

Company Registration No. 08278808 (England and Wales)

WADE DEACON TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021



WADE DEACON
TRUST

WADE DEACON TRUST

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WADE DEACON TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mr I Hann
Mr P Wasley
Mr D Findon
Ms P A Wright
Ms G Lacey

Trustees

I Hann
C McLeod (Vice-Chair)
J K Woodroffe
M Dickinson
N Mcgee
C E Marsland
D Darlington
P Fowler (Chair)
P Choudhary
M Murphy

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	Mr G Kelly
- Chief Operations Officer	Mr I Kirkham
- Chief Finance Officer	Mr S Robertson
- Lead Principal Wade Deacon High School	Mr S Corner
- Lead Principal Primary	Ms J Brown
- Principal Hillside High School	Mrs A Ryan
- Principal The Grange Academy	Mr I Critchley
- Principal Halewood Academy (from 1 September 2021)	Ms T Rollings
- Principal Halewood Academy (to 31 August 2021)	Ms J Gallagher
- Principal Widnes Academy	Mrs K Highcock
- Principal Whiston Willis Primary Academy	Mr I Cooper
- Principal Sylvester Primary Academy	Ms R Harrison
- Principal Yew Tree Primary Academy	Mrs R O'Hanlon

Company secretary

Ian Kirkham

Company registration number

08278808 (England and Wales)

WADE DEACON TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal and registered office	Wade Deacon High School Birchfield Road Widnes England WA8 7TD
Independent external auditor	WR Partners Drake House Gadbrook Park Northwich Cheshire CW9 7RA
Independent internal auditor	Beever and Struthers Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors St George's House 215-219 Chester Road Manchester M15 4JE
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc Vista St Davids Park Chester Cheshire CH53DT
Solicitors	Business Services Group Hill Dickinson LLP No. 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 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.

For the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 the trust operated as a Multi Academy Trust. The Trust currently serves the towns of Widnes and Runcorn in the borough of Halton, Bootle in the Borough of Sefton and Huyton, Whiston & Halewood in the Borough of Knowsley.

The Trust as of September 2021 has a pupil capacity of 5,950 (excluding nursery & DSP provision) across its eight schools.

The membership of Wade Deacon Trust as at 31 August 2021 is:

- Wade Deacon High School, Widnes (Halton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2013). Capacity 1,550 (Planned Admission Number 315). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Yr7-11) is 1,612 students.
- Widnes Academy, Widnes (Halton) 3-11 (converted 1 February 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 210 plus 52 FTE Nursery(Planned Admission Number 30). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Reception-Y6) is 149 students.
- Hillside High School, Bootle (Sefton) 11-16 (converted 1 March 2015) Sponsored Academy. Capacity 970 (Planned Admission Number 194). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Yr7-11) is 646 students.
- Sylvester Primary Academy, Huyton (Knowsley) 3-11 (converted 1 January 2017) Convertor Academy. Capacity is 245 plus 52 FTE Nursery (Planned Admission Number 35). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Reception – Y6) is 237 students.
- Halewood Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) – 11-18 (converted 1 February 2017) Sponsored Academy. Capacity is 1,200 (Planned Admission Number 240). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Yr7-11) is 1,088 students.
- The Grange Academy, Runcorn (Halton) 3-16 (converted 1 January 2018) Convertor Academy. This is an all through school with a capacity of 1,320 plus 52 fte Nursery and 30 place resource base (Planned Admission Number Primary 60, Secondary 180). Number on Role Autumn Term census 2021 (Reception –Y6) is 1,081 students.
- Whiston Willis Primary Academy, Whiston (Knowsley) (converted 1 May 2018) Convertor Academy. Capacity is 315 plus 52 FTE Nursery (Planned Admission Number 45). Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Reception –Y6) is 329 students.
- Yew Tree Primary Academy, Halewood (Knowsley) (converted 1 September 2018) Convertor Academy also has a Designated Specialist Provision (DSP). Capacity 210, plus 28 DSP. Number on roll Autumn Term census 2021 (Reception –Y6 & DSP) is 248 students.

Teaching school status ceased on 31st August 2021.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The charitable company is known as Wade Deacon Trust.

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

The Trustees undertake the strategic review of the Academy Trust and powers are delegated to local Governing Bodies; the levels of which are subject to the needs of each individual school.

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

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 every Governor or other officer or Auditor of the Academy Trust shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Academy Trust against any liability incurred by them in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to them by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Academy Trust.

Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place to protect Trustees, Governors, and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on Trust business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Consideration is given to the skills of Trustees and Governors which would enhance the effectiveness of the Trust in line with the Articles of Association.

The appointment of Trustees may be made by the Members passing a resolution as contained within the Articles of Association.

With regards to the appointment of parent and staff Governors, procedures are in place for their nomination, election and appointment.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New Trustees are inducted into the workings of the Trust, including details of policies and procedures, together with an appropriate training schedule depending upon their existing area of expertise.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Principal activities

The principal objective of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to, the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Academies, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Organisational structure

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust and Academies by the use of financial management information, making strategic decisions about the direction of the Trust and capital expenditure, making senior appointments and approving the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

As at 31st August 2021 the MAT consists of eight Academies, the teaching school ceased trading on 31st August 2021.

The Trustees delegate the leadership and management of the Trust to the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Lead Principals and Principals. Each Academy has a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) structure in place to support the delegation of responsibilities.

The level of delegation will be subject to assessment and review of performance and also the capacity of each Academy. A small focused central team supports the operation of the Trust. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT), as appropriate to each Academy, would normally consist of Principal, Vice Principals, Assistant Vice Principals and a Business Manager (or equivalent post holder). These leaders control the Trust and Academies at a senior level, implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees & Local Governing Bodies and reporting back to them. As a group the SLT is subject to relevant delegation being granted and responsibility for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff (excluding the appointment of a Principal).

Senior Leadership teams will operate at each Academy and are responsible for the day to day operation of the Trust and the Academies. In particular they are responsible for organising the staff (teaching and support), facilities and students.

The Wade Deacon Multi Academy Trust Board of Trustees has an Audit & Compliance Committee and a Standards Committee.

The role of the Audit and Compliance Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust's finance and audit arrangements, systems of internal control, risk management and statutory compliance. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the sound management of the Trust's finances and resources. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Audit & Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

The role of the Standards Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to Trust's curriculum, quality and standards. The Committee will also advise and aid the Board in ensuring the standards of leadership and management is high. This will include proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Compliance Committee is responsible to the Trust Board.

Both the Board of Trustees and the Audit and Compliance group meet regularly throughout the year. Members meet on a termly basis. An appropriate meeting in each academic year being used to hold the Annual General Meeting.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Academy Trustees (excluding the Chief Executive Officer) are non-salaried and therefore no pay and remuneration scales are applicable.

The Academy Trust continues to refer to School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) and National Joint Council (NJC) to support relevant grade and pay range allocations.

The setting of salaries (and pay range) for Principals, Vice Principals and Assistant Vice Principals is undertaken using the STPCD Leadership Pay Group section guidance.

For those staff employed across the Trust, the principles and grading at both STPCD and NJC are used to establish an appropriate salary range.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	6
Full-time equivalent employee number	6.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	5
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	56
Total pay bill	24,260,892
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-
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Note: Figures have been impacted by Covid-19 restrictions

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Engagement with employees

Key to the way we work and our success, are our colleagues and partners who collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience to continually improve the offer for our pupils. We work together to solve problems, overcome barriers, to test things out and continually improve.

Our expectation in all of our academies is that our colleagues are highly skilled, that they continue to develop and are as ambitious for themselves as well as our pupils.

Working within a common structure and bound by our vision of 'A Commitment to Excellence', our academies are supported and encouraged to maintain their own distinctive characteristics and to tailor their curriculum so that it meets the needs of their pupils and to best serve their communities. Our principals are responsible for the academy they lead and are accountable for the outcomes their pupils achieve. Being part of a partnership of academies brings with it challenge and support as well as opportunities to share ideas, share best practice and to share resources where this adds value.

One of Wade Deacon Trust's key objectives is to be a great employer and we are fully committed to our employee's continued professional development. The Trust offers strong CPD opportunities for all of our employees; we believe this is an essential part of our role as an employer and as educators.

With a range of exciting opportunities for aspiring teachers and educational leaders, Wade Deacon Trust provides the very best support and training to assist staff in achieving their goals.

We are passionate about providing tailored support from the journey to all levels of educational development.

We offer a wide range of services from collaborative working through to training and support for school improvement and governance with the three key priorities focusing on:

- Initial Teacher Training
- Continuing Professional & Leadership Development
- School-to-School Support

At Wade Deacon Trust we know that having employees who are happy and enthusiastic is an extremely important part of creating successful schools that provide the first-class education that our students deserve. Therefore, we aim to provide a working environment that keeps our employees satisfied in their jobs.

The Wade Deacon Trust employs a diverse range of people in a variety of professions and sectors, who all work together to create wonderful community. Our Trust is about so much more than just teaching, and we strive to give opportunities to as many people, in as many fields, as possible.

Our Trust ensure the best possible facilities and provisions to keep our employees engaged and working hard for the benefit of our students. We appreciate the work of each and every person within Wade Deacon Trust, and recognise that everyone plays an equally valuable part in ensuring that The Wade Deacon Trust runs smoothly all year round for our students.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

We have a number of options and benefits available for our employees that come as part of the employment package with Wade Deacon Trust. These include competitive salary and benefits and career progression opportunities. We are always evaluating the pay and benefits we offer our employees and taking account of the changing environment around us to ensure that we continue to be a first-choice employer for prospective and existing staff. We ensure that employees are paid fairly and well. To compliment this, we provide opportunities for salary progression and we take this opportunity very seriously. We know that our employees work hard and we do the best that we can to recognise, celebrate and reward hard work, dedication to our students and achievement.

At Wade Deacon Trust, career progression is very important and we encourage all our employees to continually enhance their skills, knowledge and experience. We provide a range of opportunities to develop and achieve recognised qualifications to ensure that we keep the Trust, and everyone in it, growing together. Other benefits of working with us include access to a generous pension scheme.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust

Wade Deacon Trust treats all of the suppliers it engages in business with as partners in realising the Trust's principles and aims to work together with them to adapt to both changing times and emerging demands from society. This is precisely why the entire Trust also works hard to ensure the practice of fair transactions and competition amongst its suppliers.

Wade Deacon Trusts engages with a large number of suppliers across the Academies. We always look to be honest with our suppliers and aim to maintain strong dialogue with all of our suppliers. Strong buyer-supplier relationships are built on collaboration and as a Trust we look as a Trust to be pro-active with our suppliers.

