



**Hales Valley Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 August 2021**

**Company Registration Number:
10476114 (England and Wales)**

Period of account
1 September 2020 - 31 August 2021

Hales Valley Trust

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Hales Valley Trust

Reference and administrative details For the year ended 31 August 2021

Members:

Mark Simpson (Chair)
Tracy Ruddle
Michael Wilkes
Brett Field
Derek Baillie

Trustee:

Mark Simpson (Chair)
Jeannette Mackinney
Diane Morrison
Christopher James
Robert Gregory
Gill Harper
Robert Lane – Appointed 11th January 2021

Company secretary:

Jeannette Mackinney

Senior Leadership Team:

Chief Executive Officer – Jeannette Mackinney
Chief Operations Officer – Rachael Jones
Chief Finance Officer – Victoria Glazzard/ Carly Beale

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank
3 Queen Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RF

Solicitors:

Browne Jacobson
Victoria House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BU

Independent Auditor:

BSN Associates Limited
3B Swallow field Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

Company Name and Registered Office:

Hales Valley Trust
C/O Woodside Primary School
Highgate Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY2 0SN

Company Registration Number: 10476614

Hales Valley Trust

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Multi Academy Trust (or the "Trust") operates 5 primary schools for pupils aged 4 to 11, serving the catchment area of Dudley. It currently has a pupil capacity of 2,330 and had a roll of 2,181 (a decrease of 8 pupils) in the 2020 school census. The Trust also has 3 nurseries, including provision for 'Time for Twos'.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The 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 Hales Valley Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Hales Valley Trust. Details of the Trustees who served during the period are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' Liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the 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

A Trustee may benefit from any indemnity insurance purchased at the Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of Law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Trust. This is provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as directors of the Trust.

The Trustees have liability insurance under the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for academy trusts. There is a limit of indemnity of £10,000,000.

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Trust incorporated on 14 November 2016. Members and Trustee recruitment for Hales Valley Trust was achieved by actively recruiting those with the skills knowledge and experience from other charitable companies in the education sector.

The Members may appoint up to a total of 7 Trustees by ordinary resolution, with the total number of Trustees (including the Chief Executive Officer) who are employees of the Trust not exceeding one third of the total number of Trustees. The Members appointed the Chief Executive Officer as a Trustee by ordinary resolution upon incorporation (14 November 2016). Any future Trustee appointments by the Members would be expected to take place at a meeting of the Members or by written resolution. The term of office for any Trustee shall be four years, however this time limit shall not apply to any post which is held ex officio. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee may be re-appointed or re-elected at a General Meeting.

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Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees (*continued*)

The Members may either pass a special resolution in writing (i.e. a 75% majority vote) or a written unanimous resolution to appoint additional Members and to remove any such additional Members, provided that such appointment or removal is in the best interests of the Trust. The Members may also agree to remove any Member who was a signatory to the Memorandum (if the Member concerned is not required) and provided such removal is in the best interests of the Trust.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustee

Upon appointment, all new Trustees and Members are provided with documents relating to their role. This included information relating to the schools and services within The Trust. The Trust follows the same training and induction procedures for all new Trustees. We have developed a Trust Induction programme for all new Trustees and Governors, with which we expect full participation.

All Members and Trustees received the link to the Academies Financial Handbook or a hard copy of the most up to date version, the calendar for submissions to ESFA and the up to date Governance Handbook issued by the DFE. We have also developed a comprehensive Hales Valley Trust Governing Board Handbook which is given to all Governors during induction and shared with Governors and Trustees when updated annually. Documentation is made available and papers distributed requesting information that requires Members and Trustees to declare any business and pecuniary interest in their work within The Trust. A skills matrix is undertaken by each new Trustee, to ensure all new Trustees have an appropriate skillset and to identify any training requirements.

Members, Trustees and Governors take part termly in the Trust's Governor Accreditation programme, led by the CEO. They also have access to the Local Authority training programme and other training and information programmes such as the National Governors Association, The Key and The School Bus. All Members and Trustees receive electronic updates from key agencies in order to keep the Trust compliant and work efficiently and effectively.

Organisational structure

Members appoint Trustees, delegate policies and procedures to the Board of Trustees, undertake the duties for financial responsibility as described in the Academies Financial Handbook, review the Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation to ensure regularity within the Academy Trust, approve the Annual Accounts return and the Audited Financial Statements.

Trustees have defined roles as described in the Statement of Trustee responsibilities, see page 22.

At school level good or better schools are advised by a **Local Governing Committee ("LGC")**. All other schools are advised by the **Education Advisory Group ("EAG")**, which are attended by the CEO and the Chair of the Board of Directors. LGCs/EAGs are approved and appointed by the Board of Trustees. Parent and staff representation is sought for the LGCs/EAGs along with other members with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience. Quorum shall be half of the LGCs/EAGs rounded down. Meetings are held at least termly with all operating meetings scheduled half termly. Local Governing Committee have powers conferred upon them as in the Scheme of Delegation.

The Chief Executive Officer is appointed as The Accounting Officer in the Multi Academy Trust and is a paid employee.

The Chief Finance Officer is neither a Member nor a Trustee and is a paid employee.

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Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Organisational structure (*continued*)

The current scheme of Financial Delegation is as follows:

Academy Office Manager: up to £300
Central Finance Manager: £301 - £3,000
Academy Head Teacher: £3,001 - £10,000
Chief Finance Officer: £10,001 - £20,000
Chief Executive Officer: £20,001-£24,999
Board of Directors: > £25,000

The above limits are exclusive of VAT.

The Members will assume overall responsibility for the Trust. A Board Member will also be part of the Board of Directors (The Trustees).

The Board of Trustees will be responsible for strategic direction and the smooth running of the Trust. They will be responsible for outcomes of all schools within the Trust. There is a nominated Trustee as the Chair of the Board.

Good and Outstanding schools within the Trust will have a Local Governing Committee with responsibilities delegated to them by the Trustees. Schools in the Trust not achieving such status will have an Education Advisory Group set up, which may include existing Governors. This group will eventually evolve into a Local Governing Committee within 12 - 24 months.

The Education Advisory Group will be chaired by one of the local governors and attended by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the Board. This ensures rigour and accountability for each school within the Trust. The Chief Executive Officer is also a Trustee to ensure good communication between the Local Governing Committee, Education Advisory Group and the Board of Trustees.

The Education Advisory Group will meet at least every half term and whenever required in order to ensure support is in place to ensure good process is being made at each school within the Trust.

