

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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<b>Members</b>	A Armstrong H Cowan T Morgan - Foundation Member D Middleton - Chair & Foundation Member
<b>Trustees</b>	J Cowan <sup>1,3</sup> R Crow (resigned 20 November 2019) S Edwards, Chief Executive <sup>1,2</sup> G Gosling <sup>1</sup> A Edwards <sup>2</sup> R Hendrickse <sup>2</sup> D Johnson <sup>3</sup> A Sedgley (appointed 13 February 2020)  <sup>1</sup> Finance Committee <sup>2</sup> Risk and Audit Committee <sup>3</sup> Remuneration Committee
<b>Company registered number</b>	07654902
<b>Company name</b>	Acorn Education Trust
<b>Principal and registered office</b>	Kingdown School Woodcock Road Warminster Wiltshire BA12 9DR
<b>Company secretary</b>	F Simpson
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	S Edwards
<b>Senior management team</b>	S Edwards, CEO D Locke, Headteacher R Price, Headteacher S Porter, Executive Head A Williams, HR Director J Evans, Head of School Services M Burr, Executive Head F Simpson, Head of Finance S Fullbrook, Head of SEND J Ronxin, Head of Marketing & Communication R Knott, IT Network Manager
<b>Independent auditors</b>	Bishop Fleming LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 16 Queen Square Bristol BS1 4NT

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 10 primary and 2 secondary academies and 4 nurseries in Wiltshire. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of over 4,000.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Constitution**

The 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 Trust.

The Trustees of Acorn Education Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, except as noted, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

**Members' liability**

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

**Trustees' Indemnities**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim.

**TRUSTEES**

**Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees comprises the Chief Executive Officer, up to 5 directors appointed by the Members and up to six foundation members approved by the Diocesan Board of Education. The number of Trustees who are employees of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer, must not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees.

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

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

**Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Trust and a chance to meet staff and pupils. 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 Trustees. As there are normally only two or three new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies.

**Organisational Structure**

The Board of Trustees normally meets once each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

During the year there were committees as follows;

- Finance Committee - this meets at least ten times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels.
- Risk and Audit Committee - this meets at least three times per year and is responsible for maintaining and assessing the risk register and reporting outcomes and changes to the Board of Trustees. It also receives internal audit reports and the annual accounts.
- Remuneration Committee - The Trust, through the Remuneration Committee, ensures its decisions about levels of executive pay follow a robust, evidence-based process and are reflective of roles and responsibilities. Good quality pay award decisions are dependent on good quality strategic planning for the Trust and well executed appraisal processes.

The Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academies to the Trust Executive Team and Academy Councils. The Academy Councils implement the policies laid down by the Trustees and report back to them on performance.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

**Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

The Trust executive business team comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees, except the Chief Executive Officer give their time freely and received no remuneration in the year.

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

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings.

The Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other Academies of a similar size. The responsibility of the post, size of the Trust and risk to the Trust of the loss of that post are all taken into account when determining pay levels. Advice is sought from external stakeholders, such as external Auditors and value for money principals are observed at all times.

The roles are also compared for parity against other roles within the Trust, comparing levels of responsibility of the posts.

**Trade union facility time**

No trade union reps are employed within the Trust

**Engagement with employees**

- Consulting with employees on key matters, including engaging the relevant union officials
- New Trust website with regular updates and newsletters; plus, a dedicated staff portal
- New employee HR portal to put staff in control of their own personal details, additional hours claims and absence requests
- Line managers regularly meet with staff, even with those working from home, to enable staff to communicate regularly and check on their colleague's well-being

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
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**Engagement with suppliers**

The Trust fosters business relationships with its students by acting on feedback, ensuring safeguarding and by maintaining a continuous commitment to school improvement. The Trust fosters business relationships with its suppliers by supporting a number of local suppliers, ensuring relationships are mutually beneficial and paying invoices within agreed payment terms. During the Covid-19 lockdown, the Trust utilised the Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 02/20 and supplementary notes, to provide guidelines on relationships and payment terms with suppliers.

**Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting**

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020  
2019/20

Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,836,728
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
Gas consumption	260.03
Owned transport – mini-buses	9.37
Total Scope 1	269.39
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
Purchased electricity	315.22
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	5.45
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	590.07
Intensity ratio Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e per pupil	0.15

**Quantification and reporting methodology**

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

**Intensity measurement**

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

**Measures taken to improve energy efficiency**

No specific measures have been taken this year to improve energy efficiency. Energy usage was reduced due to closure of the schools from March 2020 due to COVID-19. More staff have been working at home, which has reduced mileage costs as remote meetings have taken place. As an organisation we will look to continue to reduce mileage in this way by holding meetings virtually where appropriate.

**Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships**

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of Acorn Education Trust. There are no sponsors or formal Parent Teacher Associations associated with the Academies.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objects and Aims**

The principal object and activity of the Academies is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad range of curriculum for pupils of different abilities.

The principal object and activity of the Charitable Company is the operation of Acorn Education Trust to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 3 and 18.

**Public Benefit**

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

The Academies aim to advance for the public benefit, education in Wiltshire.

The Academies provide facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with interest of improving the life of the said community.

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**Achievements and Performance**

**Overview**

Acorn Education Trust has a total student number in excess of 4000, a staff of some 600, 2 secondary schools, 10 primary schools and 4 nurseries. This year really has been one of extreme halves – pre and post Covid. The former, difficult to remember, while the latter continues to dominate all our working practices.

**Ethos and values**

As a mixed Trust of Foundation and non-Foundation academies we recognise and support the individual ethos of all schools, whether they are church or non-faith institutions. Our schools have taken part in a wide variety of events over the past year that support and develop both Christian characteristics and British values. We greatly value our work with Salisbury Diocese and are currently working with them on a Trust wide pilot school improvement project.

Lockdown in March brought out the best in us all. Our core values were, and continue to be clearly evident in our daily work. Initially from March to July our focus was to:

- ensure all our children and staff are safe and well
- provide high quality learning at home and school
- protect our vulnerable families and support our key worker families.