As a Trust, whilst following the clear guidelines set out by the Academies Financial Handbook with regards to obtaining value for money, we encourage our Academies to seek local suppliers where practical. Our Academies are an integral part of their communities and by adopting a policy of looking to support local businesses if possible we can provide support to those communities and benefit the stakeholders to the academies.

We report every six months on the prompt payment of suppliers (in line with government requirements) and work towards improving our payment terms and conditions wherever possible.

The main customers who use the Trust are based around the use of our facilities across the academies. During the last 18 months we have undertaken a policy across the Trust of prioritising the use of the facilities for local users as well as looking to prioritise use which aligns with our strategic goals. Examples of this include engaging with local youth sports teams to utilise 3-G sports facilities across our sites as well as making resources available for local groups to use, however this has been severely limited by the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year has been particularly challenging with the impact of the pandemic in respect of our relationships with our customers. Due to restrictions set by the government as part of the pandemic response we have been unable to provide the facilities for a time during the year. We remain in contact with the organisations who use our facilities with a view to resuming these relationships when circumstances allow.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The transactions with respect to related parties and other connected charities and organisations have been disclosed within note 23 to these financial statements.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The main objectives of the Trust are summarised below:

- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all pupils in the Trust's academies
- To ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and learning
- To improve the effectiveness of the Academies by keeping the curriculum and organisational structures under continual review
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements
- To provide value for money for the funds expended
- To conduct the Trust and Academy business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trusts' main strategy is to develop and maintain a culture of excellence across our organisation that continues to provide opportunities for our students.

Wade Deacon High School converted to 'Academy' status in March 2013 and founded the Wade Deacon Trust. This status was adopted because of our quest to continually improve the quality of learning and teaching for the benefit of all students. In addition, all the Trustees of the Trust are committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community.

Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to enhance further the quality of our teaching and learning. We help students to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals.

As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, we are a Trust that makes a difference within our school Academy communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout all the Trust's Academies, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work, the manner in which they conduct themselves around their Academy campus and their presence in the local community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of our work in the Trust. The success of this is based on enhancing and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline, school uniform and the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the Trust and its Academies.

High levels of attendance are expected throughout each year group so that everyone can take full advantage of the range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available. Levels of attainment are most easily raised when students attend all lessons, allowing continuity of the teaching and learning environment.

Regular extended learning is an integral part of the learning culture of the school. Tasks set are intended to broaden and develop an individual's scope for independent learning as well as reinforcing work completed during the school day.

In each of our academies, we are committed to providing many rich experiences and ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to be and achieve their best. Our ethos is central to that provision and all we do. We are committed to a fully inclusive model of education where we will do our best at all times to make sure no pupil gets left behind.

All of our academies work hard to help our pupils develop in the broadest sense as well as having expectations that all pupils achieve academic success. Our expectations are that the development of healthy lives and relationships, equalities, character and resilience permeate through all aspects of life and the culture in each of our academies.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The impact of COVID-19 during the financial year to 31 August 2021

Following the second nationwide closure of Schools in January 2021 to all but students of key workers the Trust academies provided robust alternative arrangements where practical. In our primaries we extended the use of our DB Primary virtual learning programme so that all parents could keep in regular contact with class teachers and continue to ensure that our blended learning offer is effective and appropriate for all pupils.

In our secondaries Teaching, Learning and Assessment has continued to develop despite schools shutting down due to dedication and commitment of our staff. Each School has developed platforms to ensure consistency of learning for students who are not able to attend School whether that due to isolation or lockdown restrictions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic ICT has played a crucial role in enabling schools to offer alternative ways to support teaching and learning and perform the necessary back office functions required when running a school or Trust. Since the initial lockdown in March 2020 schools have relied upon Office 365 to communicate with colleagues and plan the necessary arrangements. It has given schools and the Trust the flexibility it needed to allow staff to work in different ways. A grant from the DfE was available for schools to claim for commissioning a platform such as Office 365 or Google G-Suite but with a platform already in place we were not eligible to claim.

In both phases of the DfE scheme 'Get help with technology' the schools within the Trust have received devices to support teaching and learning for disadvantaged pupils. In Summer of 2020 we received 116 devices for pupils in Year 10 who are disadvantaged and since September 2020, a further 760 devices for pupils in years 3-11 who are disadvantaged have been received. All were distributed within the first term of the academic year.

Although the trading income has been significantly restricted during the pandemic due to government imposed restrictions as a Trust we do not generate a significant proportion of our income from these areas and so this impositions have not caused the Trust significant financial concerns

The Trust makes extensive use of the Curriculum Led Finance Planning Tools recommended by the DfE which helps us to maintain a balanced and efficient budget. This has been crucial in respect of navigating the financial challenges associated with Covid-19.

The Trust has managed to maintain a strong financial position through prudence and striving for value for money across previous years. The reserves we have in place give us confidence that we are in a suitable financial position to deal with the additional costs which have been incurred since the full re-opening of the Academies in Spring term of 2021.

Trust Development

The current Trust Board of Trustees are from a diverse range of backgrounds and each one has a different type of expertise to offer; however they all have one thing in common and that is a commitment to an exceptional education, where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The vision is for every school in the Trust to be an outstanding school where every child receives an exceptional education.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

As the Trust develops and grows, the Trustees will have regard for the operational processes of the schools within the Trust, and will make adjustments to both the structure and membership of the relevant bodies in order to ensure that the Trust can manage the schools in accordance within the required Ofsted framework and ensure that the core principles are sustained.

The Trust believes in giving every student the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the full and expects every student to work very hard in order to achieve this. The Trust is committed to an exceptional education where tradition is respected and innovation is encouraged. The Academy is committed to training and the life-long learning of all our members of staff and the community. Students and staff work side-by-side with the latest technological developments to further enhance the quality of our teaching and learning.

Students are helped to develop real life solutions to real life problems, using industry standard equipment to achieve their goals. As a major contributor to the concept of lifelong learning, all Trust schools make a difference within their communities. We achieve this by engaging in collaborative projects with our community partners and sharing our resources with them.

Throughout school, students are encouraged to take pride in themselves, their actions and their achievements. We have high expectations of students' academic work and the manner in which they conduct themselves around the school campus and in the community beyond. An orderly and disciplined environment is a key feature of work in our schools.

The success of the school is based on promoting and maintaining excellent standards of self-discipline and school uniform, along with the promotion of a sense of pride and belonging to the school.

High levels of attendance are expected throughout each year in school, so that everyone can take full advantage of the range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities available.

The success we achieve in the classroom is enhanced by a wide range of enrichment courses which are made available to all students. Everyone is encouraged to use part of their recreation time for participation in one or more of these opportunities. Clubs and societies, clinics and extra classes are all designed to broaden the experiences of the school's young people outside of their compulsory curriculum diet.

Public benefit

The principal objective of the Trust is to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Academies, offering a broad and balanced curriculum. In setting the Trust's objectives and planning its activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Promoting the success of the Trust

The following paragraph section of this report provides detailed reports specific to all of the constituent parts of the Trust outlining their individual successes and achievements within the 12 months to 31 August 2021.

The Chief Executive Officer is committed to providing strategic leadership in line with the culture and values of the Trust and its member schools. The Chief Executive Officer is also a Lead Ofsted Inspector for Schools and Academies.

There is a clear separation and accountability between the role of Members, Trustees and Local Governing Bodies. Trustees continue to provide support to those schools and Local Governing Bodies who require support and guidance.

The central operations team is led by qualified professionals including a School Business Leader, qualified accountant and CIPD professional. This provides for high levels of accountability for strategic leadership and specialist knowledge across defined areas of the Trust and a commitment to a self-improving Trust through system leadership.

The Academy Improvement Strategy is rooted in an ethos that creates the culture, attitude and aspiration necessary to secure successful outcomes for young people and prepare them effectively for life in modern Britain. Support is provided in proportion to the level of need within each Academy as determined through the school's own self-evaluation judgements and the Trust's monitoring.

The Trust has undertaken a review of its position over the academic year to ensure that it provides a sustainable model for the future. This has resulted in a review of staffing at secondary schools and initial steps to look for further efficient use of resources in the Primary sector. There have been a number of areas of success and achievement at each school.

Halewood Academy

Covid Management

Halewood Academy was fully open to all students from September 2020. A comprehensive risk assessment was implemented in conjunction with Compliance Education. Covid measures were in place including students being in year group bubbles; teaching taking place in hub areas for each year group allowing for reduced movement of students; start and end times to the school day differed; there was also enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures in place.

There were significant levels of disruption between Sept 2020 and Jan 2021. Infection rates in both staff and pupils was so high in that period that in conjunction with Public Health England, WD Trust and Knowsley LA all KS3 pupils had to move to remote learning for 1 full week, followed by all KS4 pupils for 1 full week.

From January 2021, over the period of national lockdown, teaching was delivered remotely via Microsoft teams. A remote learning policy was established and comprehensive staff CPD ensured that we were able to delivery live lessons across all curriculum areas. As well as providing remote learning, an on-site provision was made available for vulnerable students which was run by progress leaders, assistant progress leaders and teaching assistants on a rota basis.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

When school reopened in March 2021, we offered a fully operational on-site testing centre run by Halewood Academy staff.

A comprehensive recovery plan was implemented up the March return to school. This started with a staggered return for year groups blending remote learning and face to face teaching. Despite the curriculum being taught live via remote learning, there were still significant disruptions to curriculum delivery due to covid and some non-attendance. The curriculum was adjusted to ensure that the most accessible topics in each subject were taught remotely, but measuring progress of students over this time was a challenge. The curriculum was fully redesigned upon lockdown and again upon return to full school to ensure that we were responsive to the potential gaps in subject knowledge. This was led by both senior and middle leadership, through consultation with students and engagement with other trust schools and OFQUAL guidance.

The National Tutoring Programme was implemented for English, Maths and Science. This targeted Year 9 to 11 students with a focus on students targeted at achieving a grade 4 who were Pupil Premium. There was evidence of a very strong impact with this programme which will continue into this academic year. To further support the recovery plan, staff also supported with evening and Saturday revision sessions, with a focus being on PP under-performance and the closure of knowledge gaps due to COVID

TAGS (Teacher Assessed Grades for Students)

There was a clear and comprehensive centre policy for TAGS which was implemented consistently across all departments. Senior leaders, subject leaders and teachers undertook a rigorous process to standardise assessments and moderate work in line with national guidance and our centre policy.

In smaller subject areas, quality assurance was completed in collaboration with subject leaders across the trust.

