

Registered number: 10525065

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021



Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1
Trustees' report	2 - 11
Governance statement	12 - 16
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	17
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	18
Independent auditors' report on the financial statements	19 - 22
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	23 - 24
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	25
Balance sheet	26
Statement of cash flows	27
Notes to the financial statements	28 - 56

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Richard Williams Jane Sutton Lee Woodward Margaret Jolley (appointed 21 June 2021)
Trustees	Richard Williams, Chair ¹ Stuart Jones, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer ¹ Diane Evans Claire Boliver Ruth Forster (resigned 15 December 2020) Neil Wainwright (appointed 5 July 2021) Timothy Pugh (appointed 12 July 2021) Glenda Francis (appointed 12 July 2021) ¹ Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
Company registered number	10525065
Company name	Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
Principal and registered office	Bridge Cross Road Burntwood Staffordshire WS7 2DB
Company Secretary	S J Thorp
Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer	Stuart Jones
Senior management team	Stuart Jones, Executive Headteacher Sharon Thorp, Trust Business Manager Nicola Mason, Headteacher – Chase Terrace Technology College
Independent auditors	Dains LLP 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc Education Client Services Third Floor, Queen Square Wolverhampton WV1 1RF
Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 August 2021

The Directors of Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust (SSMAT) present their annual report, together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. Under company law, the annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report.

The Trust came into being on 1 January 2017, and was formed to coincide with conversion of Chase Terrace Academy (CTA) (then known as Chase Terrace Technology College (CTTC)) to academy status. At this point, another school was about to join the Trust. However, due to specific and unforeseeable circumstances, a very late decision was made such that this did not happen. The Trust therefore effectively became a single academy trust. The Trust had been conceived with a 'no lead school' model, and so an Executive Director had been appointed for the Trust (the previous Headteacher of CTTC), with a new Headteacher (previously a Deputy Headteacher at the school) taking up the post at Chase Terrace. This Headteacher retired on 31 August 2019 and a new leadership structure was created by the Trust Board, with the Executive Director becoming the Executive Headteacher and resuming the substantive headteacher role. The newly appointed Head of School (also previously a Deputy Headteacher) took on responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school, with the Executive Headteacher responsible for strategic decision making and continuing to act as Accounting Officer. The Trust Business Manager, who also works for the ESFA as a School Resource Management Advisor, acts as the Trust's Finance Officer.

CTA is a large secondary school for students aged 11 to 18, serving the community of Burntwood and the surrounding area. There are approximately 1,350 students on roll.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Multi-Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The Trustees of Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust are also the Directors of the charitable company, for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

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

c. Trustees' indemnities

The Trust has opted into the Department for Education's (DfE's) Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) - an alternative to insurance, whereby UK Government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme covers Directors (Trustees) and officers from claims that arise from negligent acts, errors or omissions that occur during the course of Trust business and provides unlimited cover. It is not possible to quantify the element of the indemnity that relates specifically to Directors and officers, within the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Directors of the Trust are appointed by existing Trust members, in accordance with the Trust's Articles of Association. The chairs of the Local Governing Body, and each Trust and Governing Body committee, are elected to their roles at the first meeting of the academic year. Directors and Governors are appointed on the basis of the skills and experience that they bring to the role, taking into account the skills and experience of other Directors and Governors. The key role of a Trust Director is to provide a strategic steer to the realisation of the Trust's vision, in accordance with its core values. The Trust Board also provides stakeholder representation, through the inclusion of members of the Governing Body of CTA as Directors on the Trust Board. Trust Board Directors are elected to serve for a period of four years.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for each new Director depends on their experience. The Trust reviews the training needs of its Directors on an annual basis, organising both group and individual training that enables Directors to carry out their roles effectively. This practice is replicated for Governors serving on the Local Governing Body of CTA.

f. Organisational structure

The Trust's Scheme of Delegation outlines, in detail, the powers of authorisation and degree of involvement that apply to a range of actions and policy issues, delineating the respective roles of the Trust Board, Executive Headteacher, Local Governing Body and Head of School.

The Directors are responsible for the formulation of strategic goals and a plan for their achievement, including the development of supporting finance and asset management strategies. The budget is formulated by the Executive Headteacher, in consultation with the Local Governing Body, senior leadership team and Trust Business Manager. It is approved by the Trust Board.

The Trust Board is responsible for creating, revising and implementing a comprehensive set of Trust-wide policies, which provide the foundation for the consistent application of good practice in relation to issues concerning strategic management, human resources, risk and compliance, safeguarding, finance and premises. These are complemented by other more specific policies that are the responsibility of the Local Governing Body.

The Executive Headteacher works in close partnership with the Head of School and other colleagues in leadership positions. Leadership roles are delegated across the senior team.