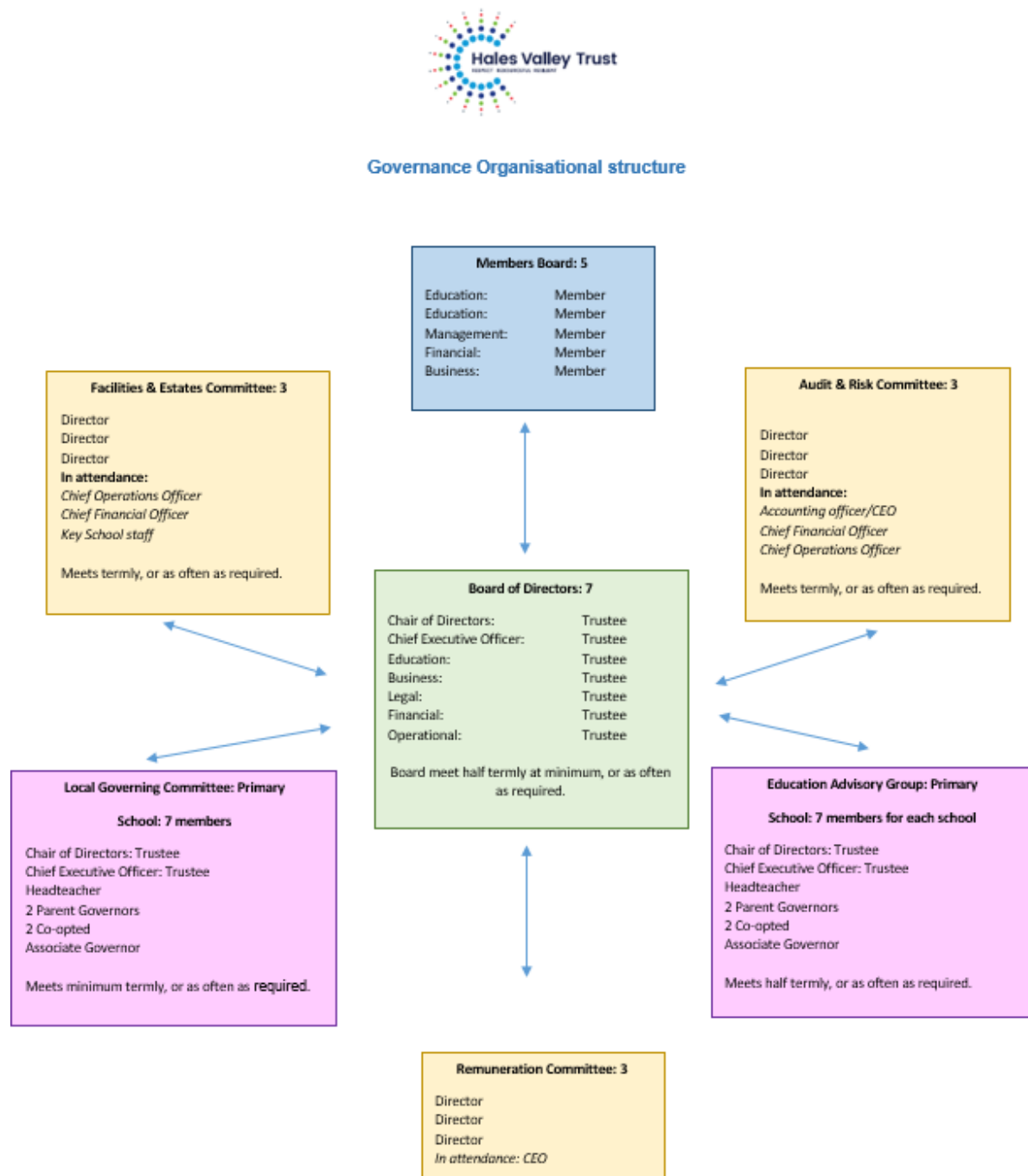
The Board of Trustees also has 3 further committees:

1. Finance, Audit and Risk: membership of 3 trustees, attended by the CEO/CFO/COO, meets every half term
2. Curriculum and Standards: membership of 3 trustees, attended by the Director for School Improvement/key staff, meets termly
3. Remuneration: membership of 3 trustees, attended by the CEO, meets annually

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Trustees' Report For the year ended 31 August 2021

An organigram of the organisational structure and responsibilities is given below:



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Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

There is one Trustee and no Members who are also employees of the Trust and are remunerated for their work.

The Trustees are responsible for setting the general policy, budget monitoring and making major decisions of the direction of the Trust and expenditure relating to staff salaries.

Each school has its own Headteacher for the day to day management of the school. Headteachers can request changes to staffing levels. However, the central executive team are responsible for authorisation.

The review of pay for key personnel is carried out by the Trustees and the Remuneration Committee and received by their Local Governing Committee/EAG in line with the fixed group size and individual salary ranges. The Remuneration Committee carries out the appraisal of the CEO. The CEO carries out the appraisal of central executive team and the headteachers.

The Trust has adopted a pay policy for teachers and support staff and agreed where performance is good point pay progressions are available to staff.

The Trust does not engage in any bonus or share schemes for any of its employees.

All parties within the Trust are indemnified against Public and Employers liability claims through a policy procured at a cost to the Trust.

Members and Trustees are permitted to receive reimbursements for return journeys to and from Trustee and Board meetings at an agreed rate of 45p per mile subject to the submission of an approved claim form and receipt for any parking fees. Subsistence allowance is not paid by the Trust.

Trade Union facility time

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, there were no employee hours incurred by the Trust in union time last year.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Details of related parties and other connected organisations can be found in note 25 of the financial statements.

Aims, Strategies and Objectives

Our Trust aims for all schools in our partnership to be good or better. We want to ensure that no child, no teacher and no school gets left behind. We feel that as an Academy Trust we are able to work more creatively to best serve the needs of our children and our communities. We are able to use our staff in a more flexible and responsive manner – we share our expertise and grow our own teachers and leaders. We ensure that our staff have opportunities to grow within and across our Trust, ensuring that we retain our high levels of expertise and ensuring that our succession planning is secure.

The communities that we serve across the Trust encompass stakeholders from both affluent and disadvantaged families, drawn from a wide variety of ethnicities and religious backgrounds. Our ethos is one of inclusivity, promoting an equality of opportunity for every child across the Trust.

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For the year ended 31 August 2021

Our vision is **Success for All**. Our mission is to ensure that by working together we can improve outcomes for all our pupils. Our culture is driven by our shared values and our 3 core principles:

Respect

- We are honest and kind to ourselves and to each other
- We listen to and consider each other's points of view
- We look after our environment

Resourceful

- We think of new ways of solving problems
- We work well with others
- We aim to be the best we can

Resilient

- We always try our best
- We embrace new challenges and opportunities
- We have a positive attitude

We maximise the freedoms afforded to us by academisation through reinvesting any financial surplus to create additional benefits and opportunities for our children, developing leadership capacity and specific expertise, staff retention, new ideas for schemes of work, challenge to within-school variation, having a more systematic and cost-effective sharing of professional development, sharing of resources to improve financial efficiencies and creating strength through alliance.