And from September, to ensure:

- schools stay open and safe;
- staff and students feel happy and safe;
- teachers are teaching and students are learning at school or home.

Team work throughout Acorn has been exceptional; it is our greatest strength, allowing us to adapt, learn quickly and be “nimble” in all that we do.

**Collaborative working**

This year, more than ever, the formal and informal work between our primary schools has gone from strength to strength. Staff at all stages in their careers are benefitting from the wealth of expertise that exists in our schools. The arrival of Rowde and Wansdyke has brought further challenges and also great strength; we are delighted to have them on board. Late December '19 and early January'20 was dominated by Ofsted Inspections – West Ashton moved up to RI; Keevil secured a Good; Dilton Marsh moved down to RI and Heytesbury maintained Good. Each experience was different, challenging and accurate, providing an honest evaluation on where the

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school is. The secondary model is maturing and both schools have welcomed collaboration on the curriculum, the use of data and the re-opening of schools. We continue to maintain strong relationships with other Trusts through the South West RSC learning set model and the Confederation of School Trusts. Both networks have been invaluable throughout the pandemic, providing support, guidance and reassurance as we managed lockdown, the re-opening to all students and this summer's examination results.

**Infrastructure**

The purchase of new budgeting, payroll and HR software is improving business efficiency and effectiveness, and, creating capacity for further expansion. A number of projects were completed in the summer: classroom refurbishment at Kingdown and Clarendon; a footpath re-routed with new fencing at West Ashton; new toilets at Heytesbury; and every school site adapted to be Covid safe.

IT developments have taken place in all schools, including the distribution of over 200 laptops to student and staff homes during lockdown.

**The Future**

We continue to work with Salisbury Plain Academies who could potentially join Acorn in spring'21.

**Results**

No formal assessments were completed in the primary schools. A level and GCSE students were awarded the centre assessed grade or the algorithmic grade if higher.

**Key Performance Indicators**

The main financial performance indicator is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date. In particular, the management of spending against General Annual Grant (GAG) requires special attention. In the period under review, £nil was carried forward representing 0% of GAG.

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the 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 Going concern policy.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial Review**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

During the year ended 31 August 2020, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and conversion balances) of £22,585,748 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources of £23,880,576. The excess of expenditure over income for the year was £1,294,828.

At 31 August 2020 the net book value of fixed assets was £44,748,190 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non-teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activities with details in



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Note 25 to the financial statements.

Trustees have adopted an Internal Assurance Policy and appointed Bishop Fleming to undertake a programme of internal checks on the financial controls. During the year, the Trustees received 1 report which contained matters of significance which are being addressed by the Trustees.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the 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 take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of cash reserves should be approximately two months' payroll costs. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. The Trust's current level of reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £2,889,009. The Trustees are reviewing the options for how to utilise these reserves for the benefit of the Trust.

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Trust.

**Investment Policy**

Due to the nature of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short term requirements. The Trustees have authorised the opening of additional short term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Trustees are committed to ensuring that all funds under their control are managed in such a way as to maximise return whilst minimising risk. Any cash not required for operating expenses is placed on deposit at the most favourable rate available from providers covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Day to day management of the surplus funds is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Principal Risks And Uncertainties**

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

**COVID 19** – the Trust has taken measures to mitigate the impact educationally and financially. There is a continued risk of further disruption to education and strain on financial resources remains. The Trust's continues to work to ensure all pupils and staff remain as safe as possible and pupils are provided the best possible education.

**Financial** - the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 96% of the Trust's incoming resources was ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

**Failures in governance and/or management** - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

**Reputational** - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**Safeguarding and child protection** - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

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

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

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

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

Whilst the risks to revenue funding from a falling roll are small, the reduction in post 16 funding levels, the freeze on the Government's overall education budget, changes in funding arrangements for special educational needs and increasing employment and premises costs mean that budgets will be increasingly tight in coming years.

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term, reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees' and Finance Committee meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 26 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However as the Trustees consider that the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

## **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

### **Vision**

Preparing young people for their world in their time.

The Acorn Education Trust was formed in August 2014 to create a local solution to a national strategy. Through close collaboration and a shared vision we believe each school will achieve great things while retaining their individual identity. Underpinning this close collaboration is a strong belief in our core purpose - "excellent leadership, excellent teaching and excellent learning".

Every Acorn school will thrive, as we will ensure the 5 strands of Acorn are evident in all that we do.

Active and Visible Leadership  
Care, Support and Challenge  
Opportunities for all  
Respect, Recognition and Resilience

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

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Needs of all are Paramount

**FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 23/11/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



**D Middleton  
Chair of Trustees**



**S Edwards  
Accounting Officer**

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Acorn Education Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**GOVERNANCE**

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year.

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Cowan	2	6
S Edwards, Chief Executive	6	6
G Gosling	5	6
A Edwards	6	6
R Hendrickse	6	6
D Johnson	3	6
A Sedgley	4	4

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. The committee's purpose is to oversee all financial resources and facilities.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Middleton	9	9
G Gosling	9	9
J Cowan	7	9
S Edwards	9	9

The Risk and Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. This committee's purpose is to oversee internal controls, external and internal audit, fraud, and risk management.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Hendrickse	5	5
A Edwards	3	4
G Gosling	5	5

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY**

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

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

- Utilisation of the Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning model to ensure we provide the best curriculum for all students with the funding currently available
- Implementing new IT systems and processes for the HR and Payroll functions to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness of back office systems
- Bulk purchases, made centrally by the Trust, has allowed us to procure supplies and services at a discounted rate which is passed on to all Trust schools

**THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Acorn Education Trust for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK**

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- Regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Ensuring compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- Purchasing procedure and control
- Fixed assets
- Governance review
- Recording of income
- Information Technology policies
- Payroll testing and review of procedures
- Strategic and operational review

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Bishop Fleming LLP as internal auditor.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)**

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems.

