



Company Registration No. 09174628 (England and Wales)

THE STOUR FEDERATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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THE STOUR FEDERATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Mr C Hilton (Head Teacher)
Mr D R Atkins (Vice Chair of Governors) (Deceased 30 June 2017)
Mrs J M Brown (Chair of Resources)
Mrs J Barker (Chair of Governors)
Mr M J Dumelow
Mr I D Fairbourn (Chair of Performance and Standards)
Mrs J Harris
Mrs J Rice (Chair of Pupils, Parents and Community)
Mrs E F Hobday
Rev A Coleby (Resigned 31 December 2016)
Mr S C Gray (Resigned 30 November 2016)
Mrs L Molson (Resigned 31 May 2017)
Mr N Jennngs
Mr T Wrigley
Mrs R Sellars
Mrs H Young
Mrs N Hazleton
Mrs A Holland
Mr G Roberts
Mrs M Tompkinson (Resigned 31 October 2016)
Mr A Cooke (Appointed 14 December 2016)

Members

- Chair of Governors	Mrs J Barker
- Vice Chair of Governors	Dr D R Atkins (Until 30 June 2017)
- Chair of Resources	Mrs J Brown
- Chair of Performance and standards	Mr I Fairbourn
- Chair of Pupil, Parents and Community	Mrs J Rice

Senior management team

- Executive Headteacher	Mr C Hilton
- Associate Head (Acorns)	Mrs H Young
- Associate Head (Shipston)	Mr G Roberts

Company registration number

09174628 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Station Road
Shipston-On-Stour
Warwickshire
CV36 4BT
United Kingdom

Academies operated

Acorns Primary
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School

Location

Long Compton
Shipston-On-Stour

Headteacher

Mr Christian Hilton
Mr Christian Hilton



THE STOUR FEDERATION

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor

Ellacotts LLP
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PU

Solicitors

Harrison Clark Rickerbys
Ellenborough House
Wellington Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1YD



THE STOUR FEDERATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company (Academy) for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report including strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates as a multi-academy trust (MAT) of two primary schools located 6 miles apart, these are Shipston-on-Stour Primary School and Acorns Primary School for the catchment areas of the town of Shipston-on-Stour and village of Long Compton respectively.

Shipston Primary School has a pupil capacity of 420 ages 4-11 year olds and had a roll of 397 in the school census in September 2016. Acorns Primary School has a capacity of 91 ages 4-11 year olds and a 13 place Nursery for 3-4 year olds. Acorns had a roll of 80 in the school census of September 2016.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The trustees of The Stour Federation MAT are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as **The Stour Federation**.

Details of the trustees (governors) who served throughout the period, except where noted, are included in the Reference and Administration Details on page 1.

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.

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with article 5 of the charitable company's Articles of Association third party indemnity provision is in place with the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) with unlimited cover.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The Executive Headteacher is an ex-officio member of the Governing Body. Up to 18 governors are appointed for a 4 year term with a maximum of 6 parent governors, 2 staff governors, 6 community governors, 2 LA influenced governors and 2 associate governors which are elected to office or appointed.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Chairs of the 3 committees are also Members.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Chair of Governors meets with new governors to discuss roles and responsibilities. New Governors are able to attend training courses provided by the Local Authority Governor Services and through in-house training from the Federated Leadership Team.

Under Article 4 of the Academy's Articles of Association;

The Stour Federation's object is specifically restricted to advance, for 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 the Federation, offering a broad based primary curriculum to pupils of different abilities.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Organisational structure

The structure of The Stour Federation MAT consists of 3 senior levels:

1. The Governing Body
2. The Executive Headteacher
3. The Federated Leadership Team, which consists of the Executive Headteacher and the Associate Headteachers for each school.

The aim of this management structure is to distribute responsibility and accountability and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels to enable the MAT to nurture the talents of its entire staff to support continual improvement and excellence.

The Governing Body is responsible for setting the MAT's policies, adopting the Learning Improvement Plans (LIPs) and approving the annual budget, monitoring performance against these plans and making major decisions about the direction of the Federation including its curriculum, the achievement and welfare of the pupils and personnel.

The Federated Leadership Team control the MAT at an executive level, implementing policies set by the Governing Body and reporting back to them.

The Governing Body has established 4 committees. Each committee has its own Terms of Reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to the committee and to the Executive Headteacher (the Accounting Officer). Each committee meets every half term and Terms of Reference for each committee are reviewed and approved by the Governing Body annually.

The committees of the Governing Body are:

- Full Governors
- Resources
- Performance and Standards
- Pupils, Parents and Community

Note: the Governing Body requires the Members to discharge the duties of the Audit Committee. These are detailed in the Full Governors Terms of Reference.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Stour Federation MAT has adopted the WCC Local Authority Pay and Conditions Policy. All staff undergo annual performance management and pay is awarded accordingly. Governors attend the Executive Headteacher's performance management and monitor staff pay awards.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no related parties which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the MAT.

