

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 7
Governance Statement	8 - 10
Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	11
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	12
Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements	13 - 15
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity	16 - 17
Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account	18
Balance Sheet	19
Statement of Cash Flows	20
Notes to the Financial Statements	21 - 42

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Members	M Culpin R Fletcher (resigned 24 March 2017) E White C Pamplin (appointed 1 September 2016) I Cox (appointed 1 September 2016) S Boor (appointed 1 September 2016)
Trustees	M Culpin R Fletcher, Chair of Trustees (resigned 24 March 2017) E White V Neale V Hughes I Cox (appointed 20 September 2016) C Pamplin, Vice Chairman S Boor, Chair of Trustees (appointed 20 September 2016)
Company Registered Number	07697600
Company name	Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust
Registered and Principal Office	Beetons Way Bury St Edmunds IP32 6RF
Company Secretary	J Smith
Accounting Officer	V Neale
Senior Leadership Team	V Neale, Headteacher (County Upper School) N Templeton, Headteacher (Westley Middle School) T Johnson, Headteacher (Horringer Court Middle School) C Bates, Headteacher (Tollgate Primary School)
Independent Auditors	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3AH
Solicitors	Stone King LLP 16 St John's Lane London EC1M 4BS

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements and Auditor's Report of The Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust (the Charitable Company or the Trust) for the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report, and a Directors' Report under company law.

The Charitable Company operates Tollgate Primary School, Horringer Court Middle School, Westley Middle School and County Upper School Academies in 2016-17; Barrow Primary School works within the Trust but is not an academy. The Trust made a successful application to open a STEM academy for 13-18 year olds in partnership with some twenty national companies. This Free School is in the pre-opening stage. County Upper School and Westley remain routinely oversubscribed and Horringer Court is almost full now after years of being undersubscribed prior to conversion.

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 its primary governing documents. The Trustees of the Charitable Company are also the Directors for the purposes of company law. The terms Trustee and Director are interchangeable in this report and refer to a member of the Board of Trustees (MGB). The term Governor refers to a member of a Local Governing Body (LGB).

Details of the Trustees who served during the year 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 they are a Member, or within one year after they cease to be a Member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

Arrangements as set out in the articles/funding agreement. Recruitment to the MGB ensures due representation of parents, staff and community Trustees as well as representation from each phase (primary, middle and upper) and each Academy.

Parent Trustee vacancies are advertised on the Schools' websites and communicated via the weekly information sheet. Staff Trustee vacancies are advertised on the Staff noticeboards and communicated via staff briefings. Community Trustee vacancies are advertised on the Schools' websites. The management of the Trust is the responsibility of the Trustees who are appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association.

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

All new Trustees will be given a tour of the Academies and the chance to meet with staff and students. 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 very few new Trustees a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

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

For 2016-17, the frequency of the meetings was increased. There were joint training sessions for Trustees and Governors across the Academies. The training and induction provided for new Trustees depended on their existing experience. "How do I get started?" sessions were provided for all new Trustees on education, legal and financial matters.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Organisational Structure

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the funding agreement with the Department of Education.

The MGB met on 8 occasions during the year, and is responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academies by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments. This MGB contains the Accounting Officer.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of each Academy report to the MGB and their LGB and are responsible at an executive level for implementing policies; responsible for the day to day operation of the Academies, in particular organising staff, resources and children. They are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and for the appointment of staff following vetting and safeguarding recruitment process.

The Accounting Officer has overall responsibility for the day to day financial management of the Charitable Company and has delegated responsibility for low values of expenditure to specific budget holders who are each responsible for managing their own Academy and departments within the constraints of their allocated budgets. A system of financial controls is in place to manage this process.

Pay Policy for Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include Trustees and those staff to whom the Trustees have delegated significant authority and responsibility in the day-to-day running of the Trust.

The Trust chooses to follow both the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document and the NJC Local Government arrangements for school based staff. In addition it operates a rigorous appraisal process for all staff which is based on current best practice to ensure that staff are both supported to do their jobs to the best of their ability, and also challenged when this is found not to be the case.

