
ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese Board of Finance Ven. D Picken P Golightly
Trustees	P Golightly, Chairman M Wilson M Skinner, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer M Fielding K Daniell L Hartley-Mussert (resigned 1 November 2018) C Meese P Short (resigned 15 October 2018)
Company registered number	08840094
Company name	Aspire Multi-Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	East Bridgford St Peter's Church of England Academy Kneeton Road East Bridgford Nottingham NG13 8PG
Company secretary	L Hampson
Chief executive officer	M Skinner
Senior management team	M Skinner, Chief Executive Officer C Bills, Headteacher (Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School Academy) L Butler-Mallender & R Jones, Headteachers (Kirkby Woodhouse Primary School Academy) E Essex, Headteacher (Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School Academy) K Watson & M Stevens, Headteachers (Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Academy) R Tomlinson, Headteacher (St Peter's Church of England Academy) K Watson, Headteacher (Oak Tree Priamry School Academy)
Independent auditors	Streets Audit LLP Windsor House A1 Business Park at Long Bennington Notts NG23 5JR
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 12 Eaton Place Bingham Nottingham NG13 8BD

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Solicitors Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Aspire MAT was established on 1 February 2014 when it took over the operation of East Bridgford St. Peter's and Archbishop Cranmer (Aslockton) primary schools on their conversion to academies. The Aspire MAT expanded with three further academies during 2017– Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School (Calverton) from 1 April 2017, Kirby Woodhouse Primary School from 1 May 2017, and Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School from 1 August 2017. A sponsored academy, Oak Tree Primary School & Nursery, was accepted from December 2018. Throughout, the Aspire MAT's principal objective and activity has been to manage the schools' provision of education to pupils between the ages of four and eleven. The Aspire MAT has therefore evolved as on a mixed model, with three church schools and three non-church schools.

The six academies have a combined pupil capacity of 1,604 and had a roll of 1,313 in the school census on 4 October 2018.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The charitable company's Memorandum of Association is the primary governing document of the Trust.

The Trustees of Aspire Multi-Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as Aspire MAT.

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

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The Aspire MAT maintains Governors' and Officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its trustees. The Aspire MAT has also granted indemnities to each of its trustees and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 234 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the trustees or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as trustees or officers of the Aspire MAT.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Members of the company and trustees are appointed as set out in the Articles of Association.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Following appointment, election or co-option, new trustees are given the option of a tour of some or all of the academies and a chance to meet staff and pupils, meet other trustees at full Board meetings, and are given access to minutes of past Board meetings and policies. The Chair and Chief Executive Officer have responsibility for induction and training.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of four levels: Members, Directors (Trustees), Senior Leadership Team, and Local Governing Bodies of the five constituent academies. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

Members

Under the terms of its Articles the members of the Company shall comprise:

- a) the signatories to the Memorandum, who shall be:
 - a. the Diocesan board of Finance
 - b. the chairman of the Diocesan board of Education
 - c. the chairman of the directors; and
- b) any person appointed under Article 16 (no appointment currently made).

The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) member is not an appointment to a named individual. Members are responsible for setting the constitution of the Aspire MAT and for appointing the trustees.

Trustees (Directors)

Under the terms of its Articles, the Aspire MAT shall have the following trustees/directors:

- A minimum of five appointed by the members,
- One staff trustee, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer.

Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the five academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the academies, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments. They also set the powers of delegation to the Local Governing Bodies.

Trustees are appointed / elected / co-opted for a period of four years. The chair and vice-chair are elected bi-annually. The trustees appoint a Chief Executive Officer to take responsibility of the day-to-day management of the constituent academies. The trustees appoint a clerk who takes on the role of calling and recording meeting of the Board of Trustees.

No parent trustees have been appointed, in accordance with Article 56c, as parent representatives have been appointed to the Local Governing Bodies of all academies.

The total number of trustees appointed is eight, of which two are currently vacant pending new appointments.

Local Governing Bodies (LGB), appointed by the trustees, has a wide range of delegated powers appropriate and specific for each academy in the Aspire MAT, including:

- approving and monitoring issues relating to routine finance and budgets.
- approving academy-specific procurement within delegated financial limits.
- health and safety and site issues.
- teaching and non-teaching appointments.
- monitoring school performance against national and internal standards.
- facilitating school links with parents, local churches and local communities.
- pupil and personnel issues specific to each academy.
- ensuring implementation of Aspire MAT-wide policy set by directors.

The levels of delegation are set out in the Aspire MAT's 'Scheme of Delegation' produced by trustees. The

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Structure, governance and management (continued)

LGBs each have appropriate committees through which they undertake their roles at each constituent academy.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Chief Executive Officer's provides the point of accountability and management lead for the senior leaders in each of the academies. The role also provides the strategic link between the Board of Directors and the five academies. The CEO is also the appointed accounting officer for the Aspire MAT. Martyn Skinner was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the trust with effect from 1 September 2017.

Senior leadership team

The core senior leadership team comprises the Chief Executive Officer and the academy Headteachers. When appropriate academy deputy and assistant Headteachers and academy business/finance managers are brought into an expanded senior leadership team. The senior leadership team control the academies at an executive level, implementing the policies laid down by the directors and reporting back to them through the Chief Executive Officer. As a group the senior leadership team are responsible for the authorisation of spending up to a level delegated to them within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, although appointment panels for most staff normally contain a local school governor.

Middle leadership

The middle leadership team includes leaders of the key teams at each academy. Leadership in the area of special educational needs is also a part of this.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay of the senior leadership team (defined above) is set according to Nottinghamshire County Council pay ranges applying to maintained schools. The Trust maintains all personnel on the same pay scales that applied at the point of academisation, together with all other employment terms & conditions. Pay increases are currently maintained in line with nationally agreed increases.

No trustees receive any remuneration for undertaking their roles for the Trust except the CEO.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	2
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

	£	
Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	4,835,735	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%
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Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Aspire MAT has formed a Local Governing Body at five of its academies, acting as committees of the Trust (see above) in respect of the five constituent academies. The Aspire MAT replaced the Governing Body at its sixth academy, Oak Tree Primary School, with an Interim Executive Board when it joined the MAT. A full Local Governing Body will be reconstituted in due course when the academy demonstrates appropriate improvement.

Whilst each academy has informal parent groups that support the school in terms of fundraising and social activity, no academy has any constituted groups for this purpose.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objectives and aims of the Aspire MAT, as set out previously, are to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing academies which shall offer a broad and balanced curriculum and which shall include, where appropriate, Church of England schools designated as such which shall be conducted in accordance with the principles, practices and tenets of the Church of England both generally and in particular in relation to arranging for religious education and daily acts of worship, and having regard to any advice issued by the Diocesan board of Education.

