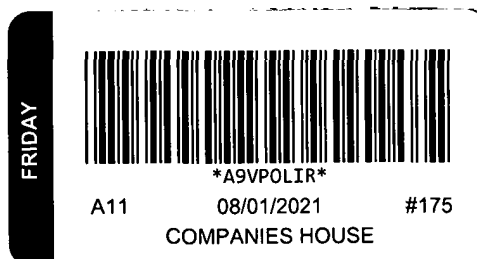


Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registration number: 07954396 (England and Wales)

**NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**



## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

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## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>Members</b>	The National Autistic Society Dr Carol Ann Homden CBE Caroline Stevens (appointed May 2020)
<b>Trustees/Directors</b>	Janet Corcoran (Chair) Dr Carol Ann Homden CBE Professor John Phillip Dickinson (resigned 14 July 2020) Pamela Reitemeier Fleur Katherine Bothwick Helen Roberts Mike Sanchez (resigned 24 March 2020)
<b>Senior Management Team</b>	Kirstie Fulthorpe – Managing Director (Resigned 31 August 2020) Matthew Tiplin – Managing Director (Appointed 1 September 2020) Kelly Evans – Director of Finance - Accounting Officer Juliette Osei – Principal Finance Bruce Thompson – Company Secretary
<b>Company Name</b>	NAS Academies Trust
<b>Principal and Registered Office</b>	391-393 City Road London EC1V 1NG
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	07954396
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Crowe UK LLP Aquis House 49-51 Blagrove Street Reading Berkshire RG1 1PL
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank PLC, One Churchill Place, London E14 5HP
<b>Solicitors</b>	Stone King LLP, Boundary House, 91 Charterhouse Street, EC1M 6HR

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law.

#### Structure, governance and management

##### Constitution

The NAS Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of the NAS Academies Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is also known as the NAS Academies Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The National Autistic Society exercises control over the affairs and accounts of the NAS Academies Trust and is therefore considered its ultimate parent company.

##### 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

Trustees are covered by Trustees' and officers' insurance; further information can be found in Note 16 to the accounts.

##### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

The members may appoint up to eight Trustees at their discretion. The total number of Trustees who are employees of the Company must not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees. There must also be a minimum of two parents of children attending the Trust's schools unless there are Local Governing Bodies established for each school that contain two parent members. Parent governors may be appointed by members, or elected. Recruitment procedures follow safer recruitment practice and guidance set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019*.

##### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The induction and training needs of Trustees are assessed on an individual basis with appropriate training being made available to meet specific needs.

##### Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees, with whom the legal responsibility for the actions of the Trust resides, makes decisions relating to overall strategy and policy. Each school has a Local Governing Body (LGB) whose function is to oversee the local implementation of the Trust's strategies and policies and to monitor the performance of the school, acting as a 'critical friend' to the Principal and senior leadership team. LGBs are effectively sub-committees of the main Trust Board. The Trustees of the NAS Academies Trust appoint the Chair of each LGB and by virtue of their position; they are appointed a Trustee of the Trust. The NAS AT has revised the Scheme of Delegation this year.

Four executive officers support the Board:

- The Managing Director
- The Accounting Officer, who is also the Finance Director
- The Principal Finance Officer
- The Company Secretary, who acts as Clerk to the Board.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### **Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel**

Pay is set at the point of appointment based on a job evaluation, comparable market benchmark and the charity's financial parameters. We are a market median payer, which means when compared to similar roles in the market, we pay key management staff at the middle band level. Any increase in remuneration is considered based on the following criteria:

- performance and contribution measured against business priorities
- contractual and statutory obligations (eg teachers' terms/equal pay)
- comparable market benchmark
- alignment with the charity's pay mechanism and cycle
- alignment with the charity's pay priorities at the given time
- affordability, within the charity's financial parameters.

Pay progression is recommended by line managers and approved by the Executive/ Principals and the local governing body. For the Executive/ Principals, pay recommendations are made by the Managing Director and approved by the Local Governing Body, as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation.

### **Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

The National Autistic Society is a corporate member of the Trust, making the Trust a subsidiary of the National Autistic Society. In addition, the two organisations have a number of Trustees in common.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objects and aims**

a) To advance for the public benefit, education in England, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools specially organised to make provision for pupils with special educational needs, primarily autism.

b) For the benefit of the local community where a school is established, to promote the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of those individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of these people.

#### **Public benefit**

In the development and operation of schools, the Trustees are mindful of their duty to ensure public benefit. The Trust works closely with local authorities, families, local autism charities and groups and with other schools and colleges in those areas where schools are being developed.

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

### **Strategic report**

At NAS Academies Trust, we know that all children deserve a great education and are committed to ensuring that our autistic pupils gain the knowledge, skills and experience that they will need in adult life. Autistic children have knowledge, talents and skills to contribute to society. Our society and economy suffer if autistic children are not given the right support to develop their skills, talents and knowledge.

While most of the almost 83,000 autistic children in England who have an education, health and care plan are educated in mainstream schools, autistic children are more likely than others to be excluded from mainstream provision – sometimes formally and sometimes illegally. To support every autistic child and make sure they reach their full potential, we need to have a good range of high quality, specialist provision, with appropriate environments, resources and staff.

## **NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**

At the Trust, we operate three schools for autistic children: Thames Valley School in Reading, Berkshire; Church Lawton School in Cheshire and Vanguard School in Lambeth, London; our new school that opened in January 2020.

In all our schools, we strive to provide high quality education – with adapted environments, skilled staff and a curriculum that will give the children we teach the best possible start in life.

From mid-March 2020, our trust schools all faced the commonly understood challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Only Vanguard School was forced to fully close from late March until April 2020. The schools offered our vulnerable pupils on-site and remote learning opportunities, working with staff, families and local authorities to deliver the best possible provision despite the challenges.

All three schools have begun to introduce the National Autistic Society's Quality of Life Framework, a model for autism specialist provision that means pupils' needs are effectively met because staff and families know and understand the key contributing factors to each child's development.

