

Company Registration Number: 8053288 (England & Wales)

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

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**Members**

Mr I Chadwick  
Mr G Larder  
Mrs E Foster

**Trustees**

Mr G Larder  
Mr I Chadwick, Chair  
Mr J Battle (ex officio)  
Mr C O'Shaughnessy  
Mrs V Tempest (ex officio)  
Mr J Corcoran (ex officio)  
Mrs E Foster

**Company registered number**

8053288

**Company name**

Wise Owl Trust

**Principal and registered office**

Briscoe Lane Academy  
Briscoe Lane  
Manchester  
M40 2TB

**Senior management team**

Mr C O'Shaughnessy, Chief Executive Officer  
Mrs S Murfin, Executive Principal  
Mrs C Hall, Principal (Briscoe Lane Academy)  
Miss J Dennis, Principal (Seymour Road Academy)  
Mrs H Brooker, Principal (Old Hall Drive)  
Mrs D Ollerenshaw, Trust Business Manager

**Independent auditor**

Crowe U.K. LLP  
3rd floor  
The Lexicon  
Mount Street  
Manchester  
M2 5NT

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

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The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the audited financial statements of Wise Owl Trust ('the Company', 'Charitable Company' or 'the Trust') for the period from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020.

**Structure, governance and management**

**a. Constitution**

Wise Owl Trust is a company limited by guarantee (No. 8053288) and an exempt charity in accordance with the Academies Act 2010. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association, dated 1st May 2012, are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The charitable company was incorporated on 1st May 2012, and the fully transitioned operations of Briscoe Lane School commenced on 1st September 2012 following a decision by the governing body of the School and acceptance by the Secretary of State for Education that the School become an academy as of this date.

Seymour Road Primary School became part of Wise Owl Trust on 1st February 2014, Old Hall Drive Primary School became part of Wise Owl Trust 1st February 2016 the three Academies now form Wise Owl Trust. Briscoe Lane is a converter Academy, Seymour Road is a Sponsored Academy, Old Hall Drive Academy joined. All academies are for age 3-11 years.

The trustees of Wise Owl Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

**b. 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. The Secretary of State for Education can direct the trustees of the Trust in certain circumstances where the quality of education is deemed unsatisfactory.

**c. Trustees' indemnities**

There are no qualifying third party indemnity provisions. The Trust has purchased insurance to cover trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. Details of the costs can be found in note 11 of the accounts.

**d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees**

The Members of the Trust are responsible for the appointment of Trust Directors except a minimum of two Parent Governors who will be appointed through an election process directed by the Local Governing Body. In the event that these positions are not filled, the members of the Trust are able to appoint to these positions.

The number of Directors shall be not less than three and shall not be subject to any maximum.

**e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

No formal policy has been adopted. Training requirements are discussed at directors' board meetings.

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

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**f. Organisational structure**

The governance of the Trust is defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association together with the funding agreements with the Department of Education. In addition to the trustees (see above), Local Governing Bodies have been appointed for each school within the Trust. These bodies will report to the Board of Trustees. The Trust receives regular reports from the Academy Business Manager on finance and related issues.

The Board of Trustees meets on at least three occasions per year.

The governing board has determined that it is able to convene on a termly basis and maintain effective oversight, particularly as the Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO to monitor progress and is kept informed of any pertinent matters which may arise from time to time. Trustees receive monthly reports via Trust Governor website relating to the financial position and, from time to time, are provided with other relevant reports relating to matters at the School which has continued to prove to be an effective way in which to keep Trustees informed between meetings, although it has been necessary previously for the board to hold meetings outside of its prescribed schedule. In these circumstances arrangements have been coordinated by the Clerk. Trustees are also encouraged to visit the Academies at any time to meet with the Principals and other employees or simply to observe aspects of the school day.

The day to day running of the Trust is delegated by the trustees to management under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, who is the Accounting Officer.

**g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

This falls within the remit of both, the Appraisal and Pay policies, the key management personnel are listed in the Reference and Administrative Information section.

The key management personnel will be appraised by the Trust, supported by a suitably skilled and/or experienced external advisor who has been appointed by the Trust for that purpose. The task of appraising the key management personnel will be delegated to a sub group consisting of at least two members of the Trust including the Chair of the LGB as appropriate. The Trust Business Manager is appraised by the CEO. The Trust determines the salary arrangements for the key management personnel and these are reviewed annually as part of the performance management process. Trustees including Chairs of LGBs, as appropriate, review performance against targets for any contractual bonus payments. This review has regard to the specific responsibilities of the role, the challenges that are specific to the role, sustained performance, the growth of capacity within the Trust and all other relevant considerations.

**Trade union facility time**

No time was spent on Trade Union Facilities Time.

**h. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

Although there are a number of professional links to other schools and third party organisations, the Trust is an independent company with no affiliation to outside bodies. The Trust also works closely with a wide variety of other bodies in the field of education. None of these organisations are considered to constitute formal related parties.

**Objectives and activities**



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

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**a. Objects and aims**

The Trust's object is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but 'without prejudice' to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Trust believes that all pupils deserve the best education. Pupils' should be enabled to follow the trust motto of '**Together Everyone Achieves More**'. Our mission is to educate and inspire through the provision of an outstanding primary school, which understands and addresses the specific needs of our pupils, families and communities.

**Our Vision**

We will engage young people, their families and communities in learning; place an onus on academic success; increase aspirations; and provide outstanding teaching, support and care.

We will become a beacon of excellence for academic provision locally and nationally, providing our pupils with the increased opportunities that harness their potential, allowing them to excel in life and make a positive contribution to society.

**1) The following characteristics address the significant outcomes of Wise Owl Trust and the range of provision required:**

- All learners should achieve their best and should:
- Be safe and protected at all times.
- Be highly engaged and stimulated with enthusiastic attitudes to learning.
- Contribute to the positive ethos of the school.
- Manage their own behaviour with support if required.
- Understand that bullying of any sort is unacceptable.
- Be aware of how to stay safe.
- Know their next steps for learning.
- Make rapid and sustained progress from their starting points.
- Have an in depth knowledge of subjects across the curriculum.
- Be able to apply core skills in many areas.
- Be assessed effectively and systematically and then taught accordingly.
- Be given marking and feedback that will enable progress to take place.
  