Samples of work were requested for the following areas - English Language and Music.

The feedback was positive. There were no further enquiries regarding marking or awarding of grades. There were no appeals at Stage 1 (Centre Review) and no appeals at Stage 2 (Exam Board Review) regarding grades awarded.

Outcomes in 2021 (TAGs) have improved from those in 2020 (CAGs) with P8 score moving from -0.40 to -0.32 indicating that students have developed detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum. Apart from English, all other headline attainment and progress measures improved. Whole school and subject analysis have taken place to inform this year's whole school priorities which will link with those at faculty level.

Subjects performing close to or above National Average are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Drama, Music, religious Education and Statistics.

Pupil premium progress in most headline measures is an improving trend, however we need to continue to address progress from starting points as gaps are widening. Through a more focused approach to quality first teaching, closer monitoring and tracking, each faculty PP Champion will work closely with our PP lead to ensure that our strategy diminishes the gap to their NPP counterparts.

There have been improvements in the number of students achieving a standard and strong Pass for the EBacc.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

SEND gaps have widened in all headline measures.

Although the basics measure, (strong and standard pass) is an improving trend, further work needs to be done to ensure more students are meeting their targets, particularly at 9-5 and 9-7.

Students are ready for their next stage of education, employment and training and our NEET figures continue to be below National Average.

Highlights

Despite long periods of lockdown, we were able to effectively launch our RAMER teaching and learning strategy as well as provide effective remote provision. Staff surveys show that there was increased confidence in using IT which still positively impacts the curriculum provision today. There was also a large uptake of staff training through the National College through the lockdown period which has enhanced our teaching and learning provision in the classroom.

We also ensured that we were fully staffed with subject specialists for the 2021-22 academic year.

Hillside

COVID Management

September started well for the school – with the support of Compliance education a careful risk assessment and re-opening plan was made– with careful use of Year group bases, bubbles, a bespoke timetable, staggered school day, additional cleaning and hygiene regimes. School coped relatively well with the lock down in January 2021 – Remote learning using Microsoft Teams and live teaching started promptly thanks to CPD undertaken in Autumn term. Mini-school re-started for pupils who were classed as vulnerable, with pupils following the remote offer in school supervised by Hillside teachers on a rota basis. The return to school in March was supported by in house testing and pupils were quick to settle down to work in school.

Recovery/Catch Up/Remote Learning

A robust recovery plan (RECAPTURE programme) ensured that we supported effective transition between remote learning and face to face learning. Despite an excellent curriculum offer including live lessons for remote delivery, pupils learning was affected; virtual lessons are difficult to successfully implement AfL strategies. RECAPTURE programme included a plan for supporting reading, mental health, curriculum development including additional dedicated diagnostic assessment weeks post remote learning, tutoring, Saturday School and English, Maths and Science interventions. HMI recognised the seamless transition from remote learning and the support in place for all pupils, in particular our PP and vulnerable following lockdown periods.

Curriculum

Our curriculum intent has been streamlined into three core strands: Reading is Power, Knowledge Led and Diverse Opportunities. This has clarified expectations for the planning of the curriculum for middle leaders and was used to help further improve curriculum planning. Middle leaders have worked collaboratively with their teams to review the curriculum, in light of COVID impacts, Ofqual guidance/ assessments, changes to context and the whole school intent. They have reflected, and continue to do so on the chosen core knowledge to be taught (clear end points) and the sequence of the delivery for effective learning to take place. Our curriculum was recognised in a recent inspection as being ambitious.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

TAGS (Teacher Assessed Grades for Students)

Our subject leaders and teachers undertook a rigorous process to standardise assessments and moderate work in line with the guidance given. Samples were requested for English and Spanish. There were no further requests or queries regarding marking or awarding of grades. There have to date been no appeals regarding grades awarded.

Progress 8 reflected improvements we were predicting earlier in the year. Maths and English attainment continues to steadily improve. There were outstanding individual performances, including Kelly Leung, who achieved six grade 9s and three grade 8s and Joseph Zhang who achieved five grade 9s and three grade 8s. Harry Edgar achieved five grade 9s and Alan Tan achieved four grade 9s and three grade 8s. A third of Hillside pupils achieved at least one of the top grades across their subjects, with 68 grade 9s and 8s achieved overall.

Across the curriculum there have been some excellent results. In the Separate Sciences, over 93% of pupils achieved 9-4 grades. Performance in English and Maths has continued to improve and results at 9-4 in Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Creative Media, Creative iMedia and Physical Education all exceeded 80% - representing excellence across the curriculum.

Highlights

In the Autumn and Spring term we received two remote visits from HMI. One of which was monitoring the quality of our remote provision, the other was a remote additional visit. Both of these visits resulted in positive letters which recognised the progress the school was making especially in the development of the Curriculum.

In June 2021 we were pleased to be inspected by HMI Rachel Goodwin . This was a two - day Section 8 visit. This was converted to a full Section 5 inspection and we were delighted to be judged Good for Leadership and Management, Good for Personal Development, Requires Improvement for Behaviour and Attitudes, and Requires Improvement for Quality of Education. This gave us an overall judgement of Requires Improvement. We were delighted that this was recognized by a letter from Amanda Speilman received on 8th October 2021.

Our curriculum goes from strength to strength in terms of the range of opportunities we have for pupils and challenge and ambition in all curriculum areas.

Staff morale is very positive, staff feedback continues to improve.

The take up for additional professional development opportunities continues to strengthen, this includes both T&L qualifications and leadership qualifications.

Reading has been recognized as a whole school priority (by staff, pupils and HMI), there are more high quality challenging texts enriching our curriculum across all subjects.

Trust Quality Assurance opportunities have increased allowing for effective cross-trust CPD at a leadership level.

Sylvester Primary Academy

COVID Management

The academic year 2020-21, proved to be a very difficult year in school, with a number of restrictions and strategies put into place to ensure the safety of the whole school community throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. Throughout the year we had a number of bubbles closed at various times, due to positive COVID cases.

Updated risk assessments and re-opening plans were provided at regular intervals for The Wade Deacon Trust, governors, staff and trade unions. Additional measures were put into place, such as additional daily cleaning, staggered start and finish times and eating lunch in the classrooms. During the national lockdown from January – March 2021, school remained open for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils, resulting in up to 90 pupils attending school each day.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The curriculum was modified in 2021-22, to ensure that the recovery curriculum in place addressed that in pupils' knowledge, with effective use being made of regular formative assessment. Throughout 2021-22, we will focus on our Foundation subjects to ensure that all of our pupils are receiving a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum in all subject areas.

For children in nursery, the focus remained on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development. In addition to focusing on these areas in Reception, staff assessed and addressed gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary. A number of intervention sessions took place in EYFS, aimed at improving children's language and oracy. Pupils in EYFS used the outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

For pupils in KS1 and KS2, priorities included identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress and achievement in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths). Opportunities were identified across the curriculum for pupils to read widely and develop their knowledge and vocabulary. Our Academic Mentor, class teachers and teaching assistants provided focused intervention in all year groups to enable pupils to catch-up with their peers. This was funding using Covid catch-up premium. Covid catch-up premium was also used to purchase essential resources and training for staff in phonics, reading and mathematics. Resources were used in school and as part of our remote learning offer. Peripatetic teachers (teaching music and SEND provision) began revisiting school during the Summer Term, alongside essential social and healthcare workers, whilst closely following health and safety measures and school risk assessments.

Remote learning was put in place in September 2020 for all children, in line with medium and long-term plans for each year group and this is still in place in the eventuality that any pupils need to self-isolate. There are a range of resources that the children can access via Remote Learning, including "My Maths", "Reading Eggs", "White Rose Maths" and the "Oak Teaching Academy". During the lockdown, all teachers ensured that they made direct face-face contact with pupils on a least one occasion per week, through a live teaching activity. Staff monitored children's work and liaised with parents on the days that they were not teaching face-face in school. Parents could contact teachers for advice and support via Class Dojo.

Free school meal vouchers were provided, throughout lockdown and during school holidays, for those families who were entitled.

Highlights

In spite of the pandemic we have had a number of successes this year:

- Our intake number has formally increased to 35 pupils in Reception and this year we were oversubscribed again.
- We have begun the implementation of the 30 hour offer, providing wraparound care for parents of our nursery children.
- We achieved the Wellbeing Award in School in March 2021, demonstrating our positive approach to Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Our attendance finished this year at 95.5%, a marked improvement on previous years.

Pupil progress was outstanding in all year groups, given the very low baseline in all year groups in September 2020.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Grange Academy

Recovery

Catch Up: Through employing additional staff and the use of the NTP we were able to provide additional support to students through the catch-up funding. However, this brought with it significant challenges as students were required to self-isolate and staff were asked to cover colleagues that were affected by the self-isolation rules. Despite the challenges of this, the curriculum offer remained strong and careful consideration of the key knowledge we teach now is still ongoing.

Curriculum: Despite the challenges of the pandemic we continued to offer a curriculum that meant practical subjects such as DT, Food technology and PE could take place. The offer was modified to suit the risk assessment in place, however, we were able to maintain a strong curriculum offer across the school. This curriculum offer applied in both phases with secondary teachers still supporting some of the foundation subjects within the primary phase such as PE, Music and Computing. The use of bubbles and staff moving between rooms proved very challenging in the secondary phase as did staggered breaks and lunches.

Remote Learning: Our remote learning offer developed into a strong provision in both phases. The use of Microsoft Teams in the secondary phase and See-Saw for the primary phase meant that children were able to access their learning at home during lockdown. The DfE laptops and wifi dongles were provided to students to support their home learning.

TAGS (Teacher Assessed Grades for Students)

The class of 2021 achieved highly and we expected this to be the case even if exams had taken place as normal during the summer. Robust quality assurance took place across the WDT and in school. The core subjects of English, maths and science continue to improve and the 'open' pool subjects are a strength of the school.

Highlights

The popularity of the school is ever growing, supported by a full intake of Year 7 students in September 2021. Admissions in Reception were higher than predicted with 51 students starting in September 2021. In year admissions are growing in both phases and the school now has over 1080 students in total which is the highest number for many years. Our Challenge Partners review in the summer term was very positive and supported that the school staff and leaders are making a positive difference to our children.

Wade Deacon High School

COVID Management

During the last academic year, the school has continued to move forward and grow stronger despite the significant challenges the Covid pandemic has brought. First and foremost, leaders at all levels have managed the situation relating to Covid very effectively to ensure the quality of provision remains very strong.

