	<u><u>(31,948,522)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,378,000)</u></u>	<u><u>39,386,424</u></u>



**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
CORE Education Trust	5,860,185	3,168,419
Restricted fixed asset fund	58,041,194	44,563,005
Pension reserve	(10,324,000)	(8,345,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,577,379</b>	<b>39,386,424</b>

Overall reserves are pooled and held centrally, they are not attributed to individual academies. However, the policy allows for each academy to have access to 5% of any underspend from their delegated budget from the previous year.

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £
CORE Education Trust	5,516	1,715,695	64,555	1,441,145	3,226,911
Rockwood Academy	3,466,435	347,772	239,775	380,610	4,434,592
Nansen Primary School	-	-	-	-	-
Arena Academy	3,843,306	288,381	198,038	1,860,321	6,190,046
Central Academy	-	-	-	-	-
City Academy	3,936,088	287,398	345,096	1,378,720	5,947,302
Jewellery Quarter Academy	2,606,972	240,561	275,258	693,043	3,815,834
City Academy Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Academy</b>	<b>13,858,317</b>	<b>2,879,807</b>	<b>1,122,722</b>	<b>5,753,839</b>	<b>23,614,685</b>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

	<i>Teaching and educational support staff costs £</i>	<i>Other support staff costs £</i>	<i>Educational supplies £</i>	<i>Other costs excluding depreciation £</i>	<i>Total 2020 £</i>
CORE Education Trust	19,453	1,619,107	240,284	518,286	2,397,130
Rockwood Academy	3,092,535	396,427	274,316	748,632	4,511,910
Nansen Primary School	1,560,361	256,315	171,863	9,108,605	11,097,144
Arena Academy	3,805,885	468,874	316,362	1,630,994	6,222,115
Central Academy	2,504,131	187,446	147,395	674,194	3,513,166
City Academy Birmingham	2,028,775	237,029	68,329	582,029	2,916,162
Jewellery Quarter Academy	2,408,637	202,097	242,591	631,835	3,485,160
<b>Academy</b>	<b>15,419,777</b>	<b>3,367,295</b>	<b>1,461,140</b>	<b>13,894,575</b>	<b>34,142,787</b>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**18. Central services**

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

- Leadership, Finance and Administrative support
- Audit fees
- Governance costs

The academy charges for these services on the following basis:

A flat rate based on 7% of GAG income which is considered to broadly represent the relative size and complexity of each constituent academy.

Nansen Primary School transferred out of the trust as of April 2020. During the year a restructuring of academies in the Trust took place in that Central Academy and City Academy Birmingham closed as of 31 August 2020 and City Academy opened as of 31 August 2020.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Rockwood Academy	381,737	349,290
Nansen Primary School	-	283,277
Arena Academy	441,966	338,862
Central Academy	-	230,331
City Academy Birmingham	-	211,789
Jewellery Quarter Academy	254,780	241,622
City Academy	404,269	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,482,752</b>	<b>1,655,171</b>

**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

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

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	56,204,158	56,204,158
Current assets	537,422	7,037,242	1,837,036	9,411,700
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,714,479)	-	(1,714,479)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(10,324,000)	-	(10,324,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>537,422</b>	<b>(5,001,237)</b>	<b>58,041,194</b>	<b>53,577,379</b>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**19. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

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

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	43,327,690	43,327,690
Current assets	578,875	5,520,020	1,235,315	7,334,210
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,628,691)	-	(2,628,691)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(301,785)	-	(301,785)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(8,345,000)	-	(8,345,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u>578,875</u>	<u>(5,755,456)</u>	<u>44,563,005</u>	<u>39,386,424</u>

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

	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	15,438,955	(4,210,860)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,405,273	1,403,735
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(14,504,975)	(656,405)
Interest receivable	(783)	(5,241)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	596,000	641,000
Defined benefit pension interest and finance cost	135,000	119,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	214,137	(430,817)
Decrease in creditors	(889,339)	(883,550)
Transfer out of Academy Trust	-	4,544,152
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>2,394,268</u>	<u>521,014</u>

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**21. Cash flows from financing activities**

	2021 £	2020 £
Repayments of PNA adjustment	(326,658)	(453,843)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<u>(326,658)</u>	<u>(453,843)</u>

**22. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest received	783	5,241
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(14,281,741)	(630,449)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	14,414,305	656,405
Accrued capital income	90,670	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<u>224,017</u>	<u>31,197</u>

**23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	8,399,933	6,108,306
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>8,399,933</u>	<u>6,108,306</u>

**24. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	6,108,306	2,291,627	-	8,399,933
ESFA Pupil number adjustment <1 year	(318,993)	326,658	(301,785)	(294,120)
ESFA Pupil number adjustment >1 year	(301,785)	-	301,785	-
	<u>5,487,528</u>	<u>2,618,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,105,813</u>

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**25. Pension commitments**

The academy'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 West Midlands Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,833,245 (2020 - £1,906,641).

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

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

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £481,000 (2020 - £693,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £644,000 (2020 - £518,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 137,000 (2020 - £176,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

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

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	2021	2020
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.25
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.85	2.25
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.85	2.25

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

	2021	2020
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.6	21.9
Females	24.0	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.4	23.8
Females	25.8	26.0

**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Discount rate +0.1%	17,450,000	13,786,000
Discount rate -0.1%	18,430,000	14,561,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	18,671,000	14,698,000
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	17,224,000	13,657,000
CPI rate +0.1%	18,379,000	14,205,000
CPI rate -0.1%	17,499,000	14,131,000

**Share of scheme assets**

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Equities	4,634,000	3,271,000
Government bonds	629,000	632,000
Other bonds	466,000	226,000
Property	535,000	439,000
Cash and other liquid assets	280,000	386,000
Other	1,065,000	869,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>7,609,000</b>	<b>5,823,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,051,000 (2020 - £301,000).

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current service cost	1,181,000	1,262,000
Net interest on defined liability	134,000	133,000
Administrative expenses	1,000	4,000
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>1,316,000</b>	<b>1,399,000</b>



**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	14,168,000	15,724,000
Settlement	205,000	-
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the trust	-	(5,981,000)
Current service cost	1,181,000	1,291,000
Employee contributions	137,000	159,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	2,193,000	2,894,000
Interest cost	240,000	233,000
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(152,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<u>17,933,000</u>	<u>14,168,000</u>

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

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	5,823,000	6,919,000
Settlement	146,000	-
Transferred out on existing academies leaving the trust	-	(2,383,000)
Interest income	106,000	118,000
Actuarial gains	945,000	516,000
Employer contributions	644,000	650,000
Employee contributions	137,000	159,000
Benefits paid	(191,000)	(152,000)
Administration expenses	(1,000)	(4,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<u>7,609,000</u>	<u>5,823,000</u>

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**CORE EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**26. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2021 the academy had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than 1 year	1,125,855	1,201,525
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	4,331,943	4,348,927
Later than 5 years	3,778,263	4,857,766
	<u>9,236,061</u>	<u>10,408,218</u>

The Trust is committed to funding payments under the PFI Scheme for Arena Academy. The current annual cost of the PFI contract is £1,100,000. Annual funding is received from the ESFA towards these costs which is approximately £930,000 per year.

**27. Members' liability**

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

**28. Related party transactions**

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

**29. Agency arrangements**

As at 31 August 2020 the academy trust was showing £33,579 (2020: £44,836) in other creditors as a one-off amount from Combined Cadet Force Association. These funds are being held on behalf of the cadets and will be drawn down by the cadets upon application to the trust.