Objectives, strategies and activities

There were no significantly linked charitable activities.

Key strategic areas were the creation and substantiation of Aspire MAT based policy and approach towards:

- Finance, staffing, safeguarding and appraisal.
- The development of raised standards and aspiration towards academic attainment and progress, including 'disadvantaged children', including the establishment of Aspire MAT non-negotiables and providing targeted support to address any areas of relative weakness identified by progress or attainment data.
- Developing an active collaboration which brings together an effective partnership between church and non-church schools in the context of a MAT, sustaining and developing church school distinctiveness within this partnership, and defining and driving the partnership through a common set of values based on the 'profound personal development' of all children.
- Establishing an ethos of valuing staff and, as part of that approach, working to build positive relationships with the trade unions through a now-established commitment to a Joint Consultative Committee; through which we have agreed a set of HR policies applicable across all of our academies.
- Supporting a sponsored academy entrusted to our MAT for transformation: an ongoing commitment which has involved the recruitment, training and deployment of a team of expert practitioners – leaders and teachers - from within our academies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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Objectives and activities (continued)

Public benefit

The six schools are academies catering for children aged four to eleven which strive to promote and support the advancement of education within their catchment areas. The schools provide an extensive programme of educational and recreational activity - all designed to contribute to the overall education ('learning and growing') of our students in areas such as academic distinction, music, the arts, sport, citizenship and overall personal development. For example the MAT and its academies work with:

- Nottinghamshire Local Authority (education), providing other school support where required.
- Local Pre-Schools linked to academies
- Before and After School Clubs (academy or privately managed)
- Secondary schools, including Toot Hill Secondary Academy, Ashfield Comprehensive School, and Colonel Frank Seely School and other primary schools in their Family of Schools networks.
- Teaching School alliances and partnerships, including Torch Teaching Alliance, Redhill Teaching School Alliance and Gedling Area Partnership
- Other local primary schools and networks (e.g. Ashfield/Toot Hill/Colonel Frank Seely Family of Schools)
- Rushcliffe School Sports Partnership, Zenith Sports and Premier Sports
- Gedling Area Partnership
- Neighbourhood Tenants Associations
- North Nottinghamshire SBAP Team (School behaviour and Attendance Partnership)
- Mansfield District Council Housing and ASB Team
- Women's Aid
- Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust
- Nottingham Sycamore Table Tennis Academy and Portland Cricket Club.
- Patchings Art Centre. And other creative partnerships
- University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University (Institute of Education)
- Local churches (Church of England, Methodist) for both church and non-church schools.
and, in addition for church schools:
 - Nottingham and Southwell Diocese
 - Local parish Church of England churches and other Christian organisations.

Wherever possible the schools also aim to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities (at minimum cost). For example:

- Local uniformed organisations including Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Guides.
- Martial arts
- Pre-School and School Clubs
- Toddler groups
- Local sports clubs such as netball, taekwondo, table tennis, yoga and football.
- Local community drama and dance groups
- Ad hoc community and church use.
- Local authorities for Governor training.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees believe that the Aspire MAT's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Strategic report

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance

The academies within Aspire have continued to perform extremely well, whilst also fulfilling their commitment to their clear child centred, 'beyond expectation', 'take care' Christian ethos which seeks to provide children with the broad opportunity not simply to learn well, but to grow holistically into the very best people they can be.

However, whilst giving our children every opportunity to discover 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10), the importance of high academic achievement as part of our core aim of profound personal development is fully understood. Results and academic outcomes, therefore, remain crucial and these are exemplified below in our end of Key Stage 2 attainment data. Placing these results into the context of the last 3 years demonstrates that we are on upward trajectory.

Key Stage 2	% Achieving Expected Standard/Greater Depth				
	2019 results in purple		2018 results in black		2017 results in blue
	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM Combined	
ABC	91%/59%	91%/55%	95%/59%	91%/41%	
	86%/32%	96%/36%	89%/43%	82%/21%	
	100%/35%	91%/17%	100%/57%	91%/25%	
STP	92%/41%	92%/21%	87%/33%	82%/15%	
	85%/17%	88%/22%	93%/27%	85%/0%	
	92%/28%	87%/21%	90%/33%	79%/15%	
KW	56%/10%	83%/7%	80%/22%	46%/10%	
	71%/16%	89%/9%	80%/30%	68%/2%	
	72%/9%	86%/5%	72%/11%	61%/3%	
GS	80%/60%	80%/40%	80%/40%	60%/20%	
	100%/54%	85%/8%	77%/15%	69%/0%	
	90%/0%	70%/0%	50%/10%	50%/0%	
OTP	52%/10%	71%/19%	71%/13%	45%/10%	
	49%/10%	40%/8%	44%/15%	23%/3%	
	49%/9%	57%/3%	60%/9%	40%/3%	
SJS	77%/16%	77%/27%	70%/27%	68%/16%	
	62%/25%	79%/13%	66%/8%	56%/7%	
	71%/29%	82%/29%	72%/21%	62%/15%	
National 2019	73%/27%	78%/20%	79%/27%	65%/11%	

Key: ABC – Archbishop Cranmer, STP – East Bridgford St Peters, KW, Kirkby Woodhouse, GS = Gunthorpe, OTP – Oak Tree Primary SJS – Sir John Sherbrooke Junior

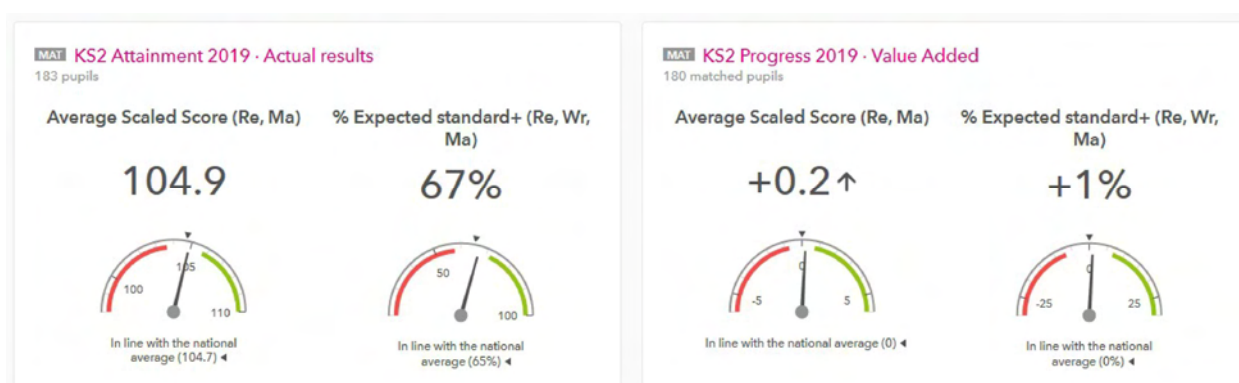
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Strategic report (continued)