Our approach to school improvement

The Trust uses the in-house strength we have across the Trust as our major resource for school improvement. These include Local Leaders in Education, Specialist Leaders in Education, and key senior staff from across the Trust and central team and the Hales Valley Teaching Hub. Support is deployed as necessary, with more intense support offered upon conversion and during the first year or where there are concerns.

The Trust will work with all our schools to:

- Foster in pupils an enthusiasm for learning and discovery;
- Develop lively and enquiring minds, underpinned by resilience and a 'can do' attitude;
- Encourage in all pupils the acquisition of effective learning skills and habits;
- Create a learning environment that encourages all pupils to do their very best and to obtain outcomes worthy of their abilities;
- Provide quality CPD so that our staff are well equipped to provide the best learning for our pupils;
- Provide opportunities for staff to develop their skills and experiences beyond their own schools.

The Trust will set high standards for all pupils, confident that they will all experience success by:

- Providing all pupils with a quality English and maths curriculum so that outcomes are improved;
- Providing all pupils with a quality curriculum that has strength and depth and engages them in exciting learning opportunities;
- Developing in all pupils' respect for all, and providing them with the experiences, knowledge & understanding and practical skills required to cope with the demands of a changing world;
- Encouraging the development of pupils' mental well-being

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For the year ended 31 August 2021

The School will ensure that they follow the Trust's principles and deliver high standards across all areas that will ensure:

- Improved outcomes for all pupils
- Happy and secure pupils
- Equality of opportunity;
- Successful leadership at all levels and from all parts of the school community.

The School Improvement model

The Trust provides a comprehensive package for school improvement which:

- Is tailored to each individual school and is in response to contextual understanding of the challenges faced
- Brings about rapid improvement and builds capacity
- Draws upon research and is supported by an evidence base
- Is provided by quality assured professionals who respect and build capacity and confidence
- Maximises the use of school to school support
- Articulates high expectations of teachers and learners

The Trust package currently comprises:

- Input, direction and support from LLE's, SLE's, coaches
- Support for self-evaluation, data analyses and for school improvement planning
- Facilitated peer to peer reviews with Senior Leadership - whole school or phase specific
- Secondments of key staff to secure improvement
- Annual safeguarding review with follow up visits
- Annual health and safety review with follow up termly visits
- A comprehensive Trust CPD provision that details what support and opportunities staff at all levels can expect
- Early Career Teacher programme
- A termly moderation programme for staff: EYFS, Y2 and Y6
- Common assessment processes, using consistent tests across all schools to input and analyse data
- Key Trust assessment data is collected and shared termly: EYFS GLD, Y1 phonics, Y2 Reading, Writing Maths, Y6 Reading, Writing Maths
- Trust staff forums in order to develop and share good practice:
 - Headteacher
 - Deputy Headteacher
 - Special Educational Needs leaders
 - Early years and Foundation Stage
 - Y2/Y6 teachers
 - Y4/5 teachers
 - English & maths
 - Subject leaders
 - Wellbeing champions
- Shared INSET where appropriate
- Headteacher appraisal
- Headteacher mentors for new Headteachers in post
- All schools have CEO/ Director for School Improvement (DSI) SIP visits every half term, with 3 core leadership days throughout the year, focusing on school improvement. These are further supported by bi-weekly leadership CPD sessions, led by the CEO/DSI.

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For the year ended 31 August 2021

- RI/SM/schools causing concern have increased support and challenge input from the Director for School Improvement and the CEO.

Gender Pay Gap Reporting

As part of our obligations under Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 include the following statistics on our website for staff working at the Trust:

1. Gender pay gap as a mean average
2. Gender pay gap as a median average
3. Bonus gender pay gap as a mean average
4. Bonus gender pay gap as a median average
5. Proportion of males receiving a bonus payment and proportion of females receiving a bonus payment
6. Proportion of males and females when divided into four groups ordered from lowest to highest pay.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Trustees consider that the Trust's aims and objectives demonstrate that it acts to the benefit of the public. The Academy Trust refers to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance in setting its objectives and aims in planning future activities for the coming year.

The primary purpose of Hales Valley Trust is the advancement of education through its school and via the Teaching hub. Hales Valley Trust also aims to provide support within the local area and wider community.

The Trust recognises that equal opportunities should be an integral part of good practice within the workplace. They do this by creating an environment where contributions by all stakeholders are fully valued.

Policies for Disabled Employees

The Trust is committed to equality and valuing diversity and actively supports practices that promote genuine equality of opportunity for all staff and students. All employees, whether part-time, full-time, temporary or permanent will be treated fairly and equally. We will avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and selection for redundancy. Selections will be made on the basis of aptitude, ability and/or merit, where appropriate.

We will actively seek to make reasonable adjustments (including during recruitment and selection), where there is a need to ensure that a disabled person has the same access to everything as a non-disabled person, as far as is reasonable. We will take positive and proactive steps to remove, reduce or prevent the obstacles faced by a disabled individual, as far as is reasonable.

Employment Consultation

The Trust adheres to DMBC Union Recognition Agreement which defines which unions are recognised for the purposes of collective bargaining, consultation and individual staff representation on behalf of the workforce.

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Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The agreement promotes and assists in the establishment of:

- jointly agreed pay and conditions of employment;
- good practice with regard to matters of employment and health and safety;
- participation and involvement of staff;
- effective and prompt resolution of issues and disputes;
- equal opportunities in employment;

Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption

	Unit	2021
Emissions resulting from activities for which the group is responsible	tCO2e	0
Emissions resulting from the purchase of electricity by the group for its own use	tCO2e	709
		—
Total emissions	tCO2e	709
Intensity ratio - emissions per employee		2.28
		=====

UK energy use covers electricity use, natural gas use and fuel costs for employee travel.

Principal measures taken to increase energy efficiency

Hales Valley Trust is working towards reducing its carbon footprint by undertaking the following actions:

- Energy use: installing new lights and smart meters. Running 'switch off campaigns' with staff and pupils. Installation of solar panels in 2 of our schools
- Food: introducing meat-free days into the menu at schools
- Procurement: sourcing goods or services locally where possible and changing our MFD suppliers and introducing stringent print management services
- School grounds: planting trees
- Travel: encouraging pupils to cycle, scoot and walk to school.
- Water: using water-saving taps and removing urinals on all washroom projects

Going Concern

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

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For the year ended 31 August 2021

Strategic Report

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees regularly reviews the performance of the Trust.

Assessment information is shared with all schools across the Trust so that schools can benchmark their performance. Good practice is identified and shared and areas for development are also identified and form part of the Trust Improvement Plan, as well as its School's Improvement Plan.

