

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 10641561 (England and Wales)

Trustees' Report and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021
for
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

MEMBERS: A Hutchinson
Z Wakelam
J Devine
L Young
J H Owens MBE

TRUSTEES C Molyneux *
J H Owens MBE Chair
R Taylor *
A Wilson Vice Chair *
M Freeman *
P K J Aitchison (appointed 12.10.20)
P Crossland (resigned 28.6.21)
H L White
C Abbey
K Jones (resigned 4.9.20)

* members of the finance and general purpose committee

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM: C McIntyre (Deputy Headteacher - Brackenwood) (appointed 1.1.21)
K Fitzsimmons (Headteacher - Stanton Raod) (appointed 1.1.21)
C Holmes (Headteacher - Brackenwood) (appointed 1.1.21)
L Small (Acting Deputy Headteacher - Stanton Road) (appointed 1.9.20)
M Eastwood (Headteacher - Egremont)
C Jackson (Chief Finance Officer)
C Arnold (Headteacher - Poulton Lancelyn)
L Flynn (Deputy Headteacher - Egremont)
A Milne (Deputy Headteacher - Poulton Lancelyn)
E Neal (Headteacher - Stanton Road) (resigned 31.12.20)
A Martin (School Improvement Lead)
D Bertram (Deputy Headteacher - Church Drive)
J Jones (Headteacher - Church Drive)
B Parker (Deputy Headteacher - Great Meols)
K Pennington (Deputy Headteacher - Stanton Road) (resigned 31.12.20)
P Joyce (Headteacher - Great Meols) (resigned 31.8.21)
T Lacey (Accounting Officer & CEO)

REGISTERED OFFICE Stanton Road Primary School
Stanton Road
Bebington
Wirral
Merseyside
CH63 3HW

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 10641561 (England and Wales)

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

AUDITORS

UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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

The academy Trust operates 6 primary schools in Wirral. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity (excluding nursery provision) of 2,155 and had a roll (excluding nursery provision) of 2,011 in the October 2020 school census.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The principal object of the charitable company is the advancement of education in the United Kingdom. It achieves this object principally through the operation of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust, the aim being to achieve the highest possible standard of education and pastoral care and maximise the life chances for our pupils of all abilities between the ages of 3 and 11.

Objective, strategies and activities

1. All stakeholders will have a better understanding of the MAT Values and core purpose and be fully behind the drive to improve our schools during the Covid-19 era. This was done through re-evaluating the vision and values, improving communication across the Trust and ensuring that MAT presence and communication was more regular and impactful.
2. All schools will continue to improve the quality of their provision educationally, operationally and technologically. This was done through School Improvement Lead activities, schools review and monitoring activities, new Service Level Agreements and software being introduced, such as PSF Financial and Arbor, to improve consistency and reporting.
3. Staff, pupils and parents are positively engaged in the MAT promotion and provision for mental health and wellbeing in the Covid-19 era. This was done through developing a Staff Charter, Covid-19 provision, SEND support being improved and a clear focus on mental health and wellbeing across all schools as a key MAT priority.
4. The MAT is on the map locally and beyond and is renowned for excellence in all areas with particular strength in teaching and learning. This was done through membership and engagement with external bodies such as CST and FORUM Education, engaging with local cluster groups and continued development of teaching and learning through training and support from the MAT.
5. The MAT continues to grow with further schools interested in joining us. This was done through active marketing, including writing to specific schools, engaging with clusters and active promotion through social media.

Significant activities linked to our charitable status were carried out at a school level, including many fundraising activities for a range of charities. The Trust also organized the May Mile, a huge MAT-wide charity fundraiser for local charities which ran throughout the month of May and raised around £4,500 for good causes.

Success was measured in a number of ways, including external reviews, parent surveys, staff surveys and forums, pupil voice and feedback and internal assessment data. No formal external validation was attained as no schools were inspected by OFSTED and no formal assessment was undertaken in 2021 due to Covid-19.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust strives to promote and support the advancement of education within the Wirral area. The schools provide an extensive programme of educational and recreational activity - all designed to contribute to the overall education of our students in areas such as academic distinction, music, the arts and sport. Typically, in previous years the MAT has run a number of cross-Trust events aimed at enabling positive collaboration for pupils from all schools. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MAT focus has been very much community-led, focusing on the welfare and positive mental health of all our stakeholders, such as:

- Children
- Wider families
- Staff
- Local businesses
- Key workers
- Local workforce
- Local support agencies
- Local charities

More details of some of the projects we have undertaken during the year can be found in the Fundraising and Community Impact section of the Trustees report.

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 Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust was formed on a strong foundation, with all Academies being good or better on conversion. Great Meols Primary School is the single Outstanding Academy in the Trust.

The key goals for 2020-21 had been for the MAT to ensure that:

1. all stakeholders have a better understanding of the MAT Values and core purpose and be fully behind the drive to improve our schools during the Covid-19 era. This was successful, and morale and positivity across the Trust has increased significantly despite the difficult circumstances of Covid-19. The Trust pulled together during the pandemic, and the focus in collaboration and team work is embedded across the schools.
2. all schools continue to improve the quality of their provision educationally, operationally and technologically. This was achieved, as all our schools continue to improve rapidly, and across the Board schools are performing well in all areas with MAT support and challenge. Quality of education is improving rapidly across our schools, and operationally and technologically the Trust has improved, with clear plans in place to improve further, through staffing appointments and procurement.
3. staff, pupils and parents are positively engaged in the MAT promotion and provision for mental health and wellbeing in the Covid-19 era. A key priority, again well met as the Trust dealt effectively with the Covid crisis and supported families and staff with their mental health and wellbeing and pastorally, with extremely positive feedback given by staff and our families. Surveys have evidenced the positive picture across the Trust, and this has been a key success for our schools.
4. The Trust building a strong reputation for excellence in all areas with particular strength in teaching and learning. This is clearly the case, as the Trust goes from strength to strength in the area. The Trust grew in January 2021 due to positive perceptions from our new school as to what the Trust could and does provide to its' schools, and further schools are showing interest in joining us as they see the good work being done on the curriculum and teaching and learning. As well as opportunities for financial efficiencies through scale of buying power and group financial strategies.
5. The Trust continues to grow with further schools interested in joining us. As mentioned, the Trust grew to 6 schools in January 2021, with further schools interested in joining us in the near future.
6. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust continued to prioritise Covid-19 during the year whilst driving rapid improvement in teaching and learning to ensure that all children continued to have a good education despite not being in school for a significant period of time. The MAT Executive Team supported this drive throughout the year and stepped in to help, evidencing a strong collaborative community being in place across the Trust.

No results or national performance data were published in 2021 due to COVID-19, as schools were not required nationally to deliver SATS and Teacher Assessments, and as such there is no MAT data available for the 20-21 academic year.

The Trust School Improvement Leads role during 2020/21 included the following regular activities:

- Coordinating and implementing rigorous and comprehensive a CPD programmes to ensure that the Quality of Education in each school is at least good.
- Supporting lower performing schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning and accelerate progress in order to raise attainment and accelerate progress across the curriculum.
- Leading school reviews in all schools to celebrate success and address underachievement.
- Continuing to develop the curriculum in all schools through shared CPD and enabling curriculum and subject leaders to work together strategically.
- Coordinating a programme of writing development to ensure that more pupils reach the higher standard in writing.
- Providing further focus on the Quality of Education and holding all schools to account, ensuring that all schools continue to improve and thrive through support and challenge.

During the year, the Trust Executive Team were successful in gaining significant funding from the Trust Capacity Fund ('TCF') with a plan to deliver a number of strategic objectives by March 2021. The TCF is designed to support successful and growing Trusts, and the funding was used to support the following objectives:

- Increase the number of days support from the School Improvement Lead by 1.5 days per week.
- Appoint and train 5 Lead Practitioners and deploy for half a day per week supporting coaching, as well as teaching and learning across the Trust.
- Appoint a MAT writing consultant to work with all MAT schools one day per week for 2 terms.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

- Develop teaching and learning significantly through a rigorous programme of CPD, coaching and leadership development.
- Develop existing operations software to move to an efficient cloud based consolidated system for pupil/staff data and payroll/HR data and increase capacity within the finance team.
- Implement new cloud based consolidated finance system across the Trust.

