

CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	S Chapman (appointed 15 September 2021) H Massey (appointed 14 September 2021) S Noakes (appointed 14 September 2021) A Hurren
Trustees	J Bishop, CEO & Executive Headteacher ^{1,2,3,4} B Williams, Staff Trustee ⁴ R Billen ¹ M Gordon ^{1,2,3} J Waddingham ^{1,2,4} S Chapman, Chair of Trustees ^{3,4} A Dyer, Vice Chair ^{1,7} K Dyson ^{1,2,4} H McBain (resigned 15 September 2022) H Massey (resigned 12 July 2022) S Taylor (resigned 15 February 2022) S Noakes (resigned 14 September 2021) M Pitts, Staff Trustee (resigned 15 February 2022) P Whitmarsh, Vice Chair (resigned 12 July 2022)
	¹ Personel Committee ² Admissions Committee ³ Finance and Premises Committee ⁴ Standards Committee
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Company registered number	07339625
Company name	Cornerstone Academy Trust
Principal and Registered office	Broadclyst Community Primary School School Lane Exeter Devon EX5 3JG
Company secretary	A Partridge
Accounting Officer	J Bishop

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Name	Office/position
Senior management team	J Bishop	CEO & Executive Headteacher
	D James	Deputy CEO & Head of Education
	N Rothery	Head of Schools
	C Hall	Head of Schools
	G Newbery	Trust Business Manager
	A Pulfer	Head of Curriculum
	T Cavallo	Head of Strategy and Children's Services
Independent auditors	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants 2nd Floor Stratus House Emperor Way Exeter Business Park Exeter EX1 3QS	
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 234 High Street Exeter Devon EX4 3NL	
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson 1 Manor Court Dix's Field Exeter Devon EX1 1UP	

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates four primary academies in Devon. Its academies had a combined pupil capacity of 1,110 in 2021/22 and had a roll of 1,060 in the school census on October 2021. Note that as growing free schools, Westclyst Primary School had pupils in year 5 and below in 2021/22, and Monkerton Primary School had a Year 1 and reception year. Nursery pupils are not included in the above numbers but all schools provide nursery provision for 2,3 and 4 year olds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The Trustees of Cornerstone Academy Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company operates as The Cornerstone Academy Trust which operates Broadclyst Community Primary School, Monkerton Community Primary School, Westclyst Community Primary School and Yeo Valley Primary School.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, and to the date the accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administration Details.

Trustees' Liability

Each Trustee 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 Trustee, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a Trustee, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a Trustee.

Trustees' Indemnities

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 £2,000,000 on any one claim.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The Trustees are Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of charity legislation.

Trustees are appointed for a four-year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the CEO/Executive Headteacher. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be reappointed or re-elected.

When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development. Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees development.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

During the financial year under review the Trustees held eleven full Trustees' meetings and over twenty Trustees' committee meetings. The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend on their existing experience.

The Trust buys the services of Browne Jacobson Solicitors who provide regular training events and also will provide bespoke training for Trustees on request. Other training is provided as required through appropriate providers. Trustees are given access to an online resource where they can obtain copies of policies, improvement plans, minutes, and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All Trustees also have access to an online specialist information depository aimed solely at school Trustees.

There is at least one Trustees' away day organised each year which includes training sessions to keep the Trustees updated on relevant developments impacting on their roles and responsibilities.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees meets once each month. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees 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 reports from the Chair of each committee. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

During the year there were 10 committees as follows:

- Finance and Premises Committee - this meets at least ten times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer/internal audit and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.
- Admissions Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pay and Performance Management Committee/Executive Pay and Performance Committee
- Standards Committee
- Hub Governance Committee
- Individual Local Advisory Boards for Broadclyst, Monkerton, Westclyst and Yeo Valley

The following decisions are reserved to the Board of Trustees:

- To consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure.
- To appoint or remove the Chair and/or Vice Chair.
- To appoint the Executive Headteacher and Clerk to the Trustees.
- To approve the Trust Development Plan and budget.

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

The Trustees and Board of Trustees have devolved responsibility for day-to-day management of the Trust to the Executive Headteacher and Leadership Team. The core Leadership Team comprises the Executive Headteacher/CEO, Deputy CEO//Head of Education, two Heads of Schools, Head of Curriculum, Head of Children's Services and the Trust Business Manager. The leadership team implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The Executive Headteacher is the Accounting Officer.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the senior leadership team comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

Details of any Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually. The CEO/Executive Headteacher is reviewed by a subgroup of Trustees with delegated powers to make decisions in relation to the Executive CEO/Headteacher's and the Deputy CEO's pay. The pay for other members of key management are reviewed by the CEO/Executive Headteacher. Reviews take into account performance and sector rates.

This year a full review of pay linked to a review of roles and responsibilities and a benchmarking exercise was undertaken by an external consultant and Browne Jacobson. This has provided a new pay structure and revised pay bandings to be implemented from 2022/23 in line with recommendations of the report and commensurate with the roles of the senior leadership team. The trust continues to pay within the median pay scales based on the benchmarking exercise despite being considered a high performing trust. This is in line with our commitment and focus on ensuring all children have the best educational experiences possible whilst ensuring staff are paid reasonably and fairly for the roles they carry out.

Trade union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an academy trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the reporting period, it must include information in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

There were no relevant union officials for the year/period ended 31 August 2022.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Heatree Activity Centre is a related party as Mr Bishop and Mr Pitts, Trustees of the Academy, are also Trustees of the Centre.

Farms for City Children is a related party as Mr Bishop is also a Trustee of the charity.

Devon Schools Leadership Services is a related party as Mr Bishop is also a Trustee of the charity.

The transactions for all three related parties are undertaken at arm's length.

There are no other related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of The Cornerstone Academy Trust. There are no sponsors or formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the Academy Trust.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The Trust's main object is specifically restricted to establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum or educational institutions which are principally concerned with providing full-time or part-time education for children of compulsory school age.

Aims

At Cornerstone Academy Trust, we aim to achieve the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. Our Academies are communities in which children, staff and parents are part of a happy and caring environment.

The Trust's mission is:

"Create and promote a challenging learning environment that inspires children to achieve high standards and become lifelong independent learners. To set consistently high expectations, build children's confidence and ensure engagement for all. To develop creative thinkers, inquisitive questioners and avid problem solvers with flexible skills who are successful communicators. Enable all children to learn to collaborate effectively at all levels, including working with our international partners, and be equipped to adapt to the needs of a diverse and ever-changing society."

The main objectives of the Trust during the year ended 31st August 2022 are summarised below:

- Achieve position as a top performing Multi Academy Trust nationally
- Prepare for Ofsted inspections to support the validation of the high standards of education across the trust
- Continue to ensure Yeo Valley Primary School has equitable delivery through development of the core offer and buildings
- Develop the provision at Monkerton Primary School as it increases in size
- Continue to monitor the impact of COVID on children and families
- Monitor the ongoing impact of the current economic situation both in terms of families and the financial management of the trust
- Develop the Multi Academy Trust structures, services and back-office functions to prepare for the growth of its schools and as new schools join the trust to bring about economies and efficiencies that will help maintain the current excellent offer of high quality education across the breadth of the curriculum in a cost-effective way.
- Maintain a consistently high quality Trust wide approach to teaching and learning, by appropriate and timely investment in staff, resources and infrastructure including technology
- Continue to develop leadership structures to ensure there is the capacity to deliver the Trust priorities as the schools develop and new schools join the Trust
- Build the capacity of the leadership team to maintain the quality delivery of Curriculum Hubs offer and meet the KPI's required for the English, Science Learning Partnership, Computing and Behaviour Hub delivery.
- Ensure readiness, sufficient expertise and capacity to provide school to school support through partnership delivery with the teaching school hub including ECT and SSAT programmes.
- Maintain recognition as a UK/Global Leader in Digital Excellence in Schools
- Continue as a Microsoft partner and showcase MAT, promoting and disseminating best practice and remain an influential voice in innovative practice

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Strategies and Activities

Key activities and targets were identified in the Development Plan and were influenced by the significant challenges and opportunities arising from national changes in education policy and funding as well as the impact of the pandemic and economic turbulence. The key strategic areas are:

The Trust Board and executive team have worked towards the Trust's priorities linked to

- the quality of education in all the Trust's schools and how this is achieved
- the wider curriculum, wraparound care and the broader offer that supports the day-to-day education of children attending the Trust's schools for example the dining service, libraries, bus service with a particular focus on the introduction of holiday clubs
- the development and value of the school-to-school Improvement delivery including curriculum hubs and EdTech approaches, how these support effective teaching in the Trust's schools as well as the moral purpose of improving teaching in all schools
- the development of the Trust to enable more schools to join and benefit from the unique educational experience that is provided to children who attend a Cornerstone school.