- Have their learning reviewed regularly throughout lessons.
- Receive appropriate and regular homework.
- Be given extracurricular opportunities to learn new skills or to use skills that have been learned previously in the classroom.
- Be given memorable experiences.

**2) High quality provision is non negotiable**

- By appointing outstanding teachers and leaders who can create the reality and sustain such quality. Our staff's role is to deliver outcomes for learners by:
- Enabling a safe environment to learn.
- Engaging pupils in their learning through a stimulating and enjoyable curriculum RESPECT
- Contributing to the positive ethos of the school.
- Organising personalised learning pathways for all pupils based on current knowledge of the child.
- Striving for rapid and sustained progress for every child based on their starting points.
- Using excellent subject knowledge to set challenging tasks for all.

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

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

- Enabling core skills to be used in all areas of the curriculum.
- Enabling pupils and parents to be aware of their next steps of improvement.
- Assessing effectively and planning this knowledge into future teaching.
- Being aware of children's needs throughout lessons.
- Promoting resilience, confidence and independence.
- Being open to change to improve outcomes for children.
- Reflecting and evaluating their performance and that of the children in their care.
- Following school procedures for planning, delivery and assessment.
- Developing innovative and effective partnerships with the wider community
- Providing a comprehensive programme of learning 'outdoors' including links with cultural and heritage centres; residential study visits and investment in community based activities.
- Ensuring full access and facilities for those with limited mobility, partial sensory deprivation or specific learning needs.

**3) School Leaders and Governors will:**

- Ensure that the vision and ethos of the Trust is upheld.
- Ensure the safety of everyone in the school.
- Improve attainment and achievement for all groups to a high level and then sustaining it.
- Lead by example, through practice, professionalism, enthusiasm, support and challenge to strive for the best outcomes of our children, educationally, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.
- Use resources to enable a highly positive and memorable curriculum
- Have a relentless focus on improving teaching and learning to outstanding and sustaining it when it gets there.
- Question, challenge, evaluate and understand the school's performance and its next steps for development.
- Be highly ambitious for the school(s) and will be willing to share practice over the trust for the benefit of all.
- Engage with the community and parents to enable positive relationships and positive outcomes for all.
- Ensure staff and pupils are accountable for the improvement of the school.
- Ensure that all schools within the trust take part in trust events that enable the larger family of schools to feel as one.
- Ensure that the wider community will have well educated children who will influence the workforce of future generations.
- Ensure that the wider community will have pupils leaving school who will want to enable the community to be cohesive in the future.

The Wise Owl Academies Trust Board of Directors will be ultimately responsible for the quality of teaching and learning within the Academy and for ensuring that the Academy achieves its challenging targets.

The Trust will have representation from the governing bodies and for the Chair of the local governing body to sit on the Wise Owl Trust Board. This will ensure that there is regular communication between local Governing Body and Board level so that any issues are dealt with promptly. In line with Appraisal and Pay policies the chair of the LGBs will form part of the pay review committee for the Principal of their Academy with other Trustees and an External Adviser. Governors will formally report back to the Board of Directors every term.

Wise Owl Trust is accountable to the Secretary of State for the performance of any of the schools in its trust and will use its emergency powers and override decisions by the Local Governing Body if required to enable more positive outcomes for the pupils' and stakeholders in its stewardship.

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

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**Objectives and activities (continued)**

**b. Objectives, strategies and activities**

The Trust's strategic objectives for the period ended 31 August 2020 were:

- To provide a safe environment with opportunities where pupils can acquire knowledge and skills to develop their full potential, in every sense; that is, personal, moral, spiritual, cultural, physical as well as academic.
- To understand each pupil's learning needs to enable them to access the curriculum fully with pace and significant progress matched to their ability.
- To ensure any pupil falling behind is given timely, appropriate and relevant catch-up support.
- To ensure a wide variety of teaching methods are understood by staff and used appropriately for most effective learning.
- To provide data and assessment of the highest quality to inform staff effectively of their pupil's progress for their lesson planning.
- To encourage and support all staff to develop their professional skills and experience to the highest level both individually and as members of appropriate teams.
- To have secure financial systems based on a business model to enable the development of revenue and capital streams in order to generate opportunities for staff and pupils; and to generate and maintain a quality and appropriate physical environment with excellent facilities.
- To engage with all the stakeholders pupils, parents, staff, governors, Trust directors, neighbours, local authority and government to create common purpose in order both to satisfy our social obligations and retain our license to operate, and to gain advantage from contributions, skills and policies at all levels.

The objectives set above have been developed during the current period, a full review of the outcomes will be completed during the next financial year.

**c. Public benefit**

The Academy Trust directors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The schools' catchment areas are as designated in the Admissions Policies and have not changed since academy status. School governors have reviewed the pupil admissions policies' and consider there to be no barriers to entry on the grounds of gender, ethnicity or family circumstances



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

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**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

The Trust comprised one converter Academy Briscoe Lane Academy, one sponsored Academy and one joiner Academy. The Trust's charitable objects are entirely concerned with education, and the vision is;

**Together Everyone Achieves More**

Educational performance for the year has been very good, and key targets for the new academic year have been set.

**Ofsted**

All three academies retain their Ofsted judgements of GOOD

**Health and Wellbeing**

**Our Pledge:**

Wise Owl Trust is committed to the promotion of positive mental health of the whole Trust community. Our vision is to create safe and happy academies, which includes a safe place to be open about Mental Health issues.

As Trust we pledge to support our whole Trust community, recognising that sometimes stress cannot be avoided in the workplace or at home. We are however, committed to reducing this stress as much as realistically possible and supporting everyone through such times. To be successful, we need the commitment and patience of all, as such change takes time.