Even with the addition of Oak Tree Primary School – one of the very lowest achieving schools in Nottinghamshire when we agreed to accept the school into our MAT – our average performance across the MAT remains positive in terms of both attainment and progress by the end of Key Stage 2, as demonstrated by the MAT-level overview produced by the Fischer Family Trust:



Results overall were very positive, with Sir John Sherbrooke and Gunthorpe taking a clear step forward to consolidate their position within the Ofsted 'good' category. St. Peter's and Archbishop Cranmer remain in a very strong position. Oak Tree will remain a top priority moving forward into 2019/20, followed by Kirkby Woodhouse; both for reasons expanded upon below.

- OTP Year 6 pupils have produced their best results since the new SATs were introduced in 2016. There was a dramatic improvement in both Writing and Maths compared to 2018. Overall, the Regional Schools' Commissioner's team are delighted with that they have categorised as "rapid progress" at Oak Tree. Whilst we believe we have enough evidence of progress from exceptionally low starting points to contend for a "good" judgement from Ofsted, we are aware of the need to consolidate and build upon this position, which is why OTP will continue to benefit from significant levels of support from the MAT in 2019/20.
- KWS's disappointing results in Reading have pulled down their combined Reading, Writing and Maths measure to 46%. As the new leadership team at KWS grapples with this issue, a sense of perspective is important and it should be noted that the 15% drop amounts to 7 Year 6 pupils not performing as predicted. In the context of KS2 Writing and Maths remaining above the National Average for Expected + and KS1 results showing a slight improvement on 2018, we are not seeking to re-categorise KWS as 'Requires Improvement'. Instead, the academy is receiving support from the MAT to ensure the successful implementation of rigorous improvement plans.
- All results have been shared with the RSC's team, who remain confident in our ability to improve schools; a confidence seen in their active encouragement of our Growth Plan and in their positive consideration of entrusting our MAT with further sponsored academies.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Strategic report (continued)

Examples of other achievements across ASPIRE

These relate to the delivery of the MAT core purpose of 'Profound Personal Development', its 'Take Care' ethos and the culture of opportunity.

Sports

Sporting excellence is based on the policy of 'inclusion with the opportunity to be excellent'. There have been very high sports participation rates at all academies, from Year 1 to Year 6 offering a wide variety of sporting opportunities, varying between academies depending on local resources/coaching availability, and choices within each academy. The range of participative and individual sports across the MAT has included archery, lacrosse, football, cricket, netball, gymnastics, tennis, P.E., table tennis, golf, ice skating, cross country, athletics, dance, rugby, rowing, basketball, biathlon, rowing, boccia, frisbee, drumba, chess, swimming and yoga. In addition, fitness is encouraged in a variety of activities. One academy has installed a mile track around the school and is participating in the Active 30:30 initiative.

Examples of sporting achievements at local, county, regional and national levels by individual academies included:

- County hockey winners
- County Lacrosse Plate runners up
- Table Tennis England representation
- Participation in Chance to Shine sporting opportunities for vulnerable children
- Oak Tree Mile community run in conjunction with Mansfield Fire & Rescue Service
- Cycling proficiency – level 1 and 2 awards
- District netball champions
- National swimming championship participation.
- Ice skating participation
- Participation in Mindfulness and Yoga events

Creative Arts

This is an equally important area of participation for children in our academies, each of which has provided a wide variety of activities and opportunities. Examples of participation and achievements include:

- Selection of an academy by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as a hub primary school for National Shakespeare Week.
- Mansfield Collaboration Concert
- County-wide CPD delivery through a Specialist Leader of Education for Drama & Creativity staff member
- The Hucknall Bryon Society
- Nottingham Playhouse Project - Schools Massive including performance of a scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- Rotary International winners for creative arts
- Rotary school band finalists
- Choir singing at external venues - Christmas at John Lewis, Hardwick Hall, Kingsmill Hospital, Nottingham, Patchings Art Festival, and various local elderly care facilities, local churches and village fetes. Participation in Young Voices concert (Sheffield).
- Increased music provision to a wider number of children, including ukulele lessons and performance at one school. Engagement with external music tuition programmes for flute, recorder, saxophone, clarinet, drums, guitar, and others.
- 2-year Arts Mark project to work towards the Platinum Arts Mark Award
- Provision of a wide variety of in-house plays, shows and concerts at both KS1 and KS2.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Strategic report (continued)

Charitable Activities

These are by whole schools, classes or, through by individual children to support the SMCS curriculum and to demonstrate the Take Care ethos of the MAT and its academies. Some of these initiatives have been covered by local and regional media. Activities undertaken across the MAT have included:

- Operation Christmas Child 'Shoebox appeal'
- Organisation of Take Care days for Type 1 diabetes awareness, UNICEF and cancer research.
- Supporting Home in Nottingham Food Banks and local soup kitchen
- Singing alongside Nottingham City Hospital Choir to raise money for children with cancer
- Fundraising for Cancer Research UK, Diabetes Research, Epilepsy Awareness and Autism Awareness
- Fundraising for a local hospice
- NSPCC run/walk a mile fundraiser
- Community activities linked to Autism Awareness Week
- Activities to support Children in Need
- Animal charities fund raising including Guide Dogs UK
- Jeanes for Genes Day
- Participation in local Race for Life events.
- Support for local charities through Harvest Festival donations.

Church School and Christian Distinctiveness

Although this applies mainly to the three Church of England academies in the Aspire MAT, it also has meaning to the non-church schools which have all agreed to adopt the Christian ethos and principles of the Aspire MAT.

The three C of E academies continue to have strong links with both church and community. They work closely with the local C of E incumbents and, where appropriate, support workers. A wide variety of Christian-based collective worship is undertaken daily according to national requirements. Whole school activities are undertaken using the facilities of the local churches, especially linked to the major Christian festivals and with services to welcome new children and for those leaving at the end of Year 6.