Strategic Priority	Area of Focus	Activities
Maintaining the quality of education in all the Trust's schools	Supporting COVID recovery and catch up through effective teaching and learning	Monitor progress and achievement of all pupils across the academic year and in all year groups. Use the termly monitoring meetings to carefully review the educational and pastoral outcomes for all children and plan to address issues early Continue to utilise the tutoring programme funding to target children in most need of support due to the impact of COVID
	Leadership	Continue to develop capacity and clarity of roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership team, Review of roles and responsibilities undertaken by external consultant and pay review completed to align revised roles with appropriate remuneration Align this to the growth strategy and review the challenges and implications as new schools join the trust to ensure the quality of the education offer is not diminished
	Pupil Outcomes	Monitoring outcomes through internal assessments to ensure children's levels of attainment. National assessments completed and outcomes show that the blended learning approach has mitigated the impact of the pandemic. Although there has been a small decline in some outcome data compared to 2019 this is less than the national decline. In some areas we have achieved higher outcomes than those achieved in 2019.
	Catch up Offer	Maintaining the use of 1:1 mentoring across all age groups to support catch up and keep up across all areas of the curriculum. The National Tutoring Programme has been delivered through mentoring and targeted group work in class.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Curriculum	<p>Embedding the Faculty structure and development of the subject offer across all areas</p> <p>Embedding the role of the Local Advisory Board with a strong focus of triangulating curriculum policy, classroom practice and evidence from individual school meetings</p> <p>Classroom observations resumed and have supported the monitoring of effective teaching and learning in each school.</p>
	Quality of Teaching	Provide ongoing support and development opportunities through weekly CPD. Teachers are supported through the Classroom Coaching programme. A member of the LT will work alongside teachers in a specific year group, on a 4 week cycle.
	SEND	Develop the children's services team to provide a SENDCo in all schools to support the operational delivery of support and interventions for all children with additional needs
	Early Career Teachers	Support for all ECTs through the Early Career Framework
The wider curriculum, wraparound care and the broader offer that supports the day-to-day education of children attending the Trust's schools for example the dining service, libraries, bus service	Focus on the development of the Core offer for all schools	<p>Family Dining Service successfully implemented at Yeo Valley with increasing take up from families</p> <p>50-week Nursery provision and wraparound offer for before and after schools is now embedded across 3 of the 4 schools where there is parental demand</p> <p>Holiday provision offer developed and delivered. Review of staffing to ensure that leadership team are available 50 weeks of the year to provide oversight for the holiday provision and manage the requirements of the trust during school holiday periods</p> <p>Climbing wall fitted at Westclyst</p> <p>Forest school and development of outside provision at Westclyst</p>
Support the development and harness the value of the school-to-school Improvement delivery including curriculum hubs and EdTech approaches and how these support effective teaching in the Trust's schools as well as the	Leadership of Curriculum Hubs	<p>Clear structures are in place to enable the delivery of the curriculum hubs</p> <p>Admin support has been developed to ensure that staff are enabled to provide delivery of the programmes.</p> <p>Teams have been developed and trained to enable the effective delivery of each hub offer</p>

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

moral purpose of improving teaching in all schools	English Hub	Supports schools to improve their approach to phonics teaching and how to teach children to read..
	Science Learning Partnership	Supports schools to provide an engaging and inspiring science education for their students. Catering for teachers, leaders and support staff, the hub offers bespoke and regional training. This year there has been a further re: designation of areas and the localities the hub support have been changed again now including Somerset instead of Plymouth and Cornwall
	Computing Hub	A focal point for local computing training across Devon and East Dorset – providing high-quality support for the teaching of computing in primary schools.
	EdTech Demonstrator	Offers individual schools and MATs a peer-to-peer support plan which provides comprehensive guidance on the effective use of technology in education.
	Schools Direct ITT	Cornerstone has played a key role in training teachers for many years and have worked closely with partner universities to combine the best of their expertise with our own unique contribution.
	Behaviour Hub	Successful bid to run a Behaviour Hub and work started in April 2022
The development of the Trust to enable more schools to join and benefit from the unique educational experience that is provided to children who attend a Cornerstone school	Leadership and operational structures and processes	<p>Review and re-structuring of roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership team including revised job descriptions and a robust benchmarking and pay review exercise</p> <p>Implementation of a more structured approach to working across 50 weeks of the year to support the opening of the holiday provision and general oversight of the trust premises etc</p> <p>Staffing structure is in place including: CEO/Executive Headteacher Deputy CEO/Head of Education, Head of Schools x 2 Trust Business Manager and Finance Manager Deputy Head of school x 4 Head of Curriculum Head of Children’s Services Phase Leads across the Trust Faculty Leads across the Trust Teaching Lead supporting ITT and ECT programmes (Head of Curriculum)</p>
Maintain and sustain compliance and operational system and process effectiveness	Policies and procedures	Cycle and process for review of all policies through the Trust Board has been revised

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Achievements and Performance

The Trust

During the year September 2021 to August 2022 the Trust has managed the impact of COVID effectively and moved towards as near normal delivery of education with a return to all children attending full time school. All children continue to have access to devices which enabled a seamless provision of education either onsite or at home when unable to attend school due to COVID infections and close contact regulations.

The leadership team structure has embedded successfully, supporting, and delivering the high-quality education, wider offer, and curriculum hub services effectively. This has been further enhanced with an external review of roles and responsibilities linked to the pay review.

The Trust has continued to develop the curriculum offer with the embedding of the faculty structure, strong subject leadership of each subject led by Deputy CEO and Head of Curriculum. The Local Advisory Board structure has developed well with clear information about how the curriculum is planned and delivered. There has been a return to classroom observations in school with the remote classroom observation option still available but the expectation is that visiting the school is the best approach to enable LAB members to triangulate the effectiveness of teaching and learning in each school.

The Trust has extended the mentor programme to every year group, in every school. All education focused staff (including the Leadership Team) are allocated a group of children, for which they are responsible for mentoring and supporting. The KS2 programme involves meeting weekly with individuals for 20mins, to offer pastoral support, and discuss progress and target setting in reading, writing and maths, addressing any issues or misconceptions within work. The KS1 programme focuses on Reading and Phonics. The Early Years meetings take place in small groups rather than individual and offer opportunities for children to share experiences and completed activities. These meetings can happen in person, or via Teams call and are recorded for reference. The targets set are recorded in a central area in the child's individual areas within the Class OneNote for review by the child and the class teachers. This process supported children hugely throughout the lockdowns and the pandemic period and has continued to support children to catch up and keep up which is evidenced in the outcomes of national assessments this year.