At Wise Owl Trust we are committed to the positive wellbeing of our staff as well as our children, parents and carers.

Our ethos is that 'it is ok to not be ok.'

Working with our dedicated team we have developed our Wise Owl Trust pledge. This is delivered as the 6 T's: Teach, Talk Train, Target support, Take ownership, Team.

**Teach:** We will support our staff by giving them access to strategies and resources to support them with their own positive wellbeing.

**Talk:** We will encourage an 'open door' policy and remove the stigma of mental health by allowing team members to speak openly about their concerns.

**Train:** We will commit to regular and up to date training so that members of the team can recognise signs of mental health and signpost people to receive the correct support.

**Target Support:** We will provide targeted support for those that need it. For example, counselling, life coach, anxiety courses mindfulness etc.

**Take Ownership:** We have an agreement that we must all take ownership of our own mental health and wellbeing, and seek support when required.

**Team:** We will work as a team to create an open and supportive approach towards one another.

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

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

TRUST DATA 2020 Outcomes

<b>Early Years Foundation Stage</b>				
	<b>BLA</b>	<b>SRA</b>	<b>OHD</b>	<b>National (2019)</b>
Good Level of Development	68%	72%	65%	71.80%
Prime Early Learning Goals	62%	80%	71.90%	
Specific Learning Goals	69%	76%	63%	
<b>Year 1 Phonics</b>				
	<b>BLA</b>	<b>SRA</b>	<b>OHD</b>	<b>National (2019)</b>
Expected Standard	77%	83%	82%	82%
<b>KS1 Expected Standard</b>				
	<b>BLA</b>	<b>SRA</b>	<b>OHD</b>	<b>National (2019)</b>
Reading	70%	70%	64%	75%
Writing	63%	69%	56%	69%
Maths	71%	69%	66%	76%
Science	70%	70%	70%	82%
Combined	63%	67%	56%	65%

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

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

<b>KS1 Higher Standard</b>			
	<b>BLA</b>	<b>SRA</b>	<b>OHD</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
Reading	14%	13%	19%
Writing	10%	11%	10%
Maths	14%	16%	15%
Combine d	11%	10%	10%

<b>KS2 – 2020 OUTCOMES</b>										
	<b>R/W/M Combined</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>GPS</b>					
	<i>Expected Standard</i>	<i>Higher standard</i>	<i>Expected Standard</i>	<i>Higher standard</i>	<i>Expected Standard</i>	<i>Higher standard</i>	<i>Expected Standard</i>	<i>Higher standard</i>	<i>Expected Standard</i>	<i>Higher standard</i>
BLA	72	15	78	25	77	16	80	22	80	40
SRA	70%	15%	74%	20%	74%	15%	75%	20%	80%	40%
OHD	72%	7%	78%	21%	79%	12%	78%	14%	81%	24%
<b>NATIONAL 2019</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>36%</b>

Our key aims, in the area of development and achievement are:

- For children's attainment to be at least at age related expectations by the end of year 6 in line with the age related Expectations within the National Curriculum
- For all children to make at least better than expected progress from their level of entry
- For all teaching to be at least good, with large aspects at outstanding
- For core skills to be translated to other subjects
- To enable smooth and successful transition into secondary phase of education
- For leadership to be devolved so that all aspects of the Trust are highly effective.

These aims will be achieved through implementation of:

- Effective and appropriate CPD
- Individualised learning programmes
- Effective data monitoring management
- Rigorous Assessments of Teaching and Learning
- Peer mentoring and coaching
- Clear levels of accountability throughout the Trust, driven through effective governance

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

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

- Using exemplary Practise to inform other developments

This approach will lead to pupils who are more engaged and afforded good teaching consistently. Which in turn, will evoke rapid and sustained improvement.

- Delivering a curriculum that focuses on individual children's needs.
- Delivering a curriculum that inspires
- Delivering a schooling of memorable experiences.
- Increasing the skills of staff so that all teaching is satisfactory with the majority being good or better within 12 months
- Creating a Senior Leadership Team that drives school improvement forward
- Making education fun and worthwhile.
- Making the school the hub of the community
- Highly successful Continued Professional Development for staff
- A proactive Academy Trust.



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

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**a. Key performance indicators**

- To ensure that the measurable pupil outcomes exceed national expectations and national averages
- To ensure that at the next Ofsted inspection, all academies are at least good and have shown improvement in their areas for development from their previous inspection.
- To ensure that each academy aspires to have pupil attendance of 96% or above
- To ensure that each academy has robust and sound finance including working towards/achievement of baseline reserve figure set by the Trust .
- To ensure where possible that each academy has a balanced or surplus budget (including revenue balances from previous years)
- To ensure that staffing costs as a % of both total income and expenditure does not exceed 80% across the Trust
- To maintain satisfactory cashflow at all times

Since the Trust opened its first Academy in Sept 2012, the Trustees priority has been to develop systems and processes to enable it to function effectively as an independent organisation.

However, the Trust does monitor the level of reserves held, the number of pupils on roll and the prediction that those pupil numbers will continue to grow year on year for the next 5 years, the monitoring of attendance levels and standards of attainment – particularly EYFS, KS 1 & 2 results. Formal Key Performance Indicators will be introduced in future years if the Trust believes that this is beneficial to its operation.

**KPI for 2019/20**

Attendance the attendance level achieved for the period was:

Briscoe Lane Academy	(Sept 2019 – 20th March 2020)	94.5%
Seymour Road Academy	(Sept 2019 – 20th March 2020)	96%
Old Hall Drive Academy	(Sept 2019 – 20th March 2020)	94.5%

Permanent exclusions the aim is to have permanent exclusions only in exceptional circumstances. The Trust had no permanent exclusions during the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020 inclusive

Staffing the headcount of staff employed during the period 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020 was 228.