The Trust has implemented a moderation programme across all the schools in the Trust in order to ensure that assessments are consistent and robust in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2). The Trust has an assessment package across all the schools in the Trust in order to ensure that assessments are recorded in a consistent way, thus supporting benchmarking.

Usually the Trustees would evaluate progress by comparing previous results across all end of year outcomes to the current year, to help identify where progress had been made.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on evaluating end-of-year outcomes for 2020 and 2021 as there has been no statutory testing at the end of key stages.

The Trust has continued to use internal assessment in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement as a result of lost learning time due to COVID and school lockdowns. The information below therefore shows the 3-year trend from 2017 – 2019 for:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Good Level of Development (GLD)
- Y1 and 2 phonics
- KS1 reading, writing and maths at expected standard
- KS2 reading, writing and maths at expected standard

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EYFS

HVT EYFS Data		EYFS GLD		
		2017	2018	2019
National	% at expected	71	71.5	71.8
Lutley	% at expected	87 =	<83	>85
Lapal	% at expected	>86	<80	>89
Woodside	% at expected	65	>69	69.5
Hurst Hill	% at expected		71	>78
Priory	% at expected		63	>66

KS1

HVT KS1 Data		Reading			Writing			Maths		
		2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
National	% at expected	75	75		68	70		75	76	
Lutley	% at expected	<87	<86	<82	81	>84	<81	>86	<85	<79
Lapal	% at expected	>84	<80	>87	>82	>85	<83	<82	>85	>87
Woodside	% at expected	66	>70	>71	54	>70	>71	61	>70	>75
Hurst Hill	% at expected		60	>66		60	<54		63	>66
Priory	% at expected		78	<66		70	<61		77	<72

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Phonics

HVT Y1 Phonics					Y2 Phonics				
		2017	2018	2019			2017	2018	2019
National	% at expected	88	88	82	National	% at expected	64	62	56
Lutley	% at expected	<88	>91	<90	Lutley	% at expected			93.4
Lapal	% at expected	<82	>87	>92	Lapal	% at expected			91.9
Woodside	% at expected	68	<65	>69	Woodside	% at expected			82.25
Hurst Hill	% at expected		88	<82	Hurst Hill	% at expected			95.45
Priory	% at expected		82	<78	Priory	% at expected			88

KS2

HVT KS2 Data		Reading			Writing			Maths			RWM		
		2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
National	% at expected	72	75	73	76	78	78	75	75	79	61	64	65
	Floor										65	65	65
	Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Floor	-5	-5		-7	-7		-5	-5				
Lutley	% at expected	78	>81	>82	95	>96	<91	85	<81	>88	77	<69	>78
	Progress	-2.7	> -2.5	< -2.85	>2.9	>1.9	>1.16	>-1.9	<-2.4	< -2.69			
Lapal	% at expected	67	>85	>93	76	>96	<91	84	>98	<93	62	>83	>89
	Progress	-1.7	> -1	> 1.27	>0.4	<-0.6	>1.25	>0.2	< -1.9	>1.99			
Woodside	% at expected	54	<44	>48	79	>85	<79	51	>54	>63	37	>35	>36
	Progress	-1	>-5.5	>-4.57	2.9	>2.4	<-0.80	0.8	<-3.4	>-1.92			
Hurst Hill	% at expected		44	<40		77	<72		56	>62		33	<31
	Progress		-5.5	< -5.98		-2.8	>-2.51		-4.8	>-4.75			
Priory	% at expected		43	>51		65	>70		53	>59		35	>43
	Progress		-3.9	>-3.65		0	<-0.57		-2.8	<-3.69			

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For the year ended 31 August 2021

In addition to assessment data the Trust also evaluates its performance against the **key performance indicators** (KPIs) set out in the 3-year strategic plan:

Strategic Aim		Key Strategic Areas	Key Performance Indicators	Progress
1. Leadership To ensure high quality Leadership and Governance at all levels across the Trust	1.1	Leadership and governance at all levels is effective and leads to an improvement in standards, including safeguarding, and quality of provision for all children	1. Leaders at all levels are upholding their professional standards, evidenced through appraisal and other indicators such as stakeholder feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisal consistently in place across the Trust. No failing leaders. Stakeholder feedback positive.
	1.2	The Trust is effectively developing and utilising the skills of the leaders across the Trust in order to impact on improving outcomes for children	2. Leadership and Management, including governance, will be judged to be at least good by Ofsted and other external reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good for Leadership and Management Ofsted January 2020: Woodside and Lapal both judged good for Leadership and Management Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Leadership and Management
	1.3	Leaders are relentlessly focused on improving the quality of teaching	3. School improves from previous Ofsted report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good Ofsted January 2020: Woodside and Lapal both improved from previous inspections Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Hurst Hill and requires improvement for Priory with elements of good
	1.4	Effective professional opportunities in place in order to develop and retain leaders at all levels	4. Improved outcomes for pupils across the whole trust	Difficult to evaluate due to COVID 2020/2021
	1.5	The health and well-being of our staff is a priority for everyone in the Trust ensuring that we have a happy, valued and productive workforce	5. Internal audit report shows effective governance at Trust Board and local governance level 6. Annual Trust governance reviews show that targeted training has had impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive external review of governance in 2021 by Academy Advisory.
	1.6	Headteachers will lead on a Deep Focus area of professional research and development across the Trust	7. Staff turnover low 8. Staff absence reducing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low staff turnover and absence is reducing. Implementation of the EPA is progress. All key senior leader posts filled with low mobility.

Strategic Aim		Key Strategic Areas	Key Performance Indicators	Progress
2. School Improvement To embed a self-sustaining and collaborative approach to school improvement	2.1	To ensure that there is a clear Trust educational approach to improvement for all schools in the Trust	1. Quality of the Education is judged to be good by Ofsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good Ofsted January 2020: Lapal judged good and improving Ofsted January 2020: Woodside judged requires improvement Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Hurst Hill and requires improvement for Priory with elements of good Curriculum reviews in place across all schools
	2.2	To ensure accurate and robust self-evaluation	2. Teaching is good across all schools as evidenced by internal monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% teaching is good at Lutley and Lapal. Majority of teaching is good at Woodside and Hurst Hill with some staff RI being supported. Priory: small group of staff identified as being RI and in need of support plan
	2.3	To ensure quality first teaching in order to provide high quality learning	3. Internal and external monitoring of performance shows sustained improvements in targeted areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lutley leading on development of teaching rubrics and implementation of IRIS to ensure common understanding of what good teaching looks like.
	2.4	To ensure that each school's curriculum matches the national curriculum and the needs of its pupils and the local community	4. Effective professional development opportunities and in place, ensuring retention of high-quality staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust CPD provision in place, being successfully accessed by all schools. Retention of key staff is high.
	2.5	To ensure effective school-to-school support through collaborative working		
	2.6	To ensure that leaders will engage in professional research: Deep Focus areas		
	2.7	To effectively utilise links with external partnerships, other Trusts and professional bodies in order to support areas for development		