### **Objectives and activities for the Trust 2019-20:**

- undertake and implement the recommendations from a formal internal audit of trust governance
- raise standards of pupils' development and staff's work through the introduction of a trust-wide autism specialist school framework
- ensure the successful opening of Vanguard School, making best use of the executive model by drawing on skills and experience from within the Trust
- blend autism practice methods and approaches to enhance our child-centered education
- maintain a sharp focus on safeguarding, to ensure it is the heart of each school's practice, procedures, teaching and learning
- strengthen information sharing with parents/carers through websites and partnerships, so everyone has an understanding about how they can support pupils' learning, progress and welfare.

### **Church Lawton School**

Church Lawton School opened in 2015 as a free school for children on the autism spectrum. The school provides a complete education for children aged 4 to 19. Designed and built specifically for autistic children, the school aims to create a comfortable, safe, quiet and spacious place to learn. The staff are ambitious for their students and believe that every student has the ability and potential to thrive academically.

The school currently has 64 students. The average class size is between six and eight students.

### **Achievements**

#### **An improved curriculum model**

During the year, the school restructured its curriculum model to better meet students' needs. The primary and middle school classes follow a primary school model with students staying within the same classroom for lessons with their class teacher and support staff. The secondary and post-16 classes follow a traditional secondary school model with students moving to subject-specific classrooms and teachers.

#### **A new science block**

The school installed a purpose-built science block in summer 2020. This will enable students to engage in and complete scientific study in the same way as their mainstream school peers.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Provision over the pandemic

Throughout the coronavirus lockdown and school closure period, Church Lawton remained open to our vulnerable children and those of key workers. Many learned remotely from late March through to June, when numbers of pupils attending on site began to climb.

### Sweden Exchange Programme

Over the last two years, Church Lawton has taken part in an Erasmus+ international school exchange with Rodengymnasiet College in Sweden. Rodengymnasiet is the biggest upper-secondary school in the Norrtälje region, and also has a programme for autistic pupils. This year, teachers and pupils from both schools visited each other to develop their programmes for supporting students with the transition from school to adult life. The exchange visit to Sweden gave some Church Lawton students their first opportunity to travel to a different country.

### Fundraising for charity

The school held two fundraising events for the academic year. The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning raised nearly £500 and the Christmas Fayre raised £780.

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

The school continues to have an active Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Group. Students have to demonstrate a range of skills around volunteering, sporting and practical skill enhancement and complete overnight expeditions.

### Exam results 2019/2020

#### Functional Skills/Foundation Stage

	Number entered	L1(%)	L2(%)
English	9	3 (75)	3 (60)

#### Entry level

	Number entered	L1(%)	L2(%)	L3(%)
English	5		1 (100)	4 (100)
Maths	5		3 (100)	2 (100)
Science	14	1 (100)	8 (100)	5 (100)
ICT	1			1 (100)

#### ASDAN

	Number entered	L1(%)
COPE	5	5 (100)

#### GCSE/Technical Award

	Number entered	Level 1/2(%)	9-1(%)	3-1(%)	9-4(%)	9-7(%)
English Language	2		2 (100)		2 (100)	
Maths	5		5 (100)	1 (20)	4 (80)	1 (20)
Science	6		6 (100)	1 (16)	5 (83.3)	2 (33.3)
Media Studies	3		3 (100)	1 (33.3)	2 (66.6)	
Food Prep and Nutrition	2		2 (100)		2 (100)	1(50)

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

ICT	1		1 (100)		1 (100)	
Geography	3		3 (100)		3 (100)	1 (33.3)
ART	1		1 (100)			1 (100)
Total	23		23 (100)	3 (23.1)	19 (89.98)	6 (47.32)

### Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths

	Number entered	Level 1/2(%)	9-1 (%)	3-1(%)	9-4(%)	9-7(%)
Maths	1		1 (100)		1 (100)	

### AS GCSE

	Number entered	Level 1/2(%)	A-F (%)	D-F(%)	A-C(%)	A(%)
Maths	1		1 (100)		1(100)	

All Year 12/13 Students are enrolled on traineeships and will be starting extended work experience programmes through the year.

### Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 2 SATS results summary 2019-20

The 2020 Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 national curriculum assessments were cancelled by the Government due to COVID-19. Children's development was measured as closely as possible through the remote and onsite learning undertaken.

### Thames Valley School

Thames Valley School opened in September 2013. The school was purpose-built specifically for autistic pupils. The school's overall effectiveness was judged 'Good' by Ofsted at its first inspection in May 2016. In November 2019, Ofsted's short inspection confirmed the school's 'Good' judgement while providing areas for improvement that are being implemented.

In April 2020 a new Headteacher was appointed. This appointment has further strengthened opportunities for effective practice transfer between the headteachers of Thames Valley School and the new Vanguard School, curriculum development, leadership expertise and capacity at the school.

The school educates children from Reading and some surrounding areas. Due to continued high demand, the school has increased their pupil admission number from 50 to 54 since opening. The school continues to receive referrals across both primary and secondary phases, primarily from Reading but also other nearby authorities.

### Achievements

#### Supporting students through the pandemic

Throughout the COVID-19 lockdown and school closure period, Thames Valley School remained open to our vulnerable children and those of key workers. Many learned remotely from late March through to June, when numbers of pupils attending on site began to climb.

In July 2020, the school received a safeguarding during COVID-19 award given by the Safeguarding Alliance.



## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Sporting success

During COVID-19, whilst pupils were learning at home as the school went digital, so did Sports Day. Weekly events were set up that were accessible for all at home or school. Each winner from each event got a voucher code sent by email and there were weekly announcements of the leader boards in each event. Everyone who took part in at least one event received a sports day certificate and medal with their name engraved on the back. One pupil took part in every event as well as all the Berkshire games events and received a t-shirt with the motto 'run alone, stand together', a medal and certificate.

Pupils also took part in the Berkshire games events against other Reading schools. Thames Valley qualified to represent Reading in the next "footgolf" tournament. Students also achieved the gold award for the SEN Olympic Challenge.

### Exam preparation and results

Due to COVID-19, pupils did not sit their examinations. However, Year 11 pupils were supported to effectively cope with anxiety for the GCSE examinations and coursework. This included preparation through mock sessions and support from our Assistant Psychologist specifically focusing on coping with exam stress. The results evidence the success of this work.