Each school has a parent teacher association. There are no staff members or governors of the MAT named as trustees of either PTA. All donations received from the PTA are declared through statutory accounts.

The Stour Federation MAT is affiliated to the Gateway Alliance, a not-for-profit Schools Company, providing continuous professional development for schools in Warwickshire and the West Midlands. The Executive Headteacher is a director (without pay).

Pupils across The Stour Federation MAT have raised funds for local and national charities, including Children in Need, Comic Relief, RSPCA, local food banks and Help for Heroes through whole school events, such as non-uniform days, and through child-organised events such as loom band sales, bring and buy sales and cake sales. Many children volunteered to help run stalls at Christmas Fairs and Summer Fetes.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Personal Attributes of Pupils/Staff

To foster and develop confident, open and receptive learners who are able to communicate, think creatively and critically and embrace challenge through:

- expectations.
- modelling.
- the academy trust's curriculum and other learning opportunities.
- approach to teaching and learning.
- working in genuine partnership to strengthen schools and their communities.

Potential

To encourage each individual to maximise their potential as highly motivated life-long learners through:

- recognition of achievement.
- building self-confidence.
- promoting self-discipline.
- expectations
- embracing change.
- commitment.

Learning Environment

To provide a welcoming, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing learning environment, with high expectations of behaviour, effort and achievement through:

- the RESPECT code.
- provision for health and safety.
- the highest staff expectations of pupils' behaviour.
- effective and responsive systems of monitoring individual pupils and staff performance.
- stimulating displays.
- environmental responsibility.

Sense of Place

To enable children to value and develop a sense of community through:

- celebrating our local area.
- participating in and leading local events.
- opportunities to experience life and cultures both in within the UK and the wider world.

Relationships

To develop and promote positive relationships within the academy community, with parents and the wider world through:

- an active involvement in the learning process.
- developing a shared set of values.
- Modelling.
- Expectations.
- opportunities to collaborate.
- high quality leadership.
- effective communication systems.

Well-Being

To provide high quality social, moral and personal education, appropriate to the needs of the child, allowing each individual to lead a rewarding and happy life through:

- our curriculum
- programme of collective worship.
- school relationships.
- opportunities to raise an individuals' self esteem.
- links to outside agencies.
- self-respect and respect for others.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Curriculum

To provide a rich curriculum that creates meaningful opportunities for the development of skills and knowledge through:

- a high quality, innovative, topic based curriculum.
- a wide variety of approaches to outstanding teaching and learning and a rich, dynamic and purposeful range of learning opportunities.
- allowing pupils to make mistakes and learning from them.
- supporting children to develop courage and resilience by taking them to the 'edge of their learning'.

Inclusion

To allow pupils to access the school's curriculum and participate in all areas of Academy life through:

- an effective equal opportunities policy.
- highly inclusive and supporting learning environment.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The main Academy Trust areas for whole school development 2016-2017 were as follows:

1. With new teachers and teaching assistants employed at the school, ensure that all staff are consistently teaching lessons where all teaching is at least good and improving further, in line with school policy (Allison/Tharby, *Making Every Lesson Count*).
2. Enhance opportunities for children to develop fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills as well as opportunities for learning at greater depth.
3. To fully embed the new structure and process for extended writing, including peer assessment (Jane Considine, *The Write Stuff*) to increase more pupils working at EXS and GDS in fiction and non-fiction. Further develop and refine the delivery of a bespoke curriculum for children at The Stour Federation in line with statutory expectations.
4. Raise the outcomes of test-based reading comprehension and use of key texts whilst maintaining our excellent culture and love of reading.

Leadership and Management

- Phase Leaders, Core Leaders, SENCO and governors have high visibility and accountability for their specific areas of responsibility.
- Federated Leadership Team to work as a triad in reviewing each school's outcomes for pupils and identify and monitor areas for further improvement.
- Implement the use of the Seesaw app across the school to empower teachers and children to document what they are learning at school, offering parents a personalised window into their child's learning.

Effectiveness of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- Embed the use of Peer to Peer assessment materials alongside the OTrack Deeper Learning Judgments for accurate assessment in years 1-6.
- Implement the White Rose Hub long and medium term planning materials for enhancing opportunities for children to develop fluency, problem-solving and reasoning skills, as well as opportunities for learning at greater depth.
- Raise the profile of the teaching and assessment of science to support deeper learning and cross-curricular links.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

- Introduce the new Protective Behaviours curriculum and Spring Fever Relationships and Sex Education programmes.
- Improve stakeholder understanding and responsibilities towards bullying and cyberbullying.
- Improve awareness of and participation in an active, healthy lifestyle.
- Achieve 360° award for online safety.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Outcomes for Pupils

- A minimum of 90% of pupils in every year group make at least expected progress in reading, writing and maths, with 40%+ making better than expected progress.
- 80%+ of children in all year groups are working at age-related expectations.
- Teachers work to their best endeavours to ensure children in all year groups meet their targets towards improving the percentage of pupils working age-related expectations and at greater depth.
- Improve the percentage of children working at greater depth/higher standard for improvement in progress measures.