Despite the turbulence in school caused by the pandemic, teachers and leaders have worked very hard to not only respond to providing remote Teaching and Learning but to further develop the curriculum offer. The school adapted well to provide a robust remote curriculum offer and provided additional resources, such as 4G dongles, laptops and iPads. The Catch -Up / Pupil Premium funding was deployed effectively to support students to re-engage, build their confidence, support with gaps in knowledge and to keep up.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Our Pastoral team have been at the forefront of supporting students and their families who need additional support. This have ranged from: a listening ear, advice and guidance, counselling, support for mental health, academic mentoring, food parcels, support with uniform and school equipment, the coordination of agency support, safeguarding as well as simply being the consistent person each and every day to welcome students who have challenging home lives. The commitment of staff to support students to recover academically is very clearly to see from curriculum plans and lessons, but staff also continue to support students to recover socially and emotionally. The wellbeing of students has been, and remains, a key priority for our school. Investment has been made to increase the number of mentors in school to provide additional capacity. There has also been a re-launch of the wider curriculum experiences we offer including breakfast clubs, after school clubs, trips, subject based activities to ensure students have access to the full curriculum offer and experiences. This is called the 'Wade Deacon Experience' and has enabled students to get involved with a variety of opportunities that haven't been possible over the last two years. Investment has also been made in this area to support families who may struggle financially to take part.

TAGS (Teacher Assessed Grades for Students)

The TAG process (for the 2020 / 21 cohort) was effectively managed to ensure students were awarded grades based on a robust approach to assessment. Overall student outcomes from this series remains strong and although comparisons to previous years is not reliable, it is worth noting that attainment and progress remains well above the national average (based on 2019 data).

Highlights

The developments in curriculum design and the consistency of approach that now exists due to the Curriculum Framework approach is an area to celebrate. During the last 12 months, the work in this area has continued to ensure the curriculum intent and implementation is securely embedded across all areas of the school. Another area to celebrate is the continued development of the whole school CPD programme (LEAP) and the support to develop 'our classroom culture' even further.

Recently, the school welcomed Challenge Partners to conduct the Quality Assurance Review that had been delayed from the summer term. Overwhelmingly, the feedback from the review team was very positive. I am pleased to say that the judgement attached to the review indicated that the school was leading which is the highest category and reflects the strength of provision across the school. The review indicated many strengths and provided two areas to focus on. The team acknowledged the Curriculum Framework, the LEAP programme and our Classroom Culture as impressive. During the last academic year, the school has continued to move forward and grow stronger despite the significant challenges the Covid pandemic has brought. First and foremost, leaders at all levels have managed the situation relating to Covid very effectively to ensure the quality of provision remains very strong.

The school remains oversubscribed and a popular choice for families in our community; the PAN is now 320 and we welcomed 325 students in September 2020. The school continues to be managed effectively and careful consideration is given to financial planning, budget management and the resources allocated across school. Due to careful management of the budget over many years, we have been in a position to invest in areas of the school to support the effective implementation of the curriculum. Additional resources have been made available to subject areas to support with the recovery curriculum and to re-start the wider curriculum opportunities that have not been possible over the last 12 months. A programme of refreshing ICT across school has taken place including additional mobile ICT to provide more flexibility in terms of rooming and access to ICT.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Despite the turbulence in school caused by the pandemic, teachers and leaders have worked very hard to not only respond to providing remote Teaching and Learning but to further develop the curriculum offer. The school adapted well to provide a robust remote curriculum offer and provided additional resources, such as 4G dongles, laptops and iPads. The Catch -Up / Pupil Premium funding was deployed effectively to support students to re-engage, build their confidence, support with gaps in knowledge and to keep up. A significant effort was made, and continues to be made, to ensure families that have struggled are supported.

Throughout the last 12 months, a key priority has been Wellbeing of staff. This has been pivotal to the school managing the challenges we have faced as well as the school continuing to move forward. We have increased the range of strategies to support staff, to celebrate their work and to gather feedback. Overall, feedback from staff as to how the last 12 months has been managed is very positive.

Widnes Academy

Covid management

As everyone is aware, the academic year 2020-21 proved to be extremely challenging for staff pupils and parents with a range of restrictions in place across all aspects of school life. With the support of the Trust we worked hard to ensure the safety of the whole school community including Risk Assessments, Re-Opening Plan and an Outbreak Management plan. All of these documents ensured that Widnes Academy worked within the government guidance on re-opening and also on return to school in September 2021.

During the national lockdown additional measures were put in place including extra cleaning, staggered start and finish times, use of additional entrance/exit points and eating lunches in class. We provided places within school for our Key Worker children and our identified vulnerable pupils which resulted in around 50% of our pupils and all of our staff in schools throughout this period. On the return of all pupils staff worked to ensure that the curriculum was modified and addressed any gaps identified by ongoing assessments whilst ensuring that pupils had access to a broad and balanced curriculum in line with our curriculum intent.

Throughout 2021/22 our focus will be on continuing to address any gaps in learning through our targeted interventions provided by a new Academic Mentor – continuing the successful use of Recovery Premium from last year. The Recovery Premium was used predominantly to focus on our Year 2 pupils and then moved to our Year 3/4 and alongside our Academic mentor, support staff were used to provide speech and language support and Maths catch-up support. Some of our Recovery Premium was also used to purchase resources to support the focus on handwriting which was a key area of concern on return to school as well as on online Reading Programme, Reading Eggs, which supported our pupils reading at home as well as additional phonics activities which could be accessed at home. During lockdown those children who remained at home were invited to weekly 'check-in' sessions with their class teacher. Staff monitored children's work and weekly phone calls home also focused on those children who struggled to engage, with our Academic Mentor offering reading sessions via telephone for those pupils who had been identified as needing some additional support to engage.

Our Remote Learning offer, introduced during lockdown and expanded further in September 2020 will remain in place and is accessed through our DB Primary virtual learning platform. Timetable suggestions, recorded lessons, lesson materials and learning links utilising Oak Academy are all uploaded for pupils to access as soon as they need to.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Throughout the lockdown period staff worked hard to remain in contact with parents through the school website, our Facebook page, DB Primary email systems and our text messaging service to ensure that parents were kept informed of any changes. Free school meal vouchers were provided alongside as well as DfE funded Ipads and laptops to ensure that as many disadvantaged pupils as possible had access to our remote learning offer.

Highlights

- We are continuing with our local links and have been involved with the Catalyst Museum in the design of their new learning space, attending the opening and being involved in its promotion
- Our Nursery numbers are continuing to grow which will in turn have a positive impact upon our Reception number moving forward
- We have taken part in a local community 'Clean up day' showing the strength of our community links.

Whiston Willis

COVID Management

COVID continued to impact on school life considerably throughout the academic year 2020-21. High infection rates across the local area saw increases in pupil and staff absences above the norm and a number of families within the school community impacted upon negatively. Lower attendance rates combined with onsite school closures during lockdown periods resulted in 'lost learning' and gaps in learning for all pupils both academically and in terms of their Personal, social and emotional development.

Recovery has been an ongoing process and will continue to be a longer-term process for some of the more vulnerable/ impacted upon learners and their families. Targeted pastoral support and targeted academic support is key to recovery.

Catch Up has been good for most pupils and they have been able to return to previous attainment levels. Catch up funding was used effectively to support pupils and the use of Academic Mentors was a good success particularly in accelerating progress for the weakest readers across school. Curriculum development has continued, and a broad and balanced curriculum has been maintained throughout the pandemic.

Remote Learning was offered throughout the year and the provision evolved over time and utilised a the DfE approved 'Oak National' alongside live Teams sessions and pre-recorded sessions from school staff. This was effective however nothing mirrors consistent onsite learning in quality.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Highlights –Successes

- Whiston Willis has been awarded International School Status from The British Council due to its commitment to Internationalism.
- Whiston Willis is a 'Rights Respecting School Silver-Rights Aware. We are the only school in Knowsley to be accredited with Silver Status.
- Whiston Willis continues to be a flagship school for 'The Literacy Tree' due to its commitment to delivering a high-quality text based approach to English.
- Three staff members have been accredited with NPQML, one staff member with the National SENCO award and a further staff member has become a maths SLE for WDT. One staff member continues to fill the role of Primary English Lead across the trust.
- The LGB has developed well in the last academic year with guidance, support and challenge from WDT.

Yew Tree

COVID Management

Due to the impact of the pandemic and the number of restrictions and ever evolving procedures and strategies put in place to ensure the safety of the whole school community throughout the year, the academic year 2020-21 proved to be extremely challenging in school.

Updated whole school risk assessments and re-opening school plans were provided at regular intervals for The Wade Deacon Trust, Governors, staff and trade unions, as well as abridged versions for parents and carers. These highlighted general guidance alongside specific measures introduced and developed across our school to ensure that Yew Tree remained a safe environment for all. Additional measures included;

- additional cleaning throughout the school day focusing on key points of contact
- creation of class PODS and specified POD spaces for staff and children eg toilets, playground space, staff rooms
- staggered start and finish times
- allocated entry and exit gates for each POD
- staggered playtimes and lunchtimes
- bags of playtime and sports equipment personalised for each POD
- lunches in classrooms
- PPE packs in each classroom including personal PPE and a range of cleaning products
- one-way systems around the school building

As well as whole school risk assessments, individual risk assessments were developed with specific members of the staff team and families of identified children to further support those classified as most vulnerable. These were also adapted across the year to ensure the ongoing wellbeing and safety of this group.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

During the national lockdown from January – March 2021, school remained open for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils, resulting in up to 60 pupils attending school each day. Alongside staffing timetables for PODS and the office etc, we developed a system of daily contact with families to enable us to keep in touch with all of our families on a weekly basis at least. This allowed us to continue to support those most vulnerable families and provide early intervention for families who became vulnerable or needed support due to the impact of the pandemic. For some families contact was daily whilst for others weekly, dependent on individual circumstances. We liaised with Halton, Liverpool and Knowsley Social care teams to ensure a team approach to regular contact with our most vulnerable families and clear lines of communication between professionals were developed further to enhance this support.

We worked alongside national, regional and local organisations to provide targeted support for families, including Wonde, Everton in the Community, Magic breakfast, Halewood Town Council and Torrington Drive Community Association to provide food vouchers, food packages, personal care packages, nappies, clothing, family based activities etc Children continued to access therapeutic interventions through the wellbeing hub in school and specialist input from providers who continued their services during lockdown i.e. speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and counselling via remote access.

For those children who were unable to return to school during the national lockdown, robust remote learning opportunities were provided for each pod, in line with medium- and long-term plans, therefore broad and balanced.