To ensure that each academy has robust and sound finance including working towards/achievement of baseline reserve figure set by the Trust. Internal audit visits identified strong working practice and procedures with regards to finance. The Reserves figure was met fully across the Trust

To ensure staffing costs as a % of expenditure does not exceed 80% across the Trust. We were well within this figure – the % for 2019/20 was 68%

To maintain satisfactory cashflow at all times This was monitored monthly and prior to any BACS run – no issues or concerns in this area.

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

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**b. Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies (note 1.2 in the financial statements).

**COVID- 19 RESPONSE**

During lockdown Seymour Road Academy stayed open as a hub to cater for the Key Worker families and vulnerable children. A full team of family workers continued to ensure the safety of our families by doing weekly and in some cases doorstep visits to ensure safeguarding was maintained to a high standard. We have written a bespoke recovery programme for the children across the Trust to ensure a smooth transition back into school.

Financially the Trust had no impact from any loss of income. We continued with the internal audit remotely. In addition to this PPN was adhered to and our suppliers were supported through prompt payments.

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

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**Strategic report (continued)**

**a. Financial Review**

For the financial period ending 31st August 2020, financial performance has been analysed.

All schools within the Trust finished the year in a healthy financial position that exceeded budget expectations due to school closures as part of the COVID -19 response.

The main source of income for the Trust is revenue grant funding for individual academies. Funding is based largely on pupil numbers, and the key risk moving forward is a reduction in the number of pupils at schools within the Trust. It should be noted that the age demographic in East Manchester is likely to result in sustained pupil numbers in the two primaries in the short to medium term. The third academy is on a rolling programme to become a 3 form entry by 2022.

Expenditure across the Trust is typical for the education sector with the main area of expenditure being staff cost.

The trustees' policy on reserves is to strike a balance between financial prudence and achieving the Trust's objectives. It is acknowledged both that available assets should remain at a financially secure level and that current year government funding is to meet the educational needs of current year pupils.

**Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The Trust has developed risk management procedures as outlined above and a formal review of the Trust's risk management process will be undertaken on an annual basis.

The Trust uses a variety of financial instruments, including cash and items such as trade debtors and trade creditors that arise directly from day to day activities. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to ensure liquidity for the Trust's operations.

**b. Reserves policy**

The level of reserves held at 31st August 2020 total £1,740,569 (excluding the fixed asset and pension liability reserves.)

Wise Owl Trust is committed to ensuring that the reserves that each academy holds gives a buffer to safeguard against unplanned events including uncertainty over future funding whilst ensuring that the majority of the income received is spent to meet the needs of the pupils of today to maximize their learning opportunities, to improve attainment and to provide educational environments that are stimulating and fit for purpose. The Trust recognises that these are aspirational reserves and will monitor each individual academy's reserves annually as part of the budget planning process. An individual academy may choose to build up higher reserves over a longer period of time in order to facilitate a larger project e.g. major refurbishment project or to safeguard over future uncertainties.

The deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme (at 31 August 2020) does not mean that an immediate liability crystallises. The deficit results in a cash flow effect for the Academy Trust in the form of possible future increases in pension contributions which, if required, will be met from the budgeted annual income. There is therefore considered to be no material impact on free reserves of the Academy Trust because of recognising the deficit.

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

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**c. Principal risks and uncertainties**

The Trust has a comprehensive risk register and risk review process. The objectives will be to determine an approach, and where it is considered necessary put in place measures of control and mitigation in order to manage risk.

The principal risks are the loss of reputation, through falling standards, falling student rolls and failure to safeguard the students or a poor OFSTED report.

Key controls in place are:

- an organisational structure with defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels;
- terms of reference for the committees of the Governing Body;
- financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting areas of financial risk;
- formal written and published policies for employees; and
- vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable.

The Trust's employees are members of two defined benefit pension schemes, the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Trust has recognised its share of the LGPS assets and liabilities in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 28. A deficit has been recognised at 31 August 2020. The TPS has been accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Further details of the accounting policy adopted for each scheme are included in note 1 to the financial statements.

Due to the nature of the two pension schemes there is an underlying risk to the Trust which relates primarily to the uncertainty of the future funding requirements of each scheme, the results of which impact on the contribution rates for future employer contributions to each scheme. The Trustees have given due consideration to this risk.

**d. Investment Policy**

A formal investment policy has been adopted by Wise Owl Trust and will be reviewed annually.

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

The Trust will, after constructing and reporting forecasts versus budgets, consider whether it is prudent to deposit funds into an account where improved terms are offered. As improved terms are generally only offered where funds are invested for a fixed term, it may be prudent for the Trust not to invest funds in this manner.

**Fundraising**

The charity had no fundraising activities requiring disclosure under the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016.

**Plans for future periods**

The aim is to provide a structure for continuous improvement and achievement at all key stages and the results to demonstrate year on year improvements.



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(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**Disclosure of information to auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

**Auditor**

Crowe U.K. LLP, having expressed their willingness to continue in office, will be deemed reappointed for the next financial year in accordance with section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 unless the charitable company receives notice under section 488(1) of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 3rd December 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 9th December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr J Battle**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

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**Scope of Responsibility**

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

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive 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 Wise Owl 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
Mr G Larder	4	4
Mr I Chadwick, Chair	2	4
Mr J Battle (ex officio)	4	4
Mr C O'Shaughnessy	2	4
Mrs V Tempest (ex officio)	1	4
Mr J Corcoran (ex officio)	1	4
Mrs E Foster	3	4

In order to ensure greater rigour the Trust have undertaken a comprehensive internal audit programme through an external provider which focused on Covid 19 (Real time assurance and emerging risks); audit arrangements; internal control; governance budget planning; monitoring and reporting; purchasing; income payroll and personnel management; cash control; risk management; premises management and health and safety; assets and pupil premium. The Trust is responsible for all strategic financial related issues.

All trustees receive monthly reports via Trust Governor website relating to the financial position and, from time to time, are provided with other relevant reports relating to matters at the School which has continued to prove to be an effective way in which to keep Trustees informed between meetings, although it has been necessary previously for the board to hold meetings outside of its prescribed schedule.

