

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

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

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**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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<b>Members</b>	A Armstrong S Bonnell J Cowan D Middleton
<b>Trustees</b>	A Armstrong <sup>1</sup> R Crow S Edwards, Chief Executive <sup>1</sup> J Hampson D Middleton, Chair of Trustees <sup>1</sup> K Robinson R Hendrickse (appointed 6 October 2016)
	<sup>1</sup> Finance and Audit 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>	S George
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	S Edwards
<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 2017**

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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 2017. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates academies for pupils aged 3 to 18 in Wiltshire and a Trading Company, Academy Collaborative Services. The academies have a combined pupil capacity of 2,757 and had a roll of 2,381 in the school census on 1 October 2017.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Constitution**

The Academy Trust (which was incorporated on 1 June 2011 and opened as an Academy on 1 August 2011) is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Acorn Education Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company trades as Kingdown School, Dilton Marsh Church of England Primary School, The Avenue Primary School and Children's Centre, Keevil CofE Primary Academy, West Ashton CofE Primary School, Heytesbury CofE Primary School and St Johns CofE Primary School.

Acorn Education Trust amended its articles to have 50% Diocese membership and Directorship, to be able to accept Voluntary Aided schools. Academy Collaborative Services Ltd which runs the Avenue Children's Centre and other non-core activities for the Trust is a wholly owned trading Company.

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 Trust 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

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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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 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 and Audit Committee - this meets at least three times a year and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing policy and performance in relation to financial management, compliance with reporting and regulatory requirements and reporting, receiving reports from the Responsible Officer and drafting the annual budget including setting staffing levels. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee.

The Trustees have devolved responsibility for day to day management of the Academies to the 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 of the Multi Academy Trust.

The Chief Operating Officer of the Multi Academy Trust is the Chief Financial 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.

**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.

**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.

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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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 4 of the Charities Act 2006 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 Academy 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 the interest of improving the life of the said community.

The aims and achievements of the schools during the year ended 31 August 2017 are summarised below.

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**Educational Achievements**

The Avenue Primary School and Children's Centre joined the Trust in Special measures in January 2015. It had its first Ofsted visit this year and achieved the status of Good.

Our Secondary also received a visit and maintained its status of Good.

The 2017 examination results in Acorn Education Trust are very mixed.

The KS2 results at The Avenue are very impressive in both attainment and progress. The progress scores place the school in the top 25% of all schools for English and writing, and the top 5% for maths. Results are also very good at Heytesbury, where progress in reading and maths is in the top 25% of all schools and writing is in the top 40%. Keevil improved their results this year; progress in reading is in the top 25%, writing is the middle 40% for all schools and while maths attainment has improved, progress is still low, in the bottom 40%. St. John's is beginning to show signs of improvement; attainment in reading and maths is above national and progress is in the middle 20% and bottom 40% respectively. Writing results were below national and progress is in the bottom 25%. At Dilton Marsh writing remains steady, it is above national and progress is in the middle 20%. Reading and maths results are very poor and significantly below national on all measures.

KS1 results are generally in line with national or slightly below in all schools, except Dilton Marsh where they are strongly above in all 3 areas.

Kingdown Schools GCSE results are good; Progress 8 measure is +0.17; Attainment 8 is 48.30 and Basics (English and Maths) is 69.1%. A level results are also good:

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Actual</b>
% A* to B / Di*	47.4%
% A* to C / Di* to Di	78.9%
% A* to E / Di* to Pa	100.0%
APS / Entry	35.4%
Progress to B average	54%

**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

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**Business Achievements**

Some of the key business achievements of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2017 are:

- Extended the IT shared service and providing an entire infrastructure replacement at 2 primaries this year and taking on the ongoing maintenance and support.
- Collaborated with a variety of schools outside of the Trust and assisted them in solving budget issues.
- Brought in 4 additional schools to the Trust.
- Further developed Catering and Children's Centre provision and developed plans for both to expand, which are being expedited.
- In discussion with Primaries and Secondary's regarding Trust membership and further developing the marketing, strategies and plans for the Trust.
- Identifying systems and processes that could be better improved to redirect funds to education.

**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, £852,860 was carried forward representing 8.5% of GAG.

**Going Concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the 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 2017 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received a grant for fixed assets from the DfE and 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 2017, total expenditure (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) of £12,289,582 was covered by recurrent grant funding from the DfE, together with other incoming resources of £12,637,941. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £348,359.

At 31 August 2017 the net book value of fixed assets was £17,471,481 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 15 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 Note 26 to the financial statements.

Trustees have adopted a Responsible Officer Policy and appointed Bishop Fleming to undertake a programme of internal checks on the financial controls. During the year, the Trustees received 1 report from the Responsible Officer which contained no matters of significance.

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

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**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 free cash reserves should be approximately £250,000. 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 £1,598,487.

**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 Business and Finance Director within strict guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Principal Risks And Uncertainties**

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

**Financial** - the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 89% 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.

**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.



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

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The Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Trust. The register and plan are constantly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

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:

- Each academy is recognised as a centre of learning excellence.
- Leadership at all levels is excellent, supported by strong and robust quality assurance systems.