### Exam results 2019/20

We are proud of the students at Thames Valley School who have all achieved a qualification. The majority of our students leave with GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

Subject	9-4(A*-C)	9-1(A*-G)	No of entries
English Literature	100%	100%	6
English Language	100%	100%	5
Maths	85%	100%	7
Combined Science	70%	100%	5
Drama	100%	100%	2
DT: Resistant Materials	100%	100%	1
Biology	100%	100%	1
PE	100%	100%	3
ICT	66%	100%	6
Art and Design	33%	100%	6
Physics	100%	100%	1
Psychology	100%	100%	1

### Functional Skills

	L1 (no. entered)	L2 (no. entered)
English	100% (2)	100% (1)
Maths		100% (1)

### Cambridge Technical

		No of entries
Creative iMedia	Distinction 2 (100%)	1

### Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 2 SATS results summary 2019-20

The 2020 Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 national curriculum assessments were cancelled by the Government due to COVID-19. Children's development was measured as closely as possible through the remote and onsite learning undertaken.

## **NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Vanguard School**

Vanguard School opened to pupils in January 2020. The specialist 11-19 secondary school is for children on the autism spectrum who are able to access qualifications at GCSE and A Level, or their vocational equivalents.

Purpose-built by Pozzoni architects, there are 12 classrooms, two specialist art and design rooms, two science laboratories, two ICT rooms and a library/silent study space.

Vanguard School opened with an inaugural team of teaching staff in September 2019, ready to prepare for the admission of nine pupils in January 2020. The school ended the 2019-2020 academic year with 13 pupils on roll, across Years 7 and 8.

Demand for the school is high, with Lambeth Local Authority and other London authorities referring pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) for admission to the school. Relationships with local authorities are strong, and there has been effective joint working to establish the school in its opening year. Admission points for the school going forwards are for a cohort of Year 7 entry each September. There will also be an admission point for Year 12 (sixth form) pupils in September 2021.

The School's first Education Advisor inspection in February 2020 resulted in a positive review. The DfE reported high standards of behaviour, teaching and learning and pupil engagement in its opening term. The advisor reported that the school has been effectively supported by Trust education leaders to provide challenging and focused leadership. Extensive transition work for new pupils joining the school had been undertaken, including appropriate baseline assessments through transition visits and a wide range of national standardised tests. Trust leaders have ensured there is sufficient capacity within the Vanguard School team to ensure that teachers and pupils can access support from a specialist transdisciplinary team, consisting of a clinical psychologist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and autism practice lead.

The average class size at Vanguard School is between five and seven pupils, which allows for considerable personalisation of learning and specialised pedagogy tailored to pupils' individual needs. For example, the school is able to draw on the skills of learning mentors who are aspiring to become teachers and the current Art teacher is moving into teaching with the support of the school.

### **Achievements**

#### **A new ICT room**

The school recently installed over the summer 2020, a second Information Computer Technology (ICT) room with a class set of desktop computers. This will enable pupils to engage with and complete computing study as in a mainstream school. We are excited that computing and other digital skills are popular with pupils and were delighted to purchase a 3D Printer for the Art classroom using money fundraised by the Local Governing Body. There are plans to create a Music Technology suite using further fundraised resources and to continue to improve the already impressive resources available on site.

#### **Enrichment curriculum**

Vanguard strongly promotes active learning that goes well beyond a traditional academic curriculum. The school launched its Enrichment curriculum on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with an array of activities including: 'Golf for Autism', football with Crystal Palace FC, Coding, a Creative Hub and Mindfulness sessions. These activities enhance pupils' intellectual, physical and social development. Not only do pupils often learn to work together when experiencing an activity of this kind, but they are also provided with opportunities to learn important life skills.

## **NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **The Vanguard Parliament**

The school is proud to have elected its inaugural Vanguard Parliament (or Student Council). The Parliament consists of one member for each form group and a parliamentary secretary. Elections take place each term and the Parliament has already enacted a number of ideas proposed by pupils, including fundraising events and an end of term celebration afternoon.

### **The Arts**

Vanguard is proving itself to be home to many talented young artists and we have been delighted to see great enthusiasm and hunger for the Arts among pupils. 'VangArt' now runs an Enrichment club as well as curriculum art lessons and has showcased a collection of pupils' works on the walls of the school in its very own art gallery. Next to each art work is its title and a description of the work written by each VangArtist, such is the pride pupils have taken in their work.

### **Exam results 2019/20**

Vanguard School expects its first set of external examination results in two years' time, when both the current year 9 and the (by then) first sixth form cohort complete their courses.

### **Going concern**

After consideration of the Trust's financial position, the level of reserves held, its financial plans, (including projected pupil numbers at Thames Valley School, Church Lawton and Vanguard Schools), the demand for places and the broader environment, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Financial review

#### Income and expenditure

Total income for the year was £7,934K (2019: £11,367K) made up of £17K of start-up funding, £2,345K of capital grant, £1,321K of General Annual Grant (Pre-16 & Post-16 High Needs), £261K of other DfE grants, £3,954K of local authority income and £38K of voluntary and other income.

Ignoring the pension deficit, the net year end position of the general restricted fund was £3,513K. The pension deficit was £1,804K at the year end meaning the total General Restricted Income Fund was £1,709K.

During the year, £2,751K was spent on acquiring fixed assets, namely construction costs relating to Vanguard School.

General Annual Grant funding was fully spent in the year.

Net income in the year excluding fixed assets and before actuarial movement in pension scheme valuation was £156K (2019: £576K) made up of £34K (£86K) unrestricted and £122K (£490K) restricted funds.

Based on the actuarial valuation, Local Government Pension Scheme liability increased by £931k to £1,804k.

#### Reserves policy

It is the Trust's objective to maintain a structure of prudent financial management and a requirement to maintain good financial health. In 2020, the focus was to ensure that the Trust had sufficient reserves and cash to support its current and planned schools' development needs as identified in their school improvement plans and to enable the ongoing enhancement of the Trust infrastructure around quality improvement and compliance support - this was achieved in the year.

Trustees review reserve levels as part of their review of the financial performance of the Academies Trust throughout the year as well as an annual review as part of the strategic planning process.