The impact of the Trust objectives and the Trust Capacity Fund has led to rapid improvement across the Trust in terms of the quality of education delivered, and we are positive that OFSTED reports in 2021-22 will demonstrate the good work done by the MAT team.

The success of the Trust has been highlighted by our first two inspection reports for Stanton Road Primary and Poulton Lancelyn Primary, which highlight the strength of our school performance, retained the schools Good OFSTED rating, and evidenced the good support provided by the MAT since its inception. Other schools have since had an OFSTED inspection, with reports pending, but it is clear from all inspections that the MAT provides strong support and the Trust schools are moving in the right direction.

Key performance indicators

The Key Performance indicators for the year were:

- 1) To successfully implement the new cloud based group finance system, PS Financials, into the schools.
- 2) To effectively induct Brackenwood Junior School on conversion to all MAT financial policies and procedures and ensure a positive financial overrun for the school in its first year as part of the Trust.
- 3) To ensure all financial regulations and policies are effectively implemented and monitored.
- 4) To provide suitable financial management reporting allowing scrutiny and consolidation
- 5) to have internal auditors appointed and reporting on adequacy of internal controls and separation of duties.
- 6) Regular and close scrutiny of cashflow.
- 7) Monthly scrutiny of financial management information.
- 8) Prudent budget forecasting to ensure balanced budget for each school for the three years commencing 21/22.
- 9) All schools carrying a positive fund balance forward at the end of the financial year.
- 10) All schools to meet the Trust's reserves policy and working capital requirements.
- 11) Successfully secure Capital Improvement Funding for each school in the MAT.
- 12) The monitoring and benchmarking of the following ratios in relation to pupils numbers leading directly to the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") funding level;

- General financial stability - aim for income to match expenditure each year;
- Percentage of income received from ESFA spent on total staff costs;
- Income per pupil
- Staff costs as a percentage of grant income;
- Staff costs as a percentage of total costs;
- Ofsted inspection results;
- Capital expenditure per pupil;
- Early years' intake.

The Trustees have been pleased that expectations of financial performance indicators for the year have been met and that financial results against budget forecast returns have been successfully met and in some cases exceeded during the period.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Promoting the success of the Trust

The Trust has complied with section 172 (1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006.

The board of Trustees as company directors have acted in a way most likely to promote the success of the company, and in doing so have had regard to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term
- the interests of the Trust's employees
- the need to foster the Trust's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others
- the impact of the Trust's operations on the community and the environment
- the desirability of the Trust to maintain a reputation for high standards of business conduct
- the need to act fairly as between members of the Trust

More information on how this has been achieved can be found in other sections of the Trustees report.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

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

Total income for the year, as shown by the SoFA, amounted to £14,638k, an increase on the £9,378k in the prior year. The increase is mainly due to £2,702k arising on the conversion of Brackenwood Junior School and increased Capital Grants (further details below). Operational income has increased by £1,491k.

There has been an increase in trading & other income of £44k mainly as a result of insurance claims during the year.

The SoFA shows total expenditure for the year of £10,871k, leaving a net income before other recognised gains / (losses) of £3,767k. The overall net movement in funds is an increase of £3,080k, as a result of an actuarial loss of £687k relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and a £2,702k valuation of land and buildings and pension deficit inherited on the conversion of Brackenwood Junior School.

This actuarial loss/gain forms part of the movement in the LGPS deficit carried on the trust's Balance Sheet. A further £410k of non-actuarial pension charges are included within expenditure (staff costs). After taking into account the inherited pension liabilities/assets the underlying deficit has increased during the year, and at 31 August 2021 shows a higher deficit of £7,577k compared to £6,079k in the previous year.

The Trust was successful in securing further growth in 2021 when Brackenwood Junior School joined on January 1st. Brackenwood was graded a good school in 2019, and is a successful 2-form Junior School with a capacity of 240 pupils.

Egremont Primary has a ring-fenced fund of £181k which is designated as planned spend for 2021-22 on SEND resources for the school. This is an exciting opportunity for the school to develop further their highly inclusive SEND provision, including the delivery of a sensory and family room, to ensure excellent in SEND provision for the pupils of this rapidly improving school. Egremont has also designated £50k from GAG as planned capital spend on playground and classroom improvements in 2021-22. This will also provide the pupils with a high quality outdoor learning environment to match the vibrant and exciting indoor environment.

Oak Trees continues to be highly successful in securing CIF funding for major capital project works to improve our estates and ensure that the school buildings are high quality in the long term. This includes further successful bids announced in 2021 of £1.5 million for Church Drive (electric safety and safeguarding) and Brackenwood Juniors (roof and boilers). The Church Drive safeguarding bid includes a disabled lift for the pupils to access the lower playground and classrooms, which is a key objective for the Trust to ensure equality and disabled access for all at all of our school buildings.

The pension movements are one element that make reading the financial statements and understanding the underlying financial performance of the Trust and its academies difficult. The restricted fixed asset fund is another such element and has little bearing on the day-to-day educational activities. Income for the year within this fund reflects the value of school land, buildings and other fixed assets transferred into the Trust in relation to joining academies, plus capital grants used to improve the academies' buildings and to buy equipment used across the Trust. Expenses charged to the fixed asset fund are largely non-cash depreciation charges which write off the cost of these assets over their useful lives.

Excluding inherited balances, movements on tangible fixed assets and the LGPS defined benefit pension the multi-academy Trust achieved an operational revenue surplus on funds for the year of £449k (2020: achieved an operational revenue surplus of £312k, as reconciled from the SoFA below:

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

		2021 (£000s)	2020 (£000s)
Overall net movement in funds for the year per SOFA		3,080	27
Decrease / (increase) attributable to fixed asset fund	See note A	(4,269)	(246)
Inherited deficit / (surplus) balances on revenue funds		(44)	-
LGPS Inherited deficits		401	-
LGPS actuarial (gain)/loss	See note B	687	(56)
LGPS service and interest costs	See note B	410	405
Operational surplus /(deficit) on revenue funds after transfers to capital		265	130
Add: Transfers from revenue to capital to fund fixed asset additions		106	126
Operational surplus /(deficit) on revenue funds before transfers to capital		371	256

Note A - The movement on restricted fixed asset funds comprises capital grant income received during the year less depreciation charged on capitalised assets purchased from such funds. Since these do not relate to day-to-day operational matters the movement on fixed asset funds is excluded from the operational result.

Note B - The Balance Sheet carries the trust's share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. A detailed report has been prepared by an actuary detailing the movement in the deficit during the year. The movement is in two parts: (1) the actuarial gain relates to movement linked to the assumptions made by the actuary, (2) other movements comprising (i) net interest costs (ii) current service costs - the value of benefits accrued by members over the accounting period less contributions paid and (iii) past service costs for additional benefits granted during the year which included the adjustment for McCloud. Again since the LGPS movement do not relate to operational matters these have been excluded from the operational result.

At 31 August 2021, the net book value of fixed assets was £22,577k and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. During the year the assets were used almost exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academies, the only exceptions to this being letting of the premises to local community groups and other affiliated organisations.

The multi-academy Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2021 of £17,214k (2020: £14,134k). These funds included restricted fixed asset funds of £23,845k (2020: 19,576k) and revenue reserves of £946k (2020: £637k split across restricted and unrestricted funds as shown in note 19).

The only fund in deficit was the LGPS pension reserve of £(7,577k) (2020: £(6,079k)). The increase in this reserve during the year has arisen because of the actuarial loss that occurred in the financial year along with the other pension current service and finance costs. The deficit is not a concern and does not mean that an immediate liability crystallises. It can be described as an accounting deficit which has no direct effect on the employer contribution rate paid by the school, which is determined using longer-term funding assumptions. These contribution rates are reviewed every three years in consultation with the scheme's administrators.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trust may invest future surplus funds with Lloyds TSB in high interest fixed term deposit accounts, there are currently no funds held as investments.