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

The arrangements for determining the pay of SSMAT key management personnel are set out in the Trust's Pay Policy, which incorporates the stipulations of the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) and the Green Book document for support staff. The pay of the Executive Headteacher is determined on an annual basis, by the Trust Board, consistent with the provisions of the Pay Policy. Senior staff pay is determined, within the parameters of the Trust's Pay Policy, by the Executive Headteacher, and reported to the Local Governing Body and Trust Board.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Structure, governance and management (continued)

h. Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

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

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time £

Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	6,605,507
Percentage of 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 - %

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

SSMAT has no structural or commercial affiliation to any other organisation. All business and pecuniary interests of staff and Directors are recorded and reviewed annually.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Objectives and activities

a. Objects and aims

SSMAT was conceived as a developing partnership of local schools, working together to help young people to become effective learners who take their opportunities. The aim was that schools across the Trust would work together for continuous improvement with imagination and ambition, providing an outstandingly inclusive and successful network of schools, where all students thrive and excel.

The Trust took its inspiration (and its name) from Stephen Sutton, who grew up in Burntwood and attended CTTTC. Stephen was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 15. By the time he died, in 2014 (at the age of 19), he had raised over £3 million for the Teenage Cancer Trust through his fundraising activities. Stephen inspired people all over the world through his words and actions. Through his incredible positivity, creativity, courage and ambition, Stephen's memory provides the best possible role model. The Trust's core values are:

- A passion to learn and to succeed
- Honesty and integrity
- Positivity and bravery
- Creativity and a sense of fun

b. Objectives, strategies and activities

The Trust is committed to achieving the highest possible standards, through a flexible, inclusive and supportive approach and a commitment to learn from the best educational practice. As a strongly community-focused Trust, there is close engagement with local industry - to create improved life and employment prospects for young people.

c. Public benefit

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust 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 a Trust that offers a broad and balanced curriculum.

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES:

In summer '21, as in '20, throughout the country, examinations were cancelled and schools were required to submit Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for all GCSE, A level and vocational courses. The '21 examination results (CAGs) will not feature in any formal accountability measures or DfE performance tables. Nevertheless, they are important indicators of the progress that is being made.

In '21, at GCSE, the average grade was a '5=' (as was the case in '20 - an improvement on the average '4+' grade in '19). The 'Basics' measure (Grade '5' or above in both English and Maths), at 47% of all students, was much better than the profile in '19 (36%) and a little lower than the 51% figure of '20. The improved attainment of

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

disadvantaged students, from an average grade of '3+' in '19 to '4=' in '20 was sustained in '21 ('4=').

At A level, improvement in the average grade per course was also sustained – from 'C-' in '19 to 'B-' in both '20 and '21. For Level 3 vocational courses, there was also an improved profile, with an average grade of 'Distinction+' in '21, compared to 'Distinction –' in '19 and 'Distinction=' in '20.

In summer '20, on a national basis, the number of higher grades awarded (at both GCSE and A level), had been higher than in previous years. However, there were three factors that, together, indicated a real terms improvement:

- The degree of uplift for the school's grade profile was significantly stronger than the national increase (based on the information currently available)
- In recent years, the amount of consistency between the school's predicted grade profile and the actual results had been much narrower than the difference between that year's CAGs and the previous year's results.
- The mock exam grade profile was much stronger for that cohort than had been the case for the previous year's cohort (on a 'like for like' basis).

Sustaining this level of performance in '21 reinforces the evidence of 'real-terms' improvement.

The school's performance profile is considered carefully by Directors, Governors and senior staff and this analysis influences improvement plans and intervention strategies, maximising the potential for sustained continuous improvement.

PROGRESSION INTO FURTHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT WITH STRUCTURED TRAINING:

CTA has earned a strong reputation for the quality of its careers information and guidance and for its links with the local community. It is a national 'Careers Hub' school, with a remit to disseminate good practice and support other schools with Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEAIG). This work contributes significantly to outstanding progression statistics at age 16.

The most recent progression data, for Key Stage 4 leavers in summer '21, indicates a participation rate (in full-time education (FTE), or in a job with structured learning) of 100% (compared to 96%, nationally). CTA has achieved all eight out of the eight national Gatsby benchmarks (of good careers guidance) and has achieved the 'Quality in Careers Standard', as recommended by the DfE.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

In the context of over-subscription, the school raised its Planned Admission Number (PAN) from 232 to 252 and then, from 2018, to 270, responding to the increased demand for places. However, in September '20, 29 fewer students were recruited than in the previous year (a reflection of a demographic 'dip' in student numbers in the school's catchment area, for this cohort) and recruitment in Sep. '21 was at a similar level.

In the sixth form, recruitment was weak for students starting courses in '18 and '19. However, as a result of an ambitious and detailed action plan, sixth form recruitment improved by 40% for the cohort starting in September '20. In Sep. '21, recruitment was a little weaker than in '20 but significantly stronger than the '18 and '19 profiles.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trust Board has a reasonable expectation that the 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.

Financial review

a. Overview

Over the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Trust received revenue income of £7,695,065 (2020 - £7,311,223) in government and local authority grants and £426,020 (2020 - £466,317) of other revenue income, i.e. £8,121,085 (2020 - £7,777,540) in total. Total revenue expenditure amounted to £7,895,545 (2020 - £7,323,211). Capital income of £1,929,951 (2020 - £44,826) was received over the same period.

b. Reserves policy

The Trust Board considers that the level of reserves held should take into account the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match them with commitments, including future capital projects, and the need to maintain sufficient reserves to cover any unexpected urgent expenditure requirements.