An Audit, Finance and Risk committee has been put in place from September 2019. They will meet before each board meeting and at least 3 times a year

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**Review of value for money**

As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the academy 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'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 has delivered improved value for money during the year by,

- The Trust has had further successful CIF grants for new boiler infrastructure at Seymour Road Academy
- The Trust has produced detailed financial analysis of how pupil premium funding was spent and its impact on outcomes
- Collaboration across the three academies with regard to sharing good and outstanding practice is an effective and efficient use of staffing resources
- The Trust has secured reduced costs for some SLAs and services through combined purchasing across the Trust and this continues to be a key focus moving forward to ensure value for money
- CPD is coordinated centrally to ensure that we achieve economies of scale and that new initiatives/ideas from training courses are cascaded down across the Trust schools.

**The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy 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 Wise Owl Trust for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy 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's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of Trustees.

**The risk and control framework**

The academy'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 General Purposes 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
- identification and management of risks, delegation of authority and segregation of duties

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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**The risk and control framework (continued)**

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ Redramber Ltd as internal auditor.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees, ' financial responsibilities

On termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the board of Trustees through the board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustees' financial responsibilities. There have been no material control issues arising from the internal audit and recommendations have been implemented where practicable to further strengthen the Trust's financial systems and procedures.

**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:

- on discharge of the Board of Trustees financial decisions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress
- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy 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 board of Trustees 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 *9<sup>th</sup> December 2020* and signed on their behalf by:

*J. Battle*

**Mr J Battle**  
Chair of Trustees

*S. Murfin*

**Mrs S Murfin**  
Accounting Officer



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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

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As accounting officer of Wise Owl Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy 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, under the funding agreement in place between the academy and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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

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



**Mrs S Murfin**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 9 December 2020

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 2019 to 2020;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on *9th December 2020*  
and signed on its behalf by:

*J. Battle*

**Mr J Battle**  
(Chair of Trustees)

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WISE OWL TRUST**

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**Opinion**

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the academy 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 academy'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.



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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WISE OWL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Other information**

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

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



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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WISE  
OWL TRUST (CONTINUED)**

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**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy 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 academy'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 academy or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

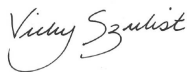
**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the academy'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 academy'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 academy and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Vicky Szulist (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Crowe U.K. LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
3rd floor

The Lexicon  
Mount Street  
Manchester  
M2 5NT

Date: 23rd December 2020

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2nd October 2019 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Wise Owl Trust during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Respective responsibilities of Wise Owl Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Wise Owl Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 May 2012 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

**Conclusion**

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

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WISE OWL TRUST  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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*Crowe UK LLP*

Reporting Accountant  
Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Date: 23rd December 2020

**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	491,588	491,588	296,842
Charitable activities		128,062	8,676,825	-	8,804,887	8,405,474
Investments	5	2,576	-	-	2,576	2,498
<b>Total income</b>		<b>130,638</b>	<b>8,676,825</b>	<b>491,588</b>	<b>9,299,051</b>	<b>8,704,814</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		254,075	8,751,758	615,258	9,621,091	8,676,185
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>254,075</b>	<b>8,751,758</b>	<b>615,258</b>	<b>9,621,091</b>	<b>8,676,185</b>
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>(123,437)</b>	<b>(74,933)</b>	<b>(123,670)</b>	<b>(322,040)</b>	<b>28,629</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(89,000)	-	(89,000)	(1,259,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(123,437)</b>	<b>(163,933)</b>	<b>(123,670)</b>	<b>(411,040)</b>	<b>(1,230,371)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		184,240	(1,810,578)	12,670,991	11,044,653	12,275,024
Net movement in funds		(123,437)	(163,933)	(123,670)	(411,040)	(1,230,371)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>60,803</b>	<b>(1,974,511)</b>	<b>12,547,321</b>	<b>10,633,613</b>	<b>11,044,653</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements.



**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 8053288

**BALANCE SHEET**  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	12,487,765	12,103,997
		12,487,765	12,103,997
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	238,847	533,351
Cash at bank and in hand		2,054,153	1,708,061
		2,293,000	2,241,412
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(450,569)	(245,548)
<b>Net current assets</b>		1,842,431	1,995,864
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		14,330,196	14,099,861
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(42,583)	(26,208)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>		14,287,613	14,073,653
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25	(3,654,000)	(3,029,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		10,633,613	11,044,653
<b>Funds of the academy</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	18	12,547,321	12,670,991
Restricted income funds	18	1,679,489	1,218,422
		14,226,810	13,889,413
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	18	14,226,810	13,889,413
Pension reserve	18	(3,654,000)	(3,029,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	18	10,572,810	10,860,413
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18	60,803	184,240
<b>Total funds</b>		10,633,613	11,044,653

The financial statements on pages 26 to 58 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 9th December 2020 and are signed on their behalf, by:

x *J. Battle* J BATTLE

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 8053288**

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**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020**

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The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements.

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	<b>616,614</b>	402,500
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	<b>(264,311)</b>	(134,980)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	21	<b>(6,211)</b>	(6,212)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>1,708,061</b>	1,446,753
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	23, 24	<b><u>2,054,153</u></b>	<b><u>1,708,061</u></b>

The notes on pages 30 to 58 form part of these financial statements

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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

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**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

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

**1.2 Going concern**

The trust prepares three year budget forecasting which is updated and revisited regularly and identifies risks and how these will be mitigated. There is robust monitoring of budgets with regard to tracking income and expenditure against the budget, and monthly cash flow analysis. Strategic planning is performed to ensure that resources are allocated within each individual academies priorities and are affordable. There is collaboration across the Trust particularly with regard to staffing.

The trustees have set an aspirational reserves policy which outlines the Trust's expectations with regards to the building up of adequate reserves within individual academies which is reviewed annually. All of the academies within the Trust have healthy reserves.

