TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

A Peaford (MBE)

N Woodbridge

K Brice G Smith S Munday

Trustees

K Brice

H Hamilton (Resigned 3 July 2019)

D Kay L Meek

A J Peaford MBE (Chair)

M Simmonds S Slade

P Smith (Accounting Officer)

J Wingham N Woodbridge

J Kemp (Appointed 1 April 2019) K Mohammed (Appointed 1 April 2019) A Ochuma (Appointed 1 April 2019) J Brewer (Appointed 1 September 2019)

Senior management team

P Smith

S Slade

- Headteacher

M Simmonds A Davies R Jones Deputy HeadteacherAssistant HeadteacherAssistant Headteacher

- Business Manager

Company registration number

10653875 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Treetops School Buxton Road Grays Essex RM16 2WU United Kingdom

Independent auditor

Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services

1-5 Nelson Street Southend on Sea

Essex SS1 1EG

Bankers

Lloyds Bank 34 High Street

Grays Essex RM17 6LX

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 5 to 19 serving a catchment area in Thurrock. It has a pupil capacity of 290 and had a roll of 304 in the school census on 04/10/18.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of Treetops Learning Community are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Treetops Learning Community was incorporated on 6 March 2017 and received academy status from 1 April 2017.

Members' liability

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

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The Members of the Academy Trust shall comprise the signatories to the Memorandum and any person elected by the current members by passing a special resolution to appoint additional members provided that at any time the minimum number of members shall not be less than three. An employee of the Academy Trust cannot be a member of the Academy Trust.

The number of Trustees shall not be less than three, but shall not be subject to any maximum. The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees:

- up to 12 Trustees appointed by ordinary resolution
- · The Chief Executive Officer
- A Minimum of 2 Parent Trustees

The Academy Trust may also have any Co-opted Trustee. A Co-opted Trustee means a person who is appointed to be a Trustee by being Co-opted by Trustees who have not themselves been so appointed. The Trustees may not co-opt an employee of the Academy Trust as a Co-opted Trustee if thereby the number of Trustees who are employees of the Academy Trust would exceed one third of the total number of Trustees including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent he or she is a Trustee.

The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years, save that this time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be reappointed or re-elected.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

During the period under review the Trust Board of Directors held 3 full Directors meeting. The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend on their existing experience. All new Directors will be given a tour of the Academy and the chance to meet with staff and students. All relevant Directors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Directors.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Organisational structure

Decisions are made by the Trust in accordance to the Trust's scheme of delegation document which is reviewed annually.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is determined by the CEO in consultation with the Chair of Trustees in line with national agreements and pay documents. The CEO's pay is determined using the national agreements and pay documents and from monitoring of performance management by way of appraisals with two of the Trustees.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Friends of Treetops School (FOTS) is a charitable organisation set up by parents to provide additional resources to the school through their fund raising activities.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Trusts aims are:

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, differentiated to meet individual needs.
- To promote and enhance the self-esteem and sense of self-worth of each and every individual.
- To provide a safe, secure, positive and happy working environment.
- To develop an awareness and understanding of the needs of the whole school community (pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends).
- To prepare pupils for adult life. To equip them with the necessary skills and understanding to become responsible citizens, confident to take their place as valued members of the community.
- To enable every individual (staff and pupils) to achieve their full potential.
- To develop and maintain links with the local community (schools, colleges, business and the voluntary sector).
- To offer support, guidance and advice to special and mainstream schools and colleges.
- To provide and promote an inclusive model of education.
- To accept, value and celebrate the unique contribution each individual makes to society.
- To extend the range of educational, social and vocational opportunities available to all pupils.
- To "work together and achieve together".
- To work in partnership with parents, fellow professionals and all interested parties.
- To be at the leading edge of specialist provision through participation in local, regional, national and international initiatives.

Our Vision:

Excellence through partnership.

Our Ethos:

We are a vibrant school that endeavours to secure the best outcomes for every child, family and member of staff, served within our partnership trust.

Our values:

Happiness – Respect – Listening – Cooperation – Perseverance – Individuality - Honesty – Trust – Fairness – Equality – Opportunity – Quality.