Classroom facilities for prayer, reflection, and the display of work related to R.E and the Christian nature and values of the schools are also widely utilised. Ecumenical links to other local churches, especially Methodists churches, are utilised in church and non-church academies. Non-church school also have links with local Anglican churches.

Specific activities which illustrate the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools and point to our prioritising of sharing Christian values across the whole MAT include:

- SIAMS inspection at Gunthorpe Academy in March 2019 with a good rating. During the inspection it was noted that Gunthorpe was found to have "a culture where everyone is valued for whoever they are or whatever they want to be". It was also commented that "Pupils flourish in the school, demonstrating progress academically, socially and spiritually".
- Participation in church Christmas tree festivals
- Jessie Tree day
- Weekly Christian club running at Oak Tree Primary School
- CEO-led distinctively Christian assemblies at all academies
- Christian content to Aspire INSET Day for staff from all 6 academies
- Clear Christian lead from CEO presenting TED talk at Diocesan conference on Biblical principles of caring for staff

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Strategic report (continued)

Other Activities

Aspire MAT, through its academies, continues to provide a broad range of opportunities, experiences and extra-curricular challenges for all children. These includes in-house clubs/groups and external visits, both residential and single trips, providing environmental, historical, physical activity, theatre and other national/international cultural, sports, healthy living, road safety and many other experiences, but all providing enjoyment, personal development and whole-school journey enhancement. Specific achievements include:

- Recognition for one academy being the lead school for Nottingham Junior Parliament
- Award of UK Parliament Gold Reacher Ambassador status

Key performance indicators

The trustees, whilst providing support and praise, hold their academies to account for the delivery of Aspire's Christian ethos and the high expectation that is implicit in our chosen name as a Trust. The trustees feel Aspire is currently delivering against its performance indicators in all respects.

Going forward Aspire wants to:

Maintain the effectiveness of its ethos, as demonstrated in each academy by:

- a) above average pupil progress from starting points
- b) behaviour which is at least good
- c) the development of a genuinely broad and balanced 'Active' curriculum
- d) high levels of interest in spiritual development and, specifically, in the Christian faith
- e) maintaining or improving upon Ofsted and, where relevant, SIAMs designations.

Continue to grow Aspire into a strong, ethos-driven, sustainable organisation through:

- a) developing meaningful connections between academies
- b) accepting new academies into our MAT in accordance with our Growth Plan.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Aspire MAT has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Financial review

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

The Academy Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2019 comprising £321,464 of restricted funds, a pension reserve deficit of £4,901,000, restricted fixed asset funds of £15,118,332 and £528,121 of unrestricted general funds. Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes.

The grants received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2019 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds (non-fixed assets) in the statement of financial activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2019, the total restricted revenue expenditure of £6,244,158 was less than recurrent grant funding from the ESFA. The excess of income over expenditure for the period was £259,202.

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention as the amount of carry forward is monitored. In the period under review, £321,464 was carried forward representing 6.3% of GAG income for the year.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of core funding. For 2019 this was 84.6% and this will be monitored in future periods.

The Academy Trust's non-teaching staff members are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Academies Trust's share of the Scheme's assets is currently assessed to be less than its liabilities in the Scheme, and consequently the Academies Trust balance sheet shows a net liability of £4,901,000.

Reserves policy

The trustees` review the reserve levels of the Aspire MAT throughout the year. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves.

Subject to EFSA's constraints on permitted balances, the Academy Trust's policy is to carry forward a prudent level of resources where possible. Due to anticipated future cuts in funding, the situation will be kept under regular review. The reserves of the Academy are monitored regularly, reviewed and are considered to be sufficient for the Academy's requirements.

At 31 August 2019, free reserves held amount to £528,121 and restricted general funds amount to £321,464. The amount of funds which can only be realised by disposing of tangible fixed assets amounted to £14,872,006. No funds are in deficit except the pension reserve of £4,901,000.

Total funds at 31 August 2019 amount to £11,066,917 and the combined balance on restricted general funds plus unrestricted general funds at 31 August 2019 is £849,585.

Investment policy

No investments are held by the Aspire MAT.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties

The main risks that the Aspire MAT is exposed to are summarised below. For each of these risks the probability, impact and seriousness have been considered together with appropriate action and management plans:

- Operational and reputational - this covers risks to the running of the academies (including the capacity of staff and buildings to meet the needs of pupils) and its performance in delivering the curriculum.
- Financial - covering risks to the Aspire MAT's financial position, including revenue streams, cost control and cash management.

The risks to which the Aspire MAT is exposed arise both internally and externally. External risks include those in respect of future funding levels, competition, changes to rules and regulations, and the financial position of the staff pension schemes.

Central Government policy with annual funding reviews and re-prioritisation of funding for public sector services, including education, continues to make medium-long term financial planning difficult and challenging.

The removal of the Education Services Grant in 2018/19 and increases in employer contributions to national insurance and pensions are having a significant impact on funding and increase the risks to sustainability and future budget planning, which the trustees have taken into account for 2019/20 and beyond.

Trustees are aware of the uncertainties of future central funding for academies, compounded by political uncertainties. The MAT will react to changes in central government funding changes in education that affect both MAT and its academies as and when new funding initiatives are implemented, whether positive or negative.

The financial structure operated by the Aspire MAT also enables trustees to allocate money to its current academies in such a way that they support each other and this goes some way to alleviating risks that would be even greater if they were operating as independent academies.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Strategic report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Aspire MAT does not use complex financial instruments. It manages its activities using cash and various items such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from its operations.

The existence of these financial instruments exposes the Aspire MAT to a number of financial risks which are described in more detail below. The main risks arising from the Trust's financial instruments are liquidity risk and cash flow interest rate risk.

- Liquidity risk - The Trust manages its cash resources, including sufficient working capital, so that all its operating needs are met without the need for short-term borrowing.
- Interest rate risk - The Trust earns interest on cash deposits. With interest rates currently low, the directors will consider action to increase the income from these deposits, provided it does not jeopardise the liquidity or security of the Trust's assets.

Credit risk arises from the possibility that amounts owed to the Trust will not be repaid. The Trust does not undertake credit activities so it is only exposed to credit risk as it arises from normal business. Credit risk is managed through the use of approved banks and the prompt collection of amounts due.

Fundraising

The principal fundraising activity of academies in the Trust has been through:

- a) PTAs or equivalent parent run bodies associated with each academy;
- b) School run events such as concerts, fayres, and other social events.