Acorn Education Trust will seek to develop its shared services offered.

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

A trust:

- that has a target Ofsted rating of Outstanding for all its academies;
- that sees the development of teaching and learning as key to improvement and raising standards;
- with shared values and collective responsibility for the whole group and the community it serves;
- made up from a group of schools in close geographical proximity and is not remote from the academies it serves;
- based on strong leadership and the development of high quality leaders in all schools and centralised services;

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

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- where each school has an agreed level of autonomy based on the school's performance and the level of support it requires;
- where schools work together to deliver value for money services by sharing and optimising resources across the group;
- where individual academies will enjoy better services and facilities, and greater security, than would be possible as a stand-alone academy;
- where individual academies will have more resources to direct towards teaching and learning than would be possible as an individual academy.

**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.

**AUDITORS**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

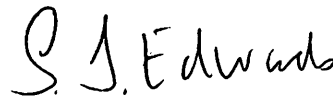
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable Group's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 19 December 2017 and signed on the board's behalf by:



**D Middleton**  
Chair of Trustees



**S Edwards**  
Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer

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

**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.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between 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 4 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
A Armstrong	1	4
R Crow	3	4
S Edwards, Chief Executive	4	4
J Hampson	3	4
K Robinson	3	4
R Hendrickse	4	4
D Middleton, Chair of Trustees	4	4

The Finance and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trustees. The purpose of the Finance and Audit Committee is to ensure that the standards of financial control and administration are adhered to, make financial plans including agreeing the draft budget, and monitor the progress of income and expenditure. It also incorporates the role of an audit committee. The Finance Committee has formally met 6 times during the year.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Armstrong, Vice Chair	2	6
S Edwards	6	6
D Middleton, Chair of Trustees	6	6

**REVIEW OF VALUE FOR MONEY**

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

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

- Bringing in house the payroll function improving control and increasing finances available for education;
- Bringing the Catering function in house, again increasing finances available for educational purposes;
- Extending the IT bought shared service, saving funds and providing necessary expertise to deliver the curriculum effectively;
- Extending shared facilities services, saving money and giving primaries access to trades that would have in the past not been available;
- Robust financial governance and budget management;

**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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- Value for money purchasing;
- Reviewing controls and managing risk;
- Considering allocations and targeting the use of resources;
- Making comparisons with similar Academies using data provided by the ESFA and the Government;
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency;
- Deploying staff effectively;
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching;
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress; and
- Outlining procedures for accepting best value quotes, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote.

**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 Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Acorn Education 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 Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks, that 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 Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

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

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the Trustees have appointed Bishop Fleming LLP, the external auditors, to perform additional checks.

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (continued)**

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

- Testing of payroll systems;
- Testing of purchase systems;
- Testing of control account/bank account reconciliations; and
- Testing of sales ledgers.

Bishop Fleming report to the Board of Trustees through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

**REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS**

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance 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 19 December 2017 and signed on their behalf, by:



**D Middleton  
Chair of Trustees**



**S Edwards  
Accounting Officer**

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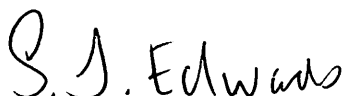
**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As Accounting Officer of Acorn Education Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust 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 academy trust 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.



**S Edwards  
Accounting Officer**

Date: 19 December 2017

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

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

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The Trustees who are responsible for preparing the Group Strategic Report, 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable Group 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 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 and signed on its behalf by:



**D Middleton**  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 19 December 2017

**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 academy') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 August 2017 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Group 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 FRS 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 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 Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's 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 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 Group's and of the parent Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2017 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 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

**BASIS OF 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 Auditor's 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 Academy 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.

**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 Auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Group 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

- the parent Academy 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 Academy Trust financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remunerations 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 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 Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group's or the parent Academy Trust's or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**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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**AUDITOR'S 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 Auditor's 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). The description forms part of our Auditor's report.

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:

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

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 September 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 Acorn Education 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 Acorn Education Trust and the 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 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 Acorn Education Trust and the 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 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 Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the Academy Trust 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 ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO ACORN  
EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (continued)**

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**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.

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:

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

**CONSOLIDATED 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 (as restated) 2016 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
Donations & capital grants:						
Transfer from local authority on conversion	2	116,204	(114,542)	-	1,662	(40,215)
Other donations and capital grants	2	53,750	318,533	57,247	429,530	390,326
Charitable activities	3	297,038	11,276,691	-	11,573,729	10,619,905
Other trading activities	4,5	688,607	-	-	688,607	442,837
Investments	6	1,660	-	-	1,660	2,668
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,157,259</b>	<b>11,480,682</b>	<b>57,247</b>	<b>12,695,188</b>	<b>11,415,521</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
Raising funds	4	528,754	-	-	528,754	365,612
Charitable activities		469,149	11,291,679	606,941	12,367,769	11,381,460
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	7	<b>997,903</b>	<b>11,291,679</b>	<b>606,941</b>	<b>12,896,523</b>	<b>11,747,072</b>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>159,356</b>	<b>189,003</b>	<b>(549,694)</b>	<b>(201,335)</b>	<b>(331,551)</b>
Transfers between Funds	20	-	(125,519)	125,519	-	-
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>		<b>159,356</b>	<b>63,484</b>	<b>(424,175)</b>	<b>(201,335)</b>	<b>(331,551)</b>
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	1,778,000	-	1,778,000	(1,516,000)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>159,356</b>	<b>1,841,484</b>	<b>(424,175)</b>	<b>1,576,665</b>	<b>(1,847,551)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		1,439,131	(2,909,151)	17,895,656	16,425,636	18,273,187
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,598,487</b>	<b>(1,067,667)</b>	<b>17,471,481</b>	<b>18,002,301</b>	<b>16,425,636</b>