Public benefit

The Governing Body have complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit in exercising its powers and duties published by the Charity Commission.

The key aim of the Governing Body is the provision of excellent non-selective primary education through the provision of a broad curriculum, pastoral care and enrichment for the pupils of the Federation. The public benefit of this provision is identifiable in the educational attainment of our pupils as published on our websites annually.

Education at Shipston and Acorns is open to all primary aged pupils in the catchment areas regardless of race, gender, religion, social class or ability.

In accordance with Object 4b of our Articles of Association, the Governing Body actively promotes the use of our facilities for the benefit of our local communities.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Academic achievement is only a small part of what we do in the Stour Federation Multi-Academy Trust and it was notable that performance has been strong in a variety of sports. Both Shipston and Acorns have competed well against local, district and regional opposition, in particular, swimming, cross country, athletics, netball, tag rugby, and football have seen honours earned. Acorns earned the National Sports Gold Award; Shipston earned National Sports Gold Award the previous year. These awards reflect participation in (and enjoyment of) a wide variety of sports by a high percentage of pupils as well as the provision of a wide range of extra-curricular sporting clubs.

In the arts, the schools held annual end of year productions which all the children entered into enthusiastically. Children from both schools acted in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Choirs at both schools performed at a variety of public events.

In addition to the curriculum on offer at each school, the children have had the opportunity to attend a wide variety of school clubs and a joint residential visit to Manor Adventure in Wales.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Key performance indicators

EYFS – Pupils awarded a good level of development

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	54	11	6590	-
Good Level of Development	85%	91%	73%	71%
Average Total Assessment Score	36.0	40.2	34.3	34.5

YEAR 1 PHONICS - Pupils working at or working towards required level

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	60	11	6628	-
Working at Required Level	95%	100%	82%	81%
Working Towards Required Level	5%	0%	16%	17%

KEY STAGE 1 – Pupils achieving

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	59	8	6333	-
% working at Age Related Expectation				
Reading	85%	88%	77%	76%
Writing	75%	88%	70%	68%
Maths	80%	100%	76%	75%
Reading, Writing and Maths	68%	88%	66%	64%
% working at Greater Depth				
Reading	39%	38%	28%	25%
Writing	19%	38%	17%	16%
Maths	42%	50%	24%	20%
Reading, Writing and Maths	19%	38%	13%	11%

KEY STAGE 2 – Pupils achieving

	Shipston	Acorns	Warwickshire	National
Total Eligible Pupils	59	7	5914	-
% working at Age Related Expectation				
Reading	86%	57%	72%	71%
Writing	95%	86%	78%	76%
Maths	93%	43%	74%	75%
GPS	93%	71%	77%	77%
Reading, Writing and Maths	83%	43%	62%	61%
% working at Greater Depth				
Reading	34%	29%	28%	25%
Writing	37%	29%	20%	18%
Maths	42%	14%	23%	23%
GPS	42%	14%	32%	31%
Reading, Writing and Maths	17%	14%	10%	9%



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Governing Body has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Governing Body 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 Accounting Policies note in the financial statements.

Financial review

The majority of the Federation's income was obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of the General Academies Grant (GAG), the use of which was restricted to particular purposes. The grant received from the ESFA during the period ended 31 August 2017 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

During the period ended 31 August 2017, the excess income over expenditure for the year was £11,641 (2016: £414,382 negative) including depreciation and the actuarial gain.

At 31 August 2017 the net book value of assets was £3,857,719 (2016: £4,000,408). The assets were exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy.

The Federation's non-teaching staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme and consequently, the Federation balance shows a net liability position of £507,000 (2016: £663,000).

Reserves policy

The Governing Body has deemed that the appropriate level of cash reserves should enable the Federation to continue its rolling programme of improvements and in particular at least ensure that wages and salary expenses can be met in full on a monthly basis.

As of 31 August 2017 the Federation has Restricted General Reserves of negative £498,633 (2016: £663,000 negative). This includes the Local Government Pension Scheme reserve deficit of £507,000 (2016: £663,000).

The Federation had Restricted Fixed Asset Reserves of £3,857,719 (2016: £4,036,661) representing the land and buildings relating to the Federation and assets acquired by restricted grants. The Federation also had Unrestricted Reserves of £298,617 (2016: £272,401).