On a semi-annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the Risk and Audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees financial responsibilities and annually prepares a short 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.

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 23/11/2020  
their behalf by:

and signed on



**D Middleton**  
Chair of Trustees



**S Edwards**  
Accounting Officer

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

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As Accounting Officer of Acorn Education Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Trust Board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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



**S Edwards**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 23/11/2020

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . 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 Group and the charitable company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

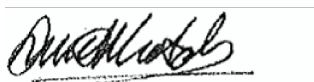
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and 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 their conduct and operation the Group and the charitable company apply financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

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

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



**D Middleton**  
Chair of Trustees

23/11/2020



**S Edwards**  
Accounting Officer



**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**

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**OPINION**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**BASIS FOR OPINION**

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

**CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN**

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

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

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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**OTHER INFORMATION**

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

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

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

**MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION**

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

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

- the parent Trust has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent Trust 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.

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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**RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES**

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

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

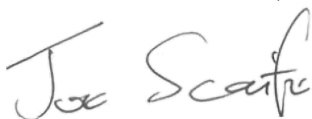
**AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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

**USE OF OUR REPORT**

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



**Joseph Scaife FCA DChA (senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Bishop Fleming LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

16 Queen Square

Bristol

BS1 4NT

Date: 28/11/2020

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 9 October 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Acorn Education Trust during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACORN EDUCATION TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER  
AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Acorn Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 22 December 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**APPROACH**

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

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

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

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

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

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

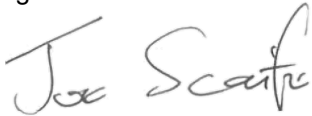
**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

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**CONCLUSION**

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



Joseph Scaife FCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)

**Bishop Fleming LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
16 Queen Square  
Bristol  
BS1 4NT

Date: 28/11/2020

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transferred with existing academy		160,230	(202,094)	2,724,193	2,682,329	26,168,469
Other donations and capital grants		218,284	12,640	1,349,778	1,580,702	1,752,069
Charitable activities		571,437	21,166,693	-	21,738,130	19,064,598
Other trading activities		615,130	-	-	615,130	886,318
Investments	6	1,564	-	-	1,564	1,961
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,566,645</b>	<b>20,977,239</b>	<b>4,073,971</b>	<b>26,617,855</b>	<b>47,873,415</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
Raising funds		563,961	-	-	563,961	802,641
Charitable activities		601,041	22,715,574	1,284,500	24,601,115	22,175,655
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,165,002</b>	<b>22,715,574</b>	<b>1,284,500</b>	<b>25,165,076</b>	<b>22,978,296</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>401,643</b>	<b>(1,738,335)</b>	<b>2,789,471</b>	<b>1,452,779</b>	<b>24,895,119</b>
Transfers between funds	18	-	281,123	(281,123)	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>		<b>401,643</b>	<b>(1,457,212)</b>	<b>2,508,348</b>	<b>1,452,779</b>	<b>24,895,119</b>
Actuarial gains/ (losses) on pension schemes	25	-	126,000	-	126,000	(2,051,000)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>401,643</b>	<b>(1,331,212)</b>	<b>2,508,348</b>	<b>1,578,779</b>	<b>22,844,119</b>

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Endowment funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds: 2019 £
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	2,497,366	(4,266,116)	43,389,889	41,621,139	18,777,020	
Net movement in funds	401,643	(1,331,212)	2,508,348	1,578,779	22,844,119	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>2,899,009</u></u>	<u><u>(5,597,328)</u></u>	<u><u>45,898,237</u></u>	<u><u>43,199,918</u></u>	<u><u>41,621,139</u></u>	

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

The notes on pages 25 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:07654902**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	14	<b>44,748,190</b>	42,900,632
		<b>44,748,190</b>	42,900,632
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	16	<b>1,165,599</b>	1,394,142
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>4,520,825</b>	3,704,858
		<b>5,686,424</b>	5,099,000
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(1,595,696)</b>	(2,000,493)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,090,728</b>	3,098,507
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>48,838,918</b>	45,999,139
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	(4,378,000)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>43,199,918</b>	41,621,139
<b>FUNDS OF THE TRUST</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	<b>45,898,237</b>	43,389,889
Restricted income funds	18	<b>41,672</b>	111,884
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	<b>45,939,909</b>	43,501,773
Pension reserve	18	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	(4,378,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	<b>40,300,909</b>	39,123,773
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18	<b>2,899,009</b>	2,497,366
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>43,199,918</b>	41,621,139

The financial statements on pages 20 to 57 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:



**D Middleton**  
Chair of Trustees



**S Edwards**  
Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 25 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

23/11/2020



**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
REGISTERED NUMBER:07654902**

**TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	14	<b>44,748,190</b>	42,900,632
Investments	15	<b>1</b>	1
		<b>44,748,191</b>	42,900,633
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	16	<b>1,162,208</b>	1,363,434
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>4,520,588</b>	3,702,653
		<b>5,682,796</b>	5,066,087
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(1,684,852)</b>	(2,060,364)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,997,944</b>	3,005,723
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>48,746,135</b>	45,906,356
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	(4,378,000)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>43,107,135</b>	41,528,356
<b>FUNDS OF THE TRUST</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	<b>45,898,237</b>	43,389,889
Restricted income funds	18	<b>41,672</b>	111,884
Pension reserve	18	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	(4,378,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	<b>40,300,909</b>	39,123,773
Unrestricted funds	18	<b>2,806,226</b>	2,404,583
<b>Total unrestricted income funds</b>	18	<b>2,806,226</b>	2,404,583
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>43,107,135</b>	41,528,356

The financial statements on pages 20 to 57 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:



**D Middleton**  
23/11/2020



**S Edwards**

The notes on pages 25 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	<b>(600,021)</b>	(792,708)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
	22	<b>943,477</b>	919,648
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
	21	<b>472,511</b>	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR</b>		<b>815,967</b>	126,940
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>3,704,858</b>	3,577,918
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	23, 24	<b>4,520,825</b>	3,704,858
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 57 form part of these financial statements

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

Acorn Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

**1.2 GOING CONCERN**

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

**1.3 INCOME**

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

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Consolidated 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 Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.3 INCOME (CONTINUED)**

where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

• **Other income**

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

• **Transfer of existing academies into the Group**

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the Group, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Group. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the Group within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets acquired.