In determining the requirement for a minimum risk reserve level, the Trustees considered the following:

- the impact of significantly reduced income across our schools
- the impact on the Academies Trust's ability to deliver its educational activities
- the need to meet our school improvement, risk and capital replacement plans.

<b>Reserves held @ 31 August</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
(excluding pension reserves)	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Unrestricted Funds	222	188
Restricted Fixed Assets Reserves	16,126	13,810
Restricted General Funds	1,709	2,646

Reserve levels for the Trust and individual schools are in line with Trustee targets.

#### Investment policy

In order that the Academies Trust has cash readily available to meet working capital and other needs, the Trustees continue to adopt a cautious policy to maintain diversified cash deposits rather than to invest in stocks, shares, property or any other investment products.

As at 31 August 2020, the Academies Trust had £3.4m (2019: £4.7m) invested in interest bearing accounts.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees fully recognise their responsibilities for the management of risk and these are considered on a regular basis at each board meeting. The Board is charged with identifying, assessing and minimising the major risks (based on likelihood of occurrence and potential impact) to which the Trust is exposed. Internal controls are implemented by the Principal Finance Officer and regularly reviewed by both the Board of Trustees and the LGBs.

The principal risks identified by the Trustees are:

- **quality** – that one or more schools do not meet the required internal or external quality requirements
- **financial** – that pupil numbers drop below sustainable levels.

The risk register is reviewed at each Board meeting along with the agreed mitigating actions taken and controls in place to ensure that each risk is managed appropriately.

### Fundraising

The majority of fundraising activities for the Trust are carried out by the schools' staff with assistance from the parents and pupils in the running of specific fundraising events. These fundraising activities are managed by the school senior leadership team and are monitored by the Business and Finance Manager, with overall oversight by the members of the governing board and the Principal.

No complaints relating to fundraising activities have been received by the Academies Trust during this financial period. However, the Trust has in place procedures that would be followed in the event of a complaint being received, with the initial response being the responsibility of the Business Manager. Any continuing issues would then be passed to the governing body to determine what further action might be required.

In addition, the Trust also has the support of the National Autistic Society's fundraising department, which takes a diversified approach to fundraising, generating voluntary income from individual donors, fundraisers, companies, trusts and foundations and from statutory bodies, using a number of different channels, including mail, email, face-to-face fundraising, telemarketing, payroll and social media.

The National Autistic Society employs a number of professional fundraisers directly and also uses agencies in respect of face-to-face fundraising, payroll giving, telemarketing, plus online giving and sponsorship sites such as JustGiving.

The National Autistic Society is a member of the Institute of Fundraising and within this, the Compliance Directorate (formerly the PFRA) registered as face-to-face users.

The National Autistic Society subscribes to the Fundraising Regulator including the Fundraising Preference Service and we are also signed up to the Telephone Preference Service and lotteries are regulated by the Gambling Commission.

The National Autistic Society monitors all agencies on a regular basis, including listening to a selection of telemarketing calls within a week of the campaign start date and on a monthly basis for rolling campaigns. With door to door fundraising, fundraisers are shadowed when we do starter and refresher training.

The National Autistic Society adheres to the Institute of Fundraising 'treating donors fairly' guidance and is also an active participating member of the Institute of Fundraising compliance directorate and the Fundraising Regulator code of fundraising practice. All of the standard training for new starters and for refresher training includes information on protecting vulnerable people.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Auditor

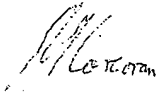
Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, Crowe UK LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the Board Meeting.

Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on:

and signed on the Board's behalf by:



.....  
**Janet Corcoran**  
Chair of Trustees

7 December 2020



.....  
**Kelly Evans**  
Accounting Officer

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

#### Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Managing Director and 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 NAS Academies Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control. A clear scheme of delegated authority is in place and regularly reviewed.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met five times during the year.

Trustees' attendance at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Janet Corcoran (Chair)	5	5
Dr Carol Ann Homden CBE	5	5
Professor John Phillip Dickinson (resigned 14 July 2020)	4	5
Pamela Reitemeier	4	5
Fleur Katherine Bothwick	3	5
Helen Roberts	5	5
Mike Sanchez (resigned 24 March 2020)	0	3

During the year, the Board has continued to develop its governance structures to ensure that experience, learning and best practice are shared across the National Autistic Society Group. To achieve this, the NASAT board meets with Trustees from the National Autistic Society's Education Quality and Development Committee while the Schools Improvement Team supports schools across both the NAS Academies Trust and the National Autistic Society. Pupil outcomes are benchmarked across the Group. Each school has a Local Governing Body, the purpose of which is both to challenge and support the school Principal and their team to achieve the best outcomes for pupils. The respective responsibilities and duties of the board and Local Governing Bodies are set out in the Scheme of Delegation, published on the website.

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide financial oversight for the Academies Trust.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Professor John Phillip Dickinson – Trustee	4	4
Janet Corcoran - Trustee (Chair)	4	4
Kelly Evans - Accounting Officer	4	4

#### Review of value for money

The Managing Director and Accounting Officer have responsibility for ensuring that the Academies Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. They understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

They consider how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year and report to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate.

The focus this year has been on ensuring value for money is maximised across:

### **Improving educational outcomes**

- keeping staffing and leadership structures within the schools and at the Trust's level under review to deploy staff efficiently to support curriculum development and sustained improvement
- ensuring schools within the Trust collaborate and share knowledge and learning with the schools in the wider National Autistic Society education portfolio
- ensuring each pupil is assessed robustly and that support and funding is allocated to them to best meet their needs and EHCPs
- effective use of Pupil Premium funding to ensure all pupils have the same opportunities for learning regardless of their circumstances
- ensuring that resource enables the NAS AT schools' curriculum development and implementation that impacts on pupils' acquisition of knowledge, skills, their welfare, safety and personal development.

### **Financial**

- ensuring that all significant purchases are appropriately tendered to ensure best value in line with internal policy and the Financial Handbook
- using established best value suppliers tested by schools in the wider National Autistic Society group
- discussing and challenging financial information at LGB and full Board.