Investment policy and powers

The aim of the policy is to ensure that funds which The Stour Federation MAT does not need to cover anticipated expenditure are invested in such a way as to be reasonably accessible and maximise income without risk.

Our aim is to spend public monies entrusted to us for the direct educational benefit of pupils as soon as is prudent. The Stour Federation does not consider the investment of surplus funds as a primary activity, rather as a result of good practice as and when circumstances allow.

The purpose of the Investment and Reserves Policy is:

- To ensure adequate cash balances are maintained in the Lloyds current account to cover day to day working capital requirements for a period of 3 months
- To ensure there is no risk or loss in capital value of any cash invested.
- To protect the capital value of any invested funds against inflation
- To optimise returns on invested funds
- To ensure value for money
- To exercise care and skill in investment decisions, taking advice, as appropriate, from a professional advisor
- Ensure all investment decisions are in the best interests of the trust and command broad public support.

The policy is reviewed annually by the Resources Committee.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Academy maintains a risk register that identifies the major risks to which it is exposed, in particular those relating to Health & Safety and Safeguarding together with finance, HR and ICT.

The Governing Body assess the principal risks facing the Academy as follows;

1. Personal injury on premises - Health & Safety Policy, external audit and named governor to monitor
2. Abuse of child or staff - robust safeguarding procedures in place. DBS register maintained and named governor to monitor.
3. Demographic changes - one District Councillor on the Board to monitor the situation.
4. Personal injury on school trip - staff trained on Off-Site Policy and procedures
5. Adverse Ofsted - close monitoring of teaching and learning by Performance and Standards committee, detailed school evaluation form (SEF) shared and learning walks carried out by governors.

The risk register is approved and monitored annually by the Resources Committee in consultation with the other committees.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls as outlined in the Governance Statement.

External audits are carried out regularly and the Resources Committee monitor all policies and procedures annually.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees' Premises Development Plan is currently being completed and will act as a working document which aids decision making with regard to prioritising for future projects and developments.

Projects identified for Shipston are toilet refurbishment, water pipe replacement, developing the ITC suite, extending car parking and further window replacement.

Projects identified for Acorns are replacing the existing nursery building and boiler replacement.

Where funds allow, projects will be funded from school budgets, for larger projects external grant funding will be sourced.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

The MAT does not hold any funds as Custodian Trustees on behalf of other Charities.


Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Charitable Company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

A resolution proposing that Ellacotts LLP be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Governors, as the company directors, on 15.12.17 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mrs J Barker
Chair of Governors



THE STOUR FEDERATION

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Governors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head of Federation, 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 The Stour Federation and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Governors 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 Governors has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Governors was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr C Hilton (Head Teacher)	5	6
Mr D R Atkins (Vice Chair of Governors) (Deceased 30 June 2017)	2	5
Mrs J M Brown (Chair of Resources)	5	6
Mrs J Barker (Chair of Governors)	5	6
Mr M J Dumelow	5	6
Mr I D Fairbourn (Chair of Performance and Standards)	5	6
Mrs J Harris	5	6
Mrs J Rice (Chair of Pupils, Parents and Community)	5	6
Mrs E F Hobday	6	6
Rev A Coleby (Resigned 31 December 2016)	2	2
Mr S C Gray (Resigned 30 November 2016)	1	2
Mrs L Molson (Resigned 31 May 2017)	1	5
Mr N Jennngs	6	6
Mr T Wrigley	5	6
Mrs R Sellars	2	6
Mrs H Young	6	6
Mrs N Hazleton	6	6
Mrs A Holland	5	6
Mr G Roberts	5	6
Mrs M Tompkinson (Resigned 31 October 2016)	0	1
Mr A Cooke (Appointed 14 December 2016)	2	4

The governors are currently undertaking a skills audit and self evaluation.

Review of value for money

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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

Better purchasing, this has been achieved through:

- Reviewing of the budget at Governors meetings;
- Adhering to purchasing policies; and
- Negotiating costs for goods and services.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Stour Federation for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

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

The Board of Governors has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- not to appoint an internal auditor. However the trustees have appointed Ellacotts LLP, the external auditor, to perform additional checks.

The external auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. On a quarterly basis, the external auditor reports to the Board of Governors through the Resources Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the Board of Governors.

The external auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned. No material control issues arose as a result of the external auditor's work.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Review of effectiveness

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

- the additional program of work performed by the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on ...15.12.17... and signed on its behalf by:

Mr C Hilton
Head Teacher

Mrs J Barker
Chair of Governors



THE STOUR FEDERATION

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

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

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

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

Mr C Hilton
Accounting Officer

15.12.17
.....