The notes on pages 23 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

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

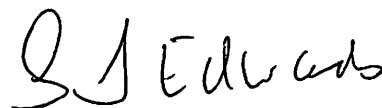
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017**

			2017	(As restated)
	Note	£	£	2016
			£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	15		17,471,481	17,895,656
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	17	409,901		313,092
Cash at bank and in hand		3,247,713		2,511,408
		<u>3,657,614</u>		<u>2,824,500</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>(1,012,794)</u>		<u>(886,520)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>2,644,820</u>	<u>1,937,980</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>20,116,301</u>	<u>19,833,636</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(2,114,000)		(3,408,000)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>18,002,301</u></u>	<u><u>16,425,636</u></u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST</b>				
Restricted funds:				
General funds	20	1,046,333		498,849
Fixed asset funds	20	17,471,481		17,895,656
Restricted funds excluding pension liability		<u>18,517,814</u>		<u>18,394,505</u>
Pension reserve		<u>(2,114,000)</u>		<u>(3,408,000)</u>
Total restricted funds			<u>16,403,814</u>	<u>14,986,505</u>
Unrestricted funds	20		<u>1,598,487</u>	<u>1,439,131</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u><u>18,002,301</u></u>	<u><u>16,425,636</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 19 to 54 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 19 December 2017 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**D Middleton**  
**Chair of Trustees**



**S Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**

The notes on pages 23 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

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


**ACADEMY TRUST BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017**

			2017	(As restated)
	Note	£	£	2016
			£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	15		17,471,481	17,895,656
Investments	16		1	1
			<u>17,471,482</u>	<u>17,895,657</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	17	519,037		348,428
Cash at bank and in hand		3,039,791		2,369,646
		<u>3,558,828</u>		<u>2,718,074</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>(1,006,792)</u>		<u>(876,952)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>2,552,036</u>	<u>1,841,122</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>20,023,518</u>	<u>19,736,779</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(2,114,000)		(3,408,000)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>17,909,518</u></u>	<u><u>16,328,779</u></u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY</b>				
Restricted funds:				
Restricted income funds	20	1,046,333		498,849
Restricted fixed asset funds	20	17,471,481		17,895,656
		<u>18,517,814</u>		<u>18,394,505</u>
Pension reserve		<u>(2,114,000)</u>		<u>(3,408,000)</u>
Total restricted funds			<u>16,403,814</u>	<u>14,986,505</u>
Unrestricted funds	20	1,505,704		1,342,274
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u><u>17,909,518</u></u>	<u><u>16,328,779</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 19 December 2017 and are signed on their behalf, by:



**D Middleton**  
**Chair of Trustees**



**S Edwards**  
**Accounting Officer**

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

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

		<b>2017</b>	<b>(As restated)</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2016</b>
			<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	<b>673,874</b>	<b>589,687</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Interest received		<b>1,660</b>	<b>2,668</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(182,766)</b>	<b>(455,087)</b>
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA		<b>89,191</b>	<b>100,212</b>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(91,915)</b>	<b>(352,207)</b>
<b>Cash flows from conversion</b>			
Cash transferred on conversion to an Academy Trust		<b>154,346</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<b>154,346</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>736,305</b>	<b>237,505</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<b>2,511,408</b>	<b>2,273,903</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	23	<b>3,247,713</b>	<b>2,511,408</b>

The notes on pages 23 to 54 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 2017**

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

Acorn Education Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Academy Trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the Academy Trust alone as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY**

Following new guidance contained in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, where the School occupies land and buildings under a Church Supplemental Agreement (CSA), those land and buildings should not be recognised as a fixed asset in the balance sheet of the School unless the School has complete control over the access and works. This is considered to be a more appropriate policy in order to recognise the true ownership of such land and buildings where occupation is granted under a two-year rolling licence with the risks and rewards of ownership being retained by the land owner.

The School occupies land and buildings under a CSA, and therefore the related land and buildings have no longer been recognised as assets in the balance sheet. For full details of the effect on these financial statements see note 30.

**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 Academy 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 academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.4 FUND ACCOUNTING**

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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

**1.5 INCOME**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

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

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

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.7 BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION**

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Acorn Education Trust and all of its subsidiary undertakings ('subsidiaries').

The Academy Trust has taken advantage of the exemption contained within 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Income and Expenditure Account.

**1.8 OPERATING LEASES**

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

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION**

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Land and buildings occupied under a Church Supplemental Agreement are not recognised as assets in the balance sheet - this is a change of accounting policy as detailed in note 1.2. 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 of the notional rent donated by the landowner.