During lockdown Seymour Road Academy stayed open as a hub to cater for the Key Worker families and vulnerable children. A full team of family workers continued to ensure the safety of our families by doing weekly and in some cases doorstep visits to ensure safeguarding was maintained to a high standard. We have written a bespoke recovery programme for the children across the Trust to ensure a smooth transition back into school.

Financially the Trust had no impact from any loss of income. We continued with the internal audit remotely. In addition to this PPN was adhered to and our suppliers were supported through prompt payments.

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



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**WISE OWL TRUST**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Sponsorship income**

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

• **Other income**

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

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.5 Taxation**

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

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £5000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 50 years
Temporary property	- 25 years
Playground works	- 10 years
Furniture and equipment	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 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.

**1.7 Debtors**

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

**1.8 Cash at bank and in hand**

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

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.9 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 anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risk specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

**1.10 Financial instruments**

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

*Financial assets* - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy'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 cost as detailed in notes 15 and 16. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.11 Pensions**

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

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy 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.

**1.12 Fund accounting**

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

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

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

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



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**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The 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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 August 2017 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>
Capital grants	491,588	491,588
	<u>491,588</u>	<u>491,588</u>
	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Capital grants	296,842	296,842
	<u>296,842</u>	<u>296,842</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**4. Funding for the academy's funding for educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,358,090	<b>6,358,090</b>
Music Grant	-	12,193	<b>12,193</b>
Early Years Funding	-	490,499	<b>490,499</b>
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	557,122	<b>557,122</b>
	-	7,417,904	<b>7,417,904</b>
<b>Other Government Grants</b>			
Pupil Premium	-	1,037,241	<b>1,037,241</b>
SEN Funding from MCC	-	221,680	<b>221,680</b>
	-	1,258,921	<b>1,258,921</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
School Meal Income	48,552	-	<b>48,552</b>
Other School Income	79,510	-	<b>79,510</b>
	128,062	-	<b>128,062</b>
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>128,062</b>	<b>8,676,825</b>	<b>8,804,887</b>

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**4. Funding for the academy's funding for educational operations (continued)**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,274,668	6,274,668
Music Grant	-	9,532	9,532
Early Years Funding	-	515,209	515,209
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	303,278	303,278
	-	<u>7,102,687</u>	<u>7,102,687</u>
<b>Other Government Grants</b>			
Pupil Premium	-	1,076,199	1,076,199
SEN Funding from MCC	-	106,231	106,231
	-	<u>1,182,430</u>	<u>1,182,430</u>
<b>Other Income</b>			
School Meal Income	76,227	-	76,227
Other School Income	21,732	22,398	44,130
	<u>97,959</u>	<u>8,307,515</u>	<u>8,405,474</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>97,959</u>	<u>8,307,515</u>	<u>8,405,474</u>

**5. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>
Investment income	<u>2,576</u>	<u>2,576</u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Investment income	<u>2,498</u>	<u>2,498</u>



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**6. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Funding for educational operations:				
Direct costs	3,862,052	-	1,108,583	4,970,635
Allocated support costs	2,929,327	865,387	855,742	4,650,456
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>6,791,379</b>	<b>865,387</b>	<b>1,964,325</b>	<b>9,621,091</b>

	Staff Costs 2019 £	Premises 2019 £	Other 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Funding for educational operations:				
Direct costs	3,447,081	-	956,981	4,404,062
Allocated support costs	2,697,366	756,706	818,051	4,272,123
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>6,144,447</b>	<b>756,706</b>	<b>1,775,032</b>	<b>8,676,185</b>

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Funding for educational operations	4,970,635	4,650,456	9,621,091

	Activities undertaken directly 2019 £	Support costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Funding for educational operations	4,404,062	4,272,123	8,676,185

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>
Staff costs	2,929,327
Depreciation	374,707
School uniform fees	14,672
Maintenance of premises and equipment	239,217
Cleaning	35,763
Light and heat	88,851
Rent and rates	126,658
Insurance	85,465
Telephone and admin stationery	49,559
Catering	403,578
IT support costs	187,920
Legal and professional	89,089
Governance costs	25,650
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>4,650,456</b>

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**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs (continued)**

	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Staff costs	2,697,366
Depreciation	337,365
School uniform fees	14,871
Maintenance of premises and equipment	170,761
Cleaning	30,228
Light and heat	100,929
Rent and rates	117,423
Insurance	58,945
Telephone and admin stationery	53,531
Catering	426,793
IT support costs	112,715
Legal and professional	124,658
Governance costs	26,538
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>4,272,123</i>

**8. Net expenditure**

Net expenditure for the year includes:

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
Owned by the charity	<b>374,707</b>	337,365
Auditor's remuneration - audit	<b>13,000</b>	12,500
Auditor's remuneration - other services	<b>5,000</b>	4,765
Governance Internal audit costs	<b>5,000</b>	4,000
Operating lease expenditure		
- Other	<b>25,000</b>	24,898
	<b>521,707</b>	483,528

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**9. Staff**

**a. Staff costs**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	4,777,935	4,514,510
Social security costs	416,713	394,429
Pension costs	1,411,052	1,061,505
	<u>6,605,700</u>	<u>5,970,444</u>
Agency staff costs	185,679	174,003
	<u>6,791,379</u>	<u>6,144,447</u>

**b. Non-statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments**

During the year a settlement agreement of £29,500 was paid to the Chief Executive Officer.

**c. Staff numbers**

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	83	83
Educational support	71	71
Clerical and administration	15	15
Premises	21	21
Lunchtime supervision	33	43
Catering	5	-
	<u>228</u>	<u>233</u>

**d. Higher paid staff**

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



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**9. Staff (continued)**

**d. Higher paid staff (continued)**

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	2
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy was £602,931 (2019 £561,042).