The Leadership Team maintain and improve the quality of teaching and learning across the Trust, through our process of Classroom Coaching. These are an overview of a teachers' professional performance within and beyond everyday classroom practice. It is an embedded part of the Trust's monitoring systems, to implement performance management and drive school improvement. Observation outcomes will feed into performance management, ECT induction, whole school evaluation and the monitoring of the curriculum in the whole school context.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The observation cycle is over a 4-week period. The LT member will work alongside the teachers of a specific year group through a variety of focuses, including:

- observations of lessons
- modelling good practice
- review of teaching resources,
- classroom/behaviour management
- frequent feedback
- ongoing coaching

The Schools

Monkerton

The delivery of the Monkerton new building ensuring it meets the specifications of a TCAT school has been achieved with the new school opening at the beginning of the September 2021 and a successful opening event held with Sir Michael Morpurgo and Regional RSC opening the school.

Staff and children have had the opportunity to build their school community this year. Staff who had previously benefitted from the opportunities to engage with experienced staff whilst being based at Westclyst have now developed into a strong staff team and the appointment of the Deputy Head of School has supported the development of the quality of provision.

The Trust continues to focus on ensuring that the quality and consistency of experience for children at Monkerton reflects the school ethos and expectations.

The school had years 1, Reception and Nursery in 2021-22 – the year groups were nearly full by the end of the year.

Yeo Valley

Standards of behaviour and attitudes to learning at Yeo Valley have continued to improve despite the challenges of COVID and lockdown which has impacted the Yeo Valley provision most significantly across the Trust.

The dining service has been successfully implemented with a positive response from families.

There continues to be significant challenges in relation to the fabric of the building due to years of backdated maintenance needs, but the Trust has a clear improvement programme in place and continues to seek financial support to make the necessary improvements.

This year the applications for places in Reception for September 2022 have now reached the expected PAN after years of low numbers which is a real endorsement that the community is starting to identify the school as a place where they want their children to attend.

Westclyst

The school continues to grow with Nursery to Year 5 classes in 2021-22. 2022-23 will see a full complement of year groups.

The final building issues have been followed up and progress towards a solution has been identified.

This summer a number of enhancements in relation to the outside area including the opening of a forest school, a goat enclosure and any other improvements to the outdoor spaces. The addition of the climbing wall has ensured that the ongoing development of the school to support consistency of offer for all children has been achieved.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Broadclyst

The school has maintained its popularity filling all 60 places in its Reception class.

Results in all national assessments (EYFS Profile, Phonics Screener, KS1 & KS2 SATSs and the Y4 multiplication check) have all been above national average.

The Curriculum Hub and School to School Support Offer

The curriculum hubs have continued to run successfully. Hub leads have adapted and responded to the changing approaches and levels of demand for the support including moving to and from online delivery. KPIs were met and exceeded in some areas and offers beyond the expected were provided. For example, the English Hub hosted a National English Conference and secured Sir Michael Morpurgo as a guest speaker.

The EdTech demonstrator has provided significant support to over 400 schools across the country to develop their online learning approach which has enabled more children to access remote learning in an effective way. The programme came to an end in August '22, but the Trust will continue to offer the complete range of support through the Teaching School Hub, SWIFT.

The Trust have continued to partner with the local Teaching School Hub, SWIFT. The work of the curriculum hubs are promoted through wider channels, increasing interest and take up of courses and training. We have continued to offer the SSAT Accreditations – Lead Practitioner and Enhancing Teaching Programme (the only available offer in the South West). We have created a new, extended programme of support and training, offering a lot more compared to previous years. This involves a greater amount offered through the curriculum hubs, and also a new Edtech support programme, built upon the successes of the Demonstrator School.

Key Performance Indicators

Ofsted Inspections:

Broadclyst and Westclyst have not been inspected so remain as Outstanding.

Yeo Valley has not been inspected. It was judged as inadequate before being closed and subsequently joining The Cornerstone Academy Trust. The school SEF now judges the school to be at least good in all areas.

Monkerton was inspected in the last period under the Independent Schools Inspection to review suitability to open. This was successful and positive feedback was received.

Outcomes for Children

The Standards Committee met every half term, to monitor and review the quality of the education. We continued to use teacher assessment and internal testing to track and highlight areas of focus for the following year's 'catch up' programme.

The national assessment data shows that although compared to 2019 we have seen a drop in outcomes in most areas this drop is not as significant compared to national differences. This is due to the blended learning approach offered during the pandemic, allowing children to continue their education, and mitigate the impact of lost learning.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

EYFS		
	2022	2019
<i>National</i>	65%	71%
BCPS	82%	85%
WCPS	82%	90%
YVPS	64%	63%
MCPS	81%	

Phonics		
	2022	2019
<i>National</i>	75%	82%
BCPS	93%	97%
WCPS	80%	97%
YVPS	61%	78%
MCPS	91%	

KS1			
	Reading	Writing	Maths
<i>National</i>	67%	58%	68%
BCPS	84%	81%	79%
WCPS	83%	82%	85%
YVPS	53%	47%	35%

MTC			
	20+	25/25	Mean Score
<i>National</i>	-	30%	20/25
BCPS	75%	38%	21/25
WCPS	79%	42%	22/25
YVPS	43%	21%	18/25

KS2	2022					2019				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS	Combined	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS	Combined
<i>National</i>	74%	69%	71%	72%	59%	73%	78%	79%	78%	65%
BCPS	86%	83	89%	70%	77%	99%	90%	96%	94%	88%
YVPS	61%	68%	39%	43%	32%	48%	17%	28%	28%	14%

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Pupil Numbers

To attract 60 children at each of Broadclyst, Monkerton and Westclyst each new intake, and 30 at Yeo Valley. This KPI was achieved, with all spaces taken up.

Attendance

1. Percentages per year and per campus (Whole Year)

	BCPS	WCPS	YVPS	MCPS
Nursery	90.3%	89.6%	91.7%	89.9%
Rec (Intake 21)	92.3%	95.1%	89.4%	93.7%
Y1 (Intake 20)	94.8%	95.0%	93.1%	95.6%
Y2 (Intake 19)	94.6%	94.5%	93.8%	
Y3 (Intake 18)	94.3%	94.2%	93.8%	
Y4 (Intake 17)	93.9%	94.0%	93.6%	
Y5 (Intake 16)	94.0%	94.0%	91.4%	
Y6 (Intake 15)	93.4%		91.7%	
Whole school	93.6%	93.7%	91.7%	93.4%
Whole School (without EY)	94.2%	94.3%	92.7%	95.6%

1. Percentages per year and per campus (Since March 8th)

	BCPS	WCPS	YVPS	MCPS
Nursery	92.0%	89.2%	92.7%	90.6%
Rec (Intake 21)	93.4%	96.2%	90.0%	94.9%
Y1 (Intake 20)	96.3%	96.4%	94.1%	96.6%
Y2 (Intake 19)	96.6%	96.2%	94.9%	
Y3 (Intake 18)	95.7%	95.8%	95.1%	
Y4 (Intake 17)	96.4%	96.2%	94.7%	
Y5 (Intake 16)	96.5%	95.7%	92.9%	
Y6 (Intake 15)	95.6%		93.8%	
Whole school	95.5%	95.2%	93.4%	94.4%

Curriculum Hub KPIs:

English Hub

- Engaged approximately 72 new schools (KPI: 35)
- Full quota of audits (35) achieved.
- Partner schools outperformed national PSC average. National results down following the pandemic by 6.5%, English Hub partners by 1%.
- Recruited 19 additional new partner school (35 partner schools recruited)
- Passported £138,000 to schools with a robust audit and assessment of need.
- Provided 8 medium level support network meetings and a reading for pleasure course.
- Ran a World Book Day Event with Michael Morpurgo with 10000 sign ups.
- Deliver 126 days of literacy specialist support
- Ran six showcases.
- Ran two national conference meetings for the DfE online.