In recent years, Chase Terrace Academy has spent considerable amounts on priority capital projects, most notably a new sports hall, refurbishment of the newly acquired design and technology centre, extension and refurbishment of the library, new boilers and the school's ICT infrastructure. In a financially challenging context, with a demographic 'dip' in the local area, from 2009 through to 2015, the school managed to improve facilities and expand accommodation. This created the context in which it had been possible to increase the school's PAN. However, since the building of the Sports Hall in 2010, there had been no significant reserves until 2019. In 2018, the Trust Board set out (in its strategic plan) its intention to gradually increase reserves, but without compromising the ambitious plans for continuous improvement.

Following two consecutive years ('18/'19 and '19/'20) of significant in-year surpluses, it has been possible to structure longer-term budget modelling projections to build in (over the period '19 to '22) planned expenditure of £200K - £300K on site improvement priorities, whilst continuing to keep reserves of at least £200K. In '20/'21, significant success in capital bids (£2,000,000 in value) has further supported both site development and the accumulation/maintenance of significant reserves, which are now well in excess of the £200K benchmark that had been set.

The Trust held fund balances as at 31 August 2021 of £22,629,844 (2020 - £21,694,012), comprising an amount of £126,034 (2020 - £55,859) of unrestricted general funds, £25,180,846 (2020 - £23,607,532) in respect of restricted fixed asset funds, and £726,964 (2020 - £560,621) in respect of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve).

c. Investment policy

The Trust has an Investment Policy, as the basis for the strategic use of any surplus funds, although there has not yet been any practical need to employ the policy.

The Trust manages its cash balances in order to ensure that adequate funds are available in the current account to cover day-to-day working requirements and would invest any significant cash surpluses/reserves, in order to optimise the return on this investment, within the constraints that there must be no risk of loss in value, due to

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

the nature of the investment.

The Trust reviews levels of reserves annually and considers the nature of income and expenditure streams and the need to match commitments with income.

At the point where bank reserves exceed £400,000, the Trust Board has committed to monitor cash flow and current account balances regularly, to ensure that immediate financial commitments can be met (including payroll and other payments runs), ensuring that the current account has adequate balances to meet forthcoming commitments. The Trust Board identifies funds surplus to immediate cash requirements and, as appropriate, transfers those reserves to a high interest deposit account (taking into account any terms and conditions). The Trust's policy is to only invest funds in risk-free and short-term interest-bearing accessible deposit accounts and/or risk-free investment accounts authorised by the Financial Services Authority. In these circumstances, the Board periodically (at least annually), reviews interest rates and makes comparisons with other investment opportunities, considering alternative secure investments.

Consistent with the policy and procedure outlined above, during the period £500,000 was transferred into an investment account, earning interest at a rate of 0.1% p.a. (compared with the 0.01% interest rate provided by the current account).

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

SSMAT's Risk Management Policy aims to ensure that the Trust complies with best practice in risk management, appropriate to the context in which the Trust operates.

The Trust has developed a Risk Register, which is reviewed twice a year by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, and more frequently, as required. Risks are categorised as 'External', 'Strategic/Operational' and 'Change' and are assessed in relation to impact and likelihood. The Risk Register also records actions taken (including cases where control measures have failed to have the desired effect) to address risks. The Risk Register identifies the controls that have been put in place in order to mitigate the risk. The effectiveness of this mitigation is reviewed on a continuous basis. A selection of items from the Risk Register is shown below:

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation strategy</i>
The Government makes a significant change to the school funding formula, which results in difficulties in balancing schools' budgets.	3-year budget modelling, informed by detailed staffing and rooming analyses. Use of Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Increase in PAN (as responsibly appropriate) to increase overall funding through increased student numbers.
The Trust is unable to pay staff due to cash flow problems, resulting in difficulties for the colleagues involved and affecting staff morale, which in turn affects retention and performance.	The Trust Business Manager conducts monthly tracking operations and organises half-termly accountancy reviews of financial operations / budget management.
Trust data is compromised (lost, corrupted or rendered inaccessible) and/or GDPR requirements are not met, with serious implications for the financial and organisational health of the Trust and potential risk of litigation.	There are suitably knowledgeable/trained staff overseeing the ICT security systems. The Trust's Data Protection Policy is fully implemented and well understood.

Fundraising

Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust is committed to its charitable aims and fundraises where possible to help achieve these. The Trustees ensure that the school complies with charity legislation and regulation in this area and it is expected that any fundraising activities are carried out in adherence to this legislation. Fundraising will be legal, respectful, honest and properly administered. Where possible all costs of fundraising events will be covered by participants to ensure that as much of the fundraising income received will go directly to cover the charitable aims. Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust will not undertake business with companies or individuals which could cause detriment to the reputation; which will disproportionately decrease the amount of donations to the Academy. All fundraising activities are monitored and information of the donor will be handled properly and carefully.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Plans for future periods

The Trust Board has a detailed Strategic Plan to provide a clear framework for prioritisation and collective action over the period '19-'22. The clear strategy for this period has been to strengthen outcomes for CTA. The growth of the Trust has been considered both subsidiary to, and dependant on, the school's quality of education and performance profile and there are ambitious plans for strong, continuous improvement.