The fixed term deposit accounts are low risk short term investments. The objective of these accounts would be to hold the Trust's surplus cash in low risk deposit accounts to ensure availability for any future budget shortfalls, whilst maximising the interest earning potential on surplus funds.

The Trust does not have any endowment funds.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the Academy Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year (set and manage a balanced budget), will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit pupils.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to 5% of the Trusts income. The ambition across all the schools in the MAT is to reach a minimum of £100,000 GAG reserves per school. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred.

The trustees will monitor the level of reserves to ensure that they are maintained at the required level. In the event that they are partly used the Trust will strive to rebuild free reserves up to the level needed.

The Trust had sufficient reserves as at 31 August 2021 to meet this target although the level of completely free unrestricted reserves is slightly less. Most of the restricted funds relate to core General Annual Grant funding which will be used for the main educational operations.

The balance on the restricted funds (excluding the pension and fixed asset funds) plus the balance on the unrestricted fund at 31st August 2021 amounted to £946,000 (2020: £637,000).

Going concern

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising and Community Impact

The Trust firmly believes in engaging with our local communities, the priorities for the year for our staff and our pupils as well as for our wider community were

- To support with life skills
- To teach children how to be safe
- To educate on tolerance and the joy of difference
- To be charitable, to offer support and kindness and a strong community spirit in all levels of our society
- To enjoy and explore our local nature reserves
- To look after our health and wellbeing

Here are just a few examples of how we have achieved this during the year:

- Anti-bullying week, with a focus on safety, including grassing and grooming workshops for year 6 pupils.
- Oak Trees MAT Challenge has been launched - completing a charitable act/good deed, a physical activity, learning a new skill, exploring the local environment/nature
- May Mile Challenge - increasing fitness after lockdown while raising money for the Food Bank and Claire House
- Black History Month - understanding where racial inequality comes from, how it has unfortunately developed and also how we aim to address it through the equality of our actions today.
- Equality - looking at significant women and people of colour to establish their importance in subjects such as history, geography and science.
- Loneliness - Children have made Christmas Cards for those who would not normally receive them in the local community
- Pride in your area - Children have taken part in community litter picks over weekends across the Wirral
- Attendance at War Memorial remembrance services across the Wirral, also a focus on women in the war effort.
- Importance of reading - Community Book Hub for community to access free books.
- Carbon Footprint - Walking bus and big switch off.
- Crime Prevention and Safety - Working with Merseyside Police on online safety project and on Pathfinders, looking at prevention and choices having consequences, knife crime, drugs, joint enterprise and alcohol. Also work around first aid skills.
- Locality projects to enable pupils to see the cultural capital of where they live and enjoy the area.
- Disability based sports, such as bocchia and sitting volleyball, so that the children can see inclusivity in sport
- Enterprise Unilever Challenge to give the children an understanding of local businesses and their wider impact on the local community.
- Bridging generations - by engaging with local nursing home residents
- Many fundraising activities to support our local charities.

Fundraising Policy

Our Approach to fundraising - is to act fairly, transparently and ethically in the best interests of serving the trust's charitable objectives and those in our community.

We protect donors by treating them fairly, enabling them to take informed decisions about donations. We take account of needs of donors who may be vulnerable or may need additional support to make an informed decision. In order to meet these standards, we have adopted the guidance issued by the Institute of Fundraising; Treating Donors Fairly.

Monitoring fundraising carried out on its behalf - everyone involved in fundraising should read and be familiar with the Code of fundraising practice.

The Trust adopts the following general standards:

- All funds raised for a specific cause must be used for that cause
- We will not denigrate other individuals or organisations
- We will not exaggerate facts
- We will not take advantage of mistakes made by donors
- We treat donors fairly

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Fundraising complaints - We will respond within 30 days to a complaint by a donor or prospective donor. Complaints are dealt with in accordance with our complaints policy available on our website. Protection of the public, including vulnerable people from intrusive/persistent fundraising, and undue pressures - in order to meet these standards, we adopt the Institute of Fundraising Treating Donors Fairly Guidance.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The objective of the Trust's Risk Management procedure is to identify the principal risks facing the Trust so that existing controls may be considered and further action taken if required.

The Trustees have a comprehensive risk management process to identify and monitor the risks faced by the Academy.

The financial risks considered include: economic/financial uncertainty, liquidity and solvency, credit risk, the risk of fraud and compliance with financial/statutory requirements.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which it is exposed, in particular those relating to:

- Governance
- Finance
- COVID-19
- Insurance
- Attainment
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Shortages in supply due to impact of national distribution problems
- Energy prices
- Carbon footprint impact
- Health and Safety
- Estate Management
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery planning
- Workforce shortages
- Safeguarding
- Reputation
- HR
- IT
- GDPR
- Business Continuity
- Cyber Security

These risks are regularly monitored by the CEO and CFO and the Trust Audit Committee.

The CEO and CFO have implemented a number of systems to assess and reduce risks that the school faces, especially in operational areas in relation to teaching, COVID-19, health and safety, behaviour management and in relation to the control of finances. They have introduced policies and systems for the recruitment, selection and vetting of new staff, including consistent systems for ascertaining DBS checks, continual professional development of staff, child protection and internal financial controls to minimise financial risk.

Adequate insurance has been arranged where significant financial risk remains.

The School has an effective system of internal financial control as explained in the Statement on Internal Control.

The Trust has appointed suitably experienced consultants to undertake independent internal scrutiny audits in all areas of the MAT, including finance, health and safety, GDPR, governance and teaching and learning.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future plans

The Trust will:

- Further develop its estate management plan including future health and safety requirements by recruiting additional resource centrally to head up the strategic management of this area, working closely with external advisors to develop our 5 and 10 year plans.
- Acknowledges its responsibility for our planet and will look to continue to improve our green credentials by undertaking a full carbon footprint review in 21/22 to identify further areas of improvement and develop a robust plan of action to minimise our footprint by 2030.
- Further develop contingency plans for covering staffing absence across the Trust.
- Continuously review our disaster recovery plan in light of the current economic climate and supply chain issues.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Charity constitution

The academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy Trust. The trustees of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company is known as Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust.

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

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 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 cease to be a member.

Trustees' Indemnities

The Academy Trust maintains Governors' and officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against its Governors. The Academy Trust has also granted indemnities to each of its Governors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 236 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Governors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Governors or officers of the Academy Trust. Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and its member schools are insured through Zurich Insurance through a Service Level Agreement with Wirral Local Authority.

Details of the insurance cover are provided in note 10 to the financial statements.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Under the terms of its Articles:

- The members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 9 Trustees.
- Parent Local Governors shall be elected by the individual academies, as the Trust operates with Local Governing Bodies in place across all schools which include parent governors unless otherwise agreed by Trustees.
- The Trustees may appoint Co-opted Trustees. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

There are no paid employees on the Trust board.

Trustees are recruited after a skills audit has been carried out, with vacancies filled due to a gap in skills determined from the analysis. Trustees can be co-opted according to the necessary skill set being filled.

All trustees are appointed and removed by the members and have a 4-year term of office by default.

All new Trustees are recruited through a rigorous process. This includes working with external partners such as Inspiring Governance and Academy Ambassadors with key roles and requirements set out from the start. Trustees are interviewed by a Trust panel, with recommendations taken to the Trustees or Members as appropriate from external sources.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of three levels: The Trustees, the senior executives: CEO/Accounting Officer together with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and the School Improvement Lead (SIL), and the Trusts Headteachers. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general Trust policy, monitoring and adopting the Trust annual plan and budgets, agreeing capital expenditure and bids for grant funding, monitoring the Trust through questioning and through Academy visits through their Lead Trustee designation, making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments and setting the strategic direction of the Academy Trust with the Trust's Executive Team.

The CEO and CFO provide dynamic and strategic direction and leadership to the Trust, and are wholly responsible for the organisation. The Chief Executive holds statutory leadership responsibility for all of the Academies in the Trust and line manages the Headteachers in each academy and the CFO and SIL.