For children within our DSP classes and those with specific special educational needs across school, targeted, individual packages of learning were provided. These included provision of sensory packs of resources for individuals, 1:1 online learning provision, targeted SPLD work from our Outreach teacher; targeted speech and language work and 1:1 contact and feedback with children and their families through Class Dojo platform and Teams.

Staff monitored children's work, gave individual feedback, and liaised with parents on the days that they were not teaching face-face in school and parents could contact teachers for advice and support via Class Dojo. Engagement was monitored by senior members of staff and contact was made to support families further, when engagement levels fell. Families were provided with I pads, laptops, sim cards, technical support via phone, paper pack of work if preferred, additional stationary packs, additional resources e.g. flashcards for phonics and any physical resources to meet individual needs. Positive praise and encouragement were continued through messages from staff teams and the school community and celebration of work and attitude through Class Dojo class story and individual messaging pages. Families were being kept informed further through the school website, text messaging service and emails.

Some of our pupils across both mainstream and the DSP, struggle with social communication, have difficulties with attachment and have experienced extensive trauma throughout their life. Many more may have experienced trauma and loss due to the COVID-19 crisis and may have witnessed huge pressures and anxieties from their families, including rise in incidents of domestic violence. This all contributes to the likelihood of mental health difficulties and vulnerabilities.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

On return to school, following Lockdown, our approach to recovery considered these factors as well as how we provided the support and provision our children require in order to make up for lost ground in terms of their progress and knowledge building. Our model focused on three main stages of school recovery which included overlap or continuous cycling in response to any possible further setbacks that may have occurred. These stages were rebuilt, revisit, recover. During the rebuild and revisit elements, the focus was on rebuilding relationships, regulation, mental health and wellbeing and then baseline assessments, revisiting key aspects of curriculum prior to lockdown and boosting key skills and key learning in core subjects followed by foundation subjects.

The curriculum was modified in Spring 2021, to ensure that the recovery curriculum in place addressed the 'gaps' in pupils' knowledge, with effective use being made of regular formative assessment, whilst keeping the curriculum broad and balanced. In summary, the additional foci in each phase looked like this;

DSP:

- Transition programme for pupils based on needs and risk assessments
- Reassessed on B Squared at end of Autumn Term to identify gaps in learning
- PPPs created to close gaps
- Listen, Respond, Teach plans updated or created based on children's needs
- Cedar followed recovery curriculum with big focus on PSHE and Growth Mindset
- Ash and Birch focussed on communication, sensory regulation, and routines
- Early Help's and TAF's for families needing extra support

EYFS:

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our youngest learners and ambition for them is of paramount importance in order to ensure they make the strongest possible start to school life and ensure they are not catching up for significant periods of time.

Wellcomm speech and language screening tool allowed us to quickly assess the level of children's receptive and expressive language. 'Gap' analysis then enabled targeted group interventions to be put into place alongside the work done with our private speech and language therapists.

For children in Nursery, the focus remained on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development. In addition to focusing on these areas in Reception, staff assessed and addressed gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge. A number of intervention sessions took place in EYFS, aimed at improving children's language and oracy. Pupils in EYFS used the outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

KS1 and 2:

For pupils in KS1 and KS2, priorities included identifying gaps and re-establishing good behaviours for learning, good progress and achievement in the 'key objectives' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths), whilst providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Opportunities were identified across the curriculum for pupils to read widely and develop their knowledge and vocabulary. Class teachers and teaching assistants provided focused intervention in all year groups to enable pupils to catch-up with their peers. Covid Catch Up funding was used to provide two additional teachers to support intensive targeted intervention to those children in Year 3,4 and 5 in particular. Covid catch-up funding was also used to;

- purchase WellComm resources and CPD
- deliver nurture based provision for group of Y1 children
- 10 week programme of Maths tutoring
- Booster sessions
- CPOMS
- Behaviour Intervention CPD – including ROAR and Detsy
- additional essential resources and training for staff in phonics and Mathematics.
- additional resources for Literacy Tree
- additional resources to support mental health and wellbeing

Peripatetic teachers (teaching music and SEND provision) began revisiting school during the Summer Term, alongside essential social and healthcare workers, whilst closely following health and safety measures and school risk assessments.

Highlights

Despite the pandemic, we have had a number of successes this year:

- Reception admissions increased and this year we were oversubscribed – having two taken to appeal panel.
- We achieved the Wellbeing Award in School in April 2021, demonstrating our positive approach to Wellbeing and Mental Health
- We achieved IQM Flagship status in June 2021 for the third consecutive year
- Our attendance finished this year at 94.5%, in line with the previous year.
- Pupil progress was outstanding, given the very low baseline in all year groups in September 2020.

Four members of staff completed the NPQSL programme and one embarked.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Key Performance Indicators

Overall performance at the end of KS4 in 2021

	The Grange Academy			
Measure	2017/18 GCSE Results	2018/19 GCSE Results	2019/20 GCSE Results	2020/21 Teacher Assessed Grades
Progress 8	-1.48	-0.97	-0.29	-0.15
Attainment 8	34.17	34.20	42.27	44.11
EBACC Entry	43.1%	39.8%	35.0%	26.4%

	Wade Deacon High			
Measure	2017/18 GCSE Results	2018/19 GCSE Results	2019/20 GCSE Results	2020/21 Teacher Assessed Grades
Progress 8	0.13	0.22	0.51	0.56
Attainment 8	50.63	52.93	54.94	55.65
EBACC Entry	74.0%	36.7%	48.1%	57.2%

	Halewood Academy			
Measure	2017/18 GCSE Results	2018/19 GCSE Results	2019/20 GCSE Results	2020/21 Teacher Assessed Grades
Progress 8	-0.50	-0.84	-0.42	-0.33
Attainment 8	-	-	42.37	43.01
EBACC Entry	-	-	9.4%	20.3%

	Hillside High			
Measure	2017/18 GCSE Results	2018/19 GCSE Results	2019/20 GCSE Results	2020/21 Teacher Assessed Grades
Progress 8	-0.63	-0.74	-0.02	-0.26
Attainment 8	39.18	40.30	42.89	40.13
EBACC Entry	80.0%	37.6%	40.0%	55.9%

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Primary Performance Statistics

2020/21 WDT Primary	End of EYFS – Good Level of Development	Y2 Phonics Autumn 2020	Y2 Phonics Summer 2021	Y2 RWM Combined	Y6 RWM Combined
Sylvester Primary	49%	83%	93%	53%	54%
The Grange Academy	45%	78%	96%	41%	60%
Whiston Willis Primary	62%	88%	91%	58%	70%
Widnes Academy	57%	88%	100%	46%	43%
Yew Tree Primary	30%	66%	85%	38%	42%

Pupil Numbers at October 2021 census

Year Group	HA	HHS	SPA	TGA	WDHS	WWPA	WA	YTPA	Year Totals
N1	-	-	2	1	-	0	0	0	3
N2	-	-	19	26	-	32	16	21	114
R	-	-	35	52	-	45	13	30	175
1	-	-	37	51	-	45	22	33	188
2	-	-	31	52	-	45	14	30	172
3	-	-	31	40	-	43	26	31	171
4	-	-	26	60	-	42	22	36	186
5	-	-	35	62	-	40	17	35	189
6	-	-	21	64	-	37	19	32	173
7	206	124	-	187	325	-	-	-	842
8	239	135	-	117	329	-	-	-	820
9	225	124	-	136	308	-	-	-	793
10	200	131	-	112	316	-	-	-	759
11	218	132	-	121	334	-	-	-	805
School Totals	1,088	646	237	1,081	1,612	329	149	248	5,390

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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.

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2021 and the projections made within the Trusts 3 year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face as a result of the pandemic.

Financial review

The majority of the Trust and Academy income is obtained from the Education and Skill Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA in the period ended 31st August 2021 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also received grants from the ESFA and other organisations. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period ended 31 August 2021, total expenditure (excluding depreciation and actuarial pension adjustments) of £34,462,301 (2020: £32,840,530) was covered by recurrent grant income from the ESFA together with other incoming resources which totalled £37,019,321 (2020: £34,257,089). After transfers to capital funds of £932,541 (2020: £164,949), there is a net revenue surplus for the year of £1,624,279 (2020: £1,237,610). Total funds carried forward amount to £39,206,710 (2020: £41,348,930) which include revenue funds of £4,808,539 (2020: £3,184,060). This is in line with the Trust's strategy to build and maintain adequate reserves.

Reserves policy

The Trustees and Governors review the level of reserves on an annual basis. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trusts current level of revenue reserves (total reserves less the amounts held in fixed asset reserve and the pension fund reserve) is £4,808,539 (2020: £3,184,060).

The Trustees have decided wherever possible to adopt a prudent approach to reserves and aim to build a group reserve of designated funds to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, capital improvements or developments and other emergencies. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received at the academies within the Trust. The Trust reserves have increased this year following the delay of expenditure during the Covid-19 lockdown of the academies. The Trust has plans to accelerate spending over the next 18 months to aid recovery and the development of the curriculum.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In addition, the net liability due to the Trusts participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) amounts to £23,671,000 (2020: £19,052,000). Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of Academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013. This guarantee provides comfort to the Trustees in the unlikely event of an Academy closure.

The free reserves of the Trust are £1,834,019 (2020: £1,082,075).

Utilisation of the surplus funds

The Trust has supplemented an element of its surplus to support projects using the schools' capital funding allocation.

Investment policy

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Trustees can deposit or invest funds not immediately required. It has been decided that cash balances are to be safeguarded by investing them in interest bearing current and deposit accounts with HSBC, a recognised sound commercial bank.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks to the Trust are documented and managed using a risk management policy and a risk register which is regularly reviewed. The main risks are seen as the loss of reputation through failing standards at the Academies, falling student numbers, failure to safeguard our students, national budget constraints to all schools and failure on high profile school-to-school support commissions. Key controls in place to mitigate these risks are:

- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels,
- Documented terms of reference for the committees and sub-committees of the Trust,
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting key areas of financial risk,
- Formal written and published policies for employees,
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable, and
- Robust due diligence procedures in place for new contracts and commissions.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The main financial risks are mitigated through the employment of sound financial management and internal control processes. Balanced budgets are set for each of the Academies within the Trust and limited budgets are further delegated to departments and faculties. Actual performance against agreed budgets is closely monitored by the Trust's central finance team and via regular (termly) meetings of the finance committee of each LGB. Bank and cash reconciliations are carried out routinely and signed by the authorised officers of the Trust's central finance team. All orders and payments are signed off by the finance team with appropriate segregation of duties in place. An exercise to ensure fixed asset registers are in place is ongoing and there are processes in place for the acquisition, adaptation and disposal of assets. Payroll is outsourced and checked by more than one individual each month. The appropriateness and integrity of internal controls is assessed and reported to the Trustees by the responsible officer and external auditors.