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

Overall Aims:

- To maintain and grow a community of outstanding schools.
- To use collaboration to promote excellence, personal achievement and enjoyment of teaching and learning.
- To equip our children with the skills and values to become valued members of society.
- To develop a cooperative and collective ethos across all our schools so that the best practice is shared in the best interests of all the pupils and staff.
- To provide inspirational leadership in every school so that each and every pupil and member of staff reach their potential.
- · To raise community aspirations across our family of schools.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Admissions Criteria

The Trust adopts the admission policies of the Local Education authority in which it works. For full details see the school website.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Please see our website for data relating to the schools achievements and performance.

Pupils enter the school from a wide range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The Academy prides itself on being inclusive.

See below for the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, from ethnic minority backgrounds and on the Special Educational Needs register for the school:

29% of pupils receive Pupil Premium grant. 12% of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds 100% of children on SEN register. To ensure that standards are continually raised the Academy operates a programme of internal and external reviews of curriculum areas and the quality of teaching and learning and has three external quality assurance reviews per academic year, working with colleague Headteachers from neighbouring authorities

Using the key performance indicators in the new Ofsted framework the Trust currently grades Treetops School as 'Outstanding'. This is supported by the latest Ofsted inspection of November 2014 and the Trust's internal monitoring systems.

For more details on the 2019 results summary and performance tables go to our website at: http://www.treetopsschool.org

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

Key performance indicators

The main KPI is the Ofsted Framework for Inspection. Inspectors must judge the quality of education provided in the school. This is the overarching judgement.

In order to make a judgement about the quality of education provided in the school, inspectors must first make four key judgements. These are:

- · the achievement of pupils at the school
- the quality of teaching in the school
- · the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.
- · the quality of leadership in and management of the school

In addition, inspectors must also consider:

- the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school
- the extent to which the education provided by the school meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school, and in particular the needs of pupils who have a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 pupils who have special educational needs.

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 the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, some of which are restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2019 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2015), such grants 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 expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period ended 31 August 2019, total expenditure of £7,155k (2018: £6,728) was met by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the period (excluding pension deficit on conversion, restricted fixed asset funds and transfers to restricted fixed asset funds) was £623k (2018: £589k).

At 31 August 2019 the net book value of fixed assets was £7,387k (2018: £7,514k). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 13 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Local Government pension scheme, in which the Academy participates, showed a deficit of £4,691k as at 31 August 2019 (2018: £3,062k).

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

Reserves policy

The Governors review the reserve levels of the Academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Governors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to one months' expenditure, approximately £500k (2018: £500k).

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 Academy's current level of unrestricted reserves is £824k (2018: £835k). (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets and restricted funds).

The funds exceed the policy as the school had balances transferred on conversion in April 2017. The Trust will continue to monitor its reserves level to ensure that it remain functional.

The Academy held fund balances at 31 August 2019 of £3,560k (2018: £5,334k) comprising £2,736k (2018: £4,499k) of restricted funds and £824k (2018: £835k) of unrestricted general funds. Of the restricted funds, £7,387k (2018: £7,514k) is represented by tangible fixed assets and £40k (2018: £47k) of unspent grants. The Pension reserve which is considered part of restricted funds was £4,691k (2018: £3,062k) in deficit.

Investment policy and powers

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Academy has the power to invest funds not immediately required for its own purposes, in any way the Governors see fit. The organisation has a positive cash balance to cover eventualities and unforeseen expenses. The banking facilities are reviewed on a regular basis.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Trust are:

- 1. School fails to remain OFSTED outstanding at the present time this is considered low risk.
- 2. Changes to leadership leadership is stable and the Trust has invested its development and performance management of all senior staff low risk.
- 3. Demographics of pupils increased number of children with more complex SEN is putting a financial strain on the school's finances and on the workload of staff high risk.
- 4. Building maintenance costs building built in 2008 low risk.
- 5. School funding the Trust's finances are tight due to funding not received for pupil growth medium risk

The Trust is developing its risk register that will list the key risks and discuss mitigating factors. This will enable better monitoring of the risks and our ability to deal with them.

Risk management

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the trust and its finances. The Directors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that each school faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors to maintain strict safeguarding protocols and manage risk. Any prospective school joining the trust has a full due diligence review to minimise any future risk to the organisation. Where there is significant financial risk the trust has ensured there is adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal control as described in their Financial Procedures.

Plans for future periods

The school intends to sponsor a free school which will be co-located on the existing site in negotiation with the LA and the DfE, it is intended to open the school in 2020/21. It may also consider, in the future, welcoming and supporting other schools to join our MAT.