The Chief Finance Officer is a very experienced Chartered Accountant and formerly an Audit Partner in Practice who brings a wealth of financial experience to the role.

The School Improvement Lead is a former Headteacher who holds the Headteachers and school leaders to account whilst offering support and challenge in equal measure to the schools. As a qualified OFSTED inspector, they guide the Trust through inspection and ensure that our schools are performing the best they can be at all times.

The Headteachers and their Senior Leadership Teams are responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of their individual academies, working with the CEO, CFO and SIL to ensure strong performance both financially and academically.

The Headteachers have delegated responsibility to monitor and spend their own budgets up to specific limits, to set their own curriculum and to make staffing appointments, although some senior appointments are made with support of the CEO as per the MAT Scheme of Delegation.

The Headteachers, CEO, CFO and SIL meet regularly to plan strategically from the Trustees direction and ensure a clear link between the Trustees, CEO and Headteachers.

Headteachers and key school staff have some spending control through the Trust financial policies and delegated spending limits.

The Trust plan has 3 different committees/working groups: Finance Committee, Audit Committee and the Executive Pay Committee with clear terms of reference drawn up to ensure a clear and transparent decision-making process is in place. The CFO and CEO attend all Finance Committee meetings and all Audit Committee meetings.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

All new Trustees are given an induction pack and the Trust Governance Plan on appointment. New Trustees meet regularly with the Chair, CEO and CFO to ensure good communication from the start. The Chair offers to mentor new Trustees in her role as NLG.

The training and induction provided for new Trustees depends on their previous experience. All new Trustees are recommended to visit each of the MAT schools, although this has proven more difficult this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustee. A full Trustee Induction Pack and Governance Plan is given to all Trustees as a matter of course.

New Trustees have access to a full programme of courses over the academic year run by external and internal providers which they will choose to attend, based on their role and experience. All Trustees have full access to the online resources of the National Governance Association (NGA).

As the Oak Trees Board has a National Leaders of Governance on the Board, we have the necessary experience and network in place to ensure a strong and strategic Board is holding the MAT to account at all times.

Key management remuneration

Trustees feel strongly that senior leader pay and pay increases should be appropriate and within the Trust pay policy, based on robust evidence and performance. The pay policy, setting the terms and conditions for the key management personnel, was developed and approved by the board of trustees on the 14th December 2020 following guidance from the relevant professional pay review bodies and following the LA model pay policy, as per agreement on conversion. The pay policy is in line with the national agreements and the STPCD document, and ensures that all Oak Trees staff on teachers' pay and conditions are paid in line with other teachers in the local area. Naturally the CEO was not involved in setting his own remuneration package.

No trustees are remunerated.

The day to day running of the pay policy is delegated to the Headteachers and monitored by the Chief Finance Officer and by the Trusts Finance and Audit committees. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the pay policy and appraisal policy which are reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking.

Senior management salaries are, when possible, linked closely to pay spines, helping trustees conclude that each individual is remunerated at an appropriate level.

As such salaries are linked to factors such as length of service and experience.

Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

Key management personnel and Headteacher pay is set according to performance, and any agreed pay rises for Headteachers are agreed by the Local Governing Bodies and management personnel by the Trust Board.

Strong performance management processes coupled with a robust Executive Pay Committee ensure that any agreed pay rises are proportionate and in line with performance and expectation of the role.

The Trustees are always mindful of the charitable status of the Trust and recognises the fact that the Trust receives public funding under an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensures the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the Trust.

The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

The CEO is externally Performance Managed, whilst Academy Headteachers and the Chief Finance Officer and the School Improvement Lead are Performance Managed by the CEO.

Total remuneration paid to senior management personnel is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

Details of relationships with related parties and any other charities/organisations with which we co-operate in the pursuit of charitable activities are detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

Engagement with employees

We are committed to:

- providing employees with information on matters of concern to them - this is undertaken through various forms of media and interactions, including newsletters, working groups (e.g. curriculum, English, workload and wellbeing), consultations, staff shared areas (for the MAT staff community) and staff shared drives for year group teachers and subject leaders.
- consulting employees or their representatives regularly so that the views of employees can be considered in making decisions which are likely to affect their interests - this is undertaken through various forms of media and interactions, including a Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with union leaders, staff surveys, staff questionnaires, weekly Headteacher meetings, monthly Deputy Headteacher meetings, working groups and regular COVID-19 strategy letters sent by the Trust Executive Team during the 2020 pandemic.
- encouraging the involvement of employees in the company's performance - this has been achieved through a number of media, including weekly Headteacher meetings, monthly Deputy Headteacher meetings and working groups
- achieving a common awareness on the part of all employees of the factors affecting the performance of the company - this has been achieved in a variety of ways, including newsletters, termly school/Trust data and performance dashboards, monthly Headteacher meetings and working groups.
- The Trust's policy in respect of applications for employment from disabled persons, the treatment of employees who become disabled and the training, career development and promotion of disabled - this is done by:
 - Person and job specifications being limited to those requirements that are necessary for the effective performance of the job.
 - Candidates for employment or promotion are assessed objectively against the requirements for the job, taking account of any reasonable adjustments that may be required for candidates with a disability.
 - Disability and personal or home commitments do not form the basis of employment decisions except where necessary.
 - The Trust and its schools considering any possible indirectly discriminatory effect of its standard working practices, including the number of hours to be worked, the times at which these are to be worked and the place at which work is to be done, when considering requests for variations to these standard working practices and refuse such requests only if the Trust considers it has good reasons, unrelated to any protected characteristic, for doing so.
 - The Trust complies with its obligations in relation to statutory requests for contract variations. The Trust will also make reasonable adjustments to its standard working practices to overcome barriers caused by disability.
 - The Trust ensures that access to training and development opportunities is provided to all existing and new employees and others engaged to work at the school, in line with this policy eg a wheelchair user would not be denied access to training due to access issues at the training venue.
 - The Trust ensures all employees have the same access to training, including part time workers and disabled employees.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others

The senior management team have had regard to the need to foster the Trust's business relationships with suppliers, pupils and their families and others including funders, the wider community and the environment.

We assess the impact of our principal decisions on all of our stakeholders, never more so than this year during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Some examples of this are:

- continuing to act fairly with suppliers during lockdown
- assessing the needs of the community during lockdown and assisting where ever possible
- asking our families to complete feedback forms on how we are delivering against plan during 20/21 and planning based on results of feedback
- maintain high standards of business conduct and professionalism
- assessing the consequences of any long term decisions on all stakeholders
- hosting group meetings with suppliers to foster working relationships and improve working practices on both sides

Oak Trees Multi Academy TrustTrustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Trade union facility time****Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
NIL	NIL

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	NIL
Total pay bill	NIL
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	NIL

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	NIL
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FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN FOR OTHERS

As a Schools Direct provider the trust is also in receipt of funding on behalf of other schools in the local area, as well as trainee teachers. The trust is responsible for ensuring that these funds are distributed appropriately and within the agreed timescale.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

The table below shows the Trusts:

- UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions, relating to gas, purchased electricity and transport fuel in the period
- Its energy use and emissions
- An emissions intensity ratio

	1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021
UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	1,702,762
Energy consumption break down (kWh)	
i. gas,	1,315,322
ii. electricity,	387,439
iii. transport fuel	0
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
Gas consumption	242.52
Owned transport - mini-buses	0
Total scope 1	242.52
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
Purchased electricity	1.54
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>	
business travel in employee owned vehicles	0.1
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e	244.16
<u>Intensity ratio</u>	
Tonnes CO ₂ e per pupil	0.121

Quantification and Reporting Methodology:

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

Intensity measurement

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

Unfortunately Covid 19 has created an environment where we have to open windows and doors to let air through in the depths of winter and this has masked the improvements undertaken over the last year.

Over the past four years we have undertaken energy reviews at all of our schools, we have replaced gas central heating systems in two of our schools and will continue to apply for further funding through salix and CIF for the other schools. We have replaced roofing and insulation at all six schools as well as windows.

We have installed smart meters across all sites where new boilers are installed and increased video conferencing technology for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

As a Trust we want to do as much as we can to minimise our carbon footprint by 2030.