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 buildings	-	50 years straight line
Long term leasehold land	-	125 years straight line
Motor vehicles	-	4 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	-	3 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 Statement of Financial Activities.

**1.10 INVESTMENTS**

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

**1.11 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.

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.12 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

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

**1.13 TAXATION**

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by 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.

**1.14 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 Academy Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation.

**1.15 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

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

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

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.16 PENSIONS**

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy 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 Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 26, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

**1.17 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST**

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

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from West Ashton Church of England Primary School, Heytesbury Church of England Primary School, and St John's Church of England Primary School to an Academy Trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

Pension assets and liabilities have been valued by Hymans Robertson LLP.

Further details of the transaction are set out in note 25.

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

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**1.18 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy 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 period end are disclosed in note 30.

**1.19 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, 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.

Critical areas of judgment:

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

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

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	(As restated) Total funds 2016 £
Transfer from local authority on conversion	116,204	(114,542)	-	1,662	(40,215)
	<u>116,204</u>	<u>(114,542)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,662</u>	<u>(40,215)</u>
Donations	53,750	286,589	-	340,339	290,114
Capital Grants	-	31,944	57,247	89,191	100,212
	<u>53,750</u>	<u>318,533</u>	<u>57,247</u>	<u>429,530</u>	<u>390,326</u>
	<u>169,954</u>	<u>203,991</u>	<u>57,247</u>	<u>431,192</u>	<u>350,111</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>27,247</u>	<u>222,652</u>	<u>100,212</u>	<u>350,111</u>	



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**3. FUNDING FOR ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant	-	10,047,001	10,047,001	9,198,816
Start up Grants	-	140,000	140,000	25,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	680,744	680,744	593,832
	-	10,867,745	10,867,745	9,817,648
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Other government grants non capital	117,962	363,466	481,428	396,928
	117,962	363,466	481,428	396,928
<b>Other funding</b>				
Internal catering income	44,014	-	44,014	265,740
Sales to students	72,724	-	72,724	24,178
Other	62,338	45,480	107,818	115,411
	179,076	45,480	224,556	405,329
	297,038	11,276,691	11,573,729	10,619,905
<b>Total 2016</b>	460,612	10,159,293	10,619,905	

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**4. TRADING SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES**

The wholly owned trading subsidiary, Academy Collaborative Services Limited, is incorporated in the United Kingdom (company number: 09360756) and pays all of its profits to the Academy Trust under the gift aid scheme. Academy Collaborative Services Limited operates a Children's Centre and also provides catering services. A summary of the trading results is shown below.

The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
<b>CHARITY TRADING INCOME</b>				
Children's Centre and catering income	649,818	-	649,818	406,763
<b>TRADING EXPENSES</b>				
Children's Centre and catering expenditure	528,754	-	528,754	365,612
Net income from trading activities donated to Acorn Education Trust	121,064	-	121,064	41,151

In 2016, the total income from trading activities of £406,763 was unrestricted.

**5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	(As restated) Total funds 2016 £
Lettings	38,789	-	38,789	36,074
<i>Total 2016</i>	36,074	-	36,074	

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £	Total funds 2016 £
Bank interest	1,660	-	1,660	2,668
<i>Total 2016</i>	2,668	-	2,668	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**7. EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Other costs</b>	<b>Total</b>	(As restated) <b>Total</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Expenditure on raising funds	<b>361,479</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167,275</b>	<b>528,754</b>	<b>365,612</b>
Education:					
Direct costs	<b>7,748,373</b>	<b>437,113</b>	<b>934,405</b>	<b>9,119,891</b>	<b>8,401,176</b>
Support costs	<b>1,533,382</b>	<b>627,927</b>	<b>1,086,569</b>	<b>3,247,878</b>	<b>3,012,274</b>
	<b>9,643,234</b>	<b>1,065,040</b>	<b>2,188,249</b>	<b>12,896,523</b>	<b>11,779,062</b>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<b>9,097,741</b>	<b>687,246</b>	<b>1,994,075</b>	<b>11,779,062</b>	

**8. DIRECT COSTS**

	<b>Total</b>	(As restated) <b>Total</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension finance costs	<b>76,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
Educational supplies	<b>226,665</b>	<b>194,856</b>
Examination fees	<b>152,852</b>	<b>138,680</b>
Staff development	<b>26,180</b>	<b>27,216</b>
Educational visits and other costs	<b>425,390</b>	<b>357,817</b>
Supply teachers	<b>28,628</b>	<b>737</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>6,157,246</b>	<b>5,766,054</b>
National insurance	<b>539,587</b>	<b>457,255</b>
Pension cost	<b>1,090,510</b>	<b>962,169</b>
Depreciation	<b>396,833</b>	<b>443,402</b>
	<b>9,119,891</b>	<b>8,369,186</b>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<b>8,369,186</b>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**9. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Total 2017 £	(As restated) Total 2016 £
Pension finance costs	-	45,000
Staff development	6,557	5,545
Other costs	67,202	50,215
Recruitment and support	14,982	36,594
Maintenance of premises and equipment	158,615	124,301
Cleaning	54,545	38,760
Rent and rates	80,107	69,026
Energy costs	124,552	121,864
Insurance	46,009	64,077
Security and transport	47,969	38,070
Catering	144,901	303,208
Technology costs	278,043	179,326
Office overheads	16,964	15,854
Legal and professional	245,396	109,764
Bank interest and charges	2,557	2,497
Governance	18,587	14,750
Wages and salaries	1,236,150	1,261,506
National insurance	83,013	66,617
Pension cost	411,621	301,162
Depreciation	210,108	164,138
	<u>3,247,878</u>	<u>3,012,274</u>
<i>Total 2016</i>	<u>3,012,274</u>	