**1.4 EXPENDITURE**

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

• **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 INTEREST RECEIVABLE**

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

**1.6 TAXATION**

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

Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the consolidated 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 consolidated statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Land and buildings occupied under a Church Supplemental Agreement are not recognised as assets in the balance sheet. These land and buildings are occupied free of charge under a rolling two-year licence from the landowner. Due to the specialised nature of these land and buildings it is not considered practical to place a value on the notional rent donated by the landowner.

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

Long-term leasehold property	- 50 years straight line
Long-term leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line
Motor vehicles	- 4 years straight line

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 consolidated statement of financial activities.

**1.8 INVESTMENTS**

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

**1.9 DEBTORS**

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

**1.10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.11 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 Group anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

**1.12 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

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

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

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

**1.13 OPERATING LEASES**

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.14 PENSIONS**

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

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

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

**1.15 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from the ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and any balances held at year end are disclosed in note 28.

**1.16 FUND ACCOUNTING**

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

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

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

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

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

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**2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

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

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Transferred with existing academy	160,230	(202,094)	2,735,571	<b>2,693,707</b>	26,168,469
Donations	218,284	12,640	-	<b>230,924</b>	520,704
Capital Grants	-	-	1,338,400	<b>1,338,400</b>	1,231,365
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<u>218,284</u>	<u>12,640</u>	<u>1,338,400</u>	<u><b>1,569,324</b></u>	<u>1,752,069</u>
	<u>378,514</u>	<u>(189,454)</u>	<u>4,073,971</u>	<u><b>4,263,031</b></u>	<u>27,920,538</u>
TOTAL 2019	<u>139,390</u>	<u>532,153</u>	<u>27,248,995</u>	<u>27,920,538</u>	



**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**4. FUNDING FOR THE TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>DFE/ESFA GRANTS</b>				
General Annual Grant	-	17,525,804	<b>17,525,804</b>	15,944,600
Start up Grants	-	70,000	<b>70,000</b>	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	2,474,419	<b>2,474,419</b>	1,451,910
	-	20,070,223	<b>20,070,223</b>	17,396,510
<b>Other Government Grants</b>				
Other government grants non capital	232,542	1,096,470	<b>1,329,012</b>	1,058,541
	232,542	1,096,470	<b>1,329,012</b>	1,058,541
<b>Other funding</b>				
Internal catering income	23,994	-	<b>23,994</b>	49,783
Sales to students	164,516	-	<b>164,516</b>	211,957
Other	150,385	-	<b>150,385</b>	347,807
	338,895	-	<b>338,895</b>	609,547
	571,437	21,166,693	<b>21,738,130</b>	19,064,598
TOTAL 2019	797,035	18,267,563	19,064,598	

**5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Lettings	35,863	<b>35,863</b>	56,858
Trading subsidiary activities	579,267	<b>579,267</b>	829,460
	615,130	<b>615,130</b>	886,318
TOTAL 2019	886,318	886,318	

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	Total funds 2019 £
Bank interest	1,564	<b>1,564</b>	1,961
TOTAL 2019	1,961	1,961	

**7. EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Staff Costs 2020 £</b>	<b>Premises 2020 £</b>	<b>Other 2020 £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>	Total 2019 £
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Direct costs	517,924	-	46,037	<b>563,961</b>	802,641
Education:					
Direct costs	16,044,735	965,360	1,221,187	<b>18,231,282</b>	15,789,668
Allocated support costs	3,029,946	1,685,211	1,654,676	<b>6,369,833</b>	6,385,987
	<u>19,592,605</u>	<u>2,650,571</u>	<u>2,921,900</u>	<u><b>25,165,076</b></u>	<u>22,978,296</u>
TOTAL 2019	<u>16,792,342</u>	<u>3,327,906</u>	<u>2,858,048</u>	<u>22,978,296</u>	

**8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2020 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	Total funds 2019 £
Education	18,231,282	6,369,833	<b>24,601,115</b>	22,175,655
TOTAL 2019	<u>15,789,668</u>	<u>6,385,987</u>	<u>22,175,655</u>	

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

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2019 £</b>
Pension finance cost	<b>42,680</b>	24,640
Staff costs	<b>16,002,055</b>	13,311,584
Depreciation	<b>965,360</b>	788,824
Educational supplies	<b>510,980</b>	524,349
Examination fees	<b>203,530</b>	255,067
Staff development	<b>25,407</b>	24,506
Other costs	<b>410,018</b>	613,645
Supply teachers	<b>71,252</b>	247,053
	<b>18,231,282</b>	15,789,668

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**8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2019 £</b>
Pension finance cost	<b>54,320</b>	31,360
Staff costs	<b>2,975,626</b>	2,723,343
Depreciation	<b>319,140</b>	317,962
Staff development	<b>51,493</b>	43,297
Other costs	<b>95,337</b>	130,859
Recruitment and support	<b>37,751</b>	42,879
Maintenance of premises and equipment	<b>800,464</b>	1,493,648
Cleaning	<b>301,043</b>	250,768
Rent and rates	<b>161,718</b>	126,440
Energy costs	<b>276,613</b>	210,661
Insurance	<b>72,194</b>	72,662
Security and transport	<b>73,179</b>	102,140
Catering	<b>297,477</b>	257,689
Technology costs	<b>277,601</b>	246,287
Office overheads	<b>145,775</b>	139,461
Legal and professional	<b>397,493</b>	182,028
Bank interest and charges	<b>3,762</b>	3,478
Governance	<b>28,847</b>	11,025
	<b>6,369,833</b>	6,385,987