We will be working with energy consultants over the next twelve months to develop a five-year plan.

We will also look to continue to grow by taking on schools that fit the Oak Trees MAT model and ethos.

The Trust is constantly evolving and improving standards with the ongoing desire to provide the highest quality of education to all children and we will continue to invest in methods and strategies that empower them and allow them the best possible opportunities for their future.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust


Trustees' Report
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

AUDITORS

The auditors, UHY Hacker Young, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 21 December 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:

DocuSigned by:


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J H Owens MBE - Trustee

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Scope of Responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Oak Trees 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 of loss.

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

The board of the 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 Oak Trees 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.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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 8 times during the year. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
H L White	7	10
A Wilson	10	10
C Molyneux	7	10
J H Owens MBE	9	10
R Taylor	9	10
M Freeman	10	10
P Crossland	9	10
C Abbey	7	10
P K J Aitchison	9	10

- The board has changed in composition as one Trustee has resigned during the year, although the impact of this was minimal as the Trust Board has two Trustees with the same background area

- The Trust Board work is significant and across a number of areas, with specialist Trustees in place for safeguarding, health and safety/estates and HR. The work of the Board also focuses on key areas such as health and wellbeing and workload. The various committees ensure a good coverage across a significant number of areas. - The board has carried out an external review of Governance via the NGA (see below)

- The quality of data and information reviewed by the board is excellent, including data on safeguarding, attendance, school performance and finance. The wide range of internal scrutiny, using approved independent bodies, ensures that the Trust Board get all the information they need, externally validated, to hold the Trust Exec team to account.

- The Trust Board receives significant financial information and reports at all finance meetings which has ensured that the MAT is in a strong financial position moving forward.

Governance reviews

The Trust Board underwent an external review of Governance via the NGA in 2021. This comprehensive review demonstrated the good effectiveness of the Board and gave some clear ways forward including:

The allocation of link trustees to specific roles and responsibilities, to enable a deeper understanding of each school and increased challenge and support

Chair to have 1:1 conversations annually with Trustees

The Trust will self-review Governance on an annual basis moving forward, and will conduct its next external review of Governance in three years.

The Finance committee and Audit committee are also sub-committees of the main board of trustees. Their primary purpose is to ensure compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook and receive reports from the external and internal auditors.

Attendance at audit committee meetings in the period was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Wilson	5	5
M Freeman	3	3
R Taylor	4	4
C Molyneux	4	4
P Aitchison	1	1

Attendance at finance committee meetings in the period was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Wilson	7	7
M Freeman	6	6
R Taylor	7	7
C Molyneux	7	7

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

Review of Value for Money

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

The accounting officer considers how the Trusts 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Securing a number of deals for bulk buying discounts for all schools, including curriculum materials.
- Continuing to review large value group SLA's and undertake procurement to gain further price reductions for scale
- Where possible staff work across schools to cover sickness and avoid the costs of supply cover.

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 charitable company 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the separation 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 Audit Committees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from McLintocks Chartered Accountants and Janet Myers

Their role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of new cloud based finance system
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of month end controls and budget systems

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

The internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, no material control issues were identified as a result of the internal auditor's/reviewer's work.

Review of Effectiveness

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

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


The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and Audit Committee and ensures continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 21 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

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J H Owens MBE - Trustee

DocuSigned by:

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Mr T Lacey - Accounting Officer

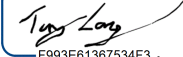
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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

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

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

DocuSigned by:

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Mr T Lacey - Accounting Officer

21 December 2021

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 to 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 the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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J H Owens MBE - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, 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) and the Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

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 charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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 Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company 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 where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the academy trust and the sector in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the acts by the trust, which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations including fraud, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act and Academies Financial Handbook. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to value for money, related party transactions analysis of income and expenditure between funds.

Audit procedures performed included:

- review of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation,
- review of any correspondence with legal advisors, and enquiries of management and those charged with governance around any actual and potential litigation and claims
- enquiries with trust's staff to identify any instances with non-compliance with laws and regulations
- enquiries of management and review of management accounts and reports in so far as they related to the financial statements,
- testing of journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the Trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.
- undertaking detailed substantive testing of material items and a sample of other items
- consideration of the reasonableness of the figures and analytical review, including comparison with previous years and expected trends
- review of the compliance with and effectiveness of internal controls

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

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Use of our report

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

DocuSigned by:

Nicolaus Jenkins

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Mr Nicolaus S Jenkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

21 December 2021

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to
Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

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

This report is made solely to Oak Trees 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the 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 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

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

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

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the 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 charitable company's income and expenditure.

Conclusion

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

DocuSigned by:

UHY Hacker Young

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UHY Hacker Young
Reporting Accountant
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1QN

21 December 2021

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

				31.8.21	31.8.20	
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	Total funds £'000	Total funds £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and capital grants	2	12	(1)	1,472	1,483	460
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion		-	(357)	3,059	2,702	-
Charitable activities						
Funding for the academy's educational operations	3	276	10,097	-	10,373	8,882
Other trading activities	4	80	-	-	80	34
Investment income	5	-	-	-	-	2
Total		368	9,739	4,531	14,638	9,378
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities						
Academy's educational operations	3	356	10,147	368	10,871	9,407
Total	6	356	10,147	368	10,871	9,407
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
		12	(408)	4,163	3,767	(29)
Transfers between funds	19	-	(106)	106	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes		-	(687)	-	(687)	56
Net movement in funds		12	(1,201)	4,269	3,080	27
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		62	(5,504)	19,576	14,134	14,107
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		74	(6,705)	23,845	17,214	14,134

The notes form part of these financial statements

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Balance Sheet 31 August 2021

	Notes	31.8.21 £'000	31.8.20 £'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	22,577	19,412
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	13	17	24
Debtors	14	1,595	701
Cash at bank		<u>1,791</u>	<u>1,525</u>
		3,403	2,250
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,157)	(1,413)
		<u>2,246</u>	<u>837</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		24,823	20,249
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(32)	(36)
PENSION LIABILITY	20	(7,577)	(6,079)
		<u>17,214</u>	<u>14,134</u>
NET ASSETS			
FUNDS	19		
Restricted income funds		17,140	14,072
Unrestricted income fund		<u>74</u>	<u>62</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>17,214</u>	<u>14,134</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 December 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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J H Owens MBE - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	31.8.21 £'000	31.8.20 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(784)</u>	<u>828</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(784)</u>	<u>828</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Assets on Conversion		3,048	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,531)	(1,667)
Capital grants from DfE/EFA		1,472	447
Interest received		<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>989</u>	<u>(1,218)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
New loans in year		14	-
Loan repayments in year		<u>(8)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		<u>6</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Cash transferred on conversion to an academy		<u>55</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		266	(391)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,525</u>	<u>1,916</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,791</u>	<u>1,525</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		31.8.21 £'000	31.8.20 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		3,767	(29)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges		366	340
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA		(1,472)	(447)
Transfer from Local Authority on conversion		(2,702)	-
Interest received		-	(2)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		7	(22)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(894)	472
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(266)	111
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions		<u>410</u>	<u>405</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations		<u>(784)</u>	<u>828</u>
2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS			
	At 1.9.20 £'000	Cash flow £'000	At 31.8.21 £'000
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>1,525</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>1,791</u>
	<u>1,525</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>1,791</u>
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(2)	(10)	(12)
Debts falling due after 1 year	<u>(36)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(32)</u>
	<u>(38)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>(44)</u>
Total	<u>1,487</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>1,747</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of accounting policies

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

Basis of Preparation

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

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

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 31, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

For 2019-20 there are some specific issues that impact on the actuarial assumptions and closing pension scheme liability of all LGPS employers:

(1) The "McCloud/Sargeant judgement" continues to be an uncertainty. This relates to legal rulings regarding age discrimination arising from public sector pension scheme transitional arrangements. Actuarial evidence suggested that the impact of making an allowance for this judgement would be material, and so the academy trust asked the actuary to make an allowance in the figures.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In order to quantify the constructive obligation the actuary has made calculations using an approximate approach and adjustment has been reflected as a past service cost within staff costs and detailed in the notes. However following a consultation issued by MHCLG it is now considered that the McCloud adjustment applied to liabilities will be lower than previously expected. Further, the approximate approach does not take into account the specific age profile of the employer's pension scheme members.