The monies raised have either been for purchasing specific items to support educational provision or to fund specific estate-related projects. The funds have been raised at or through events organised by the respective parent bodies or academies, and have not involved fundraising outside of respective school communities.

No professional or commercial fundraising bodies or organisations have been utilised or commissioned for fundraising purposes.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Plans for future periods

Moving forward into 2019/20, our priorities are clear.

1. Ensure high-level academic outcomes for all our academies, prioritising good/outstanding progress from starting points.
2. Ensure the quality provision of 'personal development and pupil well-being' remains as the Aspire MAT's core purpose.
3. Continue to develop Aspire's 'Active Curriculum', ensuring the education on offer remains broad and balanced and driven through a clear sense of 'active value', helping prepare children to be shapers of life in the 21st Century.
4. Prepare our academies for a positive Ofsted inspection experience. Gunthorpe, Kirkby Woodhouse and Sir John Sherbrooke are due to be inspected in 2019/20, with St. Peter's, Archbishop Cranmer and Oak Tree likely to follow in 2020/21.
5. Ensure the supply of high quality staff.
6. Ensure the provision of value-for-money services.
7. Ensure the effective disbursement and proper management of funds.
8. Remain forward thinking and ensure the beneficial development of the organisation.
9. Expand the Aspire MAT in line with our Growth Plan, as approved by the RSC, which will take us from current pupil numbers of around 1500 to 3000 by 2022. Depending on the size of schools which join us, we are heading for a total of between 10 and 15 primary academies. We do not intend to continue growing indefinitely, since we are determined to retain a strong sense of 'connectedness' across our family of academies. With an Ofsted 'good' converter academy looking to join us by April 2020, we will total 7 academies. We are expecting to be entrusted with another sponsored academy before the end of the 19/20 academic year. We would then anticipate 2 more schools joining us in 20/21, followed by another 2 in 21/22. Our preference would be for those schools to be a mixture of converter academies, sponsored academies and new provision.
10. Expand the leadership and support structure of the Aspire MAT to ensure future expansion is fully supported within a high level strategic, operational and improvement framework.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 18 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P Golightly
Chair of Trustees

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Aspire Multi-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.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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 5 times during the year as well as one teleconference. The Board of Trustees retained the potential, to hold a sixth meeting should there be appropriate need. This was not deemed to be necessary during 2019.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Golightly, Chairman	5	5
M Wilson	4	5
M Skinner, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	5	5
M Fielding	4	5
K Daniell	5	5
L Hartley-Mussert	1	2
C Meese	5	5
P Short	0	1

Trustees have undertaken a review of governance arrangements, the roles of the Board of Trustees, delegated powers and structures of the five Local Governing Bodies during the last year.

The Local Governing Body of the sixth academy, Oak Tree Primary School, was replaced by an Interim Executive Board after a due diligence process, as previously described.

The full Board of Trustees continued to assume the role of an Audit Committee until more academies joined the MAT at which time a separate Audit Committee will be established.

The Finance, Audit & Workforce Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of Trustees. Its purpose is to plan and monitor the financial and other resources of the Aspire MAT effectively, to ensure the academies provide a safe educational environment, and to ensure that the workforce across its academies is appropriate to their needs in terms of numbers and competence. One of the Committee's responsibilities is routine budget setting and monitoring.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Golightly	3	3
K Daniell	2	3
M Fielding	1	2
M Skinner	3	3
H Detheridge (guest)	3	3

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

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

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

- Implementing and monitoring, through the Board of Trustees, the effectiveness of the competitive tendering process for procuring support services including legal, human resources, IT support and payroll support across the MAT's academies.
- Submission, in conjunction with an external consultant, of a successful bid to the ESFA for CIF funding at Kirkby Woodhouse Primary - £203k for roof replacement.
- Continued work at Archbishop Cranmer C of E Academy on its CIF fire safety upgrade.
- Completion of the CIF roof replacement projects at both Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School and Gunthorpe Primary School.
- Continued support of the MAT Finance & Business Manager to manage the trust-level budget and to facilitate budget planning, monitoring and management of individual academy budgets in conjunction with academy business managers.

Future plans for maintaining a value for money approach to use of the MAT's resources include:

- Developing relationships with other MATs, academies and/or local schools, in order to benefit from economies of scale in procuring products and services, developing staff and sharing knowledge, skill and expertise.
- The procurement of all support services and teaching resources will be under continuing scrutiny to ensure value for money.
- Further bids for ESFA CIF grants across all academies in the MAT will be submitted to address estate issues without deflecting funding from classroom resources.
- Opportunities for income generation through external leadership and improvement support will be pursued.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Aspire Multi-Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Schools and Academies Finance Limited (SAAF) as internal auditor.

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

On a quarterly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of Trustees through the Finance, Audit & Workforce committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no significant issues have arisen during their visits.

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Audit & Workforce committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 18 December 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
P Golightly
Chair of Trustees

.....
M Skinner
Accounting Officer

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Aspire Multi-Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

I confirm that I and the Trust board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2018.

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.

M Skinner
Accounting Officer
Date: 18 December 2019

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 18 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P Golightly
Chair of Trustees

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF
ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 charitable Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mark Bradshaw (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Streets Audit LLP

Windsor House

A1 Business Park at Long Bennington

Notts

NG23 5JR

18 December 2019

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 29 September 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Aspire Multi-Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Aspire Multi-Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Aspire Multi-Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 30 January 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2018, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

Our audit work involved:

- a review of the Academy systems and controls and confirmation of their operation and effectiveness during the year;
- a detailed review of purchase transactions confirming the purpose, value for money and that appropriate tendering or quotation procedures had been followed in line with the Academy finance policy; and
- a review of the Internal Audit reports.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Conclusion

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

Mark Bradshaw (Senior statutory auditor)

Streets Audit LLP

Windsor House
A1 Business Park at Long Bennington
Notts
NG23 5JR

Date: 18 December 2019

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	231,298	(818,000)	4,013,098	3,426,396	649,268
Charitable activities		461,679	6,498,520	-	6,960,199	5,445,457
Other trading activities		29,978	-	-	29,978	50,564
Investments	6	643	-	-	643	381
Total income		723,598	5,680,520	4,013,098	10,417,216	6,145,670
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		11,575	-	-	11,575	26,399
Charitable activities		481,519	6,769,318	244,223	7,495,060	6,186,194
Other expenditure	8	-	-	162,440	162,440	98,203
Total expenditure		493,094	6,769,318	406,663	7,669,075	6,310,796
Net income/(expenditure)		230,504	(1,088,798)	3,606,435	2,748,141	(165,126)
Transfers between funds	19	-	7,214	(7,214)	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		230,504	(1,081,584)	3,599,221	2,748,141	(165,126)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(905,000)	-	(905,000)	511,000
Net movement in funds		230,504	(1,986,584)	3,599,221	1,843,141	345,874