The security of data is administered by an in-house team of IT professionals. Remaining risks are mitigated to a large extent via comprehensive insurance policies.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Fundraising

Under the provision of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 the Trust should provide information on fundraising practices.

The Trust in its approach to fundraising follows and undertakes the following:

- Voluntary Contributions - outlined in its charging and remissions policy Section 5, Voluntary contributions can be invited from parents towards the cost of the academy activities which are related to the life and work of the academy. Such contributions will be genuinely voluntary and no child whose parents feel unable to contribute will be treated differently from the rest.
- Charitable fundraising takes place at each school for charities nominated at each school.
- Other school organised events (fete's, bingo etc.) are undertaken through voluntary donations of prizes and time. Income raised is used to purchase resources that the school identify
- All charity and school fundraising is undertaken internally and we do not currently make use of commercial participators/professional fundraisers.
- All internal fundraising is monitored and reviewed with the Trust audit systems.
- Any complaints would be reviewed in line with the Trust complaints policy.
- All fundraising events are voluntary and undertaken in a manner to support local and national charities and for school based events to also support proactive community engagement.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Annual energy usage and associated annual greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions are reported pursuant to the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") that came into force 1 April 2019.

Organisational boundary

In accordance with the 2018 Regulations, the energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions are for those assets owned or operated within the UK only. This includes all 8 schools controlled during the reporting period along with minibuses and employee-owned vehicles used for business mileage.

Reporting period

The annual reporting period is 1 September to 31 August each year and the energy and carbon emissions are aligned to this period.

	2021	2020
	kWh	kWh
<i>Energy Consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	6,565,861	6,571,102
- Purchased electricity from the grid	3,136,470	3,266,458
- Fuel consumed for transport	<u>5,072</u>	<u>14,904</u>
	<u>9,707,403</u>	<u>9,852,464</u>
	Metric tonnes	Metric tonnes
Emissions of CO2 equivalent		
<u>Scope 1</u>		
- Gas combustion	1,202.6	1,208.2
- Transport – Trust owned vehicles (mini-buses)	0.7	3.0
<u>Scope 2</u>		
- Purchased electricity (location-based)	666.0	761.5
<u>Scope 3</u>		
- Transport – Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	0.5	0.8
Total gross emissions	<u>1,869.8</u>	<u>1,973.5</u>
<i>Intensity Ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.353	0.378
Tonnes CO2e per square meter floor area	<u>0.032</u>	<u>0.034</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2021 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The electricity and gas consumption were compiled from invoice records. Mileage claims and odometer readings were used to calculate usage associated with scope 3 employee-owned vehicles and scope 1 Trust owned vehicles respectively. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are divided into mandatory and voluntary emissions according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further indirect emissions that occur as a consequence of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Intensity measurement

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO₂e) per pupil and per square meter floor area.

Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn census of the respective year. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Trust have continued to monitor energy consumption closely this year via smart meters across all sites. Furthermore, the use of video conferencing technology continues to be utilised regularly, particularly for staff meetings to reduce the need for travel between sites.

Plan for future periods

COVID-19 and the implications for future Trust plans and risk

In the wake of the pandemic the importance of personalising the Trust's approach to meeting individual need is greater than ever. The return to full time education provision requires increased flexibility and contingency planning in responding to the challenges arising from the pandemic in order to ensure that pupils are supported to fulfil their potential academically, socially and emotionally.

The Trust is confident that the financial position reported within the financial statements to 31 August 2021 and the projections made within the Trusts 3 year financial budget projections give the Trust the financial scope to be able to respond to the challenges which the whole education sector will face as a result of the pandemic.

The Trust has a collaborative working approach across all of its academies and therefore has the ability to utilise resources across the whole Trust where required. This give the Trust significant flexibility to be able to deal with issues as they arise as well as allowing them to plan for multiple potential scenarios as the sector moves beyond the pandemic over the next 12 months.

WADE DEACON TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The overall performance in this reporting period was extremely robust and as a consequence will directly reinforce the Trust's medium to long-term strategy. The Trust's main annual objectives for the next year are:

- To ensure the Academy Improvement Strategy that creates the culture, attitude and aspiration necessary to secure successful outcomes for young people is embedded into all Trust Schools.
- To build on the excellent reputation of our Academy.
- To seek options for growth of the Trust in line with its strategic development plan.
- To strive for continuous improvement in examinations results and all indicators of performance in all of the Trust's Academies.
- To seek to increase numbers on roll at undersubscribed schools.
- To build adequate financial reserves to fund building and other investment needs.
- Development of the roles and separation of duties at each layer of Governance.

Key to success is the leadership and management of the Trust, ensuring that high quality leaders are in place through a rigorous recruitment system. The Trust will also take steps to identify future leaders within the Academy staff members and support them to gain middle and senior leadership opportunities, thus adding to the strengths of the Trust and all its academies.

Excellent standards of behaviour will be maintained to create a well ordered community with the learning and the support of students at the heart.

Teaching and learning will continue to have pace, purpose, variety and rigour. Students will be able to progress as a result of a suitable curriculum and relevant personalised programmes of study.

Staff will be confident practitioners with appropriate professional development opportunities. Educational outcomes in all performance indicators will be well above national averages and the Academies will be in the "high performing" category. The strategic development of the Academies will be effectively planned, monitored and supported by well-equipped and committed local governing bodies and the main Board of Trustees.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The auditors, WR Partners, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 08 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
Trustee

WADE DEACON TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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

Governance

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
I Hann	4	6
C McLeod (Vice-Chair)	2	6
J K Woodroofe	6	6
M Dickinson	5	6
N Mcgee	5	6
C E Marsland	6	6
D Darlington	6	6
P Fowler (Chair)	6	6
P Choudhary	4	6
M Murphy	4	6

WADE DEACON TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The main responsibilities of the Board and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the executive to account for the educational performance of the trust's academies and their pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Oversee the financial performance of the trust and make sure its money is well spent.
- Ensure that appropriate and correct decision making is undertaken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that the Trust adequately meets its responsibilities to the Trusts' stakeholders.
- Provide a link to local School Governing bodies who meet on a regular basis to add an additional layer of governance challenge to the Trust Executive Team.

The Trust completed the DfE's School resource management self-assessment checklist during the year.

The checklist helps governing bodies and trust boards to:

- Check they have appropriate financial management and governance arrangements;
- Check they are meeting the right standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The outcomes of the review were very positive. The Trust Board was subject to significant change just over two years ago. A significant amount of work was undertaken in ensuring that the Board structure was such that it was able to challenge and lead the Trust to ensure that it meets its strategic objectives.

The Trust Board will be looking to engage our newly appointed independent internal auditors to undertake a review of our governance procedures as part of next year's internal audit cycle and will welcome any recommendations which may come from this.

The Audit & Compliance Committee, which is a committee of the Trust Board, is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the Academy and reporting to the Trust Board. The Audit & Compliance Committee meets at least once a term or more frequently should the need arise. During the year to 31 August 2021 the Committee has formally met 5 times.

In relation to the Audit & Compliance Committee the main responsibilities and issues dealt with during the year were as follows:

- The initial review and detailed analysis of the annual budget;
- The regular monitoring of actual expenditure and income against budget;
- Ensuring the annual financial statements are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; the Charities SORP, the Academies Accounts Direction and other guidance issued by the ESFA;
- Ensuring that all of the financial returns required by the ESFA are correctly prepared and submitted on time;
- Capital project monitoring, procurement and reporting;
- Authorising changes to the Trust's personnel establishment;
- Reviewing the reports of the internal auditors and ensuring all responsible officer requirements are met.

WADE DEACON TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
C McLeod (Vice-Chair)	1	1
J K Woodroofe	5	5
M Dickinson	5	5

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 year by:

- The economic, efficient and effective use of all resources to produce better educational results.
- The avoidance of waste and extravagance.
- The prudent and economical administration of the organisation.
- The establishment and maintenance of a system of financial governance, including sound internal spending controls, keeping up to date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and timely reporting.
- Ensuring all financial transactions represent value for money.

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 Wade Deacon Trust for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

WADE DEACON TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The risk and control framework

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

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

Internal Audit

In previous years our independent auditors WR Partners provided both internal and external audit services, however following changes to the Academies Handbook regulations following a tender process Beaver and Struthers were appointed as our independent internal audit partners in January 2021.

The role of internal auditor includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- GDPR Compliance
- A review of the current IT Strategy across the Trust
- A review of curriculum planning and how this links to budgeting and finances within the Trust

This is part of an ongoing three year contract with the internal auditors which will look at a number of areas across the Trust across this timeframe.

On an annual basis the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the Audit & Compliance Committee on the operation of the systems and controls and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The internal audit reports provided noted some management actions in each area to undertake in order to further improve the systems and controls in place and the Senior Leadership Team are actioning all of the points raised in order to ensure improved systems and controls in these areas.

WADE DEACON TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, Mr G Kelly has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:-

- The work of the internal auditor;
- The work of the external auditor;
- The financial management and governance self assessment process;
- The work of the senior leaders and 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 and a plan to address areas for improvement and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 08 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
Chair



Mr G Kelly
Accounting Officer

WADE DEACON TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

As accounting officer of Wade Deacon Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 to 2021.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 to 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.



Mr G Kelly
Accounting Officer

08 December 2021

WADE DEACON TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees (who are also the directors of Wade Deacon Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 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 accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 08 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



P Fowler
Trustee

WADE DEACON TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Wade Deacon Trust for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

WADE DEACON TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS102 and the Companies Act 2006), the relevant tax compliance regulations, employment law, Health and Safety Regulations and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the company is complying with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with key management to understand where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal entry testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant accounting estimates used in preparing the financial statements.

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WADE DEACON TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Use of our report

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



Fran Johnson BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of WR Partners

Chartered Accountants

Drake House

Gadbrook Park

Northwich

Cheshire

CW9 7RA

.....15.12.21

WADE DEACON TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO WADE DEACON TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 18 February 2019 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 Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Wade Deacon 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 Wade Deacon Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Wade Deacon Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Wade Deacon Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education 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 Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 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.



Reporting Accountant

WR Partners
Drake House
Gadbrook Park
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7RA

Dated:16.12.21.....