The MGB and LGB's review key benchmarks which relate to the performance and appraisal process and review criteria, such as the progress made by individual, small groups and cohorts of pupils among others. They also utilise the services of an external 'critical friend' to support both the annual in-depth performance management meeting and mid-year review of the Accounting Officer.

Connected Organisations, Including Related Party Relationships

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

Trustees Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any one claim and details of the costs are disclosed in Note 12 to the accounts.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Objectives and Activities

Objects and Aims

The principal object and aim of the Charitable Company is the operation of academies to provide free education and care for pupils of different abilities.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

During the year the individual Academies have worked towards achieving these aims by:

- ensuring that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- raising the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- improving the effectiveness of their Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- providing value for money for the funds expended;
- complying with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements; and
- conducting the Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity

The Trust aims to get the best for, and from, each child. We intend to enable each child to realise his or her full academic, creative and physical potential and to develop positive social and moral values. The Trust has further developed all-through curriculum route plans from 4-16 which address both changes to the primary curriculum and GCSEs so as to prevent 'dips on transfer.' The Trust has developed an assessment system that tracks children from 4-14. The Trust also has an all-through sports programme which is delivering primary sports, addressing fitness concerns and providing 'sporty Saturdays' and holiday activities.

Public Benefit

The Trustees believe that by working towards the objects and aims of the Trust as detailed above, they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Key Performance Indicators

The Trustees receive half termly information to enable them to monitor the performance of the Academies compared to aims, strategies and financial budgets.

As funding is based on pupil numbers this is a key performance indicator. Pupil numbers for 2017 are 2,134, not including the 36 in nursery.

Another key financial performance indicator is staffing costs as a percentage of total income, excluding income transferred on conversion. For 2016-17 this was 76%.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have 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 Statement of Accounting Policies.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Review of Activities

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School marks the final school on the all-age continuum. It is an oversubscribed all-ability School taking students between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. There are some 1000 pupils on roll. The School is judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted and is renowned for both its extracurricular achievement and examination results. This summer the School had a 99.9% pass rate for A-levels. 85% were A*- C grades, being the highest maintained school in Suffolk. The GCSE results on the new measures were all above average and the EBacc was especially high in terms of entry, attainment and progress, the latter was the highest in Suffolk.

Horringer Court Middle School is one of the two middle campuses of an all-through school covering ages 9-13. The number of pupils from well out of area remains high. Attainment in English and Maths at KS2 has been consistently around the National Average for the last four years. Progress over the four years is good. This year the results were 13 percentage points above the national average and current predictions for KS2 and progress over four years show that a similar trend will prevail and this is sustainable. Horringer Court received a strong Good from Ofsted in June 2016.

Westley Middle School is an oversubscribed middle campus providing a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils aged 9-13. The School continues to be oversubscribed for Y5. The School was judged as good in December 2016. The School provides an extensive extra curriculum covering art, music, sport, drama and much more. The SATs Results for 2017 were one percentage point above the national average.

Tollgate Primary is a School which became an academy on 1 July 2014. Up to that point it was in Special Measures and is now making good progress with the support of the Trust. In May 2017 it was inspected by Ofsted and given a 'Good' grading. A new substantive Head took up post in September 2016.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

The principal source of funding for the Trust is the General Annual Grant (GAG) and other grants that it receives from the ESFA. For the year ended 31 August 2017 the Trust received £11,398,198 of GAG and other funding. A high percentage of this income is spent on wages and salaries and support costs to deliver the Trusts primary objective of the provision of education. During the year the Trust spent all of its funds and had an in year deficit of £177,222 excluding fixed asset and pension movements. The overall fund surplus carried forward, including fixed asset funds and pensions, was £31,114,733.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees are aware of the requirement to balance current and future needs. The Trustees always aim to set a balanced budget with annual income balancing annual expenditure

The total of restricted and unrestricted funds before fixed assets and pension reserves at the year end was £472,006 (2016: £887,199) of which £300,000 relates to specific funding for a STEM academy. The Trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds) is £17,752. The Trust has received confirmation from the ESFA that lagged funding in excess of £200,000 will be received in 2017-18 and this will replenish some of the funds spent during the year ended 31 August 2017 in relation to additional pupils who were not included in the 2016-17 census and were therefore funded from the Trust's own reserves during the year.