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

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is 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 auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

A J Peaford MBE Chair

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the headteacher, 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 Treetops Learning Community 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 three times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
K Brice	3	3
H Hamilton (Resigned 3 July 2019)	2	3
D Kay	3	3
L Meek	3	3
A J Peaford MBE (Chair)	2	3
M Simmonds	2	3
S Slade	3	3
P Smith (Accounting Officer)	3	3
J Wingham	3	3
N Woodbridge	3	3
J Kemp (Appointed 1 April 2019)	1	1
K-Mohammed (Appointed 1 April 2019)	1	1_
A Ochuma (Appointed 1 April 2019)	1	1
J Brewer (Appointed 1 September 2019)		

Over the past year the Board has had one resignation and 4 new appointees. The board has exercised its duty in scrutinising the work of the school and helping them raise standards.

The board has scrutinised educational performance, financial performance and regularity and effective deployment of resources.

The board's performance has been good although it seeks to strengthen its numbers this year by at least two during the pre-opening phase for its new Free School.

The board regularly received monitoring reports in addition to the monthly financial reports, which provide the board with added confidence.

The Trust has completed a self-review of governance in the past six months which has led to a strengthening of local governance arrangements.

The impact of the changes are not known at this time but will be commented upon in the next set of accounts.

The Trust will complete further reviews in the next twelve months to assess the effectiveness of these changes and the performance of its committees also.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

As well as the 3 full board meetings held during the year, the academy has set up sub-committees that have also met periodically throughout the period.

The finance and premise committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to: Review all financial and premises matters ensuring integrity and best value.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
K Brice	2	4
H Hamilton (Resigned 3 July 2019)	4	4
A J Peaford MBE (Chair)	1	4
M Simmonds	4	4
S Slade	4	4
P Smith (Accounting Officer)	2	4
N Woodbridge	3	4

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the headteacher 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 available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

• Monitoring procedures and financial reports and ensuring regular benchmarking is undertaken.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Treetops Learning Community for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 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 period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

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 premises 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 Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint a Responsible Officer. However, the Governors have appointed SBM Services to complete the internal audit function. SBM Services 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 include:

- · Testing of control systems
- · Testing of control account/ bank reconciliation
- Review of policies and procedures and adherence thereon
- · Review of governance and training of Governors

SBM services report to the Governing body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities.

The Trustees' confirm the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no material control issues arose as a result of the internal auditor's work.

Review of effectiveness

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

- · the work of the external auditor:
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process,
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

A J Peaford MBE Chair

P Smith

Chair

Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

As accounting officer of Treetops Learning Community I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, 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 2018.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's 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 2018.

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

P Smith Accounting Officer

10 December 2019

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

The trustees (who are also the directors of Treetops Learning Community for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 published by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 10 December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

A J Peaford MBE Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 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, which 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 other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated 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 the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 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 charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Use of our report

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

Catherine Cooper (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services

11 December 2019

Statutory Auditor

1-5 Nelson Street Southend on Sea Essex SS1 1EG

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 September 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Treetops Learning Community during the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Treetops Learning Community's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Treetops Learning Community's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 March 2017 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2018, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TREETOPS LEARNING COMMUNITY AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Conclusion

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

Reporting Accountant

Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services 1-5 Nelson Street Southend on Sea Essex SS1 1EG

Dated: 11 December 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

		Unrestricted Funds	Restrict General Fi	ed funds: xed asset	Total 2019	Total 2018
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants Charitable activities:	3	58	160	45	103	74
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	6,165		6,165	5,765
Other trading activities	5	181		100	181	191
Investments	6	1	:=:	(#)	1	1
Total		240	6,165	45	6,450	6,031
Expenditure on: Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	(37)	7,065	127	7,155	6,728
Total	7	(37)	7,065	127	7,155	6,728
			====			
Net income/(expenditure)		277	(900)	(82)	(705)	(697)
Transfers between funds	17	(288)	333	(45)	: = :	: -)
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	545	(1,069)	(4)	(1,069)	1,123
Net movement in funds		(11)	(1,636)	(127)	(1,774)	426
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		835	(3,015)	7,514	5,334	4,908
Total funds carried forward		824	(4,651)	7,387	3,560	5,334