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

The trustees (who also act as governors for The Stour Federation and are also the directors of The Stour Federation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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

Approved by order of the Board of Governors on ...15.12.17... and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs J Barker
Chair of Governors



THE STOUR FEDERATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STOUR FEDERATION

Opinion

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

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

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017.

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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts 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 accounts 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.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STOUR FEDERATION (CONTINUED)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Trustees' Report including the incorporated strategic report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Ellacotts LLP

David Stevens BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Ellacotts LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA

Date:..... *18 December 2017*



THE STOUR FEDERATION

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE STOUR FEDERATION AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 April 2014 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Stour Federation during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of The Stour Federation's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Stour Federation's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 29 August 2014 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2016, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2016 to 2017 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE STOUR FEDERATION AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

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

Ellacotts LLP

Reporting Accountant

Ellacotts LLP
Countrywide House
23 West Bar
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 9SA
England

Dated: *18 December 2017*



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	13,333	13,333	13,210
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,035,912	-	2,035,912	2,042,229
Other trading activities	5	25,946	105,281	-	131,227	132,608
Investments	6	270	-	-	270	512
Total income and endowments		<u>26,216</u>	<u>2,141,193</u>	<u>13,333</u>	<u>2,180,742</u>	<u>2,188,559</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	10,157	-	10,157	3,638
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	2,183,544	193,401	2,376,945	2,384,303
Total expenditure	7	<u>-</u>	<u>2,193,701</u>	<u>193,401</u>	<u>2,387,102</u>	<u>2,387,941</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		26,216	(52,508)	(180,068)	(206,360)	(199,382)
Transfers between funds		-	(1,126)	1,126	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	218,000	-	218,000	(215,000)
Net movement in funds		<u>26,216</u>	<u>164,366</u>	<u>(178,942)</u>	<u>11,640</u>	<u>(414,382)</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>272,401</u>	<u>(663,000)</u>	<u>4,036,661</u>	<u>3,646,062</u>	<u>4,060,444</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>298,617</u>	<u>(498,634)</u>	<u>3,857,719</u>	<u>3,657,702</u>	<u>3,646,062</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2016	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted funds:		Total
		Funds	General	Fixed asset	2016
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	13,210	13,210
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	2,042,229	-	2,042,229
Other trading activities	5	27,659	104,949	-	132,608
Investments	6	512	-	-	512
Total income and endowments		<u>28,171</u>	<u>2,147,178</u>	<u>13,210</u>	<u>2,188,559</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	-	3,638	-	3,638
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	2,202,863	181,440	2,384,303
Total expenditure	7	<u>-</u>	<u>2,206,501</u>	<u>181,440</u>	<u>2,387,941</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		28,171	(59,323)	(168,230)	(199,382)
Transfers between funds		(87,384)	87,384	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	18	-	(215,000)	-	(215,000)
Net movement in funds		<u>(59,213)</u>	<u>(186,939)</u>	<u>(168,230)</u>	<u>(414,382)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		331,614	(476,061)	4,204,891	4,060,444
Total funds carried forward		<u>272,401</u>	<u>(663,000)</u>	<u>4,036,661</u>	<u>3,646,062</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017

		2017		2016	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		3,857,719		4,000,408
Current assets					
Debtors	13	48,498		16,031	
Cash at bank and in hand		423,488		460,708	
		<u>471,986</u>		<u>476,739</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(165,003)		(168,085)	
Net current assets			<u>306,983</u>		<u>308,654</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>4,164,702</u>		<u>4,309,062</u>
Defined benefit pension liability	18		(507,000)		(663,000)
Net assets			<u>3,657,702</u>		<u>3,646,062</u>
Funds of the Academy Trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			3,857,719		4,036,661
- Restricted income funds			8,366		-
- Pension reserve			(507,000)		(663,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>3,359,085</u>		<u>3,373,661</u>
Unrestricted income funds	16		<u>298,617</u>		<u>272,401</u>
Total funds			<u>3,657,702</u>		<u>3,646,062</u>

The accounts set out on pages 20 to 43 were approved by the Board of Governors and authorised for issue on 15.12.17 and are signed on its behalf by:

Mrs J Barker
Chair of Governors

Company Number 09174628



THE STOUR FEDERATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

	Notes	2017 £	£	2016 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash used in operating activities	19		(110)		(43,360)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		270		512	
Capital grants from DfE and ESFA		13,333		13,210	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(50,713)		-	
		<u> </u>	(37,110)	<u> </u>	13,722
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(37,220)		(29,638)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2016			460,708		490,346
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2017			<u>423,488</u>		<u>460,708</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

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

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

The Stour Federation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants receivable

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

Donations

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the Academy Trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Land and buildings	50 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities

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

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Taxation

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 18, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

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 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2017. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