The '19-'22 Strategic Plan includes the following actions:

- 1. CURRICULUM, ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESSION:**
 - Whole-school curriculum review of intent, planning and implementation with improved frameworks in place
 - New teaching, learning and assessment strategy – 'Know, Do, Review' and training to support its effective implementation
 - Strategies and resources to improve the achievement, and support the progression, of disadvantaged students and students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - Implementation of an effective COVID-19 Recovery Programme for all students (and with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable students)
 - Strengthening further CEIAG
- 2. IMPROVE ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR, including:**
 - Through reducing persistent absenteeism, including through increased staffing and capacity
 - For disadvantaged students and students with SEND
 - Through effective, proactive approaches that reduce exclusions
- 3. IMPROVE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, including:**
 - Through the development and implementation of a new Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise (PSHE) education programme, incorporating new requirements for sex and relationships education
 - Ensuring that the school celebrates diversity and tackles any homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying
 - Developing a team ethos and healthy competition through a new 'house' system, enhancing the extra-curricular life of the school
- 4. IMPROVE LEADERSHIP, including:**
 - Through new leadership and governance structures
 - Through increased coaching capacity
 - Through succession planning, with linked leadership development programmes
 - Through ensuring equality-related policy and practice
 - The further development of the school's safeguarding culture

The Trust also aims to continue to develop a strong presence in the local business community, using its agency and resources to help local people to maximise their employment prospects through brokering guidance and training. A training room has been set up and variety of courses for adults are being provided, during school hours, in the evenings and in school break periods.

During the '20-'21 academic year, the Trust decided that the interests of CTA would be best served by 'folding' SSMAT, with CTA joining another local Trust. Following analysis of the profiles of all local multi-academy trusts, John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust (JTMAT) was identified as the Trust's preferred choice, subject to consultation and relevant permissions. The provisional plan is for CTA to join JTMAT at some point during the '21/'22 academic year.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

Disclosure of information to auditors

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 6 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Richard Williams
Chair of Trustees

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher, 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 Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement (continued)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Richard Williams, Chair	5	5
Stuart Jones, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer	5	5
Diane Evans	4	5
Claire Boliver	4	5
Ruth Forster	2	2
Neil Wainwright	0	1
Timothy Pugh	1	1
Glenda Francis	1	1

Members also met separately during the period - with two of the three members (at the time) in attendance.

The Trust Board comprises seven Directors. The current board has a mix of senior-level business experience, including finance, data management and human resources expertise. There is also considerable knowledge of governance and leadership in public sector educational contexts.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Trust also has a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the main Board. Its purpose is to provide the Trust Board with assurances over the suitability of, and compliance with, the Trust's financial systems and controls and to support the Board's management of risk. The policies and strategic areas for which the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee has responsibility are listed in the Committee's Terms of Reference and in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Lee Woodward, Chair of Committee	2	4
Richard Williams	4	4
Stuart Jones	4	4
Sharon Thorp	4	4

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the Multi-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 resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Trust Board where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data, where appropriate. Examples of specific ways in which the Trust has delivered value for money during the year are:

Replacement of ICT stock:

- A suite of PCs (in the D&T Department) have been replaced with refurbished 'small form factor' machines, to bring the performance up to a good standard and provide more desk space in a restricted area. Following inspection of three quotes, a suite of computers was purchased from the most price-competitive provider, taking into account this company's track record of handling warranty issues reliably and swiftly. The displaced machines have been upgraded and utilized in other areas of the department.

Conversion of classroom into ICT suite:

- A classroom was converted into an ICT suite (due to curriculum need). Using the carpentry skills of a member of the site team, old broken tables and redundant electrical trunking were recycled, avoiding the need for commissioning an external contractor. Once again, refurbished PCVs (with warranties) were purchased (following inspection of quotes).

Franking machine – purchase instead of lease:

- As the current leasing contract for the franking machine was approaching its end, an exercise was conducted to compare the leasing costs with the costs of buying a machine. Taking into account the life expectancy of the machines, it was established that buying a machine was the better option. Following consideration of four quotes (including one through the Government's CCS framework), a provider was chosen. The decision incorporated consideration of the maintenance package as well as the flat cost.

'Kickstart' appointment:

- In order to provide the necessary administrative support for the school's careers provision (the school is a national 'Careers Hub'), the school took advantage of the Government's 'Kickstart' scheme. This provided us with a no-cost option – other than the opportunity cost of providing support and training for the person appointed. With a highly experienced Head of Careers Education, Information and Guidance, this was not at all problematic.

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 Multi-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 Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement (continued)

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

The Multi-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 Trust Board, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Local Governing Body of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has decided to employ RB Chartered Accountant as internal auditor.

With regard to financial risk and control, the Trust Board considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed RB Chartered Accountant as internal auditor. The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems.

The checks carried out (in relation to the period 1 Sep. '20 to 31 Aug. '21) by RB Chartered Accountants focused upon internal control procedures for the prevention of fraud. The Trust has not yet received the report.