**9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Operating lease rentals	<b>3,572</b>	412
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>1,284,500</b>	1,106,786
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	<b>20,200</b>	19,650
- other services	<b>4,950</b>	6,045

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**10. STAFF**

**a. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £	<b>Trust 2020 £</b>	Trust 2019 £
Wages and salaries	<b>14,224,461</b>	12,730,309	<b>13,769,667</b>	12,277,958
Social security costs	<b>1,283,979</b>	1,153,553	<b>1,263,165</b>	1,134,829
Pension costs	<b>3,933,361</b>	2,611,123	<b>3,891,045</b>	2,571,836
	<b>19,441,801</b>	16,494,985	<b>18,923,877</b>	15,984,623
Agency staff costs	<b>71,252</b>	247,053	<b>71,252</b>	247,053
Staff restructuring costs	<b>53,804</b>	50,304	<b>53,804</b>	50,304
	<b>19,566,857</b>	16,792,342	<b>19,048,933</b>	16,281,980

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £	<b>Trust 2020 £</b>	Trust 2019 £
Redundancy payments	<b>40,997</b>	39,767	<b>40,997</b>	39,767
Settlement payments	<b>12,807</b>	10,537	<b>12,807</b>	10,537
	<b>53,804</b>	50,304	<b>53,804</b>	50,304

**b. NON-STATUTORY/NON-CONTRACTUAL STAFF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS**

The staff restructuring costs above relate to costs incurred for 1 non-statutory/non-contractual settlement and 1 redundancy payment in the year. Individually the payments were £29,931 to which £17,104 a contractual amount with the remaining £12,828 non-contractual and £23,873 redundancy. All payments were made in year at December 2019 and February 2020.

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**10. STAFF (CONTINUED)**

**c. STAFF NUMBERS**

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

	<b>Group 2020 No.</b>	Group 2019 No.	<b>Trust 2020 No.</b>	Trust 2019 No.
Teachers	<b>275</b>	253	<b>275</b>	253
Administration and support	<b>269</b>	285	<b>240</b>	257
Managers	<b>11</b>	11	<b>11</b>	11
	<b>555</b>	549	<b>526</b>	521

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2020 No.</b>	Group 2019 No.	<b>Trust 2020 No.</b>	Trust 2019 No.
Teachers	<b>224</b>	216	<b>202</b>	216
Administration and support	<b>199</b>	146	<b>156</b>	131
Managers	<b>11</b>	11	<b>59</b>	11
	<b>434</b>	373	<b>417</b>	358

**d. HIGHER PAID STAFF**

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

	<b>Group 2020 No.</b>	Group 2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	<b>5</b>	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>8</b>	3
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	<b>1</b>	-
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	<b>1</b>	1

**e. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £1,063,872 (11 staff).

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**11. CENTRAL SERVICES**

During the year the Trust moved to a pooled reserves policy held in a central fund. As a result no central recharges were made in 2020.

In 2019 the Group provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Finance, budgeting, financial returns, audit and accounts
- Payroll
- Human Resources
- Legal advice
- Strategy and MAT growth
- School improvement services
- Supplier contracts
- Asset management
- Marketing
- Policy administration
- Insurance negotiation
- Business development
- Grant sourcing
- Income generation
- Catering collaboration

The Group charged for these services on the following basis:

In the prior year the Trust charged schools a flat percentage (3.5% for Sponsored Schools and 3% for non-sponsored schools) on the total income per school, to manage the central services.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£	£
Kingdown School	-	215,591
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	-	22,351
The Avenue Primary School	-	34,175
Keevil C of E Primary School	-	13,420
West Ashton C of E Primary School	-	10,168
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	-	9,197
St John's C of E Primary School	-	14,432
New Close Primary School	-	14,145
Great Wishford C of E (VA) Primary School	-	13,921
The Clarendon Academy	-	130,937
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>478,337</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

The Executive Head and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Executive Head and staff under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments from the Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustee' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: S Edwards: Remuneration £125,000 - £130,000 (2019: £125,000 - £130,000), Employer's pension contributions £30,000 - £35,000 (2019: £20,000 - £25,000). Other related party transactions involving Trustees are set out in note 27.

During the year, retirement benefits were accruing to 1 Trustees (2019 - 1) in respect of defined benefit pension schemes.

During the year ended 31 August 2020, expenses totalling £3,887 were reimbursed or paid directly to 14 Trustees (2019 - £812). Expenses paid were for travel costs and mobile phone allowances..

**13. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

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



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

**GROUP AND TRUST**

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
At 1 September 2019	45,189,961	866,035	1,802,521	91,450	47,949,967
Additions	95,871	1,626	304,868	5,500	407,865
Transfer from existing academies	2,552,351	158,037	13,805	-	2,724,193
At 31 August 2020	<u>47,838,183</u>	<u>1,025,698</u>	<u>2,121,194</u>	<u>96,950</u>	<u>51,082,025</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 September 2019	3,007,880	521,978	1,466,459	53,018	5,049,335
Charge for the year	873,145	165,919	231,845	13,591	1,284,500
At 31 August 2020	<u>3,881,025</u>	<u>687,897</u>	<u>1,698,304</u>	<u>66,609</u>	<u>6,333,835</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 August 2020	<u><u>43,957,158</u></u>	<u><u>337,801</u></u>	<u><u>422,890</u></u>	<u><u>30,341</u></u>	<u><u>44,748,190</u></u>
At 31 August 2019	<u><u>42,182,081</u></u>	<u><u>344,057</u></u>	<u><u>336,062</u></u>	<u><u>38,432</u></u>	<u><u>42,900,632</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

<b>Trust</b>	<b>Investments in subsidiary companies £</b>
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>	
At 1 September 2019	1
<b>AT 31 AUGUST 2020</b>	<u>1</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
<b>AT 31 AUGUST 2020</b>	<u>1</u>
<i>AT 31 AUGUST 2019</i>	<u>1</u>

**PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Trust:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Company number</b>	<b>Holding</b>	<b>Included in consolidation</b>
Academy Collaborative Services Limited	09360756	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year £</b>	<b>Net assets £</b>
Academy Collaborative Services Limited	<b>579,556</b>	<b>564,250</b>	<b>15,306</b>	<b>92,784</b>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**16. DEBTORS**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £	<b>Trust 2020 £</b>	Trust 2019 £
<b>DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
Trade debtors	<b>11,569</b>	120,057	<b>6,115</b>	92,433
Other debtors	<b>23,739</b>	577	<b>23,739</b>	577
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>936,021</b>	903,671	<b>936,021</b>	903,671
Tax recoverable	<b>194,270</b>	369,837	<b>196,333</b>	366,753
	<b>1,165,599</b>	1,394,142	<b>1,162,208</b>	1,363,434

**17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £	<b>Trust 2020 £</b>	Trust 2019 £
Bank overdrafts	-	3,975	-	-
Trade creditors	<b>245,834</b>	759,398	<b>243,828</b>	760,122
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	<b>96,811</b>	68,491
Other taxation and social security	<b>346,464</b>	304,355	<b>342,648</b>	300,905
Other creditors	<b>474,324</b>	356,718	<b>472,491</b>	354,799
Accruals and deferred income	<b>529,074</b>	576,047	<b>529,074</b>	576,047
	<b>1,595,696</b>	2,000,493	<b>1,684,852</b>	2,060,364

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £	<b>Trust 2020 £</b>	Trust 2019 £
<b>Deferred income</b>				
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	<b>249,768</b>	204,434	<b>249,768</b>	204,434
Resources deferred during the year	<b>243,403</b>	249,768	<b>243,403</b>	249,768
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(249,768)</b>	(204,434)	<b>(249,768)</b>	(204,434)
	<b>243,403</b>	249,768	<b>243,403</b>	249,768

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance for high needs, rates and Universal Infant Free School Meals relating to 20/21 academic year.

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**18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	2,497,366	1,566,645	(1,165,002)	-	-	2,899,009
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	111,884	17,804,290	(17,713,989)	(202,185)	-	-
Start Up Grant	-	70,000	(70,000)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	830,803	(830,803)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	218,625	(218,625)	-	-	-
Other ESFA Grants	-	242,129	(242,129)	-	-	-
Named Pupil Allowance	-	353,431	(353,431)	-	-	-
Young People's Support Service	-	319,092	(319,092)	-	-	-
Enhanced Learning Provision	-	215,516	(215,516)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority Funding	-	208,431	(208,431)	-	-	-
Other Donations	-	12,640	(12,640)	-	-	-
Rates	-	83,650	(83,650)	-	-	-
Teacher Pay Grant	-	258,691	(258,691)	-	-	-
Teacher Pension Grant	-	664,331	(664,331)	-	-	-
Year 7 Catch Up Grant	-	39,839	(39,839)	-	-	-
PE Grant	-	172,771	(131,099)	-	-	41,672
Capital Grants - Revenue Expenditure	-	-	(483,308)	483,308	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,378,000)	(517,000)	(870,000)	-	126,000	(5,639,000)
	<b>(4,266,116)</b>	<b>20,977,239</b>	<b>(22,715,574)</b>	<b>281,123</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>(5,597,328)</b>

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**18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Fixed Assets - Transferred In	40,926,541	2,724,193	(936,742)	-	-	42,713,992
Fixed Assets - Grant funded	1,974,091	-	(347,758)	407,865	-	2,034,198
Devolved formula capital	-	107,910	-	(107,910)	-	-
Schools Condition Allocation	489,257	938,372	-	(467,582)	-	960,047
Other capital grants	-	303,496	-	(113,496)	-	190,000
	<u>43,389,889</u>	<u>4,073,971</u>	<u>(1,284,500)</u>	<u>(281,123)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,898,237</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>39,123,773</u>	<u>25,051,210</u>	<u>(24,000,074)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,000</u>	<u>40,300,909</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>41,621,139</u></u>	<u><u>26,617,855</u></u>	<u><u>(25,165,076)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>126,000</u></u>	<u><u>43,199,918</u></u>

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

The General Annual Grant (GAG) - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Trust, including education and support costs.

Start up grant - This represents one off funding received from the ESFA to contribute to the cost of converting from a School to an Academy

Pupil Premium - This represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the Academy to address the underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) - This represents funding received from the ESFA to support the Trust in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals to all their reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils.

Other ESFA grants - This represents funding received from the ESFA, including trust capacity fund.

Named Pupil Allowance - This represents funding received from Wiltshire County Council in addition to the funding received for high needs.

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

Young Peoples Support Services - This represents funding from Wiltshire County Council as an alternative provision trial for children who have been or are at risk of being excluded.

Enhanced Learning Provision - This represents funding received from Wiltshire County Council in addition to the funding received for high needs and learning difficulties.

Other local authority funding - This represents other funding from Wiltshire County Council including Pupil Premium and Resource Base funding.

Other donations - This represents contributions received from the parents towards school trips as well as other funding received for specific purposes.

Rates relief grants are received from the ESFA to contribute towards the Trust's rate expenditure.

Teacher Pay Grant - Grant received from the ESFA to fund the increase in the costs of teachers' pay.

Teacher Pension Grant - Grant received from the ESFA to fund the increase in the costs of teachers' pensions.

Year 7 Catch Up Grant represents funding received from the ESFA and must be used to support year 7 pupils who did not achieve the expected standard in reading or maths at the end of key stage 2 ( KS2 ).

PE Grant represents funding received from the ESFA and must be used to fund improvements to the provision of PE and sport, for the benefit of pupils, so that they develop healthy lifestyles.

Pension reserve represents the Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy. The Trust is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years

**RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS**

Fixed assets transferred on conversion represents the land, buildings and equipment donated to the Trust on conversion from the local authority.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds represents amounts spent on fixed assets from the GAG funding received from the ESFA and other specific capital grants.