(2) For all LGPS funds, investment returns have been extremely volatile over the later part of the period as a result of the pandemic. The significant asset losses experienced in Q1 2020 have been recovered in Q2.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received 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 period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital 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 it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Other income

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

Donated fixed assets

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

Expenditure & liabilities

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.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure & liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

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

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	- Straight line over 125 years
Improvements to property	- Straight line over 25 years
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost and 20% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost, 25% on cost and 20% on cost

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.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in the notes. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Financial instruments

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes. 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 charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

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

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in notes, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore 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 scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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.

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefit and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

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

2. DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.21 Total funds £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
Donations	11	-	11	13
Grants	<u>1</u>	<u>1,471</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>447</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>1,471</u>	<u>1,483</u>	<u>460</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.21 £'000	31.8.20 £'000
Capital Improvement Fund	1,425	406
Devolved Formula Capital	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>1,472</u>	<u>447</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

3. FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.21 Total funds £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant(GAG)	-	7,622	7,622	6,779
Start Up Grant	-	25	25	-
Other DfE/EFSA grants	-	62	62	204
Pupil Premium	-	548	548	532
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	284	284	284
Teacher Pay Grant	-	95	95	85
Teacher Pension Grant	-	269	269	246
Trust Capacity Fund	-	99	99	-
Covid Catch Up Premium	-	156	156	-
Primary PE & Sport Premium	-	108	108	95
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,268</u>	<u>9,268</u>	<u>8,225</u>
Other Government grant				
Local Authority Grant	-	826	826	419
Other income from the academy's educational operations	<u>276</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>279</u>	<u>238</u>
	<u><u>276</u></u>	<u><u>10,097</u></u>	<u><u>10,373</u></u>	<u><u>8,882</u></u>

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.21 Total funds £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
Hire of facilities	29	-	29	23
Catering income	-	-	-	1
Insurance Income	<u>51</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u><u>80</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>80</u></u>	<u><u>34</u></u>

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.21 Total funds £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
Deposit account interest	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

6. EXPENDITURE

	Non-pay expenditure			31.8.21	31.8.20
	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Total £'000	Total £'000
Charitable activities					
Academy's educational operations					
Direct costs	6,680	368	534	7,582	6,474
Allocated support costs	<u>1,804</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>1,065</u>	<u>3,289</u>	<u>2,933</u>
	<u>8,484</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>10,871</u>	<u>9,407</u>

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Audit Fees	10	8
Depreciation - owned assets	366	340
Other operating leases	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	31.8.21 Total funds £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
Direct costs	356	7,226	7,582	6,474
Support costs	<u>-</u>	<u>3,289</u>	<u>3,289</u>	<u>2,933</u>
	<u>356</u>	<u>10,515</u>	<u>10,871</u>	<u>9,407</u>

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	Total £'000	Total £'000
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,804	1,712
Technology costs	184	123
Premises costs	420	329
Other support costs	871	761
Governance costs	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
Total support costs	<u>3,289</u>	<u>2,933</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No Trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust during the period.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2021 nor for the year ended 31 August 2020.

9. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	6,116	5,561
Social security costs	532	463
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,261</u>
	8,276	7,285
Supply teacher costs	182	131
Compensation payments	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>8,484</u>	<u>7,424</u>

Included with Wages and salaries costs are £26,000 in relation to voluntary redundancy and severance payments.

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows:

	31.8.21	31.8.20
Teachers	97	85
Administration & Support	182	172
Management	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>298</u>	<u>268</u>

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

	31.8.21	31.8.20
£60,001 - £70,000	5	4
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	2	-
£90,001 - £100,000	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team listed on the Reference and Administrative Page. The total amount of the employee benefits (including employers pension contributions and employers national insurance) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,600,000 (2020: £1,223,000)

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

10. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

The academy trust purchased its insurance from Zurich during the financial period, which protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	Total funds £'000
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and capital grants	14	-	446	460
Charitable activities				
Funding for the academy's educational operations	221	8,661	-	8,882
Other trading activities	34	-	-	34
Investment income	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	271	8,661	446	9,378
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Academy's educational operations	271	8,810	326	9,407
Total	<u>271</u>	<u>8,810</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>9,407</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	-	(149)	120	(29)
Transfers between funds	<u>-</u>	<u>(126)</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>-</u>
Other recognised gains/(losses)				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>
Net movement in funds	-	(219)	246	27
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	<u>60</u>	<u>(5,283)</u>	<u>19,330</u>	<u>14,107</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>60</u></u>	<u><u>(5,502)</u></u>	<u><u>19,576</u></u>	<u><u>14,134</u></u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long leasehold £'000	Improvements to property £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000
COST			
At 1 September 2020	15,096	4,677	156
Additions	<u>3,030</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>18</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>18,126</u>	<u>5,071</u>	<u>174</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2020	228	323	65
Charge for year	<u>82</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>20</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>310</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>85</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2021	<u>17,816</u>	<u>4,541</u>	<u>89</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>14,868</u>	<u>4,354</u>	<u>91</u>
	Motor vehicles £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Totals £'000
COST			
At 1 September 2020	26	184	20,139
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>3,531</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>26</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>23,670</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 September 2020	3	108	727
Charge for year	<u>2</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>366</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>5</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>1,093</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2021	<u>21</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>22,577</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>23</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>19,412</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

13. STOCKS	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Stocks	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>
14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Trade debtors	3	10
Other debtors	1,099	330
VAT	177	112
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>316</u>	<u>249</u>
	<u>1,595</u>	<u>701</u>
15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Other loans (see note 17)	12	2
Trade creditors	111	402
Social security and other taxes	132	109
Other creditors	398	410
Accruals and deferred income	<u>504</u>	<u>490</u>
	<u>1,157</u>	<u>1,413</u>
Deferred income		
	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Deferred income B.Fwd	179	177
Released from previous years	(179)	(177)
Resources deferred in year	<u>155</u>	<u>179</u>
Deferred Income at 31st August	<u>155</u>	<u>179</u>

The above income relates to Universal Infant Free School Meals received in advance, for the following year.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Other loans (see note 17)	<u>32</u>	<u>36</u>

17. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
ESFA Deficit Loan	9	-
Salix Loan	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>

Amounts falling due between two and five years:

	12	27
ESFA Loan - Abatement		
Salix Loan	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>27</u>	<u>34</u>

Amounts falling due in more than five years:

Repayable by instalments:

Salix Loan	5	2
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Included within loans are: -

1) Two Salix loans originally amounting to £12,000 and £13,000, which are provided interest free and repayable over 8 years.

2) A ESFA abatement loan to cover the transfer on conversion deficit in relation to Church Drive, originally amounting to £27,000. The repayment terms for this were agreed in December 2020. The loan is being repaid over a 3 year period commencing January 2021.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

			31.8.21	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed	Total
	fund	funds	assets	funds
	£'000	£'000	fund	£'000
Fixed assets	-	-	22,577	22,577
Current assets	74	1,845	1,484	3,403
Current liabilities	-	(961)	(196)	(1,157)
Long term liabilities	-	(12)	(20)	(32)
Pension liability	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,577)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,577)</u>
	<u>74</u>	<u>(6,705)</u>	<u>23,845</u>	<u>17,214</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - continued