PHRP also conducted a GDPR / Data Protection Audit. The report found that: there is an effective risk management framework in place; the Data Protection Officer is appropriately trained and has appropriate authority to carry out the role; GDPR is included in staff induction training; data sharing agreements are in place and have been reviewed for compliance with GDPR requirements; privacy notices are in place for staff and students; working procedures are in place for checking the accuracy of staff and student data; data breaches are recorded in the breach register; appropriate policy and practice is in place for the secure disposal of documentation; and written contracts are in place for all data processors.

Actions from the report include: work towards Cyber-Essentials certification (process has begun); training for governors and directors on GDPR and cyber-security; a programme of compliance checks; regular staff updates on GDPR issues (implemented); creation of a central log of data sharing agreements; publication of a privacy notice for parents/carers.

A further internal audit exercise was conducted by PHRP. This was a pre-employment safeguarding compliance audit, which included checks on the Single Central Record and staff files. The audit found that: 'In summary, the standard of pre-employment checking, and maintenance of the personnel files is high. The knowledge and attention to detail from the personnel involved in completing pre-employment checks is evident. Some of the files had more complex identity requirements and these were addressed correctly and thoroughly.'

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Governance Statement (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Executive Headteacher 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 auditors;
- the Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the Multi-Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 6 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Williams
Chair of Trustees



Stuart Jones
Accounting Officer

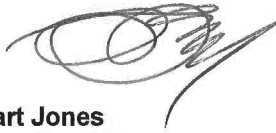
Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Multi-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.

I confirm that I and the Multi-Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Multi-Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Multi-Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020.

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.



Stuart Jones
Accounting Officer
Date: 6 December 2021

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities
For the year ended 31 August 2021

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of 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 financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 6 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Richard Williams
Chair of Trustees

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust (the 'multi-academy 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 related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Multi-Academy Trust'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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 Multi-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.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Multi-Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report including the Strategic report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Multi-Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Multi-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 Multi-Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust (continued)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with trustees and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academy sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 3 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors;

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report on the financial statements to the Members of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust (continued)

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable Multi-Academy Trust'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 Multi-Academy Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable Multi-Academy Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Julian Townsend FCA FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of
Dains LLP

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Birmingham

6 December 2021

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 15 October 2018 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 Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust during the year 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 Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Stephen Sutton Multi Academy 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 Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 December 2016 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 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.

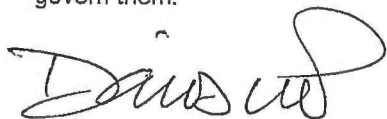
Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Multi-Academy Trust's income and expenditure.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

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



Dains LLP

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Date: 6 December 2021

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants	4	4,475	-	1,929,951	1,934,426	46,236
Other trading activities	6	101,258	-	-	101,258	111,207
Investments	7	164	-	-	164	347
Charitable activities:	5					
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations		-	7,998,303	-	7,998,303	7,664,576
Total income		105,897	7,998,303	1,929,951	10,034,151	7,822,366
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust educational operations		3,075	7,992,197	486,047	8,481,319	7,989,700
Total expenditure		3,075	7,992,197	486,047	8,481,319	7,989,700
Net income/(expenditure)		102,822	6,106	1,443,904	1,552,832	(167,334)
Transfers between funds	19	(32,647)	(96,763)	129,410	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		70,175	(90,657)	1,573,314	1,552,832	(167,334)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	(617,000)	-	(617,000)	(10,000)
Net movement in funds		70,175	(707,657)	1,573,314	935,832	(177,334)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		55,859	(1,969,379)	23,607,532	21,694,012	21,871,346
Net movement in funds		70,175	(707,657)	1,573,314	935,832	(177,334)
Total funds carried forward		126,034	(2,677,036)	25,180,846	22,629,844	21,694,012

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

The notes on pages 28 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered number: 10525065

Balance sheet
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	15	70	2,350
Tangible assets	16	23,337,763	23,595,438
		<u>23,337,833</u>	<u>23,597,788</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	2,061,549	199,340
Cash at bank and in hand	24	1,013,563	775,005
		<u>3,075,112</u>	<u>974,345</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(379,101)	(348,121)
Net current assets		<u>2,696,011</u>	<u>626,224</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>26,033,844</u>	<u>24,224,012</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26	(3,404,000)	(2,530,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>22,629,844</u></u>	<u><u>21,694,012</u></u>
Funds of the Multi-Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	19	25,180,846	23,607,532
Restricted income funds	19	726,964	560,621
		<u>25,907,810</u>	<u>24,168,153</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	19	25,907,810	24,168,153
Pension reserve	19	(3,404,000)	(2,530,000)
Total restricted funds	19	<u>22,503,810</u>	<u>21,638,153</u>
Unrestricted income funds	19	<u>126,034</u>	<u>55,859</u>
Total funds		<u><u>22,629,844</u></u>	<u><u>21,694,012</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 25 to 56 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 06 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf, by:

Richard Williams
Chair of Trustees



The notes on pages 28 to 56 form part of these financial statements.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	21	(1,441,322)	415,830
Cash flows from investing activities	23	1,704,023	(15,636)
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(24,143)	(65,138)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		238,558	335,056
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		775,005	439,949
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	<u><u>1,013,563</u></u>	<u><u>775,005</u></u>

The notes on pages 28 to 56 form part of these financial statements

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

1. General information

Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered number of the company is 10525065 and its registered office is Bridge Cross Road, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 2DB.