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Computing Hub

21-22	Target	Progress	Shortfall/ Gain
Priority schools engaged	5	5	Met
Non-priority schools engaged	144	71	Not met
Non-priority teachers engaged	70	212	Exceeded
Non-priority teachers engaged with CAS community	37	54	Exceeded
Delivery of CAS Community Meetings	3	3	Met
Impact in supported schools	60%	60%	Met
Courses	24	24	Met
Reach and engagement events run	12	12	Met

Science Learning Partnership

KPIs for contract ending 31/3/22:

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
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Number of CPD days	Target	207	256	29	338	387	450
	Actual	96	181	245	429	464	560
	%	46%	71%	845%	127%	120%	124%

Primary Schools engaged	Target	39	50	55	64	73	85
	Actual	33	69	70	82	82	119
	%	85%	138%	127%	128%	112%	140%

Primary staff engaged	Target	74	94	104	120	138	160
	Actual	37	92	93	217	220	262
	%	50%	98%	89%	181%	159%	164%

Secondary schools engaged	Target	25	32	36	41	47	55
	Actual	27	30	37	40	46	47
	%	108%	94%	103%	98%	98%	85%

Secondary staff engaged	Target	117	150	166	191	219	255
	Actual	54	69	78	88	104	140
	%	46%	46%	47%	46%	47%	55%

SLP income	Target £	20,562	26,373	29,055	33,525	38,442	44,700
	Actual £	28,745	34,438	34,428	42,241	54,026	90,036
	%	140%	131%	118%	126%	141%	201%

Overall average	%	64%	75%	87%	103%	96%	107%
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**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Going Concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e., whether there are any material uncertainties related to events of conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern.

Consideration has been made to the current economic climate. The Academy Trust is in the fortunate position of being locked into a longer-term energy deal that continues until August 2024. This offers some initial protection against the market forces surrounding the energy sector. The Trust made a decision early on the in budget setting process to cost teacher salary increases at a high level, meaning the agreed settlement has not come as a shock to the budget. As a result the Directors were able to agree a three year balanced budget that did not draw on reserve balances at all.

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2022 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, the Academy received total income (excluding fixed asset funding) of £8,130,327 and incurred total expenditure (excluding fixed asset funds and the pension fund) of £8,547,848. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £417,521.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams; the need to match income with commitments; and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees policy within 2021/22 was to aim to set aside reserves of at least £100,000 to cover unexpected costs with possibly higher carry forward reserves for specific capital projects.

The free reserves at the period end that are monitored against the policy were £165,182. These are included in unrestricted free reserves. The Trustees have allocated £227,000 to a designated fund. £94,000 is allocated to support their 2022/23 applications for CIF bid projects and £133,000 is allocated for capital expenditure that took place immediately post year end. Additionally, there were £112,558 reserves carried forward included in funds restricted for specific purposes.

The Trustees have reviewed the future plans of the Academy and have agreed that there is no need to increase the level of reserve.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual

**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust.

Investment Policy

As the Trust grows, it will be further discussing with the Academy Bank Manager cash flow and investment opportunities and will make recommendations to Trustees on investment proposals.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

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

Managing COVID – the Trust maintains risk assessments and adjust approaches based on current DfE guidance and PHE recommendations. The risk to health is mitigated through robust approaches to infection control and following of recommendations to close bubbles or isolate through the track and trace process. The risk to children's education and achievements are mitigated through remote learning approaches, monitoring of children's progress and appropriate strategies to support catch up i.e., mentoring. The risk to children wellbeing and safety have been of the highest importance with increased safeguarding and monitoring of attendance.

Financial - the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year over 80% of the Academy's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and 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.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from 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 that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Trustees ensure that pupil success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed. This is increasingly important at a time of expansion in a close geographical area.

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.

Staffing - the success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and 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.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Academy Trust has an appointed internal auditor to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

The Academy Trust has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every half term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure. Regular update reports are also given at all Full Trustees' meeting and Finance & Premises Committee Meetings.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 22 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However, as the Trustees consider that the Academy Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

FUNDRAISING

The Trust's fundraising activities are based around traditional school occasions such as fetes and fayres. We do not work with professional fundraisers. There is occasional fundraising by parents. In the next period we will investigate Gift Aid.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy Trust will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Academy Trust will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

Supporting the growth of Monkerton Community Primary School in the 2022/23 academic year and developing the new school building and the educational provision. The continued growth of Westclyst Community Primary School remains a strong focus as we introduce Year 6 pupils for the first time in September 2022.

Continue supporting Yeo Valley Primary School in Barnstaple as it moves forwards as an integral part of the Trust. Improvement projects will continue to be implemented. A sustained focus on the improvement in children's outcomes will be a priority for this year as we monitor the impact of COVID on children's outcomes

The Trust aims to augment its links with other schools locally and nationally in order to continue to improve. We will continue to foster our partnerships with universities, including Exeter University, Plymouth Marjon, and also with commercial companies including Microsoft.

We will continue to use our status as a Microsoft Showcase School to further enrich our provision, but equally as important to help develop the ICT provision in other like-minded schools. Post pandemic, we will look to re-establish the global enterprise challenge around the world.

The Trust will continue to build on its successful delivery of 4 curriculum hubs looking to take on any further opportunities to engage in the hub delivery model linked to the government proposals i.e., Behaviour Hub.

The Trust will engage with the Regional Director and Local Authority to continue to explore opportunities for growth in relation to other schools joining the Trust

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

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

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

AUDITOR

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



S Chapman
Chair of Trustees

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO/Executive Headteacher as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Cornerstone Academy 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 11 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
P Whitmarsh – Resigned July 2022	9	11
J Bishop	11	11
S Taylor – Resigned July 2022	8	11
R Billen	11	11
S Chapman	11	11
A Dyer	11	11
K Dyson	9	11
M Gordon	11	11
H McBain	11	11
S Noakes – Resigned September 2021	1	1
M Pitts (resigned February)	5	6
J Waddingham	10	11
B Williams (maternity leave)	1	2
H Massey – Resigned September 2021	1	1

Key Changes

The previous chair resigned, and a new chair was appointed at the first Trust Board meeting in September 2021.

Trustees continue to contribute to the range of committees and working groups that address current issues for example work around developing our growth strategy.

In addition to the Trust Board attendance the Trustees have ensured that they have continued to play an active role in monitoring the day-to-day provision in all the schools. This has continued to be facilitated using remote classroom observations and an appendix was added to the guidance around classroom observations to support Trustees with completing this activity. However this year there has been a return to more in person school visits and this will be an ongoing focus next year.

The Trust has developed its approach to the Local Advisory Boards ensuring parents can contribute to the governance and oversight of the trust. The revised approach to a whole Trust input on a particular curriculum area and then individual school meetings has been successful and has also provided a strong understanding of the curriculum intent, implementation and impact across the trust and in each school.

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The board has been satisfied with the data that has been shared, in relation to safeguarding and attendance which continues to have a high priority post COVID. The senior leadership team have also provided information and, where available, data in relation to children's outcomes including monitoring early reading, GL assessments and No More Marking assessments. This has subsequently been reviewed against the national assessment data for 2022, and the Trust board is confident that children are making good progress and gaps are being addressed swiftly.

The Trust is confident that the children are kept safe and there is a robust monitoring in relation to online safety and the board is updated regularly on this.

It has been positive to see the return to a full programme of visits and extracurricular clubs after school as well as engagement in sports activities and other opportunities beyond the school campus.

The past year has seen ongoing challenges despite the end of COVID restrictions the autumn term continued to see high levels of illness and absence from school both from children and Staff. The CEO expressed that he felt that the Autumn term was the hardest he had experienced. In addition to this staff recruitment has been particularly challenging with maintaining salaries that are competitive and meeting the rising prices of the day to day running of the school. The board are impressed by and confident in the way the school leadership have risen to challenges, maintained safety and supported the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum for all children across the Trust.

There is strong financial management and despite economic pressures the Trust is managing these well.

Governance Review

All Trustees completed the skills audit, completed safeguarding and GDPR training. We have welcomed external scrutiny and support from two consultants, one to review the roles and responsibilities of the leadership team and support the pay review exercise and one to support the Trust board with developing the growth strategy. Both these areas have been complimentary and the Trust board has a clear approach and structure to move forward with as new schools join the Trust.