**10. Central services**

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

- Centralised Wise Owl Trust staff- CEO, Executive Principal and Trust Finance
- HR Support
- School Improvement
- SEND audit
- Apprenticeship Levy

The academy charges for these services on the following basis:

The charges for these services was 8% of GAG and EYFF funding apportioned based on pupil numbers in each academy.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Briscoe Lane Academy	217,363	209,540
Old Hall Drive Acedemy	164,000	165,881
Seymour Road Academy	164,538	163,302
<b>Total</b>	<u>545,901</u>	<u>538,723</u>

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**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2020 £	2019 £
Chris O'Shaughnessy	Remuneration	100,000 - 105,000	65,000 - 70,000
	Pension contributions paid	NIL	0 - 5,000

During the year ended 31 August 2020, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2019 - £NIL).

**12. Trustees' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £28,615 (2019 - £28,280). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

**13. Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 September 2019	12,959,804	538,392	13,498,196
Additions	719,725	38,750	758,475
At 31 August 2020	<u>13,679,529</u>	<u>577,142</u>	<u>14,256,671</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 September 2019	1,161,929	232,270	1,394,199
Charge for the year	265,988	108,719	374,707
At 31 August 2020	<u>1,427,917</u>	<u>340,989</u>	<u>1,768,906</u>

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

**13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 August 2020	12,251,612	236,153	12,487,765
At 31 August 2019	11,797,875	306,122	12,103,997

**14. Debtors**

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Other debtors	55,560	112,641
Prepayments and accrued income	183,287	420,710
	<u>238,847</u>	<u>533,351</u>

**15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2020 £	2019 £
Other loans	5,470	5,470
Trade creditors	172,027	80,101
Accruals and deferred income	273,072	159,977
	<u>450,569</u>	<u>245,548</u>

**16. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2020 £	2019 £
Other loans	42,583	26,208

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**17. Financial instruments**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Financial assets measured at cost	<b>2,054,153</b>	<b>2,128,752</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<b>326,773</b>	<b>188,278</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise .		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise		



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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds	184,240	130,638	(254,075)	-	-	60,803
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	76,422	6,358,090	(5,897,023)	-	-	537,489
Pupil Premium	-	1,037,241	(1,037,241)	-	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	477,008	(477,008)	-	-	-
Music Grant	-	8,481	(8,481)	-	-	-
SEN Funding	-	221,680	(221,680)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	562,988	(562,988)	-	-	-
Other school income	-	11,337	(11,337)	-	-	-
School improvement fund	1,142,000	-	-	-	-	1,142,000
Pension reserve	(3,029,000)	-	(536,000)	-	(89,000)	(3,654,000)
	<u>(1,810,578)</u>	<u>8,676,825</u>	<u>(8,751,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,000)</u>	<u>(1,974,511)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Transfer of land and buildings	12,103,995	-	(374,707)	758,483	-	12,487,771
Capital Maintenance Fund	566,996	491,588	(240,551)	(758,483)	-	59,550
	<u>12,670,991</u>	<u>491,588</u>	<u>(615,258)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,547,321</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>10,860,413</u>	<u>9,168,413</u>	<u>(9,367,016)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,000)</u>	<u>10,572,810</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>11,044,653</b>	<b>9,299,051</b>	<b>(9,621,091)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(89,000)</b>	<b>10,633,613</b>

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

**Restricted Funds**

The General Annual Grant (GAG) is used specifically for the normal running costs incurred in delivering the objects of the Academy as set out in the Company's Articles.

The other funds identified within restricted general funds are spent in line with the criteria attached to them.

**School improvement fund**

The Trust have designated £1,142,000 as a school improvement fund for the various upcoming projects across the Trust including a dining room.

**Restricted fixed asset funds**

The transfer of land and buildings represents the value of the land and buildings transferred freehold to the Academy upon conversion, less depreciation.

The other funds identified within restricted fixed asset funds are spent in line with the criteria attached to them.

**Unrestricted funds**

Unrestricted funds are those other resources which may be used to further the objectives 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 it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Briscoe Lane Academy	676,888	530,571
Seymour Road Academy	694,146	569,860
Old Hall Drive Academy	343,915	218,152
Wise Owl Trust	25,343	84,079
<b>Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve</b>	<b>1,740,292</b>	<b>1,402,662</b>
Restricted fixed asset fund	12,547,321	12,670,991
Pension reserve	(3,654,000)	(3,029,000)

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,633,613</b>	<b>11,044,653</b>

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £
Briscoe Lane Academy	1,522,234	933,023	185,462	547,114	<b>3,187,833</b>
Seymour Road Academy	1,060,259	662,268	112,017	419,687	<b>2,254,231</b>
Old Hall Drive Academy	1,198,104	764,244	128,667	320,973	<b>2,411,988</b>
<b>Academy</b>	<b>3,780,597</b>	<b>2,359,535</b>	<b>426,146</b>	<b>1,287,774</b>	<b>7,854,052</b>

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2019 £
Briscoe Lane Academy	1,195,280	860,743	389,309	673,320	3,118,652
Seymour Road Academy	930,634	674,328	322,826	555,083	2,482,871
Old Hall Drive Academy	1,066,303	738,496	265,945	327,597	2,398,341
<b>Academy</b>	<b>3,192,217</b>	<b>2,273,567</b>	<b>978,080</b>	<b>1,556,000</b>	<b>7,999,864</b>

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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2018</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Donations	210,407	100,457	(76,624)	(50,000)	-	184,240
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	997,118	6,274,668	(5,852,349)	(1,343,015)	-	76,422
Pupil Premium	-	1,076,199	(1,076,199)	-	-	-
Early Years Funding	-	515,209	(515,209)	-	-	-
Music Grant	-	9,532	(9,532)	-	-	-
SEN Funding	-	106,231	(106,231)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	303,278	(303,278)	-	-	-
Other school income	-	22,398	(22,398)	-	-	-
School improvement fund	-	-	-	1,142,000	-	1,142,000
Pension reserve	(1,393,000)	-	(377,000)	-	(1,259,000)	(3,029,000)
	<u>(395,882)</u>	<u>8,307,515</u>	<u>(8,262,196)</u>	<u>(201,015)</u>	<u>(1,259,000)</u>	<u>(1,810,578)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Transfer of land and buildings	12,007,060	-	(337,365)	434,302	-	12,103,997
Capital Maintenance Fund	453,439	296,842	-	(183,287)	-	566,994
	<u>12,460,499</u>	<u>296,842</u>	<u>(337,365)</u>	<u>251,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,670,991</u>