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

	Unrestricted fund £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Fixed assets fund £'000	31.8.20 Total funds £'000
Fixed assets	-	-	19,412	19,412
Current assets	62	1,661	527	2,250
Current liabilities	-	(1,050)	(363)	(1,413)
Long term liabilities	-	(36)	-	(36)
Pension liability	-	(6,079)	-	(6,079)
	<u>62</u>	<u>(5,504)</u>	<u>19,576</u>	<u>14,134</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.20 £'000	Net movement in funds £'000	Transfers between funds £'000	At 31.8.21 £'000
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	558	219	(106)	671
Other Grants	-	181	-	181
Vulnerable Pupil Fund	15	3	-	18
Restricted Donations fund	2	-	-	2
Fixed Asset Fund - Transfer on conversion	14,879	2,942	-	17,821
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Grants	4,520	1,247	1	5,768
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital from GAG & Other Income	177	(26)	105	256
Pension fund	(6,079)	(1,498)	-	(7,577)
	<u>14,072</u>	<u>3,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,140</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	62	12	-	74
	<u>14,134</u>	<u>3,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,214</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains and losses £'000	Movement in funds £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pupil Premium fund	548	(548)	-	-
General Annual Grant	7,665	(7,446)	-	219
Other Grants	1,924	(1,743)	-	181
Vulnerable Pupil Fund	3	-	-	3
Fixed Asset Fund - Transfer on conversion	3,048	(106)	-	2,942
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Grants	1,483	(236)	-	1,247
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital from GAG & Other Income	-	(26)	-	(26)
Pension fund	(401)	(410)	(687)	(1,498)
	<u>14,270</u>	<u>(10,515)</u>	<u>(687)</u>	<u>3,068</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	368	(356)	-	12
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,638</u>	<u>(10,871)</u>	<u>(687)</u>	<u>3,080</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.19 £'000	Net movement in funds £'000	Transfers between funds £'000	At 31.8.20 £'000
Restricted general funds				
General Annual Grant	447	237	(126)	558
Vulnerable Pupil Fund	-	15	-	15
Restricted Donations fund	-	2	-	2
Fixed Asset Fund - Transfer on conversion	14,986	(107)	-	14,879
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Grants	4,268	252	-	4,520
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital from GAG & Other Income	76	(25)	126	177
Pension fund	(5,730)	(349)	-	(6,079)
	<u>14,047</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,072</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	60	2	-	62
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,107</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,134</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains and losses £'000	Movement in funds £'000
Restricted general funds				
Pupil Premium fund	532	(532)	-	-
General Annual Grant	6,780	(6,543)	-	237
Other Grants	1,332	(1,332)	-	-
Vulnerable Pupil Fund	15	-	-	15
Restricted Donations fund	2	-	-	2
Fixed Asset Fund - Transfer on conversion	-	(107)	-	(107)
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital Grants	446	(194)	-	252
Fixed Asset Fund - Capital from GAG & Other Income	-	(25)	-	(25)
Pension fund	-	(405)	56	(349)
	<u>9,107</u>	<u>(9,138)</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>25</u>
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	271	(269)	-	2
	<u>271</u>	<u>(269)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>9,378</u></u>	<u><u>(9,407)</u></u>	<u><u>56</u></u>	<u><u>27</u></u>

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Stanton Road	127	154
Poulton Lancelyn	198	164
Great Meols	184	181
Egremont	284	102
Church Drive	66	6
Brackenwood	45	-
Central Services	42	30
	<u>946</u>	<u>637</u>
Total before fixed asset and pension reserve	946	637
Restricted fixed asset fund	23,845	19,576
Pension reserve	(7,577)	(6,079)
	<u><u>17,214</u></u>	<u><u>14,134</u></u>
Total	<u><u>17,214</u></u>	<u><u>14,134</u></u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Total cost analysis by academy

	Teaching & Educational Support Staff Costs £'000	Other Support Staff Costs £'000	Direct & Educational Supplies £'000	Other Costs (Exc) Depreciation £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Stanton Road	904	251	62	217	1,434	1,388
Poulton						
Lancelyn	1,254	247	96	240	1,838	1,673
Great Meols	1,478	292	100	247	2,117	1,903
Egremont	1,232	259	83	290	1,864	1,941
Church Drive	1,222	305	53	213	1,793	1,696
Brackenwood	515	140	58	82	796	-
Central Services	91	294	80	198	664	465
	6,696	1,788	534	1,487	10,505	9,066

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

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

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

Contributions amounting to £164 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £124) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' pension scheme

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

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Valuation of the teachers' pension scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £630 (2020 - £365).

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 charity has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The charity has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £693 (2020: £601), of which employer's contributions totalled £567 (2020: £491) and employees' contributions totalled £126 (2020: £110). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 32.5 per cent for employers and between 5.5 and 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Present value of funded obligations	(12,024)	(8,740)
Fair value of plan assets	<u>4,447</u>	<u>2,661</u>
	(7,577)	(6,079)
Present value of unfunded obligations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deficit	<u>(7,577)</u>	<u>(6,079)</u>
Net liability	<u>(7,577)</u>	<u>(6,079)</u>

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

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost	857	764
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	230	98
Past service cost	-	23
Admin Expenses	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>1,099</u>	<u>896</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>623</u>	<u>(13)</u>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	8,740	7,898
Current service cost	857	764
Past service cost	-	23
Contributions by scheme participants	126	110
Interest cost	169	143
Transfer on conversion	957	-
Benefits paid	(75)	(32)
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	<u>1,250</u>	<u>(166)</u>
	<u>12,024</u>	<u>8,740</u>

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	2,661	2,168
Interest income	61	45
Admin Expenses	(12)	(11)
Contributions by employer	567	491
Contributions by scheme participants	126	110
Transfer on conversion	556	-
Benefits paid	(75)	(32)
Assets other remeasurement	<u>563</u>	<u>(110)</u>
	<u>4,447</u>	<u>2,661</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Actuarial (gains)/losses from changes in financial assumptions	(1,250)	166
Assets other remeasurement	<u>563</u>	<u>(110)</u>
	<u>(687)</u>	<u>56</u>

The major categories of scheme assets as amounts of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Equities	2,287	1,297
Government Bonds	63	66
Other Bonds	524	367
Cash/Liquid	80	144
Other	1,070	548
Property	<u>423</u>	<u>239</u>
	<u>4,447</u>	<u>2,661</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	31.8.21	31.8.20
Discount rate	1.70%	1.80%
Future salary increases	4.30%	3.80%
Future pension increases	2.80%	2.30%

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

20. PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS - continued

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

	31.8.21	31.8.20
Retiring today		
Males	21	20.9
Females	24.1	24
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.6	22.5
Females	26	25.9
 Sensitivity analysis		
	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Discount rate +0.1%	(256)	-
Discount rate -0.1%	262	189
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	381	250
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(370)	-
CPI rate +0.1%	262	187
CPI rate -0.1%	(256)	-

21. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	<u>1,315</u>	<u>105</u>

22. LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING OPERATING LEASES

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.8.21	31.8.20
	£'000	£'000
Between one and five years	5	7
In more than five years	<u>1,115</u>	<u>1,164</u>
	<u>1,120</u>	<u>1,171</u>

Included in the figures above is a 25 year lease on the property for Church Drive Primary School.

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2021

23. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Owing to the nature of the charitable company and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trust 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.

The following related party transaction took place in the period of accounts.

<u>Related Trustee</u>	<u>Related Party</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>2021</u> £'000	<u>2020</u> £'000
J Owens MBE	Edsential	Director	Various Purchases of Goods and Services	13	28

J Owens MBE is a director of Edsential (a Community Interest Company), however does not hold any shares or voting rights.

In entering into these transactions the trust has complied with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook.

24. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- human resources
- financial services
- legal services
- educational support services
- other as arising

The academy trust charges for these service on the following basis:

- a percentage of income and/or flat fee

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Stanton Road	100	95
Egremont	122	149
Great Meols	125	94
Poulton Lancelyn	115	93
Church Drive	102	70
Brackenwood	46	-
	<u>610</u>	<u>501</u>



UHY HACKER YOUNG
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
CH1 1QN
21st December 2021

Dear Sirs

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the academy for the year ended 31 August 2021.

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of other governors and officials of the academy with relevant knowledge and experience, and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you:

1. We acknowledge as trustees our responsibility for preparing financial statements, in accordance with the Academies Handbook for the August 2021 financial year, and other applicable financial reporting framework and for making accurate representations to you as auditors.

We confirm that in our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view and in particular that where any additional information must be disclosed in order to give a true and fair view that information has in fact been disclosed, and we approve these accounts.