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	297,617	(2,585,738)	11,511,897	9,223,776	8,877,902
Net movement in funds	230,504	(1,986,584)	3,599,221	1,843,141	345,874
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>528,121</u></u>	<u><u>(4,572,322)</u></u>	<u><u>15,111,118</u></u>	<u><u>11,066,917</u></u>	<u><u>9,223,776</u></u>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 36 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 08840094

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	14,872,006	<i>11,280,428</i>
		<u>14,872,006</u>	<u>11,280,428</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	16	7,565	-
Debtors	17	316,759	298,316
Cash at bank and in hand		1,372,862	911,257
		<u>1,697,186</u>	<u>1,209,573</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(601,275)	<i>(618,225)</i>
Net current assets		1,095,911	<i>591,348</i>
Total assets less current liabilities		15,967,917	<i>11,871,776</i>
Net assets excluding pension liability		15,967,917	<i>11,871,776</i>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(4,901,000)	<i>(2,648,000)</i>
Total net assets		11,066,917	<i>9,223,776</i>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	15,111,118	11,511,897
Restricted income funds	19	328,678	62,262
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	15,439,796	11,574,159
Pension reserve	19	(4,901,000)	(2,648,000)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total restricted funds	19	10,538,796	8,926,159
Unrestricted income funds	19	528,121	297,617
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds		11,066,917	9,223,776
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements on pages 31 to 65 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 December 2019 and are signed on their behalf, by:

P Golightly
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 36 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	Note	2019 £	<i>2018</i> £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	283,665	<i>111,274</i>
Cash flows from investing activities	22	177,940	<i>298,917</i>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		461,605	<i>410,191</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		911,257	<i>501,066</i>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23	<u>1,372,862</u>	<u><i>911,257</i></u>

The notes on pages 36 to 65 form part of these financial statements

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Aspire Multi-Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 Expenditure

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

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.

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 2% straight line
Furniture and equipment	- 20% straight line
Computer equipment	- 20% straight line

Some of the Trust's land and buildings are owned by the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese Board of Finance and used under the terms of a supplemental agreement. The terms of the agreement do not transfer the benefits of ownership to the Trust and, consequently, the value of these assets has not been recognised in the financial statements.

Improvements to these properties are treated as a donation to the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese Board of Finance, and these costs are shown separately on the face of the SOFA (see also note 8).

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 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.8 Debtors

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

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.10 Liabilities

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

1.12 Pensions

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

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

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

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 Conversion to an academy trust

The conversion from a state maintained school to a Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £NIL consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Oak Tree Primary School to the Trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate Balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Income from Donations and Capital Grants in the Statement of financial activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

Further details of the transaction are set out in note 24.

1.14 Fund accounting

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

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

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

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

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

As explained in note 1.6 above, some of the Trust's land and buildings are owned by the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese Board of Finance and used under the terms of a supplemental agreement. The terms of the agreement do not transfer the benefits of ownership to the Academies Trust and, consequently, the value of these assets has not been recognised in the financial statements.

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

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Capital Grants	-	-	441,028	441,028
Other Donations	39,286	-	-	39,286
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion	192,012	(818,000)	3,572,070	2,946,082
	<u>231,298</u>	<u>(818,000)</u>	<u>4,013,098</u>	<u>3,426,396</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2018 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2018 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2018 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Capital Grants	-	-	594,856	594,856
Other Donations	31,347	23,065	-	54,412
	<u>31,347</u>	<u>23,065</u>	<u>594,856</u>	<u>649,268</u>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

4. Funding for the Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,078,318	5,078,318
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	850,475	850,475
Local authority grants	-	391,035	391,035
Trip income	122,602	-	122,602
Catering income	169,470	-	169,470
Club income	137,350	-	137,350
Music income	5,250	-	5,250
Other income	27,007	178,692	205,699
	<u>461,679</u>	<u>6,498,520</u>	<u>6,960,199</u>
	<u><u>461,679</u></u>	<u><u>6,498,520</u></u>	<u><u>6,960,199</u></u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2018 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2018 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	4,055,105	4,055,105
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	515,238	515,238
Local authority grants	-	323,731	323,731
Trip income	131,580	-	131,580
Catering income	166,347	-	166,347
Club income	125,754	-	125,754
Music income	13,722	-	13,722
Other income	17,791	96,189	113,980
	<u>455,194</u>	<u>4,990,263</u>	<u>5,445,457</u>
	<u><u>455,194</u></u>	<u><u>4,990,263</u></u>	<u><u>5,445,457</u></u>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

5. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Hire of facilities	10,547	10,547	18,892
Catering income	7,506	7,506	7,435
Consultancy	350	350	3,443
Uniform income	11,575	11,575	20,794
	<u>29,978</u>	<u>29,978</u>	<u>50,564</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Bank interest	643	643	381

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2019 £	Premises 2019 £	Other 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Expenditure on raising voluntary income:				
Direct costs	-	-	11,575	11,575
Academy's Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	4,792,958	-	413,566	5,206,524
Allocated support costs	1,026,178	342,891	919,467	2,288,536
Other expenditure	-	-	162,440	162,440
	<u>5,819,136</u>	<u>342,891</u>	<u>1,507,048</u>	<u>7,669,075</u>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	<i>Staff Costs</i> 2018 £	<i>Premises</i> 2018 £	<i>Other</i> 2018 £	<i>Total</i> 2018 £
Expenditure on raising voluntary income:				
Direct costs	-	-	26,399	26,399
Academy's Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	3,858,683	-	396,568	4,255,251
Allocated support costs	881,369	265,303	784,271	1,930,943
Other expenditure	-	-	98,203	98,203
<i>Total 2018</i>	<u>4,740,052</u>	<u>265,303</u>	<u>1,305,441</u>	<u>6,310,796</u>

8. Other expenditure

	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Donation to the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese Board of Finance	162,440	162,440	98,203
	<u>162,440</u>	<u>162,440</u>	<u>98,203</u>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2019 £	Support costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Academy's Educational Operations	5,206,524	2,288,536	7,495,060

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2018 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2018 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Academy's Educational Operations	4,255,251	1,930,943	6,186,194