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academies 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 Trust works with our external auditors and the National Autistic Society Internal Audit team to continuously review and improve all systems of control. The system of internal control has been in place in the NAS Academies Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### **Capacity to handle risk**

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

### **The risk and control framework**

The 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 each LGB, the Managing Director and the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the finance and general purposes committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes



## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and used a National Autistic Society appointed Responsible Officer for the Trust.

The Responsible Officer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academies Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- testing of payroll systems
- testing of purchase systems
- testing of control account/bank reconciliations
- testing of income recording, cash and bank processes.

The Responsible Officer reports regularly to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities.

The National Autistic Society Internal Audit Manager reviews procedures with the Director of Education for assessing controls relating to financial management as outlined above and other areas of control that must be provided, as set out within the Academies Financial Handbook 2019. A revised approach to auditing NAS Academies was approved by the Trust in December 2019.

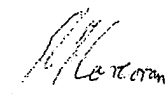
### Review of effectiveness

The Managing Director and Accounting Officer have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question, the review has been informed by:

- the work of the responsible officer
- the work of the external auditor
- the financial management process
- the work of the senior management team 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 Principal Finance Officer of the Trust and a plan to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 7 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Janet Corcoran**  
Chair of Trustees



.....  
**Kelly Evans**  
Accounting Officer

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

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#### Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As Accounting Officer of the NAS Academies Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academies Trust Board of Trustees and the Education Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the NAS Academies 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 Academies Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academies Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academies Trust funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2016.

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



.....  
**Kelly Evans**  
Accounting Officer

7 December 2020

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards [FRS 102] have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 7 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
**Janet Mary Corcoran**  
Trustee

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE TRUSTEES OF NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of NAS Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its profit/loss 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*, the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2018 to 2019 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the *Companies Act 2006*. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinion on other matter 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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 by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the academy for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

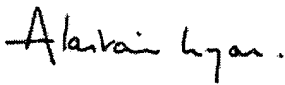
In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the academy's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company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

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

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

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.



**Alastair Lyon**  
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of  
**Crowe UK LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
Aquis House  
49-51 Blagrove Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 1PL

18 December 2020

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

### INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NAS ACADEMIES TRUST AND THE EDUCATION SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 August 2016 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by NAS Academies Trust during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of NAS Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of NAS Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 16 June 2011 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

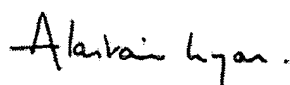
- consideration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance;

## NAS ACADEMIES TRUST

- analytical procedures on the general activities of the Academy Trust;
- a review of Minutes of Committees and Board Meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- consideration of discussions with key personnel, including the Accounting Officer and Governing Body;
- tests of control have been carried out on a control activity which are relevant to regularity
- substantive testing of individual transactions.

### Conclusion

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



Alastair Lyon  
Senior Statutory Auditor

**Crowe UK LLP**  
Statutory Auditor  
Aquis House  
49-51 Blagrove Street  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 1PL

18 December 2020



**NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**  
(including income and expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Assets Funds £000	Total Funds 2020 £000	Total Funds 2019 £000
<b>Income and endowments from</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	4	2,345	2,349	6,314
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	5,552	-	5,552	4,966
Other trading activities	4	25	-	-	25	71
Investments	5	9	-	-	9	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>7,935</b>	<b>11,367</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust educational operations	6	-	5,433	422	5,855	4,696
Other		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>5,433</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>4,696</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>6,670</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	(394)	394	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	23	-	(665)	-	(665)	(199)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>(937)</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>6,471</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		188	2,645	13,811	16,644	10,173
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>222</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>16,128</b>	<b>18,058</b>	<b>16,644</b>

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these financial statements

**NAS ACADEMIES TRUST  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020**

Company Number 07954396

	Note	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	9	16,126	13,799
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	10	2,465	1,155
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>3,374</u>	<u>4,696</u>
		5,839	5,851
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,102)	(2,133)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>3,737</u>	<u>3,718</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>19,863</u>	<u>17,517</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	(1,804)	(873)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>18,059</u>	<u>16,644</u>
<b>Funds of the Academies Trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Fixed asset fund	12	16,128	13,811
Restricted income fund	12	3,513	3,518
Pension reserve	12	(1,804)	(873)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>		<u>17,837</u>	<u>16,456</u>
Unrestricted income funds	12	222	188
<b>Total funds</b>	12	<u>18,059</u>	<u>16,644</u>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 40 were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf by



.....  
**Janet Mary Corcoran**  
Trustee  
7 December 2020

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these financial statements

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

	Note	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	20	(926)	1,234
Cash flows used in investing activities	21	(396)	(82)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>(1,322)</b>	<b>1,152</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 September 2019</b>		<b>4,696</b>	<b>3,544</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 August 2020</b>	<b>22</b>	<b><u>3,374</u></b>	<b><u>4,696</u></b>

**Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in funds**

	2020 £000s	2019 £000s
(Decrease) / increase in cash in the year	(1,322)	1,152
<b>Net funds at 1 September</b>	<b>4,696</b>	<b>3,544</b>
<b>Net funds at 31 August</b>	<b><u>3,374</u></b>	<b><u>4,696</u></b>

**Analysis of changes in net funds**

	Net funds at 1 September 2019 £000s	Cash changes £000s	Net funds at 31 August 2020 £000s
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>4,696</b>	<b>(1,322)</b>	<b><u>3,374</u></b>

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

**Company Information**

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and registered as a charity in England and Wales and Scotland. The address of the registered office is 391-393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG. The NAS Academies Trust is an exempt charity regulated by the Secretary of State for Education through the Education Funding Agency, and a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England (No.07954396) on 17 February 2012. Its charitable purpose relates to the advancement of education for the public benefit: it is not autism exclusive.

NAS Academies Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

**1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Preparation**

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

**Going Concern**

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

**Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

**Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

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

### **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 the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

### **Donations**

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

### **Other Income**

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

### **Donated Services and Gifts in Kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to NAS Academies Trust are recognised at their open market value in the period in which are receivable as incoming resources, where the benefit to the Trust can be reliably measured. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure under the relevant heading in the Statement of Financial Activities, except where the gift in kind was a fixed asset in which case the amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the NAS Academies Trust's policies.