School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding represents amounts awarded by the ESFA for significant works in order to keep the Trust buildings safe and in good working order.

Other capital grants - Resource Base Funding - This is funding from Wiltshire County Council and is to be spend on increasing specialist provision/placements. This money will be utilised to expand the existing footprint of the current resource base enabling an increased capacity of pupils for the Trust as such it has been included as a Restricted Fixed Asset Fund.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

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

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£	£
Kingdown School	-	1,328,615
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	-	224,167
The Avenue Primary School	-	386,958
Keevil C of E Primary School	-	18,717
West Ashton C of E Primary School	-	(33,167)
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	-	52,801
St John's C of E Primary School	-	58,101
Great Wishford C of E Primary School	-	25,263
New Close Primary School	-	113,757
The Clarendon Academy	-	20,155
Central Services (including Trading subsidiary)	<b>2,940,681</b>	413,883
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	<b>2,940,681</b>	2,609,250
Restricted fixed asset fund	<b>45,898,237</b>	43,389,889
Pension reserve	<b>(5,639,000)</b>	(4,378,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,199,918</b>	41,621,139

During the year the Trustees moved to a pooled reserves model with all funds being held in a central reserve.

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

**TOTAL COST ANALYSIS BY ACADEMY**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Kingdown School	5,808,509	781,943	184,985	1,554,843	<b>8,330,280</b>	8,679,764
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	598,656	80,591	19,066	160,250	<b>858,563</b>	1,003,862
The Avenue Primary School	1,309,740	176,317	41,712	350,596	<b>1,878,365</b>	1,920,874
Keevil C of E Primary School	375,060	50,491	11,945	100,397	<b>537,893</b>	556,827
West Ashton C of E Primary School	316,051	42,547	10,065	84,601	<b>453,264</b>	485,055
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	227,860	30,675	7,257	60,994	<b>326,786</b>	418,694
St John's C of E Primary School	461,793	62,167	14,707	123,614	<b>662,281</b>	592,327
Great Wishford C of E Primary School	368,143	49,560	11,724	98,546	<b>527,973</b>	586,970
New Close Primary School	377,016	50,754	12,007	100,921	<b>540,698</b>	789,305
The Clarendon Academy	3,715,048	500,121	118,314	994,458	<b>5,327,941</b>	5,444,409
Rowde	537,924	72,415	17,131	143,993	<b>771,463</b>	-
Wansdyke	730,280	98,311	23,257	195,485	<b>1,047,333</b>	-
Central Services (including Trading subsidiary)	1,218,655	164,056	38,811	326,214	<b>1,747,736</b>	1,393,423
<b>TRUST</b>	<b>16,044,735</b>	<b>2,159,948</b>	<b>510,981</b>	<b>4,294,912</b>	<b>23,010,576</b>	<b>21,871,510</b>



**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General Funds	1,663,123	1,824,704	(990,461)	-	-	2,497,366
<b>RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	806,027	15,944,600	(16,638,743)	-	-	111,884
Start Up Grant	71,811	-	(71,811)	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	769,166	(769,166)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	149,297	(149,297)	-	-	-
Devolved Formula Capital and School Condition Allocation	-	-	(333,591)	333,591	-	-
Condition Improvement Funding	-	94,839	(630,627)	535,788	-	-
Other EFSA Grants	-	533,447	(533,447)	-	-	-
Named Pupil Allowance	-	225,548	(225,548)	-	-	-
Income on conversion	-	8,843	(8,843)	-	-	-
Young People's Support Service	-	345,224	(345,224)	-	-	-
Enhanced Learning Provision	-	321,281	(321,281)	-	-	-
Other Local Authority Funding	-	351,471	(351,471)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,881,000)	56,000	(502,000)	-	(2,051,000)	(4,378,000)
	<u>(1,003,162)</u>	<u>18,799,716</u>	<u>(20,881,049)</u>	<u>869,379</u>	<u>(2,051,000)</u>	<u>(4,266,116)</u>

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
Fixed Assets - Transferred In	15,620,861	-	(336,555)	-	-	15,284,306
Fixed Assets - Grant funded	1,501,971	1,136,526	(266,460)	(333,591)	-	2,038,446
Fixed Assets From Condition Improvement Funding	994,227	-	(33,537)	(535,788)	-	424,902
Fixed Assets Transferred In From Existing Academies	-	26,112,469	(470,234)	-	-	25,642,235
	<u>18,117,059</u>	<u>27,248,995</u>	<u>(1,106,786)</u>	<u>(869,379)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,389,889</u>
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<u>17,113,897</u>	<u>46,048,711</u>	<u>(21,987,835)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,051,000)</u>	<u>39,123,773</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>18,777,020</u></u>	<u><u>47,873,415</u></u>	<u><u>(22,978,296)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,051,000)</u></u>	<u><u>41,621,139</u></u>

**19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

**ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	44,748,190	<b>44,748,190</b>
Current assets	2,899,009	1,637,368	1,150,047	<b>5,686,424</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,595,696)	-	<b>(1,595,696)</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(5,639,000)	-	<b>(5,639,000)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>2,899,009</u></u>	<u><u>(5,597,328)</u></u>	<u><u>45,898,237</u></u>	<u><u>43,199,918</u></u>

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)**

**ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD**

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	42,900,632	42,900,632
Current assets	2,497,366	2,112,377	489,257	5,099,000
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,000,493)	-	(2,000,493)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(4,378,000)	-	(4,378,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,497,366</b>	<b>(4,266,116)</b>	<b>43,389,889</b>	<b>41,621,139</b>

**20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the period (as per statement of financial activities)	<b>1,452,779</b>	24,895,119
<b>ADJUSTMENTS FOR:</b>		
Depreciation	<b>1,284,500</b>	1,106,786
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(1,349,778)</b>	(1,231,365)
Interest receivable	<b>(1,564)</b>	(1,961)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	<b>(517,000)</b>	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>1,290,000</b>	390,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>97,000</b>	56,000
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>228,543</b>	(405,249)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>(404,797)</b>	510,431
Assets and liabilities on transfer in of existing academy other than cash	<b>(2,679,704)</b>	(26,112,469)
<b>NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(600,021)</b>	(792,708)