2. 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.

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

2.2 Going concern

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Multi-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 year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

- **Sponsorship income**

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

- **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 year it is receivable and to the extent the Multi-Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

2.4 Expenditure

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

- **Charitable activities**

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	- 1-2% straight line
Building refurbishments	- 5% straight line
Furniture and fixtures	- 10% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line

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

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

2.11 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 Multi-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.

2.12 Provisions

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

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. 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 as detailed in note 18. 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.

2.14 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.15 Pensions

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

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

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

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.16 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the 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.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, 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.

Critical areas of judgement:

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals requires the Trustees to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In this regard, the Trustees believe that the critical accounting policies where judgements or estimating are necessary applied are summarised below:

Depreciation and residual values

The Trustees have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

4. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	4,475	10,979	15,454
Capital Grants	-	1,918,972	1,918,972
	<u>4,475</u>	<u>1,929,951</u>	<u>1,934,426</u>
	<u><u>4,475</u></u>	<u><u>1,929,951</u></u>	<u><u>1,934,426</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	1,410	-	1,410
Capital Grants	-	44,826	44,826
	<u>1,410</u>	<u>44,826</u>	<u>46,236</u>
	<u><u>1,410</u></u>	<u><u>44,826</u></u>	<u><u>46,236</u></u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

5. Funding for the Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
DfE/ESFA grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG)	6,878,626	6,878,626
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Pupil Premium	232,959	232,959
Teachers' pension grant	268,261	268,261
Teachers' pay grant	94,934	94,934
Other DfE/EFSA grants	42,547	42,547
	<u>7,517,327</u>	<u>7,517,327</u>
Other Government grants		
Special educational needs	150,872	150,872
Pupil premium	4,400	4,400
	<u>155,272</u>	<u>155,272</u>
Other income from the Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations	<u>168,918</u>	<u>168,918</u>
COVID-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)		
Catch-up Premium	121,176	121,176
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	35,610	35,610
	<u>156,786</u>	<u>156,786</u>
	<u><u>7,998,303</u></u>	<u><u>7,998,303</u></u>

Income of £121,176 was received in relation to COVID-19 catch up premium, of which, £46,030 was spent giving an unspent carry forward of £75,146. Other COVID-19 funding of £35,610 was received, all of which was spent during the year and therefore a £nil carry forward remains.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

5. Funding for the Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations (continued)

	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
DfE/ESFA grants		
General Annual Grant (GAG)	6,560,231	6,560,231
Other DfE/ESFA grants		
Pupil Premium	224,345	224,345
Teachers' pension grant	273,389	273,389
Teachers' pay grant	96,750	96,750
Other DfE/EFSA grants	59,206	59,206
	<u>7,213,921</u>	<u>7,213,921</u>
Other Government grants		
Special educational needs	85,052	85,052
Pupil premium	12,250	12,250
	<u>97,302</u>	<u>97,302</u>
Other income from the Multi-Academy Trust's educational operations	<u>353,353</u>	<u>353,353</u>
	<u><u>7,664,576</u></u>	<u><u>7,664,576</u></u>

Following the reclassification in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020/21 of some grants received from the Department of Education and ESFA, the multi-academy trust's funding for Teachers' pay and pension grants are no longer reported under the Other DfE Group grants heading, but as separate lines under the Other DfE/ESFA grants heading. The prior year numbers have been reclassified.

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lettings income	64,619	64,619
Other income	28,289	28,289
Sales of goods and services	8,350	8,350
	<u>101,258</u>	<u>101,258</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

6. Income from other trading activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Lettings income	52,621	52,621
Other income	46,424	46,424
Sales of goods and services	12,162	12,162
	<u>111,207</u>	<u>111,207</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Bank interest	<u>347</u>	<u>347</u>

8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2021 £	Premises 2021 £	Other 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Expenditure on educational operations:				
Direct costs	5,205,878	430,736	718,966	6,355,580
Support costs	1,399,629	509,565	216,545	2,125,739
	<u>6,605,507</u>	<u>940,301</u>	<u>935,511</u>	<u>8,481,319</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

8. Expenditure (continued)

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	4,823,114	429,555	811,386	6,064,055
Allocated support costs	1,212,661	432,264	280,720	1,925,645
	<u>6,035,775</u>	<u>861,819</u>	<u>1,092,106</u>	<u>7,989,700</u>

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Educational Operations	<u>6,355,580</u>	<u>2,125,739</u>	<u>8,481,319</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Educational Operations	<u>6,064,055</u>	<u>1,925,645</u>	<u>7,989,700</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Net interest from LGPS pension	45,000	46,000
Staff costs	5,205,878	4,823,114
Depreciation and amortisation	485,675	460,218
Educational supplies	128,247	150,229
Examination fees and printing	99,305	112,225
Licences and fees	70,202	82,900
COVID-19 related costs	44,246	-
Music fees	4,201	9,066
Travel, subsistence and expenses	129,368	132,859
School fund expenditure	96,443	214,540
Staff related insurance	31,129	4,591
Other direct costs	15,886	28,313
	<u>6,355,580</u>	<u>6,064,055</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Staff costs	1,399,629	1,212,661
Catering costs	30,947	31,196
Technology costs	56,380	57,322
Clothing	301	818
Other support costs	51,757	99,523
Maintenance of premises	65,980	55,653
Cleaning	168,315	160,549
Rates	37,632	38,461
Energy	139,029	141,898
Legal and professional	76,788	89,665
Other premises costs	98,981	37,899
	<u>2,125,739</u>	<u>1,925,645</u>