### **Expenditure**

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

### **Expenditure on Raising Funds**

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.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

Assets costing £5000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment, which is provided in equal instalments over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

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

No depreciation is charged on freehold land. The rates of depreciation applied to other assets are:

freehold properties	- 2%
leasehold properties	- over the terms of the leases
major refurbishment	- 20%
motor vehicles	- 25%
fixtures and office equipment	- 33%

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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.

#### **Debtors**

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price.

#### **Cash and Cash equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with no significant risk of change in value.

#### **Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price.

#### **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.

#### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

## **Leased Assets**

Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## **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.

## **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 quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 23, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions are recognized as they are paid each year.

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 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 gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other gains and losses.

## **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 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 and include grants from the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education.

## **Financial instruments**

The Trust has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement**

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

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 23, 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 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Other than LGPS income noted above, the Governors consider that there are no other material judgements in applying accounting policies or key sources of estimation uncertainty.



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

**2 Donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Capital Grants	-	2,345	2,345	6,296
Other donations	-	4	4	17
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,349</u>	<u>2,349</u>	<u>6,314</u>

**Donations and capital grants 2019 Comparative**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Capital Grants	-	6,296	6,296
Other donations	-	17	17
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,313</u>	<u>6,314</u>

**3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
<b>DFE/EFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,321	1,321	1,181
Start up grants	-	17	17	241
Other DFE/EFA grants	-	260	260	113
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,598</u>	<u>1,597</u>	<u>1,534</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	3,954	3,954	3,432
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,552</u>	<u>5,551</u>	<u>4,966</u>

**Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations 2019 Comparative**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
<b>DFE/EFA revenue grants</b>			
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,181	1,181
Start up grants	-	240	240
Other DFE/EFA grants	-	113	113
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,534</u>	<u>1,534</u>
<b>Other Government grants</b>			
Local authority grants	-	3,432	3,432
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,966</u>	<u>4,966</u>

**4 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Hire of facilities	4	-	4	7
Catering Income	2	-	2	3
Other Income	19	-	19	61
	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>71</u>

**Other trading activities 2019 Comparative**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Hire of facilities	7	-	7
Catering Income	3	-	3
Other Income	61	-	61
	<u>71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71</u>

**5 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Bank interest receivable	9	-	9	15
	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>

**Investment income 2019 Comparative**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Bank interest receivable	15	-	15
	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>

## 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure		2020	2019
		Premises £000	Other £000	Total £000	Total £000
Academies Trust educational operations					
Direct costs	2,937	-	381	3,318	2,974
Allocated support costs	1,179	513	845	2,537	1,722
	<u>4,116</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>1,226</u>	<u>5,855</u>	<u>4,696</u>

	2020 Total £000	2019 Total £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes		
Operating lease rentals	20	20
Depreciation	423	177
Loss/(Surplus) on disposal of assets	-	(3)
Fees payable to auditor for:		
audit	15	15
other services (including TPS audit)	7	7

2019 Comparatives	Staff costs £000	Non Pay Expenditure		2019 Total £000
		Premises £000	Other £000	£000
Direct costs	2,577	-	397	2,974
Allocated support costs	848	331	543	1,722
	<u>3,425</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>940</u>	<u>4,696</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes	
Operating lease rentals	20
Depreciation	177
(Surplus)/Loss on disposal of assets	(3)
Fees payable to auditor for:	
audit	15
other services (including TPS audit)	7

## 7 Charitable activities

	2020 Total £000	2019 Total £000
Direct costs - educational operations	3,318	2,974
Support costs - educational operations	2,537	1,722
	<u>5,855</u>	<u>4,696</u>

### Analysis of support cost

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Restated
				Total 2019 £000
Support staff costs	-	1,179	1,179	848
Depreciation	-	423	423	177
Technology costs	-	67	67	16
Legal Costs	-	2	2	7
Premises costs	-	205	205	179
Other Support Costs	-	628	628	470
Governance costs	-	33	33	26
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,537</u>	<u>2,537</u>	<u>1,722</u>

**Governance costs included within other support costs**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Legal and professional fees	-	5	5	7
Auditor's remuneration				
Audit of financial statements and TPS audit		22	22	17
Trustee reimbursed expenses		1	1	-
Costs of meetings		8	8	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>

No trustees were paid any remuneration and two trustees were reimbursed £537 for expenses during the year (2019: No trustees).

**Charitable activities 2019 Comparative**

	2019 Total £000
Direct costs - educational operations	2,974
Support costs - educational operations	<u>1,722</u>
	<u>4,696</u>

**Analysis of support cost**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Support staff costs	-	848	848
Depreciation	-	177	177
Technology costs	-	16	16
Legal Costs	-	7	7
Premises costs	-	179	179
Other Support Costs	-	470	470
Governance costs	-	26	26
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,722</u>	<u>1,722</u>

**Governance costs included within other support costs**

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Legal and professional fees	-	7	7
Auditor's remuneration			
Audit of financial statements and TPS audit		17	17
Trustee reimbursed expenses		-	-
Costs of meetings		2	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>

**8 STAFF**

**a. Staff Costs**

Staff costs during the period were:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Wages and salaries	2,569	2,190
Social security cost	229	190
Pension costs	511	341
Other costs	251	190
	<u>3,560</u>	<u>2,911</u>
Staff supply costs	546	481
Staff restructuring costs	10	34
	<u>4,116</u>	<u>3,426</u>

**b. Staff restructure costs**

Redundancy payment of £10k was made in the year (2019: payments of £27k and £7k).

**c. Staff numbers**

The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the period was as follows:

	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Teachers	29	23
Learning Support	57	60
Administration and support	26	19
Management	6	7
	<u>118</u>	<u>109</u>

**d. Higher paid staff**

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

	2020	2019
£70,001-£80,000	1	1
£80,001-£90,000	1	-
£90,001-£100,000	1	--

TPS Pension contribution in the year for the highest paid employees £60,521 (2019: £12,179). There was only one employee in 2019, as Thames Valley had a interim head. A new head teacher was employed in the latter part of that year.

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed in the annual report 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 £nil (2019: £nil).

The senior management team are employed by the National Autistic Society and services provided are included the management charge.