The Finance and Premises Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. It also acts as the Audit Committee. Its purpose is:

- To assist the decision making of the governing body, by enabling more detailed consideration to be given to the best means of fulfilling the governing body's responsibility to ensure sound management of the Trust's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.
- To make appropriate comments and recommendations on such matters to the governing body on a regular basis.
- Major issues will be referred to the full governing body for ratification.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The committee is authorised:

- To consider the Trust's indicative funding, notified annually by the EFA, and to assess its implications for the Academy Trust, in consultation with the executive headteacher, in advance of the financial year, drawing any matters of significance or concern to the attention of the governing body.
- To consider and recommend acceptance/nonacceptance of the Trust's budget, at the start of each financial year.
- To contribute to the formulation of the Trust's development plan, through the consideration of financial priorities and proposals, in consultation with the executive headteacher, with the stated and agreed aims and objectives of the Academy Trust.
- To receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the development priorities set out in the development plan.
- To liaise with and receive reports from the staffing/remuneration and curriculum committees, as appropriate, and to make recommendations to those committees about the financial aspects of matters being considered by them.
- To monitor and review expenditure on a regular basis and ensure compliance with the overall financial plan for the Trust, and with the financial regulations of the DfE, drawing any matters of concern to the attention of the Board of Trustees.
- To monitor and review procedures for ensuring the effective implementation and operation of financial procedures, on a regular basis, including the implementation of bank account arrangements and, where appropriate to make recommendations for improvement.
- To prepare the financial statement to form part of the annual report of the Board of Trustees to parents and for filing in accordance with Companies Act and Charity Commission requirements.
- To receive auditors' reports and to recommend to the full governing body action as appropriate in response to audit findings.
- To recommend to the full governing body the appointment or reappointment of the auditors of the Trust.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
S Taylor	6	7
J Bishop	7	7
M Gordon	7	7
P Whitmarsh	1	1
S Chapman	3	5

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY

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

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

- Value for money purchasing. There is a continuing emphasis placed upon obtaining an optimum mix of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness to ensure that the goods and services purchased deliver the best possible educational outcomes for the resources invested.
- Our financial procedures require purchases to be considered in the light of best value. Wherever possible, and certainly above threshold limits, competitive quotations are sought to check what the market can offer. Purchases with an aggregate value of £50,000 or more, although few, are subject to a strict tender regime. Recent examples include the procurement of IT equipment.
- We have a system of regular risk review for each governor subcommittee. This process has enabled governors to assess any risks present within decisions made or about to be made, meaning that decisions are more informed and less likely to need revisiting.
- Decisions around staffing levels are made against the backdrop of a rolling financial plan which clearly demonstrates the impact of any proposed change. Although things can change significantly in a short timescale, having a snapshot picture at the time of an important decision gives Trustees and the leadership team more confidence whether the change can be sustained (or not) and that it will not adversely impact other areas of school business.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place at The Cornerstone Academy Trust for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

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

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Devon Audit Partnership as internal auditor

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

- Testing of payroll systems, salary, wages, and expenses
- Testing of purchasing and payment systems
- Testing of control of assets

On a semi-annual basis the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through the Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and premises 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 14 December 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:



S Chapman
Trustee



J Bishop
Accounting Officer

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Cornerstone Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Trust Handbook 2021.

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.



J Bishop
Accounting Officer

Date: 14/12/22

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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 . 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 2021 to 2022;
- 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 and signed on its behalf by:



S Chapman
Chair of Trustees

Date: 14/12/22

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cornerstone Academy Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2022 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 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2022 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 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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 our 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 our 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.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the Academy sector, control environment and the Academy Trust's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management and the Trustee board, including the committees charged with governance over the Academy Trust's finance and control, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Academy Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to: identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance; detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations arising from it being financed by the ESFA and other funders, and as such material compliance with these obligations is required to ensure the Academy Trust will continue to receive its public funding and be authorised to operate, including around ensuring there is no material unauthorised use of funds and expenditure;
- how the Academy Trust ensured it met its obligations to its principal regulator, the Secretary of State for Education; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal Academy specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud, which included incorrect recognition of revenue, management override of controls using manual journal entries, procurement and payroll. We identified the greatest potential for fraud as incorrect recognition of revenue and management override using manual journal entries.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Academy Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Academies Accounts Direction, Academies Trust Handbook, UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

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 may be fundamental to the Academy Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included safeguarding regulations, data protection regulations, occupational health and safety regulations, education and inspections legislation, building legislation and employment legislation.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess the recognition of revenue;
- enquiring of Trustees and management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing procedures to confirm material compliance with the requirements of its regulators;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal control reports; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from an error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

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

Bishop Fleming LLP

Tim Borton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bishop Fleming LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

2nd Floor Stratus House

Emperor Way

Exeter Business Park

Exeter

EX1 3QS

Date: *22/12/22*

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 25 May 2021 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Cornerstone Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 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 Cornerstone Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Cornerstone Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Cornerstone Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Cornerstone Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 August 2010 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2021, 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 2021 to 2022. 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 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

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

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

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

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

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the Trustees to assess the internal controls throughout the year.

We performed detailed testing based on our assessment of the risk of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements where appropriate and included analytical review and detailed substantive testing of transactions.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Bishop Fleming LLP

Tim Borton FCA DChA (Reporting Accountant)

Bishop Fleming LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

2nd Floor Stratus House

Emperor Way

Exeter Business Park

Exeter

EX1 3QS

Date: *22/12/22*

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Other donations and capital grants		12,105	-	6,642,917	6,655,022	38,330
Other trading activities		276,319	-	-	276,319	149,794
Investments	6	110	-	-	110	79
Charitable activities	4	664,816	7,176,977	-	7,841,793	6,445,837
Teaching schools		-	-	-	-	67,060
Total income		953,350	7,176,977	6,642,917	14,773,244	6,701,100
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		856,032	7,691,816	866,156	9,414,004	7,500,972
Total expenditure		856,032	7,691,816	866,156	9,414,004	7,500,972
Net income/ (expenditure)		97,318	(514,839)	5,776,761	5,359,240	(799,872)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(328,470)	328,470	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		97,318	(843,309)	6,105,231	5,359,240	(799,872)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	4,292,000	-	4,292,000	(439,000)
Net movement in funds		97,318	3,448,691	6,105,231	9,651,240	(1,238,872)

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	375,547	(4,225,133)	15,411,595	11,562,009	12,800,881
Net movement in funds	97,318	3,448,691	6,105,231	9,651,240	(1,238,872)
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>472,865</u></u>	<u><u>(776,442)</u></u>	<u><u>21,516,826</u></u>	<u><u>21,213,249</u></u>	<u><u>11,562,009</u></u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 37 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07339625**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	21,597,588	15,494,100
		<u>21,597,588</u>	<u>15,494,100</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	441,677	500,213
Cash at bank and in hand		991,717	857,198
		<u>1,433,394</u>	<u>1,357,411</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(928,733)	(972,502)
Net current assets		504,661	384,909
Net assets excluding pension liability		22,102,249	15,879,009
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(889,000)	(4,317,000)
Total net assets		21,213,249	11,562,009
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	17	21,516,826	15,411,595
Restricted income funds	17	112,558	91,867
		<u>21,629,384</u>	<u>15,503,462</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	17	21,629,384	15,503,462
Pension reserve	17	(889,000)	(4,317,000)
Total restricted funds	17	20,740,384	11,186,462
Unrestricted income funds	17	472,865	375,547
Total funds		21,213,249	11,562,009

The financial statements on pages 33 to 68 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:

S Chapman
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 37 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	19	463,089	1,012,607
Cash flows from investing activities	20	(328,570)	(690,148)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		134,519	322,459
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		857,198	534,739
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21, 22	991,717	857,198

The notes on pages 37 to 68 form part of these financial statements

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 Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events of conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy Trust to continue as a going concern.