WADE DEACON TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General	Fixed asset £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	99,680	-	1,468,540	1,568,220	838,882
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	359,327	36,067,000	-	36,426,327	33,801,704
- Funding for teaching school	25	-	200,377	-	200,377	295,252
Other trading activities	5	292,937	-	-	292,937	135,546
Total		751,944	36,267,377	1,468,540	38,487,861	35,071,384
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	-	35,496,259	2,138,517	37,634,776	36,197,176
- Teaching School		-	152,042	-	152,042	241,945
Total	6	-	35,648,301	2,138,517	37,786,818	36,439,121
Net income/(expenditure)		751,944	619,076	(669,977)	701,043	(1,367,737)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(932,541)	932,541	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	(3,433,000)	-	(3,433,000)	185,000
Revaluation of fixed assets	12	-	-	589,737	589,737	-
Net movement in funds		751,944	(3,746,465)	852,301	(2,142,220)	(1,182,737)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,082,075	(16,950,015)	57,216,870	41,348,930	42,531,667
Total funds carried forward		1,834,019	(20,696,480)	58,069,171	39,206,710	41,348,930

WADE DEACON TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2020	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £		Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	24,587	-	814,295	838,882
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	376,445	33,425,259	-	33,801,704
- Funding for teaching school	25	-	295,252	-	295,252
Other trading activities	5	135,546	-	-	135,546
Total		536,578	33,720,511	814,295	35,071,384
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	-	33,869,585	2,327,591	36,197,176
- Teaching School		-	241,945	-	241,945
Total	6	-	34,111,530	2,327,591	36,439,121
Net income/(expenditure)		536,578	(391,019)	(1,513,296)	(1,367,737)
Transfers between funds	17	-	(164,949)	164,949	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	19	-	185,000	-	185,000
Net movement in funds		536,578	(370,968)	(1,348,347)	(1,182,737)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		545,497	(16,579,047)	58,565,217	42,531,667
Total funds carried forward		1,082,075	(16,950,015)	57,216,870	41,348,930

WADE DEACON TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		57,420,132		56,534,205
Current assets					
Debtors	13	1,160,137		1,173,801	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,622,603		4,343,989	
		<u>6,782,740</u>		<u>5,517,790</u>	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,295,200)		(1,606,123)	
Net current assets			5,487,540		3,911,667
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>62,907,672</u>		<u>60,445,872</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		(29,962)		(44,942)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability			<u>62,877,710</u>		<u>60,400,930</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	19		(23,671,000)		(19,052,000)
Total net assets			<u>39,206,710</u>		<u>41,348,930</u>
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	17				
- Fixed asset funds			58,069,171		57,216,870
- Restricted income funds			2,974,520		2,101,985
- Pension reserve			(23,671,000)		(19,052,000)
Total restricted funds			<u>37,372,691</u>		<u>40,266,855</u>
Unrestricted income funds	17		1,834,019		1,082,075
Total funds			<u>39,206,710</u>		<u>41,348,930</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

The accounts on pages 48 to 80 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 08 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



P Fowler

Chair

Company Number 08278808

WADE DEACON TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	20		2,259,761		863,249
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,020,540		784,086	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		448,000		30,209	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,434,707)		(836,276)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(966,167)		(21,981)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of other loan		(14,980)		(14,981)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(14,980)		(14,981)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			1,278,614		826,287
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			4,343,989		3,517,702
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			5,622,603		4,343,989

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable activities

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

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

Land and buildings	2% on cost
Assets under construction	not depreciated
Computer equipment	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation is not charged on these assets 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.

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement (Continued)

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

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Capital grants	-	1,468,540	1,468,540	814,295
Other donations	99,680	-	99,680	24,587
	99,680	1,468,540	1,568,220	838,882

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	29,281,687	29,281,687	27,671,259
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
UIFSM	-	234,027	234,027	-
Pupil premium	-	2,352,671	2,352,671	2,312,376
Others	-	1,594,596	1,594,596	1,791,112
	-	33,462,981	33,462,981	31,774,747
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	1,532,724	1,532,724	1,319,520
Other restricted grants	-	102,359	102,359	17,160
	-	1,635,083	1,635,083	1,336,680
Exceptional government funding				
Coronavirus exceptional support	-	472,909	472,909	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	156,031	156,031	-
	-	628,940	628,940	-
Other funding				
Teaching School	-	200,377	200,377	295,252
Other incoming resources	359,327	339,996	699,323	690,277
	359,327	540,373	899,700	985,529
Total funding	359,327	36,267,377	36,626,704	34,096,956

The Trust received £473k of funding for catch-up premium and Covid-19 testing and costs incurred in respect of this funding totalled £415k, with the remaining £58k to be spent in 2021/22.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hire of facilities	6,745	-	6,745	53,546
Staff consultancy	286,192	-	286,192	82,000
	<u>292,937</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,937</u>	<u>135,546</u>

6 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
		Premises £	Other £		
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	22,824,272	1,198,202	2,571,199	26,593,673	26,023,097
- Allocated support costs	3,779,534	5,056,757	2,204,812	11,041,103	10,174,079
Teaching School					
- Direct costs	99,030	-	1,530	100,560	139,052
- Allocated support costs	-	-	51,482	51,482	102,893
	<u>26,702,836</u>	<u>6,254,959</u>	<u>4,829,023</u>	<u>37,786,818</u>	<u>36,439,121</u>

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	20,000	18,500
- Other services	11,210	15,290
Operating lease rentals	2,357,487	2,309,935
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,102,109	2,327,591
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	36,408	-
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	333,000	327,000
	<u>3,186,214</u>	<u>5,108,316</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7 Central services

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

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services.

The academy trust charges for these services on a flat 4% of income basis.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wade Deacon High School	327,620	312,604
Hillside High School	152,846	157,649
Widnes Academy	30,249	29,238
Halewood Academy	297,690	262,720
The Grange Academy	226,086	201,537
Sylvester Primary Academy	38,184	36,901
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	49,265	45,549
Yew Tree Primary Academy	49,318	47,794
	<u>1,171,258</u>	<u>1,093,992</u>

8 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
All from restricted funds:		
Direct costs		
Educational operations	26,593,673	26,023,097
Teaching School	100,560	139,052
Support costs		
Educational operations	11,041,103	10,174,079
Teaching School	51,482	102,893
	<u>37,786,818</u>	<u>36,439,121</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Charitable activities

(Continued)

	Teaching School	Educational operations	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs	-	4,156,308	4,156,308	3,381,977
Depreciation	-	940,315	940,315	1,000,864
Technology costs	-	88,255	88,255	91,718
Premises costs	-	4,116,442	4,116,442	4,030,084
Legal costs	-	144,746	144,746	69,386
Other support costs	51,482	1,563,605	1,615,087	1,667,696
Governance costs	-	31,432	31,432	35,247
	<u>51,482</u>	<u>11,041,103</u>	<u>11,092,585</u>	<u>10,276,972</u>

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	18,875,554	18,148,257
Social security costs	1,931,485	1,828,043
Pension costs	4,870,888	4,755,094
Amounts paid to employees	<u>25,677,927</u>	<u>24,731,394</u>
Agency staff costs	1,000,958	760,103
Staff restructuring costs	23,951	12,895
Amounts paid to staff	<u>26,702,836</u>	<u>25,504,392</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	684,182	548,296
Total staff expenditure	<u><u>27,387,018</u></u>	<u><u>26,052,688</u></u>
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	<u>23,951</u>	<u>12,895</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Staff

(Continued)

Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are four non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £23,951 (2020: £12,895). Individually the payments were £9,231, £6,240, £4,944 and £3,536.

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers and teaching support	531	529
Administration and support	171	163
Management	14	14
	<u>716</u>	<u>706</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	13	14
£70,001 - £80,000	8	7
£80,001 - £90,000	3	3
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	2
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employers national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,354,937 (2020: £1,321,967).

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

None of the trustees received remuneration or other benefits from an employment with the academy trust in the year ended 31 August 2021.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2021 nor for the year ended 31 August 2020.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £3,450 (2020: £3,450). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 September 2020	60,442,876	132,626	3,036,895	5,317,920	28,785	68,959,102
Transfer on conversion	695,425	(695,425)	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	580,473	1,206,422	620,692	27,120	2,434,707
Disposals	-	-	(130,029)	-	(4,560)	(134,589)
At 31 August 2021	61,138,301	17,674	4,113,288	5,938,612	51,345	71,259,220
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2020	6,402,043	-	2,690,208	3,304,822	27,824	12,424,897
Revaluation	-	-	(340,895)	(248,842)	-	(589,737)
On disposals	-	-	(93,621)	-	(4,560)	(98,181)
Charge for the year	1,191,026	-	298,086	606,612	6,385	2,102,109
At 31 August 2021	7,593,069	-	2,553,778	3,662,592	29,649	13,839,088
Net book value						
At 31 August 2021	53,545,232	17,674	1,559,510	2,276,020	21,696	57,420,132
At 31 August 2020	54,040,833	132,626	346,687	2,013,098	961	56,534,205

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	62,098	111,186
Other debtors	433,170	303,134
Prepayments and accrued income	664,869	759,481
	<u>1,160,137</u>	<u>1,173,801</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other loans	14,981	14,981
Trade creditors	682,655	1,018,709
Other creditors	14,708	9,280
Accruals and deferred income	582,856	563,153
	<u>1,295,200</u>	<u>1,606,123</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other loans	<u>29,962</u>	<u>44,942</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year **(Continued)**

Analysis of loans	2021	2020
	£	£
Wholly repayable within five years	44,943	59,923
Less: included in current liabilities	(14,981)	(14,981)
	<u>44,943</u>	<u>59,923</u>
Amounts included above	29,962	44,942
	<u>29,962</u>	<u>44,942</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	14,981	14,981
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	14,981	14,981
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	14,981	29,961
	<u>44,943</u>	<u>59,923</u>
	<u>44,943</u>	<u>59,923</u>

Loans of £74,904 from Salix for the provision of energy efficient lighting were provided in the year ended 31 August 2019 on the following terms - interest free and repayable over 5 years.