The cash balance of the Trust has been very healthy all year, ending the year with a balance of £991,512. The Trustees have determined that they should hold a cash contingency equivalent to two weeks' expenditure, approximately £240,000. The Trust also has some capital plans to make better use of its sites. School reorganisation in the rest of Bury St. Edmunds means there is considerable uncertainty about what additional places, resources and classrooms the Trust may need.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Due to the accounting rules for the Local Government Pension Scheme under FRS17, the Trust is recognising a significant pension fund deficit of £1,419,000. This does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises and that such a deficit generally results in a cash flow effect in the form of increased employer contributions over a number of years.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Trustees maintain a risk register identifying the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, and identifying actions and procedures to mitigate those risks. A formal review of the risk management process is undertaken on an annual basis and the internal control systems and the exposure to said risks are monitored on behalf of the Trustees at each Finance Committee meeting. The principal risks facing the Trust are outlined below; those facing the Schools at an operational level are addressed by its systems and by internal financial and other controls.

The Trustees report that the Trust's financial and internal controls conform to guidelines issued by the ESFA, and that improvements to the wider framework of systems dealing with business risk and risk management strategy continue to be made and formally documented.

It is recognised that systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed.

As an academy trust, the level of financial risk is low. Cash flows can be reliably forecast, monitored and reported. Staff costs make up the majority of expenditure and this is relatively stable with contingencies in place to cover such items as sickness and maternity.

Investment Policy

An Investment Plan was approved by the Trustees in November 2013 and remains unchanged.

The aim of the plan is to ensure funds that the Trust does not immediately need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to maximise the Trust's income but with minimal risk. The aim is to research where funds may be deposited applying prudence in ensuring there is minimum risk. The Trustees do not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as a result of good stewardship and as and when circumstances allow.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Future Developments

The Trust's priorities are to continue to effect improvements at Tollgate Primary School; to continue to drive up standards at KS2 in the middle phase and to ensure that GCSE and 'A' level results in the upper phase remain at least as good as they are now when all the changes take effect. The Trust was successful in its application to open a STEM academy for 13-18 year olds alongside the existing upper phase provision. County Upper is trialling the new Technical Awards in year 12 this year. Planning permission for the STEM has now been submitted and a September 2019 opening is now on track. The Trust continues to explore ways in which it can expand its provision in the first and middle phases.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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 Company's Auditor is 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 Company's Auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by the Board of Trustees, on 14 December 2017 and signed by:

.....
S Boor
Chair of Trustees

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of Responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher of County Upper, 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 Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 8 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
R Fletcher, Chair of Trustees (resigned 24 March 2017)	2	3
S Boor, Chair of Trustees (appointed 1 September 2016)	8	8
M Culpin	5	5
I Cox (appointed 20 September 2016)	7	8
V Neale	8	8
V Hughes	7	8
E White	8	8
C Pamplin, Vice Chairman	8	8

The Trust Board has achieved three key objectives for the 2016-2017 year:

1. It has successfully consolidated the four separate sets of Academy accounts;
2. It achieved a 'Good' rating from Ofsted for Tollgate Primary Academy which was previously rated 'Inadequate.'
3. It appointed an external clerk to improve the independence and expertise of the Board.

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the annual budget, review management accounts and their performance against financial resources. It also reviews the investment plans regularly of the Trust.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
R Fletcher, Chair of Trustees	2	3
S Boor, Chair of Trustees	8	8
M Culpin, Vice Chair	5	8
I Cox	7	8
V Neale	8	8
V Hughes	7	8
E White	8	8
C Pamplin, Vice Chairman	8	8

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

Review of Value for Money

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher of County Upper 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 has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Continuing to purchase goods and services on a Trust-wide basis wherever possible to secure efficiency savings. Examples include Insurance, Payroll, HR and some aspects of ICT procurement.
- Continuing to make best use of its teaching staff within and across phases with an increased number of staff spending time on more than one site.

In 2017-18, the Trust will continue to look at increasing the level of purchasing across the Trust to secure even greater savings.