**10. NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD**

This is stated after charging:

	2017 £	(As restated) 2016 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charitable group	606,941	607,540
Auditors' remuneration - audit	15,000	15,000
Auditors' remuneration - non-audit	3,605	2,020
	<u>625,546</u>	<u>624,560</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**11. STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and salaries	7,667,987	7,266,490
Social security costs	634,230	532,860
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,534,657	1,289,676
	<u>9,836,874</u>	<u>9,089,026</u>
Supply teacher costs	28,628	737
Apprenticeship levy	17,732	-
Staff restructuring costs	25,000	7,978
	<u>9,908,234</u>	<u>9,097,741</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year, expressed as full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Teachers	155	140
Administration and support	168	209
Managers	32	42
	<u>355</u>	<u>391</u>

Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Teachers	131	118
Administration and support	92	78
Managers	31	34
	<u>254</u>	<u>230</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer's National Insurance contributions and employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	8	6
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	0
In the band £100,001 - £200,000	1	1

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**11. STAFF COSTS (continued)**

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £292,294 (2016: £315,129).

As staff Trustees are not remunerated in respect of their role as a Trustee, where staff Trustees do not form part of the key management personnel other than in their role as Trustee, their remuneration as set out in note 12 has not been included in the total benefits received by key management personnel above.

**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 Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:  
S Edwards: Remuneration £105,000 - £110,000 (2016: £105,000 - £110,000), Employer's pension contributions £15,000 - £20,000 (2016: £15,000 - £20,000). Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 28.

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2016: £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2017, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2016: £NIL to 0 Trustees).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**13. CENTRAL SERVICES**

The Academy Trust has 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 Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The Trust charges 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:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Kingdown School	216,000	240,000
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	23,400	27,000
The Avenue Primary School	47,500	45,000
Keevil C of E Primary School	13,200	2,260
West Ashton C of E Primary School	9,100	-
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	3,750	-
St John's C of E Primary School	3,000	-
	<u>315,950</u>	<u>314,260</u>

**14. TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE**

The Academy Trust has opted into the Department for 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.

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>GROUP AND ACADEMY TRUST</b>					
<b>COST</b>					
At 1 September 2016 (as restated)	18,787,209	41,212	496,146	1,271,378	20,595,945
Additions	-	6,495	142,684	33,587	182,766
At 31 August 2017	18,787,209	47,707	638,830	1,304,965	20,778,711
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 September 2016 (as restated)	1,529,656	25,131	230,505	914,997	2,700,289
Charge for the year	336,555	8,876	75,778	185,732	606,941
At 31 August 2017	1,866,211	34,007	306,283	1,100,729	3,307,230
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 August 2017	16,920,998	13,700	332,547	204,236	17,471,481
At 31 August 2016 (as restated)	17,257,553	16,081	265,641	356,381	17,895,656

**16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

This £1 represents the investment in the trading subsidiary, Academy Collaborative Services Limited.

**17. DEBTORS**

	<b>GROUP</b>		<b>ACADEMY TRUST</b>	
	2017 £	2016 £	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	11,202	21,655	8,272	19,239
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	115,930	41,151
Other debtors	4,033	1,435	169	243
Prepayments and accrued income	215,783	175,466	215,783	173,259
Tax recoverable	178,883	114,536	178,883	114,536
	409,901	313,092	519,037	348,428



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>GROUP</b>		<b>ACADEMY TRUST</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	<b>403,422</b>	342,317	<b>399,246</b>	340,346
Other taxation and social security	<b>188,675</b>	166,537	<b>187,984</b>	165,920
Other creditors	<b>218,571</b>	172,089	<b>217,436</b>	167,249
Accruals and deferred income	<b>202,126</b>	205,577	<b>202,126</b>	203,437
	<b>1,012,794</b>	886,520	<b>1,006,792</b>	876,952
	<b>GROUP</b>		<b>ACADEMY TRUST</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>DEFERRED INCOME</b>				
Deferred income at 1 September 2016	<b>157,464</b>	<b>141,497</b>	<b>157,464</b>	<b>141,497</b>
Resources deferred during the year	<b>161,775</b>	<b>157,464</b>	<b>161,775</b>	<b>157,464</b>
Amounts released from previous years	<b>(157,464)</b>	<b>(141,497)</b>	<b>(157,464)</b>	<b>(141,497)</b>
Deferred income at 31 August 2017	<b>161,775</b>	<b>157,464</b>	<b>161,775</b>	<b>157,464</b>

At the balance sheet date the Group and Academy Trust were holding ESFA grants and school trip income received in advance for the 2017/18 academic year .