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2018		restricted Funds	General Fix		Total 2018
Income and endowments from:	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Donations and capital grants Charitable activities:	3	60	8. - 8	14	74
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	5,765	:=:	5,765
Other trading activities	5	191	-	3=1	191
Investments	6	1	(*))÷:	1
Total		252	5,765 =====	14	6,031
Expenditure on: Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	174	6,432	122	6,728
Total	7	174 ====	6,432	122 ====	6,728
Net income/(expenditure)		78	(667)	(108)	(697)
Transfers between funds	17		10	(10)	140
Other recognised gains/(losses) Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension	40		4.400		4.400
schemes	19		1,123		1,123
Net movement in funds		78	466	(118)	426
Reconciliation of funds		757	/2 404\	7.630	4.000
Total funds brought forward		757	(3,481)	7,632	4,908
Total funds carried forward		835	(3,015)	7,514	5,334

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Not	2019		2018	
Fixed assets	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	40		7.007		7 544
Tangible assets	13		7,387		7,514
Current assets					
Debtors	14	66		113	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,336		1,264	
		1,402		1,377	
Current liabilities		1,402		1,077	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one	15	(538)		(495)	
/ear	10	(556)		(433)	
Net current assets			864		882
det current assets			004		002
Not constructed by manager lightlifts			0.054		8,396
Net assets excluding pension liability			8,251		0,390
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(4,691)		(3,062
Serified benefit perision scheme hability	13		(4,031)		(0,002
Total net assets			3,560		5,334
Total liet assets					0,004
Funds of the seedomy trust					-
Funds of the academy trust:	17				
Restricted funds	17		7.007		7.544
Fixed asset funds			7,387		7,514
Restricted income funds			40		47
Pension reserve			(4,691)		(3,062
Total restricted funds			2,736		4,499
Unrestricted income funds	17		824		835
Total funds			3,560		5,334
			===		===
					=======================================

The financial statements on pages 18 to 40 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 10 December 2019 and are signed on their behalf by:

A J Peaford MBE Chair

Company Number 10653875

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

		2019		2018		
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Cash flows from operating activities Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		27		(894)	
Cash flows from investing activities Dividends, interest and rents from investment Capital grants from DfE Group Purchase of tangible fixed assets	nts	1 45 (1)		1 14 (18)		
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing	activities)	45	2	(3)	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	1		72		(897)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of t	the year		1,264		2,161	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the	year		1,336		1,264	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

Treetops Learning Community is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

Treetops Learning Community meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 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 receivable

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the financial statements until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

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

Transfer of Lease

On conversion to Academy status the Local Authority gifted the school buildings to the Academy Trust with a 125 year long term lease. The properties have been professionally valued as at the date of transfer. The valuation is underpinned by SORP 2015 and has adopted the Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC) for specialist property and the land uses the market value. As the buildings are of a specialist nature then a Depreciated Replacement Cost method has been used to calculate the fair value of the buildings.

Transfer of assets on conversion

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. Income equal to the net assets transferred on conversion is recognised within donations and capital grant income.

Agency arrangements

The academy trusts acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from the ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust not not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 25.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This 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.

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the academy trust's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management, trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require 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.

The property has been included at the valuation provided by the ESFA when completing their desktop valuation.

The academy has a 125 year lease from the date of conversion on the land and buildings with the local authority.

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

Leasehold Land and buildings

2% straight line

Computer equipment

Over 3 years

Fixtures, fittings & equipment

Over 5 years

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.

1.6 Liabilities

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Leasing commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 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. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 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.

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer 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.

1.11 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/donor and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reassessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 13 for the carrying amount of the property and note 1.5 for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

LGPS

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 19, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2019. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2	Critical accounting estimates and areas of	judgement		(Continued)
	Critical areas of judgement There are no critical areas of judgement.				
3	Donations and capital grants				
		Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
	Capital grants	:=:	45	45	14
	Other donations	58	•	58	60
		58	45	103	74
4	Funding for the academy trust's education	al operations			
		Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
	DfE / ESFA grants	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
	General annual grant (GAG)	:=3	2,814	2,814	2,842
	Start up grants Other DfE group grants	(144)	236	236	30 154
	Other Die group grants				
		i # 2:	3,050	3,050	3,026
	Other government grants Local authority grants	æ1	3,115	3,115	2,739
	Local additiontly grants		3,113	===	===
	Total funding	→ 0	6,165	6,165	5,765
					==
5	Other trading activities				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	2019	2018
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Premises income	16	-	16	32
	Catering income	40	9=3	40	41
	Other income	125	**	125	118
		181	(181	191
		101		===	===