In the new financial year, the Trust is further reconciling some financial systems to enable a better analysis of practice in its Academies which may highlight the potential for further savings within the Trust. This is also enabling Trustees to receive a Trust-wide budget monitoring report at each Board meeting.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks 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 Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 Audit Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties and
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Schools Choice, an external third party provider to undertake internal audit visits and reports on their findings.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)

The Internal Auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. On a termly basis, The Internal Auditors report to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the system of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Income Control.
- Monitoring and review.
- Governance.
- Insurance.
- Tax.
- Inventory.
- Payroll.
- Purchasing.
- Petty cash.
- Data security.
- Planning Cycle & Budget.
- Day to day record keeping.
- Transactional testing.

The Internal Auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher of County Upper 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; and
- 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 Audit Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2017 and signed by:

.....
S Boor
Chair of Trustees

.....
V Neale
Accounting Officer

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As Accounting Officer of Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

I confirm that I and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

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.

.....
V Neale
Accounting Officer

Date: 14 December 2017

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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 Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 December 2017 and signed by:

.....
S Boor
Chair of Trustees

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF BURY
ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST**

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust (The Trust) for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

This Report is made solely to the Trusts' 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 Trusts' 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 Trust and its members for our audit work, for this Report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 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 Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF BURY
ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST**

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. 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 which includes the Directors Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year which the financial statements have been prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors Report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

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

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

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

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

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF BURY
ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST**

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

Gary Miller (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Price Bailey LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT
19 December 2017

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust during the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this Report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST'S ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND THE REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 July 2011, and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2016, 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 2016 to 2017. 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 2016 to 31 August 2017 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 2016 to 2017 issued by the ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance.
- Evaluation of the general control environment of the Trust, extending the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- Discussions with and representations from the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel.
- An extension of substantive testing from our audit of the financial statements to cover matters pertaining to regularity, propriety and compliance in particular checking that selected items were appropriately authorised, and appropriate.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (continued)

CONCLUSION

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Reporting Accountant

Price Bailey LLP

Chartered Accountants

19 December 2017

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and capital grants	2	70,706	54,135	241,983	366,824	796,367
Charitable activities	3	427,087	10,274,759	-	10,701,846	10,319,166
Other trading activities	4	266,346	60,072	-	326,418	493,446
Investments	5	3,110	-	-	3,110	9,481
TOTAL INCOME		767,249	10,388,966	241,983	11,398,198	11,618,460
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities		1,061,749	10,516,688	908,120	12,486,557	11,890,723
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6	1,061,749	10,516,688	908,120	12,486,557	11,890,723
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS						
Transfers between funds	18	(294,500) (237,971)	(127,722) -	(666,137) 237,971	(1,088,359) -	(272,263) -
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
		(532,471)	(127,722)	(428,166)	(1,088,359)	(272,263)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	22	-	1,632,000	-	1,632,000	(1,148,000)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(532,471)	1,504,278	(428,166)	543,641	(1,420,263)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward		550,223	(2,469,024)	32,489,893	30,571,092	31,991,355
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		17,752	(964,746)	32,061,727	31,114,733	30,571,092

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 07697600

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017**

	Note	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		31,864,686		32,314,285
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	325,425		283,887	
Cash at bank and in hand		991,512		1,750,884	
		<u>1,316,937</u>		<u>2,034,771</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	16	(605,706)		(936,714)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>711,231</u>		<u>1,098,057</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>32,575,917</u>		<u>33,412,342</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(42,184)		(35,250)
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES			<u>32,533,733</u>		<u>33,377,092</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22		(1,419,000)		(2,806,000)
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION SCHEME LIABILITIES			<u><u>31,114,733</u></u>		<u><u>30,571,092</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY					
Restricted income funds:					
Restricted income funds	18	454,254		336,976	
Restricted fixed asset funds	18	32,061,727		32,489,893	
		<u>32,515,981</u>		<u>32,826,869</u>	
Restricted income funds excluding pension liability					
Pension reserve		(1,419,000)		(2,806,000)	
		<u>31,096,981</u>		<u>30,020,869</u>	
Total restricted income funds			31,096,981		30,020,869
Unrestricted income funds	18		17,752		550,223
			<u>31,114,733</u>		<u>30,571,092</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>31,114,733</u></u>		<u><u>30,571,092</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 18 to 42 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 14 December 2017 and are signed on their behalf, by:

.....
S Boor
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 21 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	20	(524,511)	726,642
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest		3,110	9,481
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(237,971)	(493,829)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(234,861)</u>	<u>(484,348)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(759,372)	242,294
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,750,884	1,508,590
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	21	<u>991,512</u>	<u>1,750,884</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trust's functional and presentational currency is Pounds Sterling.