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Strategic Aim		Key Strategic Areas	Key Performance Indicators	Progress
3. Personal Development To ensure that our children are equipped with the necessary skills to maximise their life choices and be successful	3.1	Embed Skills Builder across the Trust, focusing on a planned approach to developing key life skills	1. Above national average or improving attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance always well above national for Lutley and Lapal Attendance at Hurst Hill, Woodside and Priory all improving Attendance through lockdown was above national in all schools
	3.2	Implement Voice 21 across the Trust in order to underpin Skills Builder and to develop oracy skills	2. Low or improving persistent absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent absence always below national for Lutley and Lapal Persistent absence at Hurst Hill, Woodside and Priory all improving
	3.3	Behaviour policies are robust and focus on positive and restorative practice so that our children feel safe, secure and ready to learn	3. Low fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions always below national for Lutley and Lapal Fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions at Hurst Hill, Woodside and Priory all declining
	3.4	Children have access to quality nurture provision when necessary, in order to support them to be good citizens and successful learners	4. Improved communication and language outcomes at end of EYFS	Difficult to assess due to COVID
	3.5	Children have opportunities to share their good practice with each other across the Trust	5. Ofsted judges personal development to be at least good in the next inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good for personal development Ofsted January 2020: Lapal judged good and improving for personal development Ofsted January 2020: Woodside judged good for personal development Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Hurst Hill and Priory personal development
	3.6	Targeted support in place for parents, enabling them to have the necessary knowledge and skills to help their children to be successful learners	6. Ofsted judges behaviour and attitudes to be at least good in the next inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good for behaviour and attitudes Ofsted January 2020: Lapal judged good and improving for behaviour and attitudes Ofsted January 2020: Woodside judged good for behaviour and attitudes Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Hurst Hill and Priory behaviour and attitudes

Hales Valley Trust

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Strategic Aim		Key Strategic Areas	Key Performance Indicators	Progress
4. Outcomes To ensure that all schools are enabled to reach good or better outcomes	4.1	Outcomes for all children in reading, writing and mathematics improve or remain high Outcomes for all children in reading, writing and mathematics are at age-related expectations or above at the end of KS2 Children meet or exceed expected progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics	1. Outcomes and progress for our children are at least in line with national expectations in reading, writing and mathematics or improving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Difficult to evaluate 2020/21 due to COVID.Progress towards the Trust KPIs via internal assessments will be evaluated at the end of the autumn, spring and summer terms 2021 and external assessments summer 2021.
	4.2	Each school makes best use of pupil premium funding and catch-up/recovery funding and resources to meet the needs of disadvantaged pupils	2. Disadvantaged, Pupil Premium and other vulnerable children make good progress from their starting points	
	4.3	Each school makes best use of resources to meet the needs of SEND pupils	3. SEND children make good progress from their starting points	
	4.4	Support in place for children who are at risk of underachieving, or are vulnerable, providing timely and effective intervention		
	4.5	Trust leaders are making best use of data, through diagnostic testing, internal testing and statutory testing, in order to inform next steps for improvement		

Strategic Aim		Key Strategic Areas	Key Performance Indicators	Progress
5. Business & Efficiency To align all business areas around its objectives, enabling efficient and effective decision making.	5.1	Continuous evaluation of Trust systems, policies and procedures, across all areas	1. Achievement of Unqualified External Audit opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust has benefited from good and improving external audits since its inception. All other external and internal audits show good and improving practice
	5.2	Growth of Trust, ensuring high standards are maintained and improvement continues	2. Implementation and effective review of curriculum-led financial planning	
	5.3	Develop a commercial strategy in order to support growth, school improvement and financial sustainability	3. Trust is actively supporting schools outside of the organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust has been working with local schools to support them in a variety of areas. This has led to the successful implementation of the trust's first trust partnership academic year 21/22 which will hopefully end in full academisation.
			4. HVT is a Trust of at least 7 schools by 2024	
			5. All schools retain or improve their Ofsted inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted February 2019: Lutley judged good Ofsted January 2020: Woodside and Lapal both improved from previous inspections Ofsted pending for Priory and Hurst Hill. Self-evaluation of good for Hurst Hill and requires improvement for Priory with elements of good, which will mean an improvement from previous inspections

Hales Valley Trust

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Financial Review

Hales Valley Trust incorporated on 14 November 2016 and opened on the 1 February 2017. There are 5 primary schools within the Trust.

The Trust's primary source of income is from central government funding mainly comprising of the General Annual Grant ("GAG") from the DFE which is funded from the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") and is received monthly. Use of this funding is restricted to particular purpose. The grants received from these sources during the period up to 31 August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted General funds in the statement of Financial Activities.

The operating deficit (Restricted and unrestricted funds) for the period 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021 is £2,426,000 (deficit 2020: £1,416,000). The operating deficit is the result of sound budget control procedures, which have been embedded in the Trust's daily financial management practice in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook.

Reserves Policy

The Trust holds reserves to ensure that it can continue to operate and meet its objectives throughout the period. The Trustees consider the level of reserves appropriate for this purpose and review will them annually.

The level of reserves held as at 31 August 2021 was as follows:

Unrestricted funds for any use:	£3,154,000
Restricted local government pension scheme deficit ("LGPS"):	£(11,492,000)
Restricted general funds:	£(2,234,000)
Restricted fixed asset funds:	£29,533,000

Further information around the LGPS pension deficit can be found in note 24 to the accounts.

Investment Policy

The Academy Trust has no material investments.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The principle risk areas are the protection of pupils, staff and assets as well as maintaining pupil numbers in order to manage the financial risks. Systems and procedures to minimise these are constantly being reviewed and updated.

1. Governance or management

Risk in this area can arise from lack in management of financial resources. Strong internal controls, effective policy that meets with national guidance is in place to minimise risk in this area along with training and induction, compliance with regulations and statutory returns and continuous reviews to ensure that the Trust mitigate any risk and ensures best value for our pupils at all times.

2. Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust appoints internal auditors to review and advise on all controls across the Trust.

3. Reputation

The success of the Trust relies on its reputation to retain and increase its pupil numbers. To continue this the schools within the Trust need to offer education of the highest standard.

Hales Valley Trust

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Plans for Future Periods

The strategic plan for the Trust is growth, expanding the number of places available to ensure the provisions are available to educate children in and out of Dudley. We hope to grow our Trust to include more good primary schools and we are also open to including secondary schools and special school provision.

We have engaged with the DfE Trust Partnership programme and are currently working in collaboration with a local 'good' primary school. We hope that this partnership will convert to full academisation by the end of the academic year. We also hope to invite one other school to become a trust partner during the next 12 months.