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<b>3,247,713</b>	2,511,408
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<b>166,883</b>	114,361
	<u><b>3,414,596</b></u>	<u>2,625,769</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u><b>444,069</b></u>	<u>390,430</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash and cash equivalents.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade debtors, other debtors and accrued income.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors, other creditors and accruals.

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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Carried forward £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General funds	1,439,131	1,157,259	(997,903)	-	-	1,598,487
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Carried forward £
General Annual Grant (GAG)	413,098	10,047,001	(9,481,720)	(125,519)	-	852,860
Start up grant	8,160	140,000	(74,174)	-	-	73,986
Pupil Premium	-	456,212	(456,212)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)	-	101,999	(101,999)	-	-	-
Devolved Formula Capital	-	31,944	(31,944)	-	-	-
Other ESFA grants	-	67,533	(67,533)	-	-	-
Sponsored capacity fund	28,882	55,000	(28,882)	-	-	55,000
Named pupil allowance	-	50,356	(50,356)	-	-	-
Enhanced learning provision	-	64,039	(64,039)	-	-	-
School sports services	48,709	45,480	(29,702)	-	-	64,487
Young Peoples Support Services	-	130,387	(130,387)	-	-	-
Other local authority funding	-	118,684	(118,684)	-	-	-
Other donations	-	315,047	(315,047)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(3,408,000)	(143,000)	(341,000)	-	1,778,000	(2,114,000)
	(2,909,151)	11,480,682	(11,291,679)	(125,519)	1,778,000	(1,067,667)
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS</b>						
	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Carried forward £
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	16,293,971	-	(336,556)	-	-	15,957,415
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	1,601,685	57,247	(270,385)	125,519	-	1,514,066
	17,895,656	57,247	(606,941)	125,519	-	17,471,481
Total restricted funds	14,986,505	11,537,929	(11,898,620)	-	1,778,000	16,403,814
Total of funds	16,425,636	12,695,188	(12,896,523)	-	1,778,000	18,002,301

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

**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR (AS RESTATED)**

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2016 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
General funds	1,205,486	933,364	(699,719)	-	-	1,439,131
	<u>1,205,486</u>	<u>933,364</u>	<u>(699,719)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,439,131</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2016 £
General Annual Grant (GAG)	571,621	9,204,752	(9,008,400)	(354,875)	-	413,098
Start up grant	-	25,000	(16,840)	-	-	8,160
Pupil Premium	-	446,914	(446,914)	-	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)	-	77,398	(77,398)	-	-	-
Sponsored Academy funding	42,144	-	(42,144)	-	-	-
Sponsored capacity fund	39,269	-	(10,387)	-	-	28,882
Named pupil allowance	-	35,195	(35,195)	-	-	-
Enhanced learning provision	-	65,621	(65,621)	-	-	-
School sports services	45,558	52,529	(49,378)	-	-	48,709
Young Peoples Support Services	-	140,523	(140,523)	-	-	-
Trips	-	265,152	(265,152)	-	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	112,861	(112,861)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,679,000)	(44,000)	(169,000)	-	(1,516,000)	(3,408,000)
	<u>(980,408)</u>	<u>10,381,945</u>	<u>(10,439,813)</u>	<u>(354,875)</u>	<u>(1,516,000)</u>	<u>(2,909,151)</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS**

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2016 £
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	16,611,201	-	(317,230)	-	-	16,293,971
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	1,436,908	100,212	(290,310)	354,875	-	1,601,685
	18,048,109	100,212	(607,540)	354,875	-	17,895,656
Total restricted funds	17,067,701	10,482,157	(11,047,353)	-	(1,516,000)	14,986,505
Total of funds	18,273,187	11,415,521	(11,747,072)	-	(1,516,000)	16,425,636

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

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

The General Annual Grant (GAG) - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy 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 Trust 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 Academy Trust in delivering the legal requirement to offer free school meals to all their reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils.

Devolved Formula Capital - This represents funding received from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of the Academy Trust's assets.

Other ESFA grants - This represents other funding received from the ESFA, including rates funding and PE sport grant.

Sponsored capacity fund - This represents funding received from the ESFA to support approved Academy sponsors in setting up and expanding the Trust and its organisational structures.

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

Enhanced learning provision - This represents funding received from Wiltshire County Council, to work in partnership with the Academy Trust in order to effectively include pupils with complex learning and communication needs.

School Sports Services - This represents funding from Schools Sport Trust to motivate and inspire young people to take part in competitive school sports.

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**20. 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.

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 parents towards schools trips as well as other funding received for specific purposes.

Pension reserve represents the Academy 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 Academy 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 Academy 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.

**TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

The transfer from the restricted fund to the restricted fixed asset fund represents the total capital expenditure from GAG and other restricted grants during the year.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2017.