## 9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings	Leasehold Land and buildings	Furniture and Equipment	Computer Hardware	Motor Vehicles	Assets under construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Cost</b>							
As at 1 September 2019	3,979	3,601	94	200	-	7,048	14,922
Additions	-	2,109	212	164	13	252	2,750
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	7,048	-	-	-	(7,048)	-
At 31 August 2020	3,979	12,758	306	364	13	252	17,672
<b>Depreciation</b>							
As at 1 September 2018	(403)	(426)	(94)	(200)	-	-	(1,123)
Charged in year	(67)	(272)	(47)	(35)	(2)	-	(423)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2019	(470)	(698)	(141)	(235)	(2)	-	(1,546)
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 August 2019	3,576	3,175	0	-	-	7,048	13,799
At 31 August 2020	3,509	12,060	165	129	11	252	16,126

a. Land Value has been included at the original transfer cost £620k as at August 2013.

## 10 DEBTORS

	As at 31 Aug 2020	As at 31 Aug 2019
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	1,850	-
Prepayments and accrued income	194	973
VAT	421	183
	<u>2,465</u>	<u>1,156</u>

## 11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	As at 31 Aug 2020	As at 31 Aug 2019
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	138	945
Other taxation & social security	46	35
Fees in Advance	1,324	-
Debtors with credit balances	-	173
Other creditors	6	7
Other creditors - National Autistic Society	165	634
Accruals	423	339
	<u>2,102</u>	<u>2,133</u>

## 12 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance at 01/09/2019	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains Losses & transfers	Balance 31/08/2020
<b>8a) Analysis of Funds as at 31 August 2020</b>					
<b>Restricted General funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,321	(1,321)	-	-
Start Up grant	125	17	(17)	-	125
Other Dfe grants	23	260	(242)	-	41
Local authority grants	3,559	3,953	(3,275)	(394)	3,843
Voluntary income	52	5	(7)	-	50
NASAT	(241)	-	(305)	-	(546)
Local Government Pension Scheme	(873)	-	(266)	(665)	(1,804)
Restricted General Funds	<u>2,645</u>	<u>5,556</u>	<u>(5,433)</u>	<u>(1,059)</u>	<u>1,709</u>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Dfe Capital grants	13,307	2,345	(422)	-	15,230
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	-	-	-
Private sector capital sponsorship	268	-	-	-	268
Private sector long leasehold grant	-	-	-	-	-
Local authority grants	236	-	-	394	630
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	<u>13,811</u>	<u>2,345</u>	<u>(422)</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>16,128</u>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>16,456</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>(5,855)</b>	<b>(665)</b>	<b>17,837</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>16,645</b>	<b>7,935</b>	<b>(5,855)</b>	<b>(665)</b>	<b>18,059</b>

**b) Comparative Analysis of Funds for the year ended 31 August 2019**

	Balance at 01/09/2018	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains Losses & transfers	Balance 31/08/2019
<b>Restricted General funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	1,181	(1,181)	-	-
Start Up grant	125	240	(240)	-	125
Other Dfe grants	23	113	(113)	-	23
Local authority grants	2,725	3,432	(2,582)	(17)	3,559
Voluntary income	36	17	-	-	53
NASAT	(67)	0	(175)	-	(241)
Local Government Pension Scheme	(472)	-	(202)	(199)	(873)
<b>Restricted General Funds</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>4,984</b>	<b>(4,493)</b>	<b>(216)</b>	<b>2,646</b>
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>					
Dfe Capital grants	7,328	6,183	(204)	-	13,307
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	-	-	-
Private sector capital sponsorship	202	66	-	-	268
Private sector long leasehold grant	-	-	-	-	-
Local authority grants	171	48	-	17	236
<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds</b>	<b>7,701</b>	<b>6,296</b>	<b>(204)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13,810</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>10,073</b>	<b>11,280</b>	<b>(4,696)</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>16,456</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>10,175</b>	<b>11,367</b>	<b>(4,696)</b>	<b>(199)</b>	<b>16,644</b>

**Restricted General Funds**

Represents EFA grants (including GAG), which must be used to meet the cost of running NAS Academies Trust. As at 31 August 2020 it also includes those funds previously described as "Restricted Other Funds", being donations, trip and fundraising income generated by the Academy, which is for restricted use.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward as at 31 August 2020.

**Restricted Fixed Asset Funds**

Represents the value of fixed asset held by the academy trust, with the exception of funds either of an inherently capital nature, or allocated by the governing body for future capital spend, that remain unspent at the year end.

**Unrestricted Funds**

Represents income generated by the Academy (such as lettings and hire of facilities) and any other donations or investment income, which is not restored for any specific purpose and can be spent as determined by the Governing Body.

**c) Total funds analysis by academies**

Fund balances as at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Unrestricted	222	188
Thames Valley	175	93
Church Lawton	240	45
Vanguard	50	18
Academies Trust & other reserves	3,048	3,363
<b>Total before fixed assets and pension reserve</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>3,707</b>
Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	16,128	13,810
Pension reserve	(1,804)	(873)
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,059</b>	<b>16,645</b>

**13 CENTRAL SERVICES**

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

- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Educational support services
- Governance Services
- Marketing Services
- Insurance

The trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Flat rate of 5% of income

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	£000
Church Lawton	125
Thames Valley	116
Vanguard	26

#### 14 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the Trust's operations and the composition of the Board of Trustees being linked to local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Trustees may have interest.

The National Autistic Society, registered charity (number CR269425) and company limited by guarantee (number 01025298), exercises control over the affairs and accounts of NAS Academies Trust and is therefore considered its ultimate parent company, whose principal activities are the development, delivery and promotion of education, health, welfare, care and support of people affected by autism and related conditions.

The address of the registered office is 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG from where the public can obtain the consolidated accounts that include the subsidiary charity's accounts.

In the year the Trust procured £286k (2019: £233k) of support from the National Autistic Society of which £21k (2019: £34k) was in relation to the costs related to pre opening costs in respect of the Vanguard School. The remainder was to purchase support services, management and educational support. At the end of the year £630k (2019: £630k) was owed to the National Autistic Society.