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating lease rentals	21,390	19,509
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	483,395	457,938
Amortisation of intangible assets	2,280	2,280
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	7,725	7,500
- other services	3,650	2,910
	<u>7,725</u>	<u>7,500</u>
	<u>3,650</u>	<u>2,910</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	4,619,777	4,335,234
Social security costs	483,271	448,802
Pension costs	1,313,447	1,156,970
	<u>6,416,495</u>	<u>5,941,006</u>
Agency staff costs	182,225	94,769
Staff restructuring costs	6,787	-
	<u>6,605,507</u>	<u>6,035,775</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2021 £	2020 £
Other staff restructuring costs	6,787	-
	<u>6,787</u>	<u>-</u>

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

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments of £100. Individually, the payments were: £100.

c. Staff numbers

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

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teachers	77	78
Administration and support	44	55
Management	10	10
Apprentice	3	3
	<u>134</u>	<u>146</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

11. Staff (continued)

d. Higher paid staff

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

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	4	3
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Multi-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 employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Multi-Academy Trust was £353,025 (2020 - £338,393).

12. Central services

The Multi-Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Human resources
- Educational services
- Financial services
- Operations
- Legal and Governance
- Others as arising

The Multi-Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Flat percentage of General Annual Grant (3.5%).

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Chase Terrace Academy	<u>239,133</u>	<u>227,860</u>

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)

		2021	2020
		£'000	£'000
Stuart Jones, Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer	Remuneration	110 - 115	105 - 110
	Pension contributions paid	25 - 30	25 - 30

During the year ended 31 August 2021, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2020 - £NIL).

14. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

The Multi-Academy Trust has opted into the Department for Education's risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

15. Intangible assets

	Computer software
	£
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	15,169
At 31 August 2021	15,169
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2020	12,819
Charge for the year	2,280
At 31 August 2021	15,099
Net book value	
At 31 August 2021	70
At 31 August 2020	2,350

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and fixtures £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2020	25,073,009	26,542	104,107	25,203,658
Additions	114,116	10,379	101,597	226,092
Disposals	-	-	(630)	(630)
At 31 August 2021	<u>25,187,125</u>	<u>36,921</u>	<u>205,074</u>	<u>25,429,120</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	1,545,662	7,237	55,321	1,608,220
Charge for the year	430,736	3,169	49,490	483,395
On disposals	-	-	(258)	(258)
At 31 August 2021	<u>1,976,398</u>	<u>10,406</u>	<u>104,553</u>	<u>2,091,357</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	<u>23,210,727</u>	<u>26,515</u>	<u>100,521</u>	<u>23,337,763</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>23,527,347</u>	<u>19,305</u>	<u>48,786</u>	<u>23,595,438</u>

17. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	91,791	40,358
Other debtors	243	243
Prepayments and accrued income	1,969,515	111,869
Tax recoverable	-	46,870
	<u>2,061,549</u>	<u>199,340</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other loans	8,504	32,647
Trade creditors	234,912	98,662
Other taxation and social security	2,462	-
Other creditors	17,550	118,944
Accruals and deferred income	115,673	97,868
	379,101	348,121
	2021	2020
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	68,708	108,519
Resources deferred during the year	54,709	68,708
Amounts released from previous periods	(68,708)	(108,519)
	54,709	68,708

At the balance sheet date the Multi-Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for educational and capital grants, relating to the Autumn Term 2021 as well as trip income.

Other loans

Other loans brought forward comprised of four loans with the local authority which were inherited from Chase Terrace Academy on conversion in to the multi-academy trust. These loans were full repaid during the year.

Other loans secured during the year relate to a SALIX loan associated with a Conditional Improvement Fund grant. The loan is repayable monthly and is repayable within one year.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	55,859	105,897	(3,075)	(32,647)	-	126,034
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	544,658	6,878,626	(6,674,953)	(129,410)	-	618,921
Pupil Premium	-	232,959	(232,959)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	379,908	(379,908)	-	-	-
COVID-19 Catch Up Premium	-	121,176	(46,030)	-	-	75,146
COVID-19 Other funding	-	35,610	(35,610)	-	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	155,272	(152,294)	-	-	2,978
Other Funding	-	137,399	(137,399)	-	-	-
School Fund	48,610	57,353	(76,044)	-	-	29,919
Budget deficit transferred on conversion	(32,647)	-	-	32,647	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,530,000)	-	(257,000)	-	(617,000)	(3,404,000)
	<u>(1,969,379)</u>	<u>7,998,303</u>	<u>(7,992,197)</u>	<u>(96,763)</u>	<u>(617,000)</u>	<u>(2,677,036)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transferred on conversion	23,441,485	-	(419,187)	-	-	23,022,298
DfE/ESFA capital grants	136,774	1,078,868	(57,975)	-	-	1,157,667
Capital expenditure from GAG	27,299	-	(8,242)	129,410	-	148,467
Other funding	1,974	851,083	(643)	-	-	852,414
	<u>23,607,532</u>	<u>1,929,951</u>	<u>(486,047)</u>	<u>129,410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,180,846</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>21,638,153</u>	<u>9,928,254</u>	<u>(8,478,244)</u>	<u>32,647</u>	<u>(617,000)</u>	<u>22,503,810</u>
Total funds	<u>21,694,012</u>	<u>10,034,151</u>	<u>(8,481,319)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(617,000)</u>	<u>22,629,844</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

Restricted general fund

This fund represents grants and other income received for the Academy's operational activities and development.