We will continuously improve our teaching and learning standards and practices to ensure that our provisions provide outstanding learning environments for our children.

Our centralised services will continue to grow and develop to enable us to ensure best value for all procurement in the interest of public spending.

Auditor

In so far 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 Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the Company Directors, on 6 December 2021 and signed on the Board's behalf by:



M Simpson
Chair of Trustees

6th December 2021

Hales Valley Trust

Governance statement

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Scope of responsibility

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Hales Valley Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the board of Trustees was as follows:

Board of Directors Attendance List 2020/21

	12/10/20	7/12/20	8/2/21	2/03/21	22/03/21	17/05/21	28/06/21
Mr M Simpson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs J Mackinney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs G Harper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr R Gregory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr C James	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs D Morrison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr R Lane			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- continuing to develop strategies to raise education outcomes, through collaboration by sharing skills and expertise across the Trust and extending partnership working;
- organising support for assessment moderation practice across the Trust to ensure a more economical and effective model;
- reviewing performance of central staff employed with financial responsibilities across the Trust;

Hales Valley Trust

Governance statement

For the year ended 31 August 2021

- ensuring that the Trust's financial procedures have been implemented and embedded throughout the Trust ensuring that the schools are all appropriating value for money strategies;
- maintaining correct staffing levels throughout the Trust to ensure staffing is appropriate to each school and not as a result of legacy, monitoring natural wastage and ensuring the head teachers are replacing staff appropriately;
- continually reviewing and negotiating favourable service level agreements and contracts; and
- providing continued support to the Headteachers and LGCs/EAGs and building on Trust development plans to achieve the benefits of sharing and pooling resources.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Hales Valley Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The Risk and Control Framework

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

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

Hales Valley Trust

Governance statement

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed Academy Advisory as the Trusts' internal auditor. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- review of the Trusts governance arrangements;
- review of ICT strategies and controls;
- review of financial controls

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the external auditor
- the work of the internal auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the executive managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the members 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 6 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



M Simpson
Chair of Trustees



J Mackinney
Accounting Officer

Hales Valley Trust

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance For the year ended 31 August 2021

As Accounting Officer of Hales Valley Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Board of Trustees and the Education and 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 Academy Trust and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

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.



J Mackinney
Accounting Officer

6 December 2021

Hales Valley Trust

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities For the period ended 31 August 2021

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 2020 to 2021;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA 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 6 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



M Simpson
Chair of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the members of Hales Valley Trust

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Hales Valley Trust (the "Trust") for the period ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA").

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the 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)") and the Academy Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the members of Hales Valley Trust (continued)

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial period 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 charitable Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the 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 charitable Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the members of Hales Valley Trust (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or the parent company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

P. Miller - Hawkes.

Philippa Miller-Hawkes BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of BSN Associates Limited

6 December 2021

Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity For the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Hales Valley Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 10 December 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA") as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Hales Valley Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 Hales Valley Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Hales Valley 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 Hales Valley Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Hales Valley Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Hales Valley Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 14 November 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, 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 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 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 2020 to 2021 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 Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- an assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across the Trust's activities;
- evaluation of the processes and controls established and maintained in respect of regularity, propriety and compliance of the use of public funds through observation and testing of the arrangements in place and enquiry of the Accounting Officer;

Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity For the year ended 31 August 2021

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Hales Valley Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (*continued*)

Approach (*continued*)

- consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance; and
- limited testing on a sample basis of income and expenditure for the areas identified as high risk.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

BSN Associates Limited.

**Reporting Accountant
BSN Associates Limited**

6 December 2021

Hales Valley Trust

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 August 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	4	651	655	333
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Trust's educational operations	4	-	11,618	-	11,618	11,247
Other trading activities	5	605	(6)	-	599	584
Total		605	11,616	651	12,872	12,164
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Trust educational operations	6, 7	137	12,781	915	13,833	12,342
Total		137	12,781	915	13,833	12,342
Net income / (expenditure)		468	(1,165)	(264)	(961)	(178)
Other recognised gains / (losses):						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16,24	-	(1,465)	-	(1,465)	(1,238)
Net movement in funds		468	(2,630)	(264)	(2,426)	(1,416)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,686	(11,096)	29,797	21,387	22,803
Total funds carried forward		3,154	(13,726)	29,533	18,961	21,387

Hales Valley Trust

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 August 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	£000	£000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	29,235	29,468
Current assets			
Debtors	13	1,586	1,446
Cash at bank and in hand		1,649	1,805
		3,235	3,251
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,326)	(1,503)
Net current assets		1,909	1,748
Total assets less current liabilities		31,144	31,216
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(691)	(719)
		30,453	30,497
Net assets excluding pension liability			
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	24	(11,492)	(9,110)
Total assets		18,961	21,387
Funds of the Trust:			
Restricted funds			
Fixed asset fund	16	29,533	29,797
Restricted income fund	16	(2,234)	(1,986)
Pension reserve	16	(11,492)	(9,110)
Total restricted funds		15,807	18,701
Unrestricted income funds	16	3,154	2,686
Total Funds		18,961	21,387

The financial statements on pages 28 to 30 were appointed by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 6 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



M Simpson
Chair of Trustees

Hales Valley Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £000	2020 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	20	(156)	135
Cash flows from financing activities	21	-	(79)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(156)	56
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,805	1,749
Cash and cash equivalents at the 31 August 2021	22	1,649	1,805

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of Hales Valley 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 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Hales Valley Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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 Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the 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.

Income

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

- **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the 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.

- **Donations**

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

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

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

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets have been received by the Trust from the Local Authority on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value at the time of conversion and are recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership have been passed to the Trust. The fair value of assets recognised on the balance sheet is also included within the SOFA as income, recognised as Transfer on Conversion within Donations and Capital Grant income.

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 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 Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, with the exception of non-business activity costs which can be reclaimed through Clause 75 of the Finance Bill 2011 (section 33B) in the VAT Act 1994.

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

The freehold title of land and buildings acquired by the Trust from the local authority on conversion at 14 November 2016 has been capitalised at fair value and depreciated over the length of the lease. The amount has been also been recognised in the SOFA as Transferred on Conversion in the Fixed Asset Fund.

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

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Land | None |
| • Long leasehold buildings | 125 years |
| • Fixtures, fittings and equipment | 3 years |

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.

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 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 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.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased assets

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

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets – trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

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

Financial liabilities – trade creditors and other creditors are basic financial instruments and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14 and 15. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

Taxation

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

Pensions Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the 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 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 Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 24, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Statement of Accounting Policies (*continued*)

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 24, 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 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. 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. The next actuarial valuation of the West Midlands Pension Fund will be carried on at 31 March 2022.