Analysis of support costs

	Educational Operations 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	<i>Total funds 2018 £</i>
Staff costs	1,026,178	1,026,178	881,369
Depreciation	235,418	235,418	188,275
Technology costs	80,619	80,619	61,985
Premises costs	339,891	339,891	265,303
Other costs	574,675	574,675	503,974
Governance costs	31,755	31,755	30,037
	<u>2,288,536</u>	<u>2,288,536</u>	<u>1,930,943</u>

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2019	2018
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	34,429	36,747
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	235,418	188,276
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	8,805	22,625
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	11,250	12,125
- other services	2,750	2,500
	=====	=====

11. Staff costs

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2019	2018
	£	£
Wages and salaries	4,268,162	3,524,821
Social security costs	371,854	299,457
Pension costs	1,165,228	911,982
	=====	=====
	5,805,244	4,736,260
Agency staff costs	13,892	3,792
	=====	=====
	5,819,136	4,740,052

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

11. Staff costs (continued)

b. Staff numbers

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

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Teachers	63	<i>55</i>
Administration and support	166	<i>145</i>
Management	7	<i>6</i>
	236	<i>206</i>

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	<i>1</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	<i>-</i>
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	<i>1</i>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the staff trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £449,949 (2018 - £401,082).

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

12. Central services

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

- CEO and finance salaries
- Insurance costs
- Legal, finance, HR and payroll costs
- Other trust costs as they arise

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

5% of GAG income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
East Bridgford St Peter's Church of England Academy	47,878	48,412
Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Academy	29,409	28,075
Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School Academy	38,430	33,682
Kirkby Woodhouse Primary School Academy	74,611	74,012
Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School Academy	19,107	18,583
Oak Tree Primary School Academy	44,480	-
Total	253,915	202,764

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

		2019 £	2018 £
M Skinner, Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	Remuneration	85,000 -	80,000 -
		90,000	85,000
	Pension contributions paid	10,000 -	10,000 -
		15,000	15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2019, trust travel expenses totalling £2,020 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2018 - £1,130 to 1 Trustee).

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The 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.

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2018	11,323,536	143,266	188,180	11,654,982
Additions	3,602,507	92,243	141,051	3,835,801
Disposals	-	-	(11,425)	(11,425)
At 31 August 2019	<u>14,926,043</u>	<u>235,509</u>	<u>317,806</u>	<u>15,479,358</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2018	197,857	53,815	122,882	374,554
Charge for the year	143,035	32,014	60,369	235,418
On disposals	-	-	(2,620)	(2,620)
At 31 August 2019	<u>340,892</u>	<u>85,829</u>	<u>180,631</u>	<u>607,352</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2019	<u>14,585,151</u>	<u>149,680</u>	<u>137,175</u>	<u>14,872,006</u>
At 31 August 2018	<u>11,125,679</u>	<u>89,451</u>	<u>65,298</u>	<u>11,280,428</u>

The Trust's transactions relating to land and buildings include a roofing project at Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School Academy.

Long-term leasehold land and buildings at Oak Tree Primary School Academy was transferred into the trust upon conversion and based on a valuation by a professional valuer on 1 December 2018.

ASPIRE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

16. Stocks

	2019 £	2018 £
Uniform stock	<u>7,565</u>	<u>-</u>

17. Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	35,286	7,769
Other debtors	34,800	81,161
Prepayments and accrued income	246,673	209,386
	<u>316,759</u>	<u>298,316</u>

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	86,401	35,696
Other taxation and social security	92,523	12,778
Other creditors	89,535	13,388
Accruals and deferred income	332,816	556,363
	<u>601,275</u>	<u>618,225</u>
	2019 £	2018 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2018	227,785	104,525
Resources deferred during the year	192,410	227,785
Amounts released from previous periods	(227,785)	(104,525)
	<u>192,410</u>	<u>227,785</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for UIFSM income, higher learning needs income and other income relating to the 2019/20 academic year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	297,617	723,598	(493,094)	-	-	528,121
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	62,262	5,078,318	(4,833,101)	7,214	-	314,693
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	850,475	(836,490)	-	-	13,985
Other government grants	-	437,858	(437,858)	-	-	-
Other activities	-	131,869	(131,869)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,648,000)	(818,000)	(530,000)	-	(905,000)	(4,901,000)
	<u>(2,585,738)</u>	<u>5,680,520</u>	<u>(6,769,318)</u>	<u>7,214</u>	<u>(905,000)</u>	<u>(4,572,322)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transfer from former schools	10,408,558	3,572,070	(406,663)	-	-	13,573,965
DfE/ESFA capital grants	1,031,898	429,528	-	(7,214)	-	1,454,212
Capital expenditure from GAG	39,493	-	-	-	-	39,493
Other capital grants/donations	31,948	11,500	-	-	-	43,448
	<u>11,511,897</u>	<u>4,013,098</u>	<u>(406,663)</u>	<u>(7,214)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,111,118</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>8,926,159</u>	<u>9,693,618</u>	<u>(7,175,981)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(905,000)</u>	<u>10,538,796</u>

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Total funds	9,223,776	10,417,216	(7,669,075)	-	(905,000)	11,066,917

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

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds represent both those resources, as well as funds transferred to the Academy from the Local Authority upon conversion, which may be used towards meeting any of the objects of the Academy at the discretion of the Trustees. These are not currently designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Fixed Asset funds

Transfer from Local Authority on conversion represents the assets transferred to the Academy from the Local Authority upon conversion.

Capital expenditure from GAG represents fixed asset expenditure transferred from other restricted income.

Restricted Revenue funds

General Annual Grant (GAG) is made up of a number of different funding streams, all of which are used to cover the running costs of the Academy.

Other ESFA Grants, other government grants and other restricted funds represent monies received for specific purposes.

Pension Reserve represents the current deficit balance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Summary

The balance on restricted general funds plus unrestricted general funds at 31 August 2019 results in a net surplus of £856,799.