6	Investment income					
			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Tota
			funds £'000	funds £'000	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Other investment income		1	***	1	
	Expenditure					
		Staff costs £'000	Premises & equipment £'000	Other costs £'000	Total 2019 £'000	Tota 2018 £'000
	Academy's educational operations					
	- Direct costs	5,370	101	139	5,610	5,27
	- Allocated support costs	891	318	336	1,545 	1,45
		6,261	419	475	7,155 =====	6,728
	Net income/(expenditure) for the perio	d incl	udes:		2019	201
	Fees payable to auditor for:				£'000	£'00
	- Audit				6	
	- Other services				2	
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				127	12
	Net interest on defined benefit pension lia	ability			75	8
						=
}	Charitable activities		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Tota
			funds	funds	2019	2018
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Direct costs					
	Educational operations Support costs		70	5,610	5,610	5,27
	Educational operations		(37)	1,582	1,545	1,45
			(37)	7,192	7,155	6,72
				8 8		
					2019	201
	Analysis of support costs				£'000	£'00
	Support staff costs				891	82
	Cupport Ctar. CCCtc				26	2
	Depreciation				292	31
	Depreciation Premises costs Other support costs				328	28
	Depreciation Premises costs					28
	Depreciation Premises costs Other support costs				328	28 1 ———————————————————————————————————

8	Charitable activities		(Continued)
9	Governance costs	.	
	All from restricted funds:	Total 2019 £'000	Total 2018 £'000
	Amounts included in support costs	~ 000	2000
	Auditor's remuneration		
	- Audit of financial statements	6	8
	- Other audit costs	2	2
		-	
		8	10
		===	-
10	Staff		
	Staff costs		
	Staff costs during the year were:		
		2019	2018
		£'000	£'000
	Wages and salaries	4,471	4,115
	Social security costs	355	315
	Pension costs	1,374	1,330
	Staff costs	6,200	5,760
	Agency staff costs	23	43
	Staff development and other staff costs	38	42
	Total staff expenditure	6,261	5,845
	Staff numbers		
	The average number of persons, by headcount, employed by the academy to follows:	ust during the y	ear was as
		2019	2018
		Number	Number
	Teachers	47	45
	Administration and support	170	172
	Management	5	5
		222	222

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

10 Staff (Continued)

The number of persons employed, expressed as a full time equivalent, was as follows:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
Teachers Administration and support	39 125	35 126
Management	5	5
	169	166
		====

Higher paid staff

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

	2019 Number	2018 Number
£80,001 to £90,000	1	1
£100,001 to £110,000	1	1

Key management personnel

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's national insurance and pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £470k (2018:£452k).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

P Smith (Headteacher)

- Remuneration £105,000 £110,000 (2018 : £100,000 £105,000)
- Employers Pension Contributions £15.000 £20.000 (2018 : £15.000 £20.000).

S Slade (Business Manager)

- Remuneration £50,000 £55,000 (2018 : £50,000 £55,000)
- Employers Pension Contributions £10,000 £15,000 (2018 : £10,000 £15,000).

L Meek (Trustee)

- Remuneration £35,000 £40,000 (2018 : £35,000 £40,000).
- Employers Pension Contributions £5,000 £10,000 (2018: £5,000 £10,000).

M Simmonds (Deputy Headteacher)

- Remuneration £85,000 £90,000 (2018 : £80,000 £85,000).
- Employers Pension Contributions £10,000 £15,000 (2018: £10,000 £15,000).

J Wingham (Trustee)

- Remuneration £30,000 £35,000 (2018 : £25,000 £30,000)
- Employers Pension Contributions £5,000 £10,000 (2018 : £1,000 £5,000).

During the year no reimbursed expenses were paid to Trustee's (2018: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

12 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 trust 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.