2. General Annual Grant ("GAG")

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State the Trust was not subject to limits at 31 August 2021 on the amount of GAG that could be carried forward from one year to the next.

3. Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Restricted Fixed Asset Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Grants	-	-	651	651	333
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other donations	-	4	-	4	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>655</u>	<u>333</u>

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

4. Funding for the Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
DfE / EFA grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	9,139	9,139	8,956
Start Up Grants	-	-	-	-
Teaching Hub	-	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	785	785	789
UIFSM	-	316	316	280
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	637	637	539
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,877</u>	<u>10,877</u>	<u>10,564</u>
Other Government grants				
Local authority grants	-	717	717	656
Special educational projects	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>656</u>
Other income from the Trust's educational operations	-	24	24	27
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,618</u>	<u>11,618</u>	<u>11,247</u>

5. Other Trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Educational trips	-	(6)	(6)	6
Other income	605	-	605	578
	<u>605</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>584</u>

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total	Total
		Premises	Other	2021	2020
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Academy's educational operations:</i>					
Direct costs	6,891	249	238	7,378	6,805
Allocated support costs	1,963	745	3,065	5,773	5,537
Capital grant expenditure	-	-	682	682	-
	8,854	994	3,985	13,833	12,342

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Operating lease rentals	108	136
Depreciation	233	266
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- audit	16	17
- other services	3	3
	360	422

7. Charitable Activities

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Direct costs – educational operations	7,378	6,805
Support costs – educational operations	5,773	5,537
Capital grant expenditure	682	-
	13,833	12,342

Analysis of support costs

	Educational operations	Total	Total
	£000	2021 £000	2020 £000
Support staff costs	1,963	1,963	1,919
Depreciation	233	233	265
Premises costs	512	512	924
Other support costs	2,928	2,928	2,239
Governance costs	137	137	190
Total support costs	5,773	5,773	5,537

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

8. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Wages and salaries	6,983	6,784
Social security costs	611	602
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	1,044	549
	8,638	7,935
Supply staff costs	216	321
	8,854	8,256

b. Staff numbers

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teachers	115	117
Administration and support	193	201
Management	4	4
	312	322

c. Higher paid staff

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

	2021	2020
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£80,001 - £90,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1
	7	7

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £762,312 (2020: £773,000).

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

9. Related Party Transactions - Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

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

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits per annum was as follows:

J Mackinney (CEO and Trustee):

- Remuneration £110,000 - £120,000 (2020: £110,000 – £120,000)
- Employer's pension contributions paid £25,000 - £30,000 (2020: £25,000 – £30,000)

During the period ended 31 August 2021, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £nil (2020: £nil)

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 25.

10. Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost for the year which totalled £18,000 (2020: £18,000).

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

11. Central Services

The Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the period:

- human resources
- financial services
- legal services
- educational support services; or
- others as arising

The Trust charges for these services as a 5% - 7% flat percentage of all GAG income.

The actual amounts charged during the period were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Lapal Academy	66	64
Lutley Academy	117	110
Woodside Academy	122	120
Hurst Hill Primary	74	73
Priory Primary School	187	189
	566	556

12. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £000	Furniture & Equipment £000	IT Equipment £000	Total £000
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	29,980	224	25	30,229
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	29,980	224	25	30,229
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	591	149	21	761
Charged in the period	185	44	4	233
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	776	193	25	994
Net book values				
At 31 August 2021	29,204	31	-	29,235
At 31 August 2020	29,389	75	4	29,468

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

12. Tangible Fixed Assets (continued)

The Trust's transactions relating to land and buildings include the taking up of the long leaseholds of Lapal Academy, Lutley Academy and Woodside Academy for peppercorn rent over a term of 125 years at conversion on 1 February 2017. A formal valuation was performed to determine the fair value of the land and buildings on conversion for each school. The valuations were undertaken by professional valuation firm FHP on the 12th June 2017. Each valuation was carried out by a professional valuer holding the MRICS qualification.

During a previous year land and buildings in relation to Hurst Hill Primary School and Priory Primary School were transferred to the Trust on 1st October 2017 and 1st December 2017 respectively for peppercorn rent over a term of 125 years at the respective conversion dates. A formal valuation has taken place to determine the fair value of the land and buildings on conversion for each school. The valuations were undertaken by professional valuation firm FHP on the 12th June 2017. Each valuation was carried out by a professional valuer holding the MRICS qualification.

13. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	1	10
VAT recoverable	113	11
Prepayments and accrued income	1,472	1,425
	1,586	1,446

14. Creditors: Amounts Falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	754	1,131
Equal pay loan	29	39
Accruals and deferred income	543	333
	1,326	1,503

Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	222	303
Released from previous years	(222)	(303)
Resources deferred in the period	281	222
Deferred Income at 31 August 2021	281	222

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

14. Creditors: Amounts Falling due within one year (*continued*)

At the balance sheet date the Trust was holding funds received in advance for Universal Infant Free School Meals for the Autumn term 2021 of £155,000 (2020: £163,000).

A further £10,000 (2020: £40,000) is being held in relation to Devolved Capital Grants received from the Government for the 2021/22 academic year.

15. Creditors: Amounts Falling due within more than one year

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Equal pay loan	691	719

Equal pay loans were granted to Woodside Primary School, Priory Primary School and Hurst Hill Primary School before the schools achieved academy status and became part of the Trust. The equal pay loans were transferred to the Trust at each school's conversion date. The Trust are repaying the balance with interest to the Government.

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

16. Funds

	Balance at 31 August 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2021 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(1,267)	9,139	(9,385)	(39)	(1,552)
Donations and capital grants	5	-	-	-	5
Pupil Premium	-	785	(785)	-	-
UIFSM	-	316	(316)	-	-
Other DfE/EFA grants	-	661	(661)	-	-
Local authority grants	-	717	(717)	-	-
Other trading activities	(50)	(6)	-	-	(56)
School fund	81	4	-	-	85
Teaching hub	3	-	-	-	3
Equal pay loan	(758)	-	-	39	(719)
Pension reserve	(9,110)	-	(917)	(1,465)	(11,492)
	(11,096)	11,616	(12,781)	(1,465)	(13,726)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Fixed asset fund	29,779	651	(915)	-	29,515
DfE/EFA capital grants	18	-	-	-	18
	29,797	651	(915)	-	29,533
Total restricted funds	18,701	12,267	(13,696)	(1,465)	15,807
Total unrestricted funds	2,686	605	(137)	-	3,154
Total funds	21,387	12,872	(13,833)	(1,465)	18,961

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

16. Funds (continued)

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

Analysis of academies by fund balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	Total 2021 £000	Total 2020 £000
Lapal Academy	233	355
Lutley Academy	81	260
Woodside Academy	108	(27)
Hurst Hill Academy	300	29
Priory Primary Academy	60	(98)
Central services	138	181
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	920	700
Restricted fixed asset fund	29,533	29,797
Pension reserve	(11,492)	(9,110)
Total	18,961	21,387