2. We confirm that all accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit, in accordance with your terms of engagement and that all the transactions undertaken by the academy have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management, trustees' and members' meetings, have been made available to you. We have given you unrestricted access to persons with the company in order to obtain audit evidence and have provided any additional information that you have requested for the purposes of your audit.
3. We acknowledge that it is a criminal offence to make a false statement in this regard, and where any director either makes a false statement, is aware that the statement is false, is reckless in preventing this statement, or fails to take reasonable steps to prevent the directors' report from being approved, we acknowledge that each director will be guilty of a criminal offence.
4. We confirm that significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
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UK
CH63 3HW

Website: oaktreesmat.co.uk
Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk
Companies house Number:
1064 1561

Our schools

Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School



5. We confirm that the Trust had no liabilities or contingent liabilities other than those disclosed in the financial statements. We confirm that all known, actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
6. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which require disclosure, or which would materially affect the amounts in the financial statements, other than those already disclosed or included in the financial statements.
7. We confirm that all related party relationships and transactions have been disclosed to you.
8. We confirm that all related party relationships and transactions have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
9. We confirm that the Trust has not contracted for any capital expenditure other than as disclosed in the financial statements.
10. We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the academy conducts its activities and which are central to the Trust's ability to conduct its activities.
11. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud. We confirm that we have disclosed to you the results of our own risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.
12. We confirm that there have been no actual or suspected instances of fraud involving trustees, management or employees who have a significant role in internal control or that could have a material effect on the financial statements. We also confirm that we are not aware of any allegations of fraud by former trustees, employees, regulators or others.
13. We confirm that, in our opinion, the academy's financial statements should be prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the academy's needs.
14. We confirm that in our opinion the effects of unadjusted misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the unadjusted misstatements is attached to this letter.
15. We confirm that all grants, donations and other income, including those subject to special terms or conditions or received for restricted purposes, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period regarding the application of such income.
16. We confirm that we are not aware of any matters of material significance that should be reported to the regulators. We confirm that all correspondence with the Department for Education and other regulators has been made available to you.



17. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that:
- so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you as auditors are unaware: and
 - each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.
20. We acknowledge that it is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly make to an auditor of a company a statement (oral or written) that conveys, or purports to convey, information or explanations that the auditor requires, or is entitled to require, that is misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular.

Yours faithfully,

DocuSigned by:

2AAB10B4FA0043F...
J H Owens MBE

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees
22.12.2021 | 14:10 GMT
.....

let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
Bebington, Wirral
UK
CH63 3HW

Website: oaktreesmat.co.uk
Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk

Companies house Number:
1064 1561

Our schools

Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School





UHY HACKER YOUNG
St John's Chambers
Love Street
Chester
CH1 1QN

21st December 2021

Dear Sirs

This representation letter is provided in connection with your review, as reporting accountants, of the statement on regularity, propriety and compliance by the Accounting Officer of the academy for the year ended 31st August 2021.

We confirm that the following representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made appropriate enquiries of other trustees, the Accounting Officer and officials of the academy with relevant knowledge and experience, and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you.

1. We acknowledge as trustees our responsibility for making accurate representations to you and for the statement on regularity, propriety and compliance made by the Accounting Officer on behalf of the academy.
2. We confirm that you have been notified of any matters of which we are aware that may be of relevance to your report on regularity, propriety and compliance.
3. We confirm that all evidence used to support the Accounting Officer's sign-off of the regularity statement has been made available to you.
4. We confirm that all activities of the academy are in keeping with the academies framework and the charitable objectives of the academy.
5. We confirm that all key staff and trustees have declared their interest in related parties on your questionnaire.
6. We confirm that no expenditure has been incurred by the academy that is in contravention of the funding agreement with the secretary of state. In particular we confirm that any extra-contractual payments to staff or to parties connected to Trustees have been made in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 (the Handbook)
7. We confirm that all borrowing agreements, including leases, have been made in accordance with the Handbook and relevant Secretary of State/ESFA approval has been obtained.
8. We confirm that all transactions involving land and buildings are in line with the funding agreement and the Handbook.

let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
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UK
CH63 3HW

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Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk
Companies house Number:
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Our schools


Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School



9. We confirm that there are no write-offs over 1% of total income or £45,000 (whichever is smaller).
10. We confirm that all procurement activity has been in accordance with Annex 4.6 of Managing Public Money.
11. We confirm that all gifts made during the financial year are in line with the Academies' Policy.

We confirm that the above representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and expertise (and, where appropriate of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make these representations to you and that to the best of our knowledge and belief they accurately reflect the representations made to you by the governors during the course of your audit.

Yours faithfully,

DocuSigned by:

2AAB10B4FA0043F...

J H Owens MBE

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

22.12.2021 | 14:10 GMT

.....



let's school

Stanton Road
Primary School
Stanton Road
Bebington, Wirral
UK
CH63 3HW

Website: oaktreesmat.co.uk
Telephone: 0151 334 1398
Email: admin@oaktreesmat.co.uk

Companies house Number:
1064 1561

Our schools

Great Meols Primary School
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
Egremont Primary School
Stanton Road Primary School

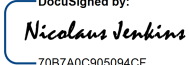
Certificate Of Completion

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Subject: Please DocuSign: 10641561 Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust 2021 FinStat.pdf, LOR Audit 2021.docx, ...	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 65	Signatures: 10
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	David Mclver
Time Zone: (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London	UHY Hacker Young, St John's Chambers
	Love Street
	Chester, Aberdeen City CH1 1QN
	d.mciver@uhy-chester.com
	IP Address: 213.190.177.130

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: David Mclver	Location: DocuSign
22-Dec-2021 12:14	d.mciver@uhy-chester.com	

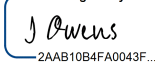
Signer Events

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Nicolaus Jenkins n.jenkins@uhy-chester.com Partner UHY Hacker Young Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>70B7A0C905094CF...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 213.190.177.130</p>	<p>Sent: 22-Dec-2021 12:19</p> <p>Viewed: 22-Dec-2021 12:22</p> <p>Signed: 22-Dec-2021 12:22</p>

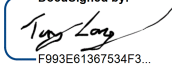
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UHY Hacker Young n.jenkins@uhy-chester.com Partner UHY Hacker Young Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>70B7A0C905094CF...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 213.190.177.130</p>	<p>Sent: 22-Dec-2021 12:22</p> <p>Viewed: 22-Dec-2021 12:23</p> <p>Signed: 22-Dec-2021 12:23</p>
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J Owens chair@oaktreesmat.co.uk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>2AAB10B4FA0043F...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 82.19.173.144</p>	<p>Sent: 22-Dec-2021 12:23</p> <p>Viewed: 22-Dec-2021 14:09</p> <p>Signed: 22-Dec-2021 14:10</p>
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ID: 748cd581-c5f5-46c4-a5ae-700027666444

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust ceo@oaktreesmat.co.uk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>F993E61367534F3...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device Using IP Address: 31.49.249.240</p>	<p>Sent: 22-Dec-2021 12:23</p> <p>Viewed: 22-Dec-2021 14:26</p> <p>Signed: 22-Dec-2021 14:27</p>
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ID: 4cfad344-d158-4387-b660-ffef02a66dd1

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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Claire Jackson
cfo@oaktreesmat.co.uk
CFO

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Sent: 22-Dec-2021 | 14:27

Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Accepted: 29-Sep-2021 | 15:01
ID: b08be03b-8fc7-4654-9b07-92df5b67118f

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Completed	Security Checked	22-Dec-2021 14:27

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure

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If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact UHY Hacker Young Chester:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: d.mciver@uhy-chester.com

To advise UHY Hacker Young Chester of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at d.mciver@uhy-chester.com and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

To request paper copies from UHY Hacker Young Chester

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to d.mciver@uhy-chester.com and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with UHY Hacker Young Chester

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to d.mciver@uhy-chester.com and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

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- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
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- Until or unless you notify UHY Hacker Young Chester as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by UHY Hacker Young Chester during the course of your relationship with UHY Hacker Young Chester.