1.2 Company status

The Trust is a Company limited by guarantee. The members of the Company are named on page 1. In the event of the Trust being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member. The registered office is listed on page 1.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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. The total of restricted and unrestricted funds before fixed assets and pension reserves at the year end was £472,006 (2016: £887,199) of which £300,000 relates to specific funding for a STEM academy. The Trust has received confirmation from the ESFA that lagged funding in excess of £200,000 will be received in 2017-18 and this will replenish some of the funds spent during the year ended 31 August 2017 in relation to additional pupils who were not included in the 2016-17 census and were therefore funded from the Trust's own reserves during the year.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Income

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account 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 entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis where receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised.

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

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

Long term leasehold land	-	over the life of the lease (125 years)
Long term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Plant and machinery	-	10% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Office equipment	-	10% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33.33% straight line
Other fixed assets	-	2% 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 Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account.

1.7 Debtors

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

1.8 Cash at Bank and in hand

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

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

1.10 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 15. Prepayments are not financial instruments. 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 costs as detailed in notes 16 and 17. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instruments.

1.11 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 Chapter 3 Part 11 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.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.12 Pensions

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 22, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account 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.

1.13 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Department for Education 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 and include grants from the Department for Education.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, 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 2017. 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.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Donations	70,706	54,135	-	124,841	203,701
Government grants	-	-	241,983	241,983	592,666
	<u>70,706</u>	<u>54,135</u>	<u>241,983</u>	<u>366,824</u>	<u>796,367</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>172,285</u>	<u>31,416</u>	<u>592,666</u>	<u>796,367</u>	

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

3. FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,987,424	8,987,424	8,845,238
Other DfE / ESFA grants	33,055	772,743	805,798	723,541
	<u>33,055</u>	<u>9,760,167</u>	<u>9,793,222</u>	<u>9,568,779</u>
Other government grants				
Local Authority grants	7,351	133,334	140,685	119,047
Other Government grants	-	139,068	139,068	30,254
	<u>7,351</u>	<u>272,402</u>	<u>279,753</u>	<u>149,301</u>
Other funding				
Catering income	264,138	-	264,138	251,634
Trip donations	79,917	242,190	322,107	316,974
Other income	42,626	-	42,626	32,478
	<u>386,681</u>	<u>242,190</u>	<u>628,871</u>	<u>601,086</u>
	<u>427,087</u>	<u>10,274,759</u>	<u>10,701,846</u>	<u>10,319,166</u>

In 2016, of the total income from charitable activities, £282,186 was to unrestricted funds and £10,036,980 was to restricted funds.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Hire of facilities	73,899	180	74,079	69,962
Other income	192,447	59,892	252,339	423,484
	<u>266,346</u>	<u>60,072</u>	<u>326,418</u>	<u>493,446</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>444,990</u>	<u>48,456</u>	<u>493,446</u>	

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Investment income	3,110	-	3,110	9,481
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>9,421</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>9,481</u>	

6. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs 2017 £	Premises 2017 £	Other costs 2017 £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Provision of Education:					
Direct costs	7,768,089	-	1,082,206	8,850,295	8,627,417
Support costs	1,288,546	825,983	1,521,733	3,636,262	3,263,306
	<u>9,056,635</u>	<u>825,983</u>	<u>2,603,939</u>	<u>12,486,557</u>	<u>11,890,723</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>8,494,123</u>	<u>580,991</u>	<u>2,815,609</u>	<u>11,890,723</u>	

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2017 £	2016 £
Direct costs	8,850,295	8,627,417
Support costs	3,636,262	3,263,306
Total	<u>12,486,557</u>	<u>11,890,723</u>