Consideration has been made to the current economic climate. The Academy Trust is in the fortunate position of being locked in to a longer term energy deal that continues until August 2024. This offers some initial protection against the market forces surrounding the energy sector. The Trust made a decision early on the in budget setting process to cost teacher salary increases at a high level, meaning the agreed settlement has not come as a shock to the budget. As a result the Directors were able to agree a three year balanced budget that did not draw on reserve balances at all.

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 INCOME

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

Grants 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 period 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 grant are reflected in the Balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

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

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

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

1.4 INTEREST RECEIVABLE

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 EXPENDITURE

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

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

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

On conversion the Academy Trust was granted a 125 year lease from the Local Authority for the land and buildings previously occupied by the Local Authority school. On conversion the long term leasehold property was recognised as a donation from the Local Authority and was valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% straight line/term of the lease
Furniture and fittings	- 20% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

1.7 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.8 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 and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.9 LIABILITIES

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

1.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.11 TAXATION

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

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

1.12 PENSIONS

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

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

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

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.13 FUND ACCOUNTING

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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.

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

1.14 OPERATING LEASES

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

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 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

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

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	12,105	-	6,615,000	6,627,105	16,057
Capital Grants	-	-	27,917	27,917	22,273
TOTAL 2022	<u>12,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,642,917</u>	<u>6,655,022</u>	<u>38,330</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>2,811</u>	<u>13,246</u>	<u>22,273</u>	<u>38,330</u>	

The donation of restricted fixed assets relates to a donation from the Department of Education of Monkerton Primary School

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
EDUCATION				
DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
General Annual Grant	-	4,643,104	4,643,104	3,768,001
OTHER DFE/ESFA GRANTS				
Rates Income	-	35,488	35,488	28,694
Start Up Grant	-	110,000	110,000	185,989
PE Grant	-	71,800	71,800	54,710
Teachers Pay and Pension Award	-	33,743	33,743	210,564
UIFSM	-	190,952	190,952	158,615
Pupil Premium	-	260,719	260,719	223,558
English Hub Grant	-	406,008	406,008	405,370
Science Hub Grant	-	133,271	133,271	55,406
Technology Hub Grant	-	186,846	186,846	161,936
Other Hub Grants	-	37,897	37,897	38,913
Other DFE/ESFA Grants	-	74,446	74,446	-
	-	6,184,274	6,184,274	5,291,756
OTHER GOVERNMENT GRANTS				
High Needs	-	117,983	117,983	78,340
Nursery Income	-	799,460	799,460	647,995
	-	917,443	917,443	726,335
Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations	664,816	-	664,816	347,515
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (DFE/ESFA)				
Catch-up Premium	-	47,635	47,635	73,120
	-	47,635	47,635	73,120
COVID-19 ADDITIONAL FUNDING (NON-DFE/ESFA)				
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-	-	-	7,111
Other Local Authority Grants	-	27,625	27,625	-
	-	27,625	27,625	7,111
TOTAL EDUCATION	664,816	7,176,977	7,841,793	6,445,837

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

4. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

	664,816	7,176,977	7,841,793	6,445,837
	<u>664,816</u>	<u>7,176,977</u>	<u>7,841,793</u>	<u>6,445,837</u>
TOTAL 2021	<u>299,011</u>	<u>6,146,826</u>	<u>6,445,837</u>	

The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in the year from government support schemes in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The academy received £48k of funding for catch-up premium and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £48k.

The academy received other local authority grants which were provided to support schools following the covid pandemic. The funding received of £28k relates to staff costs included within note 8 below as appropriate.

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings	13,473	13,473	12,593
Fees received	207,830	207,830	103,717
Other	55,016	55,016	33,484
TOTAL 2022	<u>276,319</u>	<u>276,319</u>	<u>149,794</u>

All 2021 amounts relate to unrestricted funds.

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest	110	110	79
	<u>110</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>79</u>

All 2021 amounts relate to unrestricted funds.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

7. EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs 2022 £	Premises 2022 £	Other 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
EDUCATION:					
Direct costs	4,934,597	639,194	1,028,742	6,602,533	5,335,694
Allocated support costs	1,317,425	882,671	611,375	2,811,471	2,165,278
TOTAL 2022	<u><u>6,252,022</u></u>	<u><u>1,521,865</u></u>	<u><u>1,640,117</u></u>	<u><u>9,414,004</u></u>	<u><u>7,500,972</u></u>
TOTAL 2021	<u><u>5,024,383</u></u>	<u><u>1,051,306</u></u>	<u><u>1,425,283</u></u>	<u><u>7,500,972</u></u>	

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Education	<u><u>6,602,533</u></u>	<u><u>2,811,471</u></u>	<u><u>9,414,004</u></u>	<u><u>7,500,972</u></u>
TOTAL 2021	<u><u>5,335,694</u></u>	<u><u>2,165,278</u></u>	<u><u>7,500,972</u></u>	

Following clarification in the Academies Accounts Direction, nursery activities which were previously separately identified as their own charitable activity have now been included with the Educational activities reported throughout the accounts.

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Education 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	1,317,425	1,317,425	1,098,411
Depreciation	234,926	234,926	149,694
Recruitment and support	49,853	49,853	25,708
Maintenance of premises and equipment	134,687	134,687	42,211
Cleaning	228,927	228,927	114,488
Rent and rates	92,376	92,376	60,942
Energy costs	130,220	130,220	101,866
Insurance	30,210	30,210	25,818
Security and transport	105,516	105,516	47,064
Catering	309,951	309,951	245,873
Technology costs	2,200	2,200	12,766
Office overheads	39,499	39,499	55,642
Legal and professional	114,411	114,411	156,291
Bank interest and charges	10,765	10,765	5,509
Governance costs	10,505	10,505	22,995
TOTAL 2022	2,811,471	2,811,471	2,165,278

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	251,427	238,861
Auditors' remuneration - audit	10,000	8,400
Auditors' remuneration - other audit services	4,960	4,230
Auditors' remuneration - other services	13,987	18,426
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	876,073	684,735

10. STAFF

a. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	4,251,661	3,572,805
Social security costs	355,301	283,522
Pension costs	1,647,013	1,168,056
	6,253,975	5,024,383

b. STAFF NUMBERS

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	60	48
Administration and support	139	113
Management	11	12
	210	173

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

10. STAFF (CONTINUED)

b. STAFF NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Teachers	56	45
Administration and Support	95	82
Management	10	11
	161	138

c. HIGHER PAID STAFF

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

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1

d. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees (who do not receive remuneration for their role as Trustees) and the Senior Management Team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £567,073 (2021: £542,858).

As staff trustees are not remunerated in respect of their role as a trustee, where staff trustees do not form part of the key management personnel other than their role as trustee, their remuneration as set out in note 14, has not been included in the total benefits received by key management personnel above.

11. CENTRAL SERVICES

The Academy Trust makes use of GAG pooling arrangements as set out in the Academies Financial Handbook. Under this arrangement, all income received by the academies within the Academy Trust is centrally pooled. As such, there are no central service contributions.

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Headteacher and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of service they provide understaking the roles of Headteacher and staff under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their service as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Academy Trust in respect of their trole as Trustees. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: J Bishop: Remuneration £95,000 - £100,000 (2021: £90,000 - £95,000), Employer pension contributions £20,000 - £25,000 (2021: £20,000 - £25,000), M Pitts: Remuneration £40,000 - £45,000 (2021: £40,000 - £45,000), Employer pension contributions £10,000 - £15,000 (2021: £10,000 - £15,000), B Williams: Remuneration £20,000 - £25,000 (2021: £35,000 - £40,000), Employer pension contributions £5,000 - £10,000 (2021: £5,000 - £10,000).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in the Related party transactions note.

During the year ended 31 August 2022, expenses totalling £2,318 were reimbursed or paid directly to 10 Trustees (2021 - £394 to 1 Trustee).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in the Related party transactions note.