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**18. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2018</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>12,064,617</u>	<u>8,604,357</u>	<u>(8,599,561)</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>(1,259,000)</u>	<u>10,860,413</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>12,275,024</u></u>	<u><u>8,704,814</u></u>	<u><u>(8,676,185)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(1,259,000)</u></u>	<u><u>11,044,653</u></u>

**19. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2020</b>	<b>Restricted fixed asset funds 2020</b>	<b>Total funds 2020</b>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,487,765	<b>12,487,765</b>
Current assets	61,080	2,172,364	59,556	<b>2,293,000</b>
Creditors due within one year	(277)	(450,292)	-	<b>(450,569)</b>
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(42,583)	-	<b>(42,583)</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(3,654,000)	-	<b>(3,654,000)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>60,803</u></u>	<u><u>(1,974,511)</u></u>	<u><u>12,547,321</u></u>	<u><u><b>10,633,613</b></u></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2019</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2019</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2019</i>	<i>Total funds 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	12,103,997	12,103,997
Current assets	184,240	1,490,178	566,994	2,241,412
Creditors due within one year	-	(245,548)	-	(245,548)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(26,208)	-	(26,208)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(3,029,000)	-	(3,029,000)
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>184,240</u></u>	<u><u>(1,810,578)</u></u>	<u><u>12,670,991</u></u>	<u><u><b>11,044,653</b></u></u>

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**19. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)**

**20. Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2020 £	2019 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the period (as per Statement of financial activities)	<u>(322,040)</u>	<u>28,629</u>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	374,707	337,365
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,576)	(2,498)
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors	227,607	(62,906)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	294,504	21,734
Capital grants from DfE	(491,588)	(296,824)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	536,000	377,000
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u><u>616,614</u></u>	<u><u>402,500</u></u>

**21. Cash flows from financing activities**

	2020 £	2019 £
Repayments of borrowings	<u>(6,211)</u>	<u>(6,212)</u>
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<u><u>(6,211)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,212)</u></u>

**22. Cash flows from investing activities**

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest	2,576	2,498
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(758,475)	(434,302)
Capital grants from DfE Group	491,588	296,824
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<u><u>(264,311)</u></u>	<u><u>(134,980)</u></u>

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**23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash at bank	2,054,153	1,708,061
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,054,153</b>	<b>1,708,061</b>

**24. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,708,061	346,092	2,054,153
Debt due within 1 year	(5,470)	-	(5,470)
Debt due after 1 year	(26,208)	(16,375)	(42,583)
	<b>1,676,383</b>	<b>329,717</b>	<b>2,006,100</b>

**25. Pension commitments**

The academy'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 Tameside MBC. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

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

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

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £617,000 (2019 - £410,000).

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

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

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £426,000 (2019 - £412,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £325,000 (2019 - £314,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 101,000 (2019 - £98,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 18.5% per cent for employers and 5.5-12.5% per cent for employees.

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

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



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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

Greater Manchester Pension Fund

	<b>2020</b>	<i>2019</i>
	%	%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.9
Rate of increase in salaries	3.0	3.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.2	2.30
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.2	2.30
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	55	55

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

	<b>2020</b>	<i>2019</i>
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	20.5	20.6
Females	23.1	23.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22	22
Females	25	24.8

**Sensitivity analysis**

	<b>2020</b>	<i>2019</i>
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	244,800	230,200
CPI rate +0.1%	223,000	190,000

**Share of scheme assets**

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Equities	3,378,240	3,202,120
Corporate bonds	794,880	706,350
Property	347,760	376,720
Cash and other liquid assets	447,120	423,810
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>4,968,000</b>	<b>4,709,000</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £220,000 (2019 - £207,000).

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Net interest cost	62,000	42,000
Current service cost	799,000	649,000
<b>Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>861,000</b>	<b>691,000</b>

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

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>7,738,000</b>	<b>5,511,000</b>
Employee contributions	101,000	98,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(131,000)	1,345,000
Current service cost	799,000	570,000
Interest cost	155,000	163,000
Past service costs	-	79,000
Benefits paid	(40,000)	(28,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>8,622,000</b>	<b>7,738,000</b>

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**25. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>4,709,000</b>	<b>4,118,000</b>
Employee contributions	101,000	98,000
Contributions by employer	325,000	314,000
Interest income	93,000	121,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(220,000)	86,000
Benefits paid	(40,000)	(28,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>4,968,000</b>	<b>4,709,000</b>

**26. Operating lease commitments**

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Within 1 year	15,320	14,821
Between 1 year and not later than 5 years	10,024	19,965
	<b>25,344</b>	<b>34,786</b>

**27. Members' liability**

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

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**28. Related party transactions**

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

During the period, Wise Owl Trust provided services and charged £NIL (2019: £5,236) to Abney Trust at which a school governor is a member.

No other related party transactions have taken place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration already disclosed in note 10.

**Connected Parties**

The following transactions have taken place between Wise Owl Trust and the following organisations in which a member of the local governing body has an interest. They are not considered to be related parties due to a lack of control at the Trust but are included for transparency.

During the period, Wise Owl Trust incurred costs of £82,600 (2019: £138,302) from Commando Joe's, a company where a local school governor is employed. The Trust has a long standing relationship with the company before the governor joined the local school board. The balance outstanding at the year end was £NIL (2019: £12,000).

During the period, Wise Owl Trust paid £2,737 to CPOMS (2019: £2,175), of which a local school governor at the Trust is a director. The balance outstanding at year end was £nil (2019: £nil).

During the period, Wise Owl Trust paid £140,327 to One Education, of which a local school governor is an employee. The balance outstanding at the year end was NIL.