16 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	140,223	207,748
	<u>140,223</u>	<u>207,748</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	207,748	186,357
Released from previous years	(207,748)	(186,357)
Resources deferred in the year	140,223	207,748
	<u>140,223</u>	<u>207,748</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	<u>140,223</u>	<u>207,748</u>

The main elements of deferred income at 31 August 2021 are rates relief grant income and Universal Infant Free School Meal grant income relating to the subsequent academic year.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	2,039,007	29,281,687	(27,872,196)	(932,541)	2,515,957
UIFSM	-	234,027	(174,631)	-	59,396
Pupil premium	-	2,352,671	(2,122,512)	-	230,159
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	1,594,596	(1,536,901)	-	57,695
Other government grants	-	2,264,023	(2,264,023)	-	-
Teaching School	62,978	200,377	(152,042)	-	111,313
Other restricted funds	-	339,996	(339,996)	-	-
Pension reserve	(19,052,000)	-	(1,186,000)	(3,433,000)	(23,671,000)
	<u>(16,950,015)</u>	<u>36,267,377</u>	<u>(35,648,301)</u>	<u>(4,365,541)</u>	<u>(20,696,480)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	57,216,870	1,468,540	(2,138,517)	1,522,278	58,069,171
	<u>57,216,870</u>	<u>1,468,540</u>	<u>(2,138,517)</u>	<u>1,522,278</u>	<u>58,069,171</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>40,266,855</u>	<u>37,735,917</u>	<u>(37,786,818)</u>	<u>(2,843,263)</u>	<u>37,372,691</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,082,075	751,944	-	-	1,834,019
	<u>1,082,075</u>	<u>751,944</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,834,019</u>
Total funds	<u>41,348,930</u>	<u>38,487,861</u>	<u>(37,786,818)</u>	<u>(2,843,263)</u>	<u>39,206,710</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

General fund

Represents amounts derived from the hire of facilities and investment income.

General Annual Grant

This represents the balance remaining from core funding provided by the EFSA for the schools core educational activities.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Other Restricted General Funds

This represents the balance remaining from other funding provided by the EFSA/DfE and local authorities for the academy trust's educational activities.

Included with the other ESFA revenue funds is Covid Catch Up Funds carried forward of £57,695.

Pension Reserve

This is the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit attributable to the school and is derived from the report of the actuary produced as at 31 August 2021.

Fixed Asset Restricted Funds

This represents the value of fixed assets shown on the balance sheet plus any other assets and liabilities (including cash) relating to the Trust's capital projects. Transfers between restricted and fixed asset funds represent authorised purchases of fixed assets from revenue funds.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,391,282	27,671,259	(26,858,585)	(164,949)	2,039,007
Pupil premium	-	2,312,376	(2,312,376)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	1,791,112	(1,791,112)	-	-
Other government grants	-	1,336,680	(1,336,680)	-	-
Teaching School	9,671	295,252	(241,945)	-	62,978
Other restricted funds	-	313,832	(313,832)	-	-
Pension reserve	(17,980,000)	-	(1,257,000)	185,000	(19,052,000)
	<u>(16,579,047)</u>	<u>33,720,511</u>	<u>(34,111,530)</u>	<u>20,051</u>	<u>(16,950,015)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	58,565,217	814,295	(2,327,591)	164,949	57,216,870
	<u>58,565,217</u>	<u>814,295</u>	<u>(2,327,591)</u>	<u>164,949</u>	<u>57,216,870</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>41,986,170</u>	<u>34,534,806</u>	<u>(36,439,121)</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>40,266,855</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	545,497	536,578	-	-	1,082,075
	<u>545,497</u>	<u>536,578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,082,075</u>
Total funds	<u>42,531,667</u>	<u>35,071,384</u>	<u>(36,439,121)</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>41,348,930</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds (Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:		
Wade Deacon High School	2,235,877	1,839,249
Hillside High School	44,617	152,194
Widnes Academy	115,028	109,274
Halewood Academy	695,418	115,018
The Grange Academy	1,213,509	516,513
Sylvester Primary Academy	13,012	36,251
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	147,662	94,570
Yew Tree Primary Academy	92,583	49,411
Central services	250,833	271,580
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	4,808,539	3,184,060
Restricted fixed asset fund	58,069,171	57,216,870
Pension reserve	(23,671,000)	(19,052,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds	39,206,710	41,348,930
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Trust has seen revenue reserves increase during the year. Due to Covid-19 closures and restrictions facing suppliers due to the pandemic a number of projects have been delayed beyond the year end and therefore these resources remain unspent at 31st August 2021. £1m of resources is included within the above figures as either unspent Pupil Premium or Catch Up Premium as well as project spend which whilst not committed to at the year-end but is planned within the budgeted spend for 2021/22 and beyond. The Trust is committed to implementing these plans over the next 18 months.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

17 Funds

(Continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff	Other support staff costs	Educational supplies	Other costs excluding depreciation	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wade Deacon High School	7,103,547	784,973	644,555	675,060	9,208,135	8,630,056
Hillside High School	3,191,570	463,122	299,357	671,608	4,625,657	4,345,919
Widnes Academy	684,801	91,970	20,415	238,964	1,036,150	2,396,211
Halewood Academy	4,804,328	470,373	437,202	1,730,440	7,442,343	7,000,940
The Grange Academy	4,381,782	357,393	347,151	1,204,567	6,290,893	6,296,090
Sylvester Primary Academy	988,528	127,217	40,924	256,574	1,413,243	1,245,626
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	1,148,065	175,243	71,542	304,004	1,698,854	1,528,165
Yew Tree Primary Academy	1,477,978	160,462	81,193	274,545	1,994,178	1,891,482
Central services	383,428	579,238	247,807	382,375	1,210,473	1,389,732
	<u>24,164,027</u>	<u>3,209,991</u>	<u>2,190,146</u>	<u>5,738,137</u>	<u>34,919,926</u>	<u>34,724,221</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds:		Total Funds
	£	General	Fixed asset	£
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	57,420,132	57,420,132
Current assets	1,834,019	4,254,739	693,982	6,782,740
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,280,219)	(14,981)	(1,295,200)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(29,962)	(29,962)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(23,671,000)	-	(23,671,000)
Total net assets	<u>1,834,019</u>	<u>(20,696,480)</u>	<u>58,069,171</u>	<u>39,206,710</u>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	56,534,205	56,534,205
Current assets	1,082,075	3,685,636	750,079	5,517,790
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(1,583,651)	(22,472)	(1,606,123)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(44,942)	(44,942)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(19,052,000)	-	(19,052,000)
Total net assets	1,082,075	(16,950,015)	57,216,870	41,348,930

19 Pension and similar obligations

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- 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. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £3,825,094 (2020: £2,923,836).

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.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.4% to 19.2% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% 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.

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Total contributions made	2021	2020
	£	£
Employer's contributions	1,486,000	1,394,000
Employees' contributions	332,000	305,000
	<u>1,818,000</u>	<u>1,699,000</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions	2021	2020
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	3.7
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.8	2.4
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.8
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.8	2.4
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.0	50.0
	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>

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

	2021	2020
	Years	Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.1	21.0
- Females	24.1	23.9
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.6	22.4
- Females	26.0	25.8
	<u>26.0</u>	<u>25.8</u>

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme	2021 Fair value £	2020 Fair value £
Equities	9,473,000	7,280,000
Gilts	1,544,000	943,000
Corporate bonds	6,487,000	5,346,000
Property	1,952,000	1,534,000
Other assets	385,000	696,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total market value of assets	19,841,000	15,799,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,459,000 (2020: £382,000).

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	2,326,000	2,287,000
Past service cost	-	26,000
Interest income	(286,000)	(278,000)
Interest cost	619,000	605,000
Administration expenses	13,000	11,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating charge	2,672,000	2,651,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2021	2020
	£	£
At 1 September 2020	34,851,000	32,171,000
Current service cost	2,326,000	2,287,000
Interest cost	619,000	605,000
Employee contributions	332,000	305,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	5,606,000	(81,000)
Benefits paid	(235,000)	(473,000)
Past service cost	-	26,000
Effect of non-routine settlements and administration expenses	13,000	11,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2021	43,512,000	34,851,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
At 1 September 2020	15,799,000	14,191,000
Interest income	286,000	278,000
Actuarial gain	2,173,000	104,000
Employer contributions	1,486,000	1,394,000
Employee contributions	332,000	305,000
Benefits paid	(235,000)	(473,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 August 2021	19,841,000	15,799,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20	Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2021	2020
		£	£
	Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	701,043	(1,367,737)
	Adjusted for:		
	Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,468,540)	(814,295)
	Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	853,000	930,000
	Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	333,000	327,000
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,102,109	2,327,591
	Loss on disposal of fixed assets	36,408	-
	Decrease in debtors	13,664	529,098
	(Decrease) in creditors	(310,923)	(1,068,408)
	Net cash provided by operating activities	2,259,761	863,249

21	Analysis of changes in net funds	1 September	Cash flows	31 August
		2020		2021
		£	£	£
	Cash	4,343,989	1,278,614	5,622,603
	Loans falling due within one year	(14,981)	-	(14,981)
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(44,942)	14,980	(29,962)
		4,284,066	1,293,594	5,577,660

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

22 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	2,404,103	2,380,739
Amounts due in two and five years	12,560,433	13,052,320
Amounts due after five years	30,574,832	33,081,576
	<u>45,539,368</u>	<u>48,514,635</u>

Included in the leasing commitments is the PFI unitary charge for the remaining period of the contract,

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

23 Related party transactions

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

Expenditure related party transactions

Mr C McLeod is a trustee of the trust and in a previous period a close family member was employed as a teacher at one of the Trust's schools. During the year to 31 August 2021 this employee remains in post. The appointment was made in open competition and Mr McLeod was not involved in the decision-making process regarding their appointment. The close family member is paid within the normal pay scale for their role and receives no special treatment as a result of their relationship to a trustee. This appointment was made prior to the 1 April 2019 deadline noted above and therefore not reported to the ESFA.

Wade Deacon High School have used Riverside College to provide alternative provision support to the School for a number of years. On 1 September 2019 Ms ME Murphy was appointed as a Trustee. Ms Murphy is the Principal of Riverside College. During the year to 31 August 2021 the School incurred charges of £Nil (2020: £5k). The agreement for the provision of these services was made prior to the appointment of Ms Murphy as a Trustee and prior to the 1 April 2019 deadline noted above and therefore not reported to the ESFA.

Mrs M E Murphy is a trustee of the trust and is Principal of Riverside College. The Trust has appointed an apprentice to The Grange Academy utilising Riverside College to provide the training associated with the role utilising £2k (2020:£Nil) of the Trust's Apprenticeship levy balance. Prior agreement to this transaction was obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) prior to undertaking these arrangements.

24 Members' liability

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

WADE DEACON TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

25 Teaching School trading account

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Direct income				
Other direct income		200,377		295,252
Direct costs				
Direct staff costs	100,560		139,052	
Other costs				
Other support costs	51,482		102,893	
Total expenditure		(152,042)		(241,945)
Surplus from all sources		48,335		53,307
Teaching School balances at 1 September 2020		62,978		9,671
Teaching School balances at 31 August 2021		111,313		62,978