13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

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

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14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION					
At 1 September 2021	16,042,765	752,214	1,546,268	26,155	18,367,402
Additions	6,682,824	166,171	122,602	-	6,971,597
At 31 August 2022	<u>22,725,589</u>	<u>918,385</u>	<u>1,668,870</u>	<u>26,155</u>	<u>25,338,999</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 September 2021	1,284,182	436,692	1,131,399	21,029	2,873,302
Charge for the year	445,306	128,799	292,722	1,282	868,109
At 31 August 2022	<u>1,729,488</u>	<u>565,491</u>	<u>1,424,121</u>	<u>22,311</u>	<u>3,741,411</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 August 2022	<u>20,996,101</u>	<u>352,894</u>	<u>244,749</u>	<u>3,844</u>	<u>21,597,588</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>14,758,583</u>	<u>315,522</u>	<u>414,869</u>	<u>5,126</u>	<u>15,494,100</u>

Included in the net book value of property displayed above are the following amounts ascribable to land:

	2022 £	2021 £
Long-term leasehold land	<u>1,791,266</u>	<u>1,821,133</u>

15. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Trade debtors	19,402	35,433
Other debtors	1,176	2,582
Prepayments and accrued income	337,978	389,475
VAT recoverable	83,121	72,723
	<u>441,677</u>	<u>500,213</u>

**CORNERSTONE ACADEMY TRUST
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16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	308,651	471,223
Other taxation and social security	80,740	61,389
Other creditors	103,526	126,510
Accruals and deferred income	435,816	313,380
	<u>928,733</u>	<u>972,502</u>
	<u>928,733</u>	<u>972,502</u>
	2022	2021
	£	£
DEFERRED INCOME		
Deferred income at 1 September 2021	152,498	101,980
Resources deferred during the year	245,126	152,478
Amounts released from previous periods	(152,470)	(101,960)
	<u>245,154</u>	<u>152,498</u>
	<u>245,154</u>	<u>152,498</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for lettings booked for the autumn term 2022.

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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
Capital Projects	-	-	-	227,000	-	227,000
GENERAL FUNDS						
General funds	293,042	953,350	(854,210)	(227,000)	-	165,182
Unrestricted fixed asset fund	82,505	-	(1,822)	-	-	80,683
	375,547	953,350	(856,032)	(227,000)	-	245,865
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	375,547	953,350	(856,032)	-	-	472,865
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,643,104	(4,314,634)	(328,470)	-	-
Free school start up grant	-	110,000	(110,000)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	260,718	(260,718)	-	-	-
Rates Income	-	35,488	(35,488)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	190,952	(190,952)	-	-	-
Teachers' Pay and Pension	-	33,743	(33,743)	-	-	-
English Hub Grant	-	406,029	(406,029)	-	-	-
PE Grants	17,340	71,800	(89,140)	-	-	-
High Needs	-	117,983	(117,983)	-	-	-
Covid-19 additional funding	-	75,260	(75,260)	-	-	-
Free school procurement grant	32,367	-	(32,367)	-	-	-

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Nursery Funded Spaces	-	799,460	(799,460)	-	-	-
Ed Tech Grant	-	186,646	(186,646)	-	-	-
Behaviour hub	-	8,785	(8,785)	-	-	-
Computing Hub	-	29,112	(29,112)	-	-	-
Science Hub & STEM	8,920	133,271	(62,873)	-	-	79,318
Global Enterprise Challenge	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
Connecting Classrooms	18,240	-	-	-	-	18,240
Other DfE	-	74,626	(74,626)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,317,000)	-	(864,000)	-	4,292,000	(889,000)
	(4,225,133)	7,176,977	(7,691,816)	(328,470)	4,292,000	(776,442)
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	5,832,713	6,615,000	(255,204)	-	-	12,192,509
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	345,855	-	(302,003)	328,470	-	372,322
Devolved Formula Capital grants	101,873	27,917	(14,235)	-	-	115,555
Academies Capital Maintenance Fund grants	1,615,046	-	(37,176)	-	-	1,577,870
Free school procurement grant	925,708	-	(120,238)	-	-	805,470
Donated property	6,590,400	-	(137,300)	-	-	6,453,100
	15,411,595	6,642,917	(866,156)	328,470	-	21,516,826

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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	11,186,462	13,819,894	(8,557,972)	-	4,292,000	20,740,384
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	11,562,009	14,773,244	(9,414,004)	-	4,292,000	21,213,249
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

Designated Fund

The trust have allocated £94,000 to support their 2022/23 applications for CIF bid projects and £133,000 for capital expenditure immediately post year end.

Restricted Funds

General Annual Grant (GAG)

This fund includes income from the ESFA which is to be used for the running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

Pupil premium

This funding is for additional support for those pupils who qualify for free school meals, have been or are looked after children, or children from service families.

High Needs funding

This is a grant received from the local authority towards the costs of providing teaching for pupils with special educational needs.

Rates Income

Reimbursement from central government for the cost of non-domestic rates.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Funding for children in Years R to 2 to receive a daily free meal.

Teacher Pay & Pension Grant

Funding for additional teacher pay and pensions costs not included within the funding formula.

PE Grant

Income from the ESFA which is to be used to fund additional and sustainable improvements to the provision of PE and sport for the benefit of primary-aged pupils..

Covid 19 Additional Funds

To facilitate catch up learning during and post pandemic.

Free School start-up grant

This grant is offered in respect of approved eligible expenditure incurred in developing plans for the Monkerton Primary School and start-up expenditure in relation to Westclyst Community Primary School.

Free school procurement grant

This grant is offered in respect of approved eligible expenditure incurred procuring ICT goods, ICT services and temporary accommodation for the Westclyst Community Primary School.

Teaching Academy

The Academy Trust have received grants to support their teaching academy.

English Hub grant

English Hub schools promote a love of reading and support schools across the country to provide excellent phonics and early language teaching.

EdTech Demonstrator Grant

Demonstrator schools and colleges are a network of providers who have shown they can use technology effectively and have the capacity to help other schools and colleges to do the same. They support a range of schools and colleges during the coronavirus outbreak by helping those schools who are most in need of support, have recently adopted an online learning platform or have high numbers of disadvantaged learners. The support package includes advice, training, online tutorials, webinars and recorded content.

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Science Hub & STEM

The Devon Science Learning Partnership is part of the national network of STEM Learning partnerships across the UK. As a DfE initiative, we take a leading role in supporting schools to provide an engaging and inspiring education for their students.

Catering for teachers, leaders and support staff, we offer bespoke and regional training to support other schools in ways that best meet their needs.

Global Enterprise Challenge

The Global Enterprise Challenge is an international competition run by Cornerstone Academy Trust where primary and secondary pupils from across the world take part by forming small trading companies. Supported and funded by Microsoft, the winning teams usually travel to locations such as Seattle or London to collect their award.

Connecting Classrooms

Connecting Classrooms helps pupils understand the big issues that shape our world and equip them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to make a positive contribution. Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning is a partnership between the British Council and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Funding received to date helps to pay for teachers to make educational trips to countries such as Ethiopia or Bangladesh, where learning experiences can be shared, and inspiration is aplenty.

Pension reserve

This fund represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Fixed assets transferred on conversion - This represents the fixed assets transferred from the Local Authority on conversion.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG - This fund includes transfers from the GAG restricted fund for capital related expenditure. The balance at the year end represents the net book value of assets transferred from the GAG fund.

Devolved formula capital grants and Academies Capital Maintenance Fund grants - Grants from the ESFA to be spent on capital related expenditure.

Free School procurement grant - This represents eligible fixed assets purchased using the free school grant by way of a transfer.

Transfers in/out - In addition to the procurement grant, the transfer between the restricted funds and the restricted fixed asset funds represents GAG funding used to purchase fixed assets.