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

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2019 were allocated as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
East Bridgford St Peter's Church of England Academy	64,786	29,551

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19. Statement of funds (continued)

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£	£
Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Academy	87,176	61,456
Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School Academy	86,613	887
Kirkby Woodhouse Primary School Academy	282,546	242,255
Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School Academy	29,847	12,169
Oak Tree Primary School Academy	241,655	-
Central Trust	64,176	13,561
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	856,799	359,879
Restricted fixed asset fund	15,111,118	11,511,897
Pension reserve	(4,901,000)	(2,648,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	11,066,917	9,223,776
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2019 £
East Bridgford St Peter's Church of England Academy	770,185	308,596	29,375	229,295	1,337,451
Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Academy	488,047	99,670	17,203	260,722	865,642
Sir John Sherbrooke Junior School Academy	568,632	117,618	19,046	172,983	878,279
Kirkby Woodhouse Primary School Academy	1,321,592	291,043	52,096	277,133	1,941,864
Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School Academy	311,440	41,808	13,765	160,164	527,177
Oak Tree Primary School Academy	771,599	97,248	16,016	170,799	1,055,662
Central Trust	115,463	61,145	-	650,974	827,582
Trust	4,346,958	1,017,128	147,501	1,922,070	7,433,657

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19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2017 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2018 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted funds	279,444	537,486	(519,313)	-	-	297,617
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	96,534	4,055,105	(4,059,654)	(29,723)	-	62,262
Other DfE/ESFA grants	65,292	630,901	(696,193)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	323,731	(323,731)	-	-	-
Other activities	2,210	3,591	(5,801)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,762,000)	-	(397,000)	-	511,000	(2,648,000)
	<u>(2,597,964)</u>	<u>5,013,328</u>	<u>(5,482,379)</u>	<u>(29,723)</u>	<u>511,000</u>	<u>(2,585,738)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transfer from former schools	10,558,849	-	(150,291)	-	-	10,408,558
DfE/ESFA capital grants	563,746	594,856	(126,704)	-	-	1,031,898
Capital expenditure from GAG	59,863	-	(27,028)	6,658	-	39,493
Other capital grants/donations	13,964	-	(5,081)	23,065	-	31,948
	<u>11,196,422</u>	<u>594,856</u>	<u>(309,104)</u>	<u>29,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,511,897</u>

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

19. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2017</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2018</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total Restricted funds	<u>8,598,458</u>	<u>5,608,184</u>	<u>(5,791,483)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>511,000</u>	<u>8,926,159</u>
Total funds	<u><u>8,877,902</u></u>	<u><u>6,145,670</u></u>	<u><u>(6,310,796)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>511,000</u></u>	<u><u>9,223,776</u></u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2019	Restricted funds 2019	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019	Total funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	14,872,006	14,872,006
Current assets	528,121	909,857	259,208	1,697,186
Creditors due within one year	-	(581,179)	(20,096)	(601,275)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,901,000)	-	(4,901,000)
Total	<u>528,121</u>	<u>(4,572,322)</u>	<u>15,111,118</u>	<u>11,066,917</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2018</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2018</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2018</i>	<i>Total funds 2018</i>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	11,280,428	11,280,428
Current assets	297,617	403,492	508,464	1,209,573
Creditors due within one year	-	(341,230)	(276,995)	(618,225)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,648,000)	-	(2,648,000)
Total	<u>297,617</u>	<u>(2,585,738)</u>	<u>11,511,897</u>	<u>9,223,776</u>

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

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

	2019	2018
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	2,748,141	(165,126)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	235,418	188,276
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(441,028)	(594,856)
Interest receivable	(643)	(381)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	447,000	329,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	83,000	68,000
Increase in stocks	(7,565)	(3,476)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(18,443)	212,456
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(16,950)	54,756
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	8,805	22,625
Non-cash transfer from local authority on conversion	(2,754,070)	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	283,665	111,274

22. Cash flows from investing activities

	2019	2018
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	643	381
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(263,731)	(296,320)
Capital grants from DfE Group	441,028	594,856
Net cash provided by investing activities	177,940	298,917

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2019	2018
	£	£
Cash in hand	1,372,862	911,257
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,372,862	911,257

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24. Conversion to an academy trust

On 1 December 2018 Oak Tree Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Aspire Multi-Academy Trust from Nottinghamshire County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of financial activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of financial activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets				
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	3,477,000	3,477,000
Other tangible fixed assets	-	-	95,070	95,070
Current assets				
Cash - representing budget surplus on LA funds	192,012	-	-	192,012
Non-current liabilities				
LGPS Deficit	-	(818,000)	-	(818,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>192,012</u>	<u>(818,000)</u>	<u>3,572,070</u>	<u>2,946,082</u>

25. Pension commitments

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £89,161 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2019 (2018 - £13,326) and are included within creditors.

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25. Pension commitments (continued)

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £404,300 (2018 - £326,761).

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

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

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25. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2019 was £397,000 (2018 - £302,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £303,000 (2018 - £229,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 94,000 (2018 - £73,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.3 per cent for employers and various per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7	3.8
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.2	2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.9	2.65

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

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.7	22.7
Females	24.4	25.6
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.3	24.9
Females	26.2	28.0

Sensitivity analysis

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(702)	(473)
Discount rate -0.1%	741	499
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	747	502
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(696)	(471)

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25. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	At 31 August 2019	<i>At 31 August 2018</i>
	£	£
Equities	2,537,000	1,913,000
Gilts	133,000	83,000
Other bonds	350,000	311,000
Property	537,000	410,000
Cash and other liquid assets	119,000	54,000
Other	390,000	200,000
Total market value of assets	4,066,000	2,971,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £119,000 (2018 - £115,000).

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

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£	£
Current service cost	(623,000)	<i>(558,000)</i>
Past service cost	(126,000)	<i>-</i>
Interest income	94,000	<i>63,000</i>
Interest cost	(177,000)	<i>(130,000)</i>
Administrative expenses	(1,000)	<i>(1,000)</i>
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(833,000)	(626,000)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. Pension commitments (continued)

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

	2019 £	2018 £
At 1 September	5,619,000	5,332,000
Conversion of academy trusts	1,373,000	-
Current service cost	623,000	558,000
Interest cost	177,000	130,000
Employee contributions	94,000	73,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	1,010,000	(395,000)
Benefits paid	(55,000)	(79,000)
Past service costs	126,000	-
	<u>8,967,000</u>	<u>5,619,000</u>

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

	2019 £	2018 £
At 1 September	2,971,000	2,570,000
Conversion of academy trusts	555,000	-
Interest income	94,000	63,000
Actuarial gains	105,000	116,000
Employer contributions	303,000	229,000
Employee contributions	94,000	73,000
Benefits paid	(55,000)	(79,000)
Administration expense	(1,000)	(1,000)
	<u>4,066,000</u>	<u>2,971,000</u>

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

26. Operating lease commitments

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Not later than 1 year	25,096	36,747
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	19,383	47,086
	<u>44,479</u>	<u>83,833</u>

27. Members' liability

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

28. Related party transactions

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

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 13.