**21. CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

	Group 2020 £	Group 2019 £
Cash transferred on conversion to an Academy Trust	<b>472,511</b>	-
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>472,511</b>	-

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**22. CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £
Interest receivable	<b>1,564</b>	1,961
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(407,865)</b>	(313,678)
Capital grants from DfE Group	<b>1,349,778</b>	1,231,365
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>943,477</b>	919,648

**23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	Group 2019 £
Cash in hand	<b>4,520,825</b>	3,704,858
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>4,520,825</b>	3,704,858

**24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT**

	<b>At 1 September 2019 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 August 2020 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>3,704,858</b>	<b>815,967</b>	<b>4,520,825</b>
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	<b>(3,975)</b>	<b>3,975</b>	-
	<b>3,700,883</b>	<b>819,942</b>	<b>4,520,825</b>

**25. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

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

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

Contributions amounting to £361,792 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019 - £266,252) and are included within creditors.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME**

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

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

**VALUATION OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEME**

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £2,345,774 (2019 - £1,455,754).

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £973,271 (2019 - £889,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £772,271 (2019 - £710,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 201,000 (2019 - £117,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 25 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	%	%
Rate of increase in salary	<b>2.6</b>	2.60
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	<b>2.2</b>	2.30
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<b>1.7</b>	1.8

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

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	<b>21.7</b>	21.4
Females	<b>24</b>	23.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	<b>22.5</b>	22.3
Females	<b>25.5</b>	25.1

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.5%	<b>2,329</b>	1,966
Salary increase rate +0.5%	<b>197</b>	274
Pension increase rate +0.5%	<b>2,094</b>	1,653

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Equities	7,490,000	7,566,000
Bonds	4,280,000	1,492,000
Property	1,605,000	1,385,000
Cash and other liquid assets	-	213,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>13,375,000</b>	<b>10,656,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £224,000 (2019 - £442,000).

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	(1,648,000)	(1,101,000)
Past service cost	-	(22,000)
Interest income	228,000	273,000
Interest cost	(325,000)	(329,000)
<b>Total amount recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities</b>	<b>(1,745,000)</b>	<b>(1,179,000)</b>

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

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>15,035,000</b>	<b>8,786,000</b>
Settlements	(23,000)	-
Current service cost	1,648,000	1,101,000
Interest cost	325,000	329,000
Employee contributions	201,000	180,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(15,000)	2,282,000
Benefits paid	(328,000)	(111,000)
Past service cost	-	53,000
Effects of business combinations	2,171,000	2,415,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>19,014,000</b>	<b>15,035,000</b>

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**25. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

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

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£	£
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>10,657,000</b>	6,905,000
Settlements	<b>(23,000)</b>	-
Interest income	<b>228,000</b>	273,000
Actuarial gains	<b>111,000</b>	231,000
Employer contributions	<b>875,000</b>	708,000
Employee contributions	<b>201,000</b>	180,000
Benefits paid	<b>(328,000)</b>	(111,000)
Effects of business combinations	<b>1,654,000</b>	2,471,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>13,375,000</b>	10,657,000

**26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

At 31 August 2020 the Group and the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group</b>	Group	<b>Trust</b>	Trust
	<b>2020</b>	2019	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£	£	£	£
Not later than 1 year	<b>19,912</b>	2,471	<b>19,912</b>	2,471
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>8,956</b>	7,002	<b>8,956</b>	7,002
	<b>28,868</b>	9,473	<b>28,868</b>	9,473

**27. MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

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



**28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

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

**29. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2020 the Academy Trust received £28,723 and disbursed £19,754. An amount of £20,656 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.

**30. CONTROLLING PARTY**

There is no controlling party.

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**31. TRANSFER OF EXISTING ACADEMIES INTO THE TRUST**

On 1 November 2019 Rowde C of E Primary Academy Trust transferred all operations and assets and liabilities to Acorn Education Trust from its existing Trust for £NIL consideration.

On 1 December 2019 Wansdyke School transferred all operations and assets and liabilities to Acorn Education Trust from its existing Trust for £NIL consideration.

The above transfers have been accounted for as acquisitions that are in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Consolidated Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants.

The following tables set out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

**Transferred-in Rowde C of E Primary Academy Trust**

	<b>Value reported by transferring trust £</b>	<b>Transfer in recognised £</b>
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Furniture and equipment	24,859	<b>24,859</b>
Computer equipment	6,126	<b>6,126</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors due within one year	32,260	<b>32,260</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	86,552	<b>86,552</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors due within one year	(56,936)	<b>(56,936)</b>
<b>PENSIONS</b>		
Pensions - pension scheme assets	856,000	<b>856,000</b>
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	(1,117,000)	<b>(1,117,000)</b>
<b>NET LIABILITIES</b>	<u>(168,139)</u>	<u><b>(168,139)</b></u>

**Transferred-in Wansdyke School**

	<b>Value reported by transferring trust £</b>	<b>Transfer in recognised £</b>
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Long-term leasehold property	2,552,351	<b>2,552,351</b>
Furniture and equipment	133,178	<b>133,178</b>
Computer equipment	7,679	<b>7,679</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors due within one year	95,936	<b>95,936</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**31. TRANSFER OF EXISTING ACADEMIES INTO THE TRUST (CONTINUED)**

	<b>Value reported by transferring trust £</b>	<b>Transfer in recognised £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	385,959	<b>385,959</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors due within one year	(57,258)	<b>(57,258)</b>
<b>PENSIONS</b>		
Pensions - pension scheme assets	798,000	<b>798,000</b>
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	(1,054,000)	<b>(1,054,000)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,861,845</u>	<u><b>2,861,845</b></u>