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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General funds	176,006	1,105,913	(988,877)	-	-	293,042
Unrestricted fixed asset fund	84,756	-	(2,251)	-	-	82,505
	<u>260,762</u>	<u>1,105,913</u>	<u>(991,128)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>375,547</u>
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	3,768,001	(3,565,886)	(202,115)	-	-
Free school start up grant	-	158,310	(158,310)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	223,558	(223,558)	-	-	-
Rates Income	-	28,694	(28,694)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	158,615	(158,615)	-	-	-
Teachers' Pay and Pension	-	210,564	(210,564)	-	-	-
English Hub Grant	-	405,370	(405,370)	-	-	-
PE Grants	-	54,710	(37,370)	-	-	17,340
High Needs	-	78,340	(78,340)	-	-	-
Teaching Academy	-	38,500	(38,500)	-	-	-
Covid-19 additional funding	-	80,231	(80,231)	-	-	-
Free school procurement grant	492,800	27,679	-	(488,112)	-	32,367
Nursery Funded Spaces	-	13,246	(13,246)	-	-	-
Ed Tech Grant	-	205,940	(205,940)	-	-	-
Behaviour hub	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	-	-
Computing Hub	-	38,913	(38,913)	-	-	-
Science Hub & STEM	6,500	55,406	(52,986)	-	-	8,920

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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Global Enterprise Challenge	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
Connecting Classrooms	18,240	-	-	-	-	18,240
Other DfE	-	22,337	(22,337)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,374,000)	-	(504,000)	-	(439,000)	(4,317,000)
	<u>(2,841,460)</u>	<u>5,572,914</u>	<u>(5,827,360)</u>	<u>(690,227)</u>	<u>(439,000)</u>	<u>(4,225,133)</u>
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	6,010,278	-	(379,680)	202,115	-	5,832,713
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	369,177	-	(23,322)	-	-	345,855
Devolved Formula Capital grants	84,968	22,273	(5,368)	-	-	101,873
Academies Capital Maintenance Fund grants	1,722,352	-	(107,306)	-	-	1,615,046
Free school procurement grant	467,104	-	(29,508)	488,112	-	925,708
Donated property	6,727,700	-	(137,300)	-	-	6,590,400
	<u>15,381,579</u>	<u>22,273</u>	<u>(682,484)</u>	<u>690,227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,411,595</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>12,540,119</u>	<u>5,595,187</u>	<u>(6,509,844)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(439,000)</u>	<u>11,186,462</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>12,800,881</u></u>	<u><u>6,701,100</u></u>	<u><u>(7,500,972)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(439,000)</u></u>	<u><u>11,562,009</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total funds analysis by Academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cornerstone Academy Trust	585,423	467,414
Restricted fixed asset fund	21,516,826	15,411,595
Pension reserve	(889,000)	(4,317,000)
TOTAL	21,213,249	11,562,009

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 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Broadclyst Community Primary School	-	-	-	9,168	9,168	34,140
Westclyst School	-	-	-	19,787	19,787	12,667
Yeo Valley Primary School	-	-	-	10,046	10,046	53,232
Monkerton Community Primary School	-	-	-	1,900	1,900	-
Central services	4,934,597	1,317,425	964,753	1,290,172	8,506,947	6,716,198
ACADEMY TRUST	4,934,597	1,317,425	964,753	1,331,073	8,547,848	6,816,237

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18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	80,762	-	21,516,826	21,597,588
Current assets	1,320,836	112,558	-	1,433,394
Creditors due within one year	(928,733)	-	-	(928,733)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(889,000)	-	(889,000)
TOTAL	472,865	(776,442)	21,516,826	21,213,249

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	82,505	-	15,411,595	15,494,100
Current assets	1,265,544	91,867	-	1,357,411
Creditors due within one year	(972,502)	-	-	(972,502)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,317,000)	-	(4,317,000)
TOTAL	375,547	(4,225,133)	15,411,595	11,562,009

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	5,359,240	(799,872)
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:		
Depreciation	868,109	684,735
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(27,917)	(22,273)
Interest receivable	(110)	(79)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	794,000	449,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	70,000	55,000
Decrease in debtors	58,536	328,678
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(43,769)	317,418
Donated tangible fixed assets	(6,615,000)	-
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	463,089	1,012,607

20. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest received	110	79
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(356,597)	(712,500)
Capital grants from DfE Group	27,917	22,273
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(328,570)	(690,148)

21. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	991,717	857,198
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	991,717	857,198

22. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	857,198	134,519	991,717
	857,198	134,519	991,717

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS

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

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

Contributions amounting to £95,202 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £78,044) and are included within creditors.

TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. 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.

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury 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 £853,013 (2021 - £703,056).

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

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

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 2022 was £465,000 (2021 - £410,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £359,000 (2021 - £323,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 106,000 (2021 - £87,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6% per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5% per cent for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, 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 Trust 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

	2022	2021
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.9	3.85
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.85
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.25	1.65
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.9	2.85

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

	2022	2021
	Years	Years
RETIRING TODAY		
Males	21.7	22.7
Females	22.9	24.0
RETIRING IN 20 YEARS		
Males	23	24.0
Females	24.3	25.4

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(118)	(202)
Discount rate -0.1%	121	208
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	126	284
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(122)	(274)
CPI rate +0.1%	125	190
CPI rate -0.1%	(122)	(185)

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

SHARE OF SCHEME ASSETS

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

	At 31 August 2022	At 31 August 2021
	£	£
Equities	1,893,000	1,977,000
Gilts and bonds	709,000	464,000
Property	356,000	252,000
Cash and other liquid assets	51,000	19,000
Target return portfolio	297,000	293,000
Infrastructure and alternative assets	264,000	153,000
TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS	3,570,000	3,158,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(121,000) (2021 - £497,000).

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
Current service cost	(1,153,000)	(772,000)
Interest income	55,000	39,000
Interest cost	(125,000)	(94,000)
TOTAL AMOUNT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	(1,223,000)	(827,000)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	7,475,000	5,672,000
Interest cost	125,000	94,000
Employee contributions	106,000	87,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(4,470,000)	895,000
Benefits paid	70,000	(45,000)
Current service cost	1,153,000	772,000
AT 31 AUGUST	4,459,000	7,475,000

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23. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2022	2021
	£	£
AT 1 SEPTEMBER	860,000	-
Interest income	57,000	39,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(178,000)	456,000
Employer contributions	359,000	323,000
Employee contributions	106,000	87,000
Benefits paid	(70,000)	(45,000)
AT 31 AUGUST	1,134,000	860,000

24. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2022 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	240,658	223,015
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	224,183	255,145
	464,841	478,160

25. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Mrs J Bishop, wife of Mr J Bishop, a Trustee, is employed as a teaching assistant. Mrs Bishop's appointment was made in open competition, Mr Bishop was not involved in the recruitment process or decisions regarding her remuneration. Mrs Bishop is paid within the normal pay scales for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with a Trustee.

Mrs Pitts, wife of Mr M Pitts, a Trustee, is employed as a music teacher. Mrs Pitts' appointment was made in open competition, Mr Pitts was not involved in the recruitment process or decisions regarding her remuneration. Mrs Pitts is paid within the normal pay scales for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship with a Trustee.

Mr J Beevor, domestic partner of Miss B Williams, a Trustee, is employed as a teacher. Mr J Beevor's appointment was made in open competition, Miss Williams was not involved in the recruitment process or decisions regarding his remuneration. Mr J Beevor is paid within the normal pay scales for his role and receives no special treatment as a result of his relationship with a Trustee.

The value of related party transactions were as follows: J Bishop: Remuneration £15,000 - £20,000 (2021: £15,000 - £20,000), Employer pension contributions £0 - £5,000 (2021: £0 - £5,000), Mrs Pitts: Remuneration £10,000 - £15,000 (2021: £10,000 - £15,000), Employer pension contributions £0 - £5,000 (2021: £0 - £5,000), Mr J Beevor: Remuneration £35,000 - £40,000 (2021: £35,000 - £40,000), Employer pension contributions £5,000 - £10,000 (2021: £5,000 - £10,000).