Useful lives of fixed assets - depreciation is provided so as to write down the assets to their residual values over their estimated useful lives as set out in the Academy's accounting policies. Useful lives are regularly reviewed and should they shorten, then depreciation charges would increase in the financial statements and the carrying amounts of the fixed assets would reduce accordingly.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Capital grants	-	13,333	13,333	13,210

In 2016, of the total income from capital grants, £nil was to unrestricted funds and £13,210 was to restricted funds.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

4 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	1,734,465	1,734,465	1,764,842
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	156,919	156,919	138,863
	-	1,891,384	1,891,384	1,903,705
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	48,841	48,841	33,507
Special educational projects	-	690	690	-
	-	49,531	49,531	33,507
Other funds				
Other incoming resources	-	94,997	94,997	105,017
Total funding	-	2,035,912	2,035,912	2,042,229

In 2016, of total income from charitable activities, £nil was to unrestricted funds and £2,042,229 was to restricted funds.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Hire of facilities	21,099	-	21,099	23,563
Catering income	-	51,661	51,661	54,146
Music tuition	4,847	-	4,847	4,096
Parental contributions	-	47,794	47,794	46,042
Other income	-	5,826	5,826	4,761
	25,946	105,281	131,227	132,608

In 2016, of the total income from other trading activities, £27,659 was to unrestricted funds and £104,949 was to restricted funds.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Short term deposits	270	-	270	512

In 2016, of the total investment income, £512 was to unrestricted funds and £nil was to restricted funds.

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Premises & equipment £	Other costs £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	10,157	10,157	3,638
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	1,379,474	114,843	105,060	1,599,377	1,589,396
- Allocated support costs	283,727	210,740	283,101	777,568	794,907
	<u>1,663,201</u>	<u>325,583</u>	<u>398,318</u>	<u>2,387,102</u>	<u>2,387,941</u>

In 2017, of the total expenditure, £nil (2016: £nil) was to unrestricted funds, £2,387,101 (2016: £2,387,941) was to restricted funds.

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2017 £	2016 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	4,950	4,950
- Other services	4,850	5,500
Operating lease rentals	3,539	1,886
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	193,401	180,514
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	926
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	13,000	16,000

Central services

No central services were provided by the Academy Trust to its academies during the year and no central charges arose.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

8 Charitable activities

	2017 £	2016 £
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs - educational operations	1,599,377	1,589,396
Support costs - educational operations	777,568	794,907
	<u>2,376,945</u>	<u>2,384,303</u>

	2017 £	2016 £
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	283,727	245,297
Depreciation and amortisation	78,558	79,419
Technology costs	5,737	10,431
Premises costs	122,735	142,694
Other support costs	246,988	270,791
Governance costs	39,823	46,275
	<u>777,568</u>	<u>794,907</u>

9 Staff costs

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and salaries	1,221,481	1,236,429
Social security costs	95,106	83,840
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	263,968	225,993
	<u>1,580,555</u>	<u>1,546,262</u>
Staff costs	1,580,555	1,546,262
Supply staff costs	63,298	19,358
Staff development and other staff costs	19,348	12,318
	<u>1,663,201</u>	<u>1,577,938</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2017 Number	2016 Number
Teachers	25	26
Administration and support	51	44
Management	3	3
	<u>79</u>	<u>73</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

9 Staff costs

(Continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2017 Number	2016 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £188,667 (2016: £180,743).

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more trustees have been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The Head of Federation and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of Head of Federation and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as trustees.

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

Mr C Hilton (Head Teacher and Governor):

Remuneration £70,001 - £75,000 (2016: £65,001 - £70,000)

Employers pension contributions £10,001 - £15,000 (2016: £10,001 - £15,000)

Ms J Harris (Staff and Governor):

Remuneration £10,001 - £15,000 (2016: £10,001 - £15,000)

Employers pension contributions £0 - £5,000 (2016: £0 - £5,000)

Ms L Molson (Staff and Governor) - 9 Months only:

Remuneration £20,001 - £25,000 (2016: £25,001 - £30,000)

Employers pension contributions £0 - £5,000 (2016: £5,001 - £10,000)

Ms H Young (Staff and Governor):

Remuneration £45,001 - £50,000 (2016: £40,001 - £45,000)

Employers pension contributions £5,001 - £10,000 (2016: £5,001 - £10,000)

Mr G Roberts (Staff and Governor):

Remuneration £45,001 - £50,000 (2016: £40,001 - £45,000)

Employers pension contributions £5,001 - £10,000 (2016: £5,001 - £10,000)

Ms A Williams (Staff and Governor):

Remuneration £Nil (2016: £25,001 - £30,000)

Employers pension contributions £Nil (2016: £5,001 - £10,000)