**ANALYSIS OF ACADEMIES BY FUND BALANCE**

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Kingdown School	1,484,975	1,343,940
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	287,125	162,468
The Avenue Primary School	237,713	200,027
Keevil C of E Primary School	30,025	16,278
West Ashton C of E Primary School	30,987	-
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	58,638	-
St John's C of E Primary School	50,962	-
Central Services (including Trading subsidiary)	464,395	215,267
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset fund and pension reserve	2,644,820	1,937,980
Restricted fixed asset fund	17,471,481	17,895,656
Pension reserve	(2,114,000)	(3,408,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	18,002,301	16,425,636
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

**20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**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 £
Kingdown School	5,528,556	1,307,000	141,287	1,229,904	8,206,747	8,311,021
Dilton Marsh C of E Primary School	539,972	87,400	9,858	158,881	796,111	845,851
The Avenue Primary School	881,689	131,503	20,881	247,159	1,281,232	1,194,247
Keevil C of E Primary School	354,061	29,320	22,448	98,859	504,688	80,000
West Ashton C of E Primary School	178,933	28,062	11,059	91,044	309,098	-
Heytesbury C of E Primary School	139,264	13,452	5,364	46,443	204,523	-
St John's C of E Primary School	73,959	11,062	3,839	27,356	116,216	-
Central Services (including Trading subsidiary)	119,537	484,464	11,929	255,037	870,967	708,413
	<u>7,815,971</u>	<u>2,092,263</u>	<u>226,665</u>	<u>2,154,683</u>	<u>12,289,582</u>	<u>11,139,532</u>

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

	Unrestricted funds 2017 £	Restricted funds 2017 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2017 £	Total funds 2017 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,471,481	17,471,481
Current assets	1,491,188	2,166,426	-	3,657,614
Creditors due within one year	107,299	(1,120,093)	-	(1,012,794)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,114,000)	-	(2,114,000)
	<u>1,598,487</u>	<u>(1,067,667)</u>	<u>17,471,481</u>	<u>18,002,301</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (continued)**

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	2016 £	2016 £	2016 £	2016 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,895,656	17,895,656
Current assets	1,459,606	1,364,894	-	2,824,500
Creditors due within one year	(20,475)	(866,045)	-	(886,520)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(3,408,000)	-	(3,408,000)
	<u>1,439,131</u>	<u>(2,909,151)</u>	<u>17,895,656</u>	<u>16,425,636</u>

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

	<b>GROUP</b>	
	2017 £	(As restated) 2016 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>(201,335)</b>	<b>(331,551)</b>
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>606,941</b>	607,540
Interest received	<b>(1,660)</b>	(2,668)
Increase in debtors	<b>(45,391)</b>	(51,215)
Increase in creditors	<b>65,172</b>	258,578
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	<b>(89,191)</b>	(100,212)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	<b>265,000</b>	103,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	<b>76,000</b>	66,000
Net assets and liabilities from local authority on conversion	<b>(1,662)</b>	40,215
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b><u>673,874</u></b>	<b><u>589,687</u></b>

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

	<b>GROUP</b>	
	2017 £	2016 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>3,247,713</b>	2,511,408
	<b><u>3,247,713</u></b>	<b><u>2,511,408</u></b>



**ACORN EDUCATION TRUST**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017**

**24. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Acorn Education Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales. The registered office is: Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wiltshire, BS12 9DR.

**25. CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST**

During the year the 3 schools listed below converted to Academy Trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Acorn Education Trust from Wiltshire County Council for £NIL consideration.

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

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities. Not included below is the transfer of pension deficit liability of £143,000 on conversion, as a split between the schools is not available.

**West Ashton Church of England Primary School (1 February 2017)**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Budget surplus on Local Authority funds	-	1,334	-	1,334
Budget surplus/(deficit) on other school funds	(22,282)	(4,592)	-	(26,874)
Other identified assets and liabilities	56,528	-	-	56,528
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>34,246</u>	<u>(3,258)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,988</u>

The above net assets include £52,883 that was transferred as cash.

**Heytesbury Church of England Primary School (1 March 2017)**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Budget surplus on Local Authority funds	-	24,385	-	24,385
Budget surplus/(deficit) on other school funds	(6,718)	-	-	(6,718)
Other identified assets and liabilities	40,961	-	-	40,961
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>34,243</u>	<u>24,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,628</u>

The above net assets include £38,489 that was transferred as cash.

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

**St John's Church of England Primary School (1 July 2017)**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
Budget surplus on Local Authority funds	-	4,334	-	4,334
Budget surplus/(deficit) on other school funds	-	2,997	-	2,997
Other identified assets and liabilities	47,715	-	-	47,715
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,715</b>	<b>7,331</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,046</b>

The above net assets include £62,974 that was transferred as cash.

**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS**

The Group'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 Wiltshire 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.

**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%)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

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

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 £1,165,657 (2016: £833,747).