	Tangible fixed assets				
		Leasehold Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Cost				
	At 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019	7,600	62	27	7,689
	Depreciation				
	At 1 September 2018	143	24	8	175
	Charge for the year	101	21	5	127
	At 31 August 2019	244	45	13	302
	Net book value	·			
	At 31 August 2019	7,356	17	14	7,387
	At 31 August 2018	7,457	38	19	7,514
14	Debtors				
	Deptois			2019 £'000	2018 £'000
				2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Trade debtors			£'000	£'000
	Trade debtors VAT recoverable			£'000	£'000 8 14
	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors			£'000 - 11 =	£'000 8 14 39
	Trade debtors VAT recoverable			£'000	£'000 8 14
	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors			£'000 - 11 =	£'000 8 14 39
	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors			£'000	£'000 8 14 39 52
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors	r		£'000 11 55 66 2019	£'000 8 14 39 52 113
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income	r		£'000	£'000 8 14 39 52 113
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Other taxation and social security	r		£'000 11 55 66 2019 £'000	£'000 8 14 39 52 113 2018 £'000
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Other taxation and social security Other creditors	r		£'000 11 55 66 2019 £'000	£'000 8 14 39 52 113 2018 £'000
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Other taxation and social security	r		£'000 11 55 66 2019 £'000	£'000 8 14 39 52 113 2018 £'000
15	Trade debtors VAT recoverable Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income Creditors: amounts falling due within one year Other taxation and social security Other creditors	r		£'000 11 55 66 2019 £'000	£'000 8 14 39 52 113 2018 £'000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

40	Defermed in a sure	2040	0040
16	Deferred income	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Deferred income is included within:		
	Creditors due within one year	4	3
	Deferred income at 1 September 2018	3	7
	Released from previous years	(3)	(7)
	Resources deferred in the year	4	3
		/	-
	Deferred income at 31 August 2019	4	3

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds for Universal Infant free school meals in relation to 2019/20.

17 Funds

- unus	Balance at 1 September 2018 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	7	2,814	(3,154)	333	:=:
Start up grants	30	=	(6)	-	24
Other DfE / ESFA grants	10	236	(230)	-	16
Other government grants	199	3,115	(3,115)	=	(<u>*</u>
Pension reserve	(3,062)		(560)	(1,069)	(4,691)
	(3,015)	6,165 ———	(7,065) =====	(736)	(4,651) =====
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	1 .5	45	-	(45)	.9
General fixed assets	7,514	-	(127)	-	7,387
		3		5	-
	7,514	45	(127)	(45)	7,387
	===			====	===
Total restricted funds	4,499	6,210	(7,192)	(781)	2,736
		_		.====5:	
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	835 ———	240 ====	====	(288)	824 ====
Total funds	5,334 	6,450 ====	(7,155) ====	(1,069)	3,560

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

17 Funds (Continued)

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the Academy.

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

Other DFE/ESFA grants: This includes the pupil premium, sports funding, teachers pay grant and UIFSM.

Other government grants: This includes top up funding and other funding received from the Local Authority.

DFE/ESFA capital grants: This includes devolved formula capital.

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

	Balance at 1 September 2017 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2018 £'000
Restricted general funds					_
General Annual Grant (GAG)	56	2,842	(2,901)	10	7
Start up grants		30			30
Other DfE / ESFA grants	31	154	(175)	-	10
Other government grants	<u>-</u>	2,739	(2,739)	350	Ħ.
Pension reserve	(3,568)		(617)	1,123	(3,062)
	(3,481)	5,765	(6,432)	1,133	(3,015)
				1	
Restricted fixed asset funds	9.9	19:19:		250	
DfE group capital grants	14	14	5	(28)	
General fixed assets	7,618	=	(122)	18	7,514
		:=		X X	· · · · · · · · ·
	7,632	14	(122)	(10)	7,514
			==	5 3	_
Total restricted funds	4,151	5,779	(6,554)	1,123	4,499
	===	-			==
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	757	252	(174)		835
			===	=====	
Total funds	4,908	6,031	(6,728)	1,123	5,334

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

18	Analysis of net assets between funds				
		Unrestricted	Rest	ricted funds:	Total
		Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
	Tangible fixed assets	(=):	3-0	7,387	7,387
	Current assets	1,362	40	-	1,402
	Creditors falling due within one year	(538)		-	(538)
	Defined benefit pension liability	,#\).	(4,691)	(=)	(4,691)
	Total net assets	824	(4,651)	7,387	3,560
			:===:		===
		Unrestricted	Rest	ricted funds:	Total
		Funds	General	Fixed asset	Funds
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Fund balances at 31 August 2018 are represented by:				
	Tangible fixed assets	 ()		7,514	7,514
	Current assets	835	542	2 ÷ (1,377
	Creditors falling due within one year	2 0	(495)	12	(495)
	Defined benefit pension liability	. ₹0	(3,062)		(3,062)
	Total automote		(0.045)	7.544	
	Total net assets	835	(3,015)	7,514	5,334

19 Pensions and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2017.

No contributions were payable at the year end.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, unfunded, defined benefit occupational scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act (1972) and Public Service Pensions Act (2013) and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go 'basis – contributions from members, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Acts.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme has now taken place, in line with directions issued by HM Treasury and using membership data as at 31 March 2016. As a result of this valuation TPS employers will pay an increased contribution rate of 23.68% from September 2019 (this includes the administration levy of 0.8%). The timing of the implementation is to align its introduction with employers' budget planning cycles. Until then, employers will pay the current rate of 16.48%.