Analysis of support costs

	2017 £	2016 £
Support staff costs	1,288,546	1,052,934
Depreciation	687,570	648,159
Technology costs	53,933	58,248
Premises costs	810,183	613,413
Other support costs	764,688	860,030
Governance costs	31,342	30,522
Total	<u>3,636,262</u>	<u>3,263,306</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned or leased by the Trust	687,570	648,158
Auditors' remuneration - audit	12,000	11,750
Auditors' remuneration - other services	7,750	11,226
	687,570	671,124

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	7,022,237	6,784,828
Social security costs	643,763	531,638
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,390,635	1,177,657
	9,056,635	8,494,123

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

	2017	2016
	No.	No.
Teachers	156	152
Administration and support	150	141
Management	14	13
	320	306

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

	2017	2016
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	4	2

Each of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. During the year ended 31 August 2016 the Trust made contributions totalling £45,182 (2016 - £46,597) on their behalf.

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 contribution) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £377,601 (2016 - £258,896). 2016 did not include the Tollgate Primary School Senior Management Team.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

10. CENTRAL SERVICES

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

- Insurance

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Amount per Pupil; £31.19 (2016 - £30.49)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
County Upper	34,890	30,492
Westley Middle School	15,680	14,240
Horringer Court Middle School	11,560	11,038
Tollgate Primary School	7,952	7,410
	70,082	63,180
Total	70,082	63,180

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Trust. The Accounting Officer and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Accounting Officer and other staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2017	2016
		£	£
V Neale	Remuneration	£75,000-£80,000	£75,000-£80,000
	Pension contributions paid	£10,000-£15,000	£10,000-£15,000

During the year ended 31 August 2017, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2016 - £NIL).

12. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees, Governors and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2017 was included in the total insurance cost.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

13. OTHER FINANCE INCOME

	2017 £	2016 £
Interest income on pension scheme assets	78,000	109,000
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(139,000)	(169,000)
	(61,000)	(60,000)

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Assets under construction £
Cost						
At 1 September 2016	34,066,143	107,378	11,745	276,659	442,149	57,013
Additions	158,993	62,494	-	5,904	10,580	-
Transfer between classes	57,013	-	-	-	-	(57,013)
At 31 August 2017	34,282,149	169,872	11,745	282,563	452,729	-
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2016	2,091,188	-	10,912	167,448	377,254	-
Charge for the year	575,158	32,997	833	30,656	47,926	-
At 31 August 2017	2,666,346	32,997	11,745	198,104	425,180	-
Net book value						
At 31 August 2017	31,615,803	136,875	-	84,459	27,549	-
At 31 August 2016	31,974,955	107,378	833	109,211	64,895	57,013

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued)

	Total £
Cost	
At 1 September 2016	34,961,087
Additions	237,971
Transfer between classes	-
At 31 August 2017	35,199,058
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2016	2,646,802
Charge for the year	687,570
At 31 August 2017	3,334,372
Net book value	
At 31 August 2017	31,864,686
At 31 August 2016	32,314,285

15. DEBTORS

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	34,592	14,548
VAT	58,590	78,877
Other debtors	13	9,694
Prepayments and accrued income	232,230	180,768
	325,425	283,887

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Other loans	11,947	10,070
Trade creditors	434	111,623
Other taxation and social security	161,772	158,969
Other creditors	145,425	154,026
Accruals and deferred income	286,128	502,026
	605,706	936,714

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

	2017 £	2016 £
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2016	128,876	126,655
Resources deferred during the year	109,345	128,876
Amounts released from previous years	(128,876)	(126,655)
	<u>109,345</u>	<u>128,876</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2017	<u>109,345</u>	<u>128,876</u>

Deferred income related to school trip income and Universal Free School Meals (UFSM).

17. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Other loans - Salix loans	<u>42,184</u>	<u>35,250</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2017 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	550,223	767,249	(1,061,749)	(237,971)	-	17,752
Restricted funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	75,603	9,019,421	(9,095,024)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA revenue grants	211,225	666,318	(544,013)	-	-	333,530
Other Government grants	43,803	228,253	(191,518)	-	-	80,538
Other restricted Funds	6,345	474,974	(441,133)	-	-	40,186
Pension reserve	(2,806,000)	-	(245,000)	-	1,632,000	(1,419,000)
	<u>(2,469,024)</u>	<u>10,388,966</u>	<u>(10,516,688)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,632,000</u>	<u>(964,746)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	32,314,285	-	(687,570)	237,971	-	31,864,686
DfE/ESFA capital grants	175,608	241,983	(220,550)	-	-	197,041
	<u>32,489,893</u>	<u>241,983</u>	<u>(908,120)</u>	<u>237,971</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,061,727</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>30,020,869</u>	<u>10,630,949</u>	<u>(11,424,808)</u>	<u>237,971</u>	<u>1,632,000</u>	<u>31,096,981</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>30,571,092</u></u>	<u><u>11,398,198</u></u>	<u><u>(12,486,557)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,632,000</u></u>	<u><u>31,114,733</u></u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Brought forward £	Income £	Resources expended £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2016 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	709,270	908,882	(1,027,851)	-	(40,078)	550,223
	<u>709,270</u>	<u>908,882</u>	<u>(1,027,851)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,078)</u>	<u>550,223</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds

General Annual Grant (GAG)	245,036	8,845,238	(8,941,759)	-	(72,912)	75,603
Other DfE/ESFA revenue grants	107,468	723,541	(619,784)	-	-	211,225
Other Government grants	2,332	139,520	(98,049)	-	-	43,803
Other restricted Funds	-	408,613	(402,268)	-	-	6,345
Pension reserve	(1,564,000)	-	(94,000)	-	(1,148,000)	(2,806,000)
	<u>(1,209,164)</u>	<u>10,116,912</u>	<u>(10,155,860)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,220,912)</u>	<u>(2,469,024)</u>

Restricted fixed asset funds

Fixed assets	32,468,614	-	(648,158)	-	493,829	32,314,285
DfE/ESFA capital grants	22,635	592,666	(58,854)	-	(380,839)	175,608
	<u>32,491,249</u>	<u>592,666</u>	<u>(707,012)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,990</u>	<u>32,489,893</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>31,282,085</u>	<u>10,709,578</u>	<u>(10,862,872)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,107,922)</u>	<u>30,020,869</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>31,991,355</u></u>	<u><u>11,618,460</u></u>	<u><u>(11,890,723)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(1,148,000)</u></u>	<u><u>30,571,092</u></u>

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

General Annual Grant (GAG)

This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the costs of recurrent expenditure.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2016.

Other DfE/ESFA grants

This funding is to be used to raise achievement and improve outcomes for pupils from low-income families who are eligible for free school meals, looked after children and those from families with parents in the Armed Forces. It also includes UTC funding for the new technology college.

Other Government grants

This represents other funding from the Government towards the provision of education.

Other Restricted Funds

This represents funding received towards specific purposes, including contributions towards school trips.

Pension reserve

This fund represents the Trusts share of the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) transferred to the Trust on conversion from state controlled schools

Restricted fixed asset fund

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the DfE where the asset acquired or created is held for a purpose. Additions purchased during the year have been transferred to this fund.

DfE/ESFA capital grants

This fund represents the Trust's Devolved Formula Capital Funding and the Academy's Capital Maintenance Funding towards improvements and capital expenditure.

There is a transfer from this fund for the maintenance and purchase of capital assets during the year.

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
County Upper School	388,471	379,910
Westley Middle School	38,207	167,814
Horringer Court Middle School	48,232	203,310
Tollgate Primary School	(2,904)	136,165
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	472,006	887,199
Restricted fixed asset fund	32,061,727	32,489,893
Pension reserve	(1,419,000)	(2,806,000)
Total	31,114,733	30,571,092

ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY COST

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 2017 £	Total 2016 £
County Upper School	3,827,057	593,830	530,980	1,081,493	6,033,360	6,044,145
Westley Middle School	1,652,327	186,919	141,507	321,781	2,302,534	2,246,864
Horringer Court Middle School	1,417,447	145,601	123,598	230,711	1,917,357	1,577,194
Tollgate Primary School	936,357	117,196	24,439	387,024	1,465,016	1,279,774
	7,833,188	1,043,546	820,524	2,021,009	11,718,267	11,147,977