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](http://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 £475,000 (2016: £449,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £369,000 (2016: £358,000) and employees' contributions totalled £106,000 (2016: £91,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.5% for employers and 5.5 - 7.5% 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:

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

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

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Retiring today		
Males	<b>22.5</b>	22.3
Females	<b>24.9</b>	24.5
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	<b>24.1</b>	24.1
Females	<b>26.7</b>	26.9

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>	<b>At 31 August 2017 £</b>	<b>At 31 August 2016 £</b>
Discount rate -0.5%	<b>940,000</b>	948,000
Salary increase rate +0.5%	<b>178,000</b>	363,000
Pension increase rate +0.5%	<b>746,000</b>	553,000

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

	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2017 £</b>	<b>Fair value at 31 August 2016 £</b>
Equities	<b>3,745,000</b>	2,929,000
Bonds	<b>739,000</b>	610,000
Property	<b>686,000</b>	488,000
Cash and other liquid assets	<b>105,000</b>	41,000
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b><u>5,275,000</u></b>	<b><u>4,068,000</u></b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £849,000 (2016: £378,000).

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

	<b>2017 £</b>	<b>2016 £</b>
Current service cost	<b>(634,000)</b>	(461,000)
Interest income	<b>91,000</b>	130,000
Interest cost	<b>(167,000)</b>	(196,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>(710,000)</u></b>	<b><u>(527,000)</u></b>
<b>Actual return on scheme assets</b>	<b><u>849,000</u></b>	<b><u>378,000</u></b>

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

	<b>2017 £</b>	<b>2016 £</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	<b>7,476,000</b>	4,858,000
Current service cost	<b>634,000</b>	461,000
Interest cost	<b>167,000</b>	196,000
Employee contributions	<b>106,000</b>	91,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	<b>(1,214,000)</b>	1,766,000
Benefits paid	<b>(52,000)</b>	(10,000)
Effect of business combinations	<b>272,000</b>	114,000
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b><u>7,389,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,476,000</u></b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26. PENSION COMMITMENTS (continued)**

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

	2017 £	2016 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	4,068,000	3,179,000
Interest income	91,000	130,000
Actuarial losses	564,000	250,000
Employer contributions	369,000	358,000
Employee contributions	106,000	91,000
Benefits paid	(52,000)	(10,000)
Effect of business combinations	129,000	70,000
	<u>5,275,000</u>	<u>4,068,000</u>
Closing fair value of scheme assets	<u>5,275,000</u>	<u>4,068,000</u>

**27. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

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

	2017 £	2016 £
<b>GROUP AND ACADEMY TRUST</b>		
<b>AMOUNTS PAYABLE:</b>		
Within 1 year	11,423	14,540
Between 1 and 5 years	804	10,619
	<u>12,227</u>	<u>25,159</u>
Total	<u>12,227</u>	<u>25,159</u>

**28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

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

The following related party transactions took place in the year:

During the year Acorn Education Trust purchased supplies of £48,482 (2016: £45,794) from Learning Futures (West Wilts) Limited of which a Trustee, S Edwards, is a director. At the year end Acorn Education Trust owed the company £18,365 (2016: £Nil), this balance is included in trade creditors.

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

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**29. PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES**

**Academy Collaborative Services Limited**

Subsidiary name	Academy Collaborative Services Limited
Company registration number	09360756
Basis of control	Ownership
Equity shareholding %	100%
 Total assets as at 31 August 2017	 £ 214,716
Total liabilities as at 31 August 2017	£ 121,932
Total equity as at 31 August 2017	£ 92,784
 Turnover for the year ended 31 August 2017	 £ 649,918
Expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2017	£ 528,854
Profit for the year ended 31 August 2017	£ 121,064

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**30. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT**

	As per prior year signed accounts As at 31 August 2016 £	Restated amount As at 31 August 2016 £	Impact on funds As at 31 August 2016 £	As per prior year signed accounts As at 1 September 2015 £	Restated amount As at 1 September 2015 £	Impact on funds As at 1 September 2015 £
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Land and buildings at cost	20,943,751	18,787,209	(2,156,542)	20,385,555	18,764,555	(1,621,000)
Land and buildings accumulated depreciation	(1,594,445)	(1,529,656)	64,789	(1,225,836)	(1,193,037)	32,799
	<b>19,349,306</b>	<b>17,257,553</b>	<b>(2,091,753)</b>	<b>19,159,719</b>	<b>17,571,518</b>	<b>(1,588,201)</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUND</b>						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	18,385,724	16,293,971	(2,091,753)	18,199,402	16,611,201	(1,588,201)
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and restricted funds	1,601,685	1,601,685	-	1,436,908	1,436,908	-
	<b>19,987,409</b>	<b>17,895,656</b>	<b>(2,091,753)</b>	<b>19,636,310</b>	<b>18,048,109</b>	<b>(1,588,201)</b>

Following a change in the guidance contained in the Academies Accounts Direction (AAD) 2016 to 2017 the Trustees have assessed that the terms of the Church Supplemental Agreement between the School and the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education pertaining to land and buildings occupied by the School are such that the School does not have control over these assets. The land and buildings therefore no longer meet the criteria for recognition as an asset in the financial statements.

The land and buildings donated on conversion of £2,156,542 have been de-recognised from the date of conversion. Depreciation in respect of these assets totalling £64,789 has been reversed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

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

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**31. 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.

**32. AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Academy distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2017 the Academy Trust received £15,937 and disbursed £5,576 from the fund. An amount of £32,577 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is repayable to ESFA.