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

11 Trustees and officers insurance

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2016	3,924,628	106,344	328,273	4,359,245
Additions	3,285	31,915	15,513	50,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2017	3,927,913	138,259	343,786	4,409,958
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2016	156,985	70,542	131,310	358,837
Charge for the year	78,558	46,087	68,757	193,402
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2017	235,543	116,629	200,067	552,239
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2017	3,692,370	21,630	143,719	3,857,719
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 August 2016	3,767,643	35,802	196,963	4,000,408
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

13 Debtors

	2017	2016
	£	£
VAT recoverable	18,835	9,025
Prepayments and accrued income	29,663	7,006
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48,498	16,031
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	41,309	44,071
Other creditors	47,836	53,598
Accruals and deferred income	75,858	70,416
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	165,003	168,085
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

15 Deferred income	2017 £	2016 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	56,771	57,421
Deferred income at 1 September 2016	57,421	55,816
Released from previous years	(57,421)	(55,816)
Amounts deferred in the year	56,771	57,421
Deferred income at 31 August 2017	56,771	57,421

At the balance sheet date the Federation was holding funds received in advance in respect of pupil premium and free school meals both of which will be fully utilised in year ending 31 August 2018.

16 Funds	Balance at 1 September 2016 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2017 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant	-	1,734,465	(1,724,973)	(1,126)	8,366
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	156,919	(156,919)	-	-
Other government grants	-	49,531	(49,531)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	200,278	(200,278)	-	-
Funds excluding pensions	-	2,141,193	(2,131,701)	(1,126)	8,366
Pension reserve	(663,000)	-	(62,000)	218,000	(507,000)
	(663,000)	2,141,193	(2,193,701)	216,874	(498,634)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transferred on conversion	3,930,378	-	(137,173)	-	3,793,205
DfE / ESFA capital grants	106,283	13,333	(56,228)	1,126	64,514
	4,036,661	13,333	(193,401)	1,126	3,857,719
Total restricted funds	3,373,661	2,154,526	(2,387,102)	218,000	3,359,085
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	272,401	26,216	-	-	298,617
Total funds	3,646,062	2,180,742	(2,387,102)	218,000	3,657,702



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

General Annual Grant (GAG)

The General Annual Grant (GAG) has been provided by the ESFA/DfE in order to fund the normal running costs of the Federation. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2017.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants

This represents various grants from national government bodies for the provision of specific services to pupils of the Federation.

Other Government Grants

This represents various grants from local authorities for the provision of specific services to pupils of the Federation.

Other Restricted Funds

Other Restricted Funds include funding from the sale of uniforms and education related goods, exam fee income and income for educational supplies and services.

Pension Reserve

The restricted Pension reserve represents the deficit on the Federation's share of the Local Government Pension Scheme as at 31 August 2017.

Restricted Fixed Assets

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

16 Funds

(Continued)

Movements in funds - previous year

	Balance at 1 September 2015 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2016 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant	(67,165)	1,764,842	(1,785,061)	87,384	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	(70,689)	138,863	(68,174)	-	-
Other government grants	-	33,507	(33,507)	-	-
Other restricted funds	78,793	209,966	(288,759)	-	-
	<u>(59,061)</u>	<u>2,147,178</u>	<u>(2,175,501)</u>	<u>87,384</u>	<u>-</u>
Funds excluding pensions	(59,061)	2,147,178	(2,175,501)	87,384	-
Pension reserve	(417,000)	-	(31,000)	(215,000)	(663,000)
	<u>(476,061)</u>	<u>2,147,178</u>	<u>(2,206,501)</u>	<u>(127,616)</u>	<u>(663,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transferred on conversion	4,078,561	-	(148,183)	-	3,930,378
DfE / ESFA capital grants	126,330	13,210	(33,257)	-	106,283
	<u>4,204,891</u>	<u>13,210</u>	<u>(181,440)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,036,661</u>
	<u><u>3,728,830</u></u>	<u><u>2,160,388</u></u>	<u><u>(2,387,941)</u></u>	<u><u>(127,616)</u></u>	<u><u>3,373,661</u></u>
Total restricted funds					
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	331,614	28,171	-	(87,384)	272,401
	<u>331,614</u>	<u>28,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(87,384)</u>	<u>272,401</u>
	<u><u>4,060,444</u></u>	<u><u>2,188,559</u></u>	<u><u>(2,387,941)</u></u>	<u><u>(215,000)</u></u>	<u><u>3,646,062</u></u>

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2017 were allocated as follows:

	Total £
Acorns Primary	131,021
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School	175,962
	<u>306,983</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	306,983
Restricted fixed asset fund	3,857,719
Pension reserve	(507,000)
	<u>3,657,702</u>
Total funds	<u><u>3,657,702</u></u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