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	31,864,686	31,864,686
Current assets	(9,310)	1,129,206	197,041	1,316,937
Creditors due within one year	27,062	(632,768)	-	(605,706)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(42,184)	-	(42,184)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(1,419,000)	-	(1,419,000)
	<u>17,752</u>	<u>(964,746)</u>	<u>32,061,727</u>	<u>31,114,733</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £	Restricted funds 2016 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2016 £	Total funds 2016 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	32,314,285	32,314,285
Current assets	550,223	1,308,940	175,608	2,034,771
Creditors due within one year	-	(936,714)	-	(936,714)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(35,250)	-	(35,250)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,806,000)	-	(2,806,000)
	<u>550,223</u>	<u>(2,469,024)</u>	<u>32,489,893</u>	<u>30,571,092</u>

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2017 £	2016 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,088,359)	(272,263)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	687,570	648,158
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(3,110)	(9,481)
Increase in debtors	(41,538)	(87,586)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(324,074)	353,814
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	245,000	94,000
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(524,511)</u>	<u>726,642</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

21. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Cash in hand	991,512	1,750,884
Total	<u>991,512</u>	<u>1,750,884</u>

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teacher's Pension Scheme for England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Suffolk County Council. Both are Multi-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations (2010) and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

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

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

- employer contribution rates set at 16.48% of pensionable pay, including a 0.08% employer administration charge (currently 14.1%);
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £191,500 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £176,600 million giving a notional past service deficit of £14,900 million;
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay will be applied to future valuations; and
- the assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%. The assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%.

During the previous year the employer contribution rate was 14.1%. The TPS valuation for 2012 determined an employer rate of 16.4%, which was payable from September 2015. The next valuation of the TPS is currently underway based on April 2016 data, whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and will be payable from 1 April 2019.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £816,976 (2016 - £405,144).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx).

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2017 was £424,000 (2016 - £376,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £345,000 (2016 - £306,000) and employees' contributions totalled £79,000 (2016 - £70,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.8% for employers and 5.5%-12.5% for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions:

	2017	2016
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.50 %	2.10 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.70 %	4.10 %
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.40 %	2.10 %

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

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

	2017	2016
Retiring today		
Males	21.9	22.4
Females	24.4	24.4
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	23.9	24.3
Females	26.4	26.9

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

	Fair value at 31 August 2017 £	Fair value at 31 August 2016 £
Equities	2,849,000	2,447,000
Debt instruments	880,000	709,000
Property	419,000	355,000
Cash	42,000	35,000
	<u>4,190,000</u>	<u>3,546,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £267,000 (2016 - £503,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account are as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Current service cost	(529,000)	(340,000)
Interest income	78,000	109,000
Interest cost	(139,000)	(169,000)
	<u>(590,000)</u>	<u>(400,000)</u>
Actual return on scheme assets	<u>267,000</u>	<u>503,000</u>

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

22. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,352,000	4,273,000
Current service cost	529,000	340,000
Interest cost	139,000	169,000
Employee contributions	-	70,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(1,443,000)	1,542,000
Benefits paid	-	(42,000)
	<u>5,577,000</u>	<u>6,352,000</u>
Closing defined benefit obligation	<u>5,577,000</u>	<u>6,352,000</u>

Movements in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets:

	2017 £	2016 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	3,546,000	2,709,000
Interest income	-	109,000
Actuarial losses	189,000	394,000
Employer contributions	345,000	306,000
Employee contributions	-	70,000
Benefits paid	-	(42,000)
	<u>4,080,000</u>	<u>3,546,000</u>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>4,080,000</u>	<u>3,546,000</u>

23. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 August 2017 the total of the Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts payable:		
Within 1 year	32,242	26,350
Between 1 and 5 years	44,507	58,450
	<u>76,749</u>	<u>84,800</u>
Total	<u>76,749</u>	<u>84,800</u>

24. 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.

BURY ST EDMUNDS ACADEMY TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

25. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

There were no related party transactions during the year other than certain Trustee's remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 10.