There are no other related party transactions.

#### 15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

a) Fund balances as at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Assets Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	16,126	16,126	13,799
Current Assets	222	5,615	2	5,839	5,852
Current Liabilities	-	(2,102)	-	(2,102)	(2,133)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	(1,804)	-	(1,804)	(873)
	<u>222</u>	<u>1,709</u>	<u>16,128</u>	<u>18,059</u>	<u>16,644</u>

b) Comparative fund balances as at 31 August 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Assets Funds	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	13,799	13,799	7,580
Current Assets	188	5,654	11	5,852	3,739
Current Liabilities	-	(2,133)	-	(2,133)	(674)
Pension Scheme Liability	-	(873)	-	(873)	(472)
	<u>188</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>13,810</u>	<u>16,644</u>	<u>10,173</u>

#### 16 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academies Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £2,000,000 on any claim and the charge for the year ended 31st August 2020 was £908 (2019: £908).

#### 17 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	As at 31 Aug 2020	As at 31 Aug 2019
	£000	£000
Contracted for but not provided for in the financial statements		
Vanguard School	-	2,293
Thames Valley	-	-
Church Lawton	-	-
Thames Valley- CIF	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## 18 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

### Operating leases

At 31 August 2020 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Amounts due within one year	9	13
Amounts due between two and five years	18	18
	<u>27</u>	<u>31</u>

## 19 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

On 26 October 2018 the High Court ruled that equalisation for the effect of unequal Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) is required. The ruling confirmed that trustees have a duty "to equalise benefits for men and women so as to alter the result which is at present produced in relation to GMPs". According to HM Treasury, any impact of GMPs is unlikely to be material to the pension valuation and therefore no allowance for GMP equalisation has been made in the FRS102 LGPS pension liability for this year. Full GMP indexation will be applied to the LGPS pension liability once changes to the LGPS have been formally announced.

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

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Net income/(expenditure for the reporting period)	2,080	6,671
Capital Grants from DfE & capital income	(2,345)	(6,296)
Depreciation	423	177
(Surplus)/Loss on disposal of assets	-	(3)
Interest receivable	(9)	(15)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(1,310)	(900)
Increase in creditors	(31)	1,399
Defined benefits pension scheme costs less contribution payable	266	202
<b>Net Cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<u>(926)</u>	<u>1,234</u>

## 21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Interest from investment	9	15
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,750)	(6,396)
Proceeds from sale of assets	-	3
Capital grants from DfE	2,345	6,296
Capital grants from Other	-	-
<b>Net Cash provided by investing activities</b>	<u>(396)</u>	<u>(82)</u>

## 22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	As at 31 Aug	As at 31 Aug
	2020	2019
	£000s	£000s
Cash in hand and at bank	3,374	4,696
Notice deposit (less than 3 months)	-	-
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>3,374</u>	<u>4,696</u>



## 23 Pension and similar obligations

The NAS Academies Trust's employees belong to three principal pension schemes:

- the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Barnett Waddingham
- a Scottish Widows Personal Pension Scheme, again for non-teaching staff.

The first two schemes are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

### Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Academy Trust participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("the TPS") for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £285,043 (2019 - £249,991) and at the year-end £35,745 (2019 - £30,197) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2016 and the Valuation Report, which was published in March 2019, confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 16.4% to 23.6% from 1 September 2019. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 23.68%.

This employer rate will be payable until the outcome of the next actuarial valuation, which is due to be prepared as at 31 March 2016, with any resulting changes to the employer rate expected to take effect from 1 April 2019. This valuation will also determine the opening balance of the cost cap fund and provide an analysis of the cost cap as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

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 NAS Academies Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a defined benefit career average pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £292,766 (2019: £235,779), of which employer's contributions totalled £224,361 (2019: £179,686) and employees' contributions totalled £68,405 (2019: £56,090).

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

Principal actuarial assumptions	At 31 August	At 31 August
	2020	2019
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20%	3.65%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.20%	2.15%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65%	1.90%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.20%	2.15%

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

	At 31 August	At 31 August
	2020	2019
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.5	22.1
Females	24.1	24
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.9	23.7
Females	25.5	25.8

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at	Fair value at
	At 31 August	At 31 August
	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Equity instruments	670	490
Debt instruments	150	128
Property	163	111
Alternative assets	164	151
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>880</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £48,000 (2019: £31,000)

**Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities**

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	(482)	(364)
Net interest cost	(15)	(12)
Benefit changes, gain/(loss) on curtailment and gain/(loss) on settlement	-	-
<b>Total operating charge</b>	<b>(497)</b>	<b>(376)</b>

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

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,072</b>
Current service cost	482	339
Interest cost	35	30
Employee contributions	65	54
Change in financial assumptions	293	320
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	149	7
Change in demographic assumptions	(85)	(94)
Experience loss/(gain) on defined benefit obligation	259	-
Past service costs, including curtailments	-	25
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>1,753</b>

**Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:**

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>600</b>
Interest income	21	19
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	27	27
Other actuarial gains/(losses)	(225)	-
Administration expenses	(1)	(1)
Employer contributions	231	174
Employee contributions	65	54
Benefits paid	149	7
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>880</b>

**Defined contribution scheme**

The Scottish Widows Personal Pension Scheme is also available as an alternative to the local Government Pension scheme and is a defined contribution scheme. There are currently 7 active members. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the NAS Academies Trust. Pension costs charged in the SOFA represent the contributions payable by NAS AT in the year. Employer's contribution for the year totalled £4,926.

**25 NAS ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**  
(including income and expenditure account)

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Assets Funds £000	Total Funds 2019 £000
<b>Income and endowments from</b>				
Donations and capital grants	-	17	6,296	6,313
Charitable activities:				
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	-	4,966	-	4,966
Other trading activities	71	-	-	71
Investments	15	-	-	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>4,983</b>	<b>6,296</b>	<b>11,366</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities:				
Academy trust educational operations	-	4,493	203	4,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,493</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>4,696</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>6,670</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	(17)	17	-
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>				
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	-	(199)	-	(199)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>6,110</b>	<b>6,471</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	102	2,370	7,701	10,173
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>13,811</b>	<b>16,644</b>