16 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total £
Acorns Primary	290,610	73,237	3,640	86,948	454,435
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School	1,086,576	169,475	21,349	399,863	1,677,263
	<u>1,377,186</u>	<u>242,712</u>	<u>24,989</u>	<u>486,811</u>	<u>2,131,698</u>

Funds analysis by academy - previous year

Fund balances at 31 August 2016 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2016 £
Acorns Primary	113,396
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School	159,005
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	<u>272,401</u>
Restricted fixed asset fund	4,036,661
Pension reserve	(663,000)
Total funds	<u><u>3,646,062</u></u>

Total cost analysis by academy - previous year

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2016 £
Acorns Primary	266,193	69,963	5,518	97,468	439,142
Shipston-On-Stour Primary School	1,081,917	157,769	44,893	451,778	1,736,357
	<u>1,348,110</u>	<u>227,732</u>	<u>50,411</u>	<u>549,246</u>	<u>2,175,499</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2017 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2017 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	3,857,719	3,857,719
Current assets	463,619	8,367	-	471,986
Creditors falling due within one year	(165,003)	-	-	(165,003)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(507,000)	-	(507,000)
	<u>298,616</u>	<u>(498,633)</u>	<u>3,857,719</u>	<u>3,657,702</u>
Balance to allocate	1	(1)	-	-
Per balance sheet	298,617	(498,634)	3,857,719	3,657,702
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2016 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2016 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,000,408	4,000,408
Current assets	274,858	165,628	36,253	476,739
Creditors falling due within one year	(2,457)	(165,628)	-	(168,085)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(663,000)	-	(663,000)
	<u>272,401</u>	<u>(663,000)</u>	<u>4,036,661</u>	<u>3,646,062</u>

18 Pensions and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2012 and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 9 June 2014.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £130,067 (2016: £124,503).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £89,000.

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.



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18 Pensions and similar obligations

(Continued)

Total contributions made	2017 £	2016 £
Employer's contributions	88,000	75,000
Employees' contributions	22,000	20,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions	110,000	95,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Principal actuarial assumptions	2017 %	2016 %
Rate of increases in salaries	3	4.1
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	2.4	2.1
Discount rate	2.5	2.0/2.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

	2017 Years	2016 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.5	22.4
- Females	24.3	24.4
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	24.7	24.3
- Females	26.7	26.6
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 August 2017:	Approximate % increase to Employer Liability	Approximate monetary amount £'s
0.5% decrease in Real Discount Rate	13%	98,000
0.5% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	2%	8,000
0.5% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	11%	66,000



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18 Pensions and similar obligations	(Continued)	
The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2017	2016
	Fair value	Fair value
	£	£
Equities	520,650	346,450
Bonds	176,220	122,590
Cash	16,020	5,330
Property	88,110	58,630
Total market value of assets	<u>801,000</u>	<u>533,000</u>
Actual return on scheme assets - gain/(loss)	<u>119,000</u>	<u>77,000</u>
Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2017	2016
	£	£
Current service cost	137,000	90,000
Interest income	(12,000)	(15,000)
Interest cost	25,000	31,000
Total operating charge	<u>150,000</u>	<u>106,000</u>
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2017	2016
	£	£
Obligations at 1 September 2016	1,196,000	778,000
Current service cost	137,000	90,000
Interest cost	25,000	31,000
Employee contributions	22,000	20,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(111,000)	277,000
Benefits paid	39,000	-
At 31 August 2017	<u>1,308,000</u>	<u>1,196,000</u>



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

18 Pensions and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets

	2017 £	2016 £
Assets at 1 September 2016	533,000	361,000
Interest income	12,000	15,000
Actuarial gain	107,000	62,000
Employer contributions	88,000	75,000
Employee contributions	22,000	20,000
Benefits paid	39,000	-
	801,000	533,000
At 31 August 2017	801,000	533,000

19 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flows from operating activities

	2017 £	2016 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period	(206,359)	(199,383)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(13,333)	(13,210)
Investment income receivable	(270)	(512)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	49,000	15,000
Defined benefit pension net finance cost	13,000	16,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	193,401	180,514
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	926
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(32,467)	29,105
(Decrease) in creditors	(3,082)	(71,800)
	(110)	(43,360)
Net cash used in operating activities	(110)	(43,360)

20 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2017 the total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases were as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts due within one year	3,539	1,014
Amounts due in two and five years	5,534	606
	9,073	1,620
	9,073	1,620



THE STOUR FEDERATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

21 Capital commitments

The Academy Trust had no capital commitments in existence at the period end (2016: £nil).

22 Related party transactions

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

There were no transactions with related parties during the period ended 31 August 2017 which require disclosure.

In the opinion of the Governors, there is no ultimate controlling party.

23 Members' liability

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