A copy of the latest valuation report can be found by following this link to the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £277k (2018: £251k).

The arrangements for a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme, in line with the recommendations made by Lord Hutton, in particular the introduction of a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme, were implemented from 1 April 2015.

In December 2018, the Court of Appeal held that transitional protection provisions contained in the reformed judicial and firefighter pension schemes, introduced as part of public service pension reforms in 2015, gave rise to direct age discrimination and were therefore unlawful. The Supreme Court, in a decision made in June 2019, have rejected the Government's application for permission to appeal the Court of Appeal's ruling. The case will now be referred to an Employment Tribunal for a decision regarding the remedy which will need to be offered to those members of the two schemes who were subject of the age discrimination.

HM Treasury are clear that the ruling has implications for the other public service schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Those implications are currently being considered and any impact on scheme costs is expected to be looked at within the next scheme valuation, which is currently scheduled to be based on April 2020 data and implemented in April 2023.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.8% for employers and 5.5% to 12.8% for employees.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

19 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

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.

Total contributions made	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Employer's contributions Employees' contributions	624 149	542 134
Total contributions	773	676
Principal actuarial assumptions	2019 %	2018 %
Rate of increases in salaries Rate of increase for pensions in payment Discount rate Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.65 2.15 1.9 2.15	3.8 2.3 2.7 2.3

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

	2019 Years	2018 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.3	22.3
- Females	23.6	24.8
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23	24.5
- Females	25.4	27.1
	===	

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2019 Fair value £'000	2018 Fair value £'000
Equities	2,266	1,659
Bonds	400	291
Cash	105	89
Property	288	232
Other assets	537	333
Total market value of assets	3,596	2,604
Actual return on scheme assets - gain/(loss)	247	132

19	Pensions and similar obligations		(Continued)
	Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Current service cost Past service cost Interest income Interest cost	980 129 (80) 155	1,072 - (55) 142
	Total operating charge	1,184	1,159
	Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		2019 £'000
	Obligations at 1 September 2018 Current service cost Interest cost Employee contributions Actuarial (gain)/loss Benefits paid Past service cost		5,666 980 155 149 1,236 (28) 129
	At 31 August 2019		8,287 ====
	Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets		2019 £'000
	Assets at 1 September 2018 Interest income Actuarial gain Employer contributions Employee contributions Benefits paid		2,604 80 167 624 149 (28)
	At 31 August 2019		3,596

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

20	Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flows from operating activities		
		2019 £'000	2018 £'000
	Net expenditure for the reporting period	(705)	(697)
	Adjusted for:		
	Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(45)	(14)
	Investment income receivable	(1)	(1)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	485	530
	Defined benefit pension net finance cost	75	87
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	127	122
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	47	(76)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	44	(845)
		====	-
	Net cash provided by operating activities	27	(894)

21 Contingent liabilities

During the period of the Funding Agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means of any asset for which a Government capital grant was received, the Academy is required either to re-invest the proceeds or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the Funding Agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the Academy serving notice, the Academy shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- the value at that time of the Academy's site and premises and other assets held for the purpose of the Academy; and
- the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by payments by the Secretary of State under the Funding Agreement.

As no such events have occurred during the year nor are likely to occur in the foreseeable future, the accounts do not contain any provision against contingent liabilities.

22 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2019 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Amounts due within one year	20	20
Amounts due in two and five years	101	101
Amounts due after five years	168	182
	289	303
*		

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

23 Related party transactions

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

Mr P Smith's son and wife are employed by the Trust as a teacher and admin assistant. Mr Peaford's daughter is employed as a Speech & Language Therapist.

24 Members' liability

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

25 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2019, the trust received £5k from the ESFA of which £6k was spent, leaving £2k in creditors at the year end (2018 - £3k).