Analysis of academies by cost

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £000	Other Support Staff Costs £000	Educational Supplies £000	Fixed Asset Costs £000	Other Costs £000	Total 2021 £000
Lapal	1,105	101	116	75	361	1,758
Lutley	1,814	152	201	188	710	3,065
Woodside	1,501	148	191	28	638	2,506
Hurst Hill	989	97	126	520	415	2,147
Priory Primary	2,219	179	309	93	846	3,646
Central services	462	88	17	11	133	711
Academy Trust	8,090	765	960	915	3,103	13,833

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

17. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total Funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	31	-	29,204	29,235
Current assets	3,123	(217)	329	3,235
Current liabilities	-	(1,326)	-	(1,326)
Non-current liabilities	-	(691)	-	(691)
Pension scheme liability	-	(11,492)	-	(11,492)
Total net assets	3,154	(13,726)	29,533	18,961

18. Capital Commitments

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Committed to, but not provided in the financial statements	373	225

19. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 August 2021 the total of the Academy's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Amounts due within one year	93	112
Amounts due between one and five years	3	100
Amounts due after five years	-	-
	96	212

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

20. Reconciliation of Net Income/(expenditure) to Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(961)	(178)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation charges (note 6)	233	265
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	-
Transfer of buildings from local authority	-	-
School fund transferred on conversion	-	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions (note 23)	(463)	(131)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost (note 23)	1,380	143
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(140)	(121)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(205)	157
Net cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	(156)	135

21. Cash Flows from Investing Activities

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	(79)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	-	(79)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 31 August 2021	At 31 August 2020
	£000	£000
Cash brought forward	1,805	1,749
Cash flows	(156)	56
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,649	1,805

23. Members' Liability

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

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Pension and Similar Obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were outstanding contributions at 31 August 2021 of £nil (2020: £nil).

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £601,000 (2020: £1,211,000).

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

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

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Pension and Similar Obligations (*continued*)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a defined benefit statutory scheme administered in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and currently provides benefits based on career average revalued earnings.

The administering authority for the Fund is Wolverhampton City Council. The Pension Fund Committee oversees the management of the Fund whilst the day to day fund administration is undertaken by a team within the administering authority. West Midlands Pension Fund is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Funding Strategy Statement and the Investment Strategy Statement.

Contributions are set every three years as a result of the actuarial valuation of the Fund required by the Regulations. The next actuarial valuation of the Fund will be carried out as at 31 March 2022 and will set contributions for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026. There are no minimum funding requirements in the LGPS but the contributions are generally set to target a funding level of 100% using the actuarial valuation assumptions..

The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £601,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £463,000 and employees' contributions totalled £138,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 20.3% for employers and 6.5% for employees.

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

The Academy LGPS has an estimated deficit of £11,492,000 (2020: £9,110,000).

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 August 2021	At 31 August 2020
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%	3.25%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90%	2.25%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65%	1.60%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.90%	2.20%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Pension and Similar Obligations (*continued*)

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 2021	At 31 August 2020
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.6	21.9
Females	24.0	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	23.4	23.8
Females	25.8	26.0

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £000	Fair value at 31 August 2020 £000
Equity instruments	4,108	2,935
Debt instruments	970	770
Property	475	395
Cash	249	347
Other	944	780
Total market value of assets	6,746	5,227

The actual return on scheme assets was £877,000 (2020: £335,000).

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current service cost (net of employee contributions)	1,237	953
Net interest cost	143	140
Past service charges		3
Total operating charge	1,380	1,096

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Pension and Similar Obligations (*continued*)

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

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2020	14,367	11,669
Upon conversion	-	-
Current service cost	1,237	983
Interest cost	234	221
Employee contributions	138	127
Benefits paid	(50)	(117)
Actuarial (gain)/loss	2,312	1,484
Past service charges	-	-
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
At 31 August 2021	18,238	14,367

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

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
At 1 September 2020	5,227	3,809
Upon conversion	-	-
Interest income	91	81
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined pension liability)	877	335
Actuarial gain / (loss)	-	(89)
Admin Expenses	-	(3)
Employer contributions	463	1,084
Employee contributions	138	127
Benefits paid	(50)	(117)
Plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements	-	-
At 31 August 2021	6,746	5,227

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Pension and Similar Obligations (*continued*)

Sensitivity analysis

Adjustment to discount rate	0.10%	0.0%	-0.10%
Present value of total obligation (£'000)	17,721	18,238	18,771
Projected service cost (£'000)	1,445	1,500	1,556
Adjustment to long term salary increase	0.10%	0.00%	-0.10%
Present value of total obligation (£'000)	18,306	18,238	18,170
Projected service cost (£'000)	1,500	1,500	1,500
Adjustment to pension increases and deferred revaluation	0.10%	0.00%	-0.10%
Present value of total obligation (£'000)	18,694	17,238	17,797
Projected service cost (£'000)	1,557	1,500	1,446
Adjustment to life expectancy assumptions	+ 1 year	0 years	- 1 year
Present value of total obligation (£'000)	19,010	18,238	17,497
Projected service cost (£'000)	1,567	1,500	1,434

25. Related Party Transactions

Certain Trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 9.

26. Academy Trust Teaching Hub

The teaching hub opened in 2014 initially as a teaching school. When the teaching school designation ended in 2018 the Trust carried on with the provision under the umbrella of Hales Valley Teaching Hub. The hub has developed a secure offer of support that reaches across Dudley Local Authority, the Black Country and beyond. The teaching hub is heavily involved in the provision of Initial teacher Training (ITT) and professional CPD, delivering the National Professional Qualification suite of programmes and the Olevi Coaching programmes.

The teaching hub generated income during the period of £162,173 (2020: £156,601). The amount received during the year has been shown separately on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities. Total expenditure on the teaching hub during the year has been £141,666 (2020: £211,107) to cover the costs of staff, training days and travel and subsistence, this is also shown separately on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities.

Hales Valley Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

27. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2020

		Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2020 £000
Income and endowments from:	Note				
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	333	333
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Trust's educational operations	4	-	11,247	-	11,247
Other trading activities	5	578	6	-	584
Total		578	11,253	333	12,164
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Trust educational operations	6, 7	190	11,886	266	12,342
Total		190	11,886	266	12,342
Net income / (expenditure)		388	(633)	67	(178)
Transfers between funds	16	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / (losses):					
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16,24	-	(1,238)	-	(1,238)
Net movement in funds		388	(1,871)	67	(1,416)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,298	(9,225)	29,730	22,803
Total funds carried forward		2,686	(11,096)	29,797	21,387