Pension reserve

This pension reserve included within restricted general funds represents the Academy's share of the pension liability arising on the LGPS pension fund.

Restricted Fixed Asset Fund

This fund represents grants received from the DfE, ESFA and Local Authority to carry out works of a capital nature.

Transfers

A transfer from unrestricted to restricted general and restricted fixed asset funds has been made to cover capital additions purchased in the year and repayment of the budget deficit transferred on conversion.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Multi-Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2021.

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

19. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	20,842	112,964	(12,809)	(65,138)	-	55,859
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	204,557	6,560,231	(6,225,525)	5,395	-	544,658
Pupil Premium	-	224,345	(224,345)	-	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	370,139	(370,139)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	59,206	(55,129)	(4,077)	-	-
Other Government Grants	-	97,302	(87,255)	(10,047)	-	-
Other Funding	-	113,491	(113,491)	-	-	-
School Fund	34,537	239,862	(225,789)	-	-	48,610
Budget deficit transferred on conversion	(97,785)	-	-	65,138	-	(32,647)
Pension reserve	(2,305,000)	-	(215,000)	-	(10,000)	(2,530,000)
	<u>(2,163,691)</u>	<u>7,664,576</u>	<u>(7,516,673)</u>	<u>56,409</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(1,969,379)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Transferred on conversion	23,860,671	-	(419,186)	-	-	23,441,485
DfE/ESFA capital grants	112,732	44,826	(29,513)	8,729	-	136,774
Capital expenditure from GAG	38,345	-	(11,046)	-	-	27,299
Other funding	2,447	-	(473)	-	-	1,974
	<u>24,014,195</u>	<u>44,826</u>	<u>(460,218)</u>	<u>8,729</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,607,532</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>21,850,504</u>	<u>7,709,402</u>	<u>(7,976,891)</u>	<u>65,138</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>21,638,153</u>
Total funds	<u><u>21,871,346</u></u>	<u><u>7,822,366</u></u>	<u><u>(7,989,700)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(10,000)</u></u>	<u><u>21,694,012</u></u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2021 were allocated as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Chase Terrace Academy	817,797	588,626
Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust	35,201	27,854
	<u>852,998</u>	<u>616,480</u>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	852,998	616,480
Restricted fixed asset fund	25,180,846	23,607,532
Pension reserve	(3,404,000)	(2,530,000)
	<u>22,629,844</u>	<u>21,694,012</u>
Total	<u>22,629,844</u>	<u>21,694,012</u>

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2021 £
Chase Terrace Academy	5,150,964	1,316,667	258,499	1,017,249	7,743,379
Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust	99,914	82,962	-	69,389	252,265
	<u>5,250,878</u>	<u>1,399,629</u>	<u>258,499</u>	<u>1,086,638</u>	<u>7,995,644</u>

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £
Chase Terrace Academy	4,668,493	1,125,634	369,070	1,093,855	7,257,052
Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust	105,852	87,027	11,218	68,333	272,430
	<u>4,774,345</u>	<u>1,212,661</u>	<u>380,288</u>	<u>1,162,188</u>	<u>7,529,482</u>

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,337,763	23,337,763
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	70	70
Current assets	126,034	1,097,561	1,851,517	3,075,112
Creditors due within one year	-	(370,597)	(8,504)	(379,101)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(3,404,000)	-	(3,404,000)
Total	126,034	(2,677,036)	25,180,846	22,629,844

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,595,438	23,595,438
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	2,350	2,350
Current assets	55,859	908,742	9,744	974,345
Creditors due within one year	-	(348,121)	-	(348,121)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	-	(2,530,000)	-	(2,530,000)
Total	55,859	(1,969,379)	23,607,532	21,694,012

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	1,552,832	(167,334)
Adjustments for:		
Amortisation	2,280	2,280
Depreciation	483,395	457,938
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,929,951)	(44,826)
Interest receivable	(164)	(347)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	212,000	169,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	45,000	46,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,862,209)	17,245
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	55,123	(64,126)
Loss on disposal of asset	372	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(1,441,322)	415,830

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash inflows from new borrowing	8,504	-
Repayments of borrowing	(32,647)	(65,138)
Net cash used in financing activities	(24,143)	(65,138)

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	164	347
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(226,092)	(60,809)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,078,868	44,826
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	851,083	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	1,704,023	(15,636)

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand and at bank	1,013,563	775,005
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,013,563	775,005

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	775,005	238,558	1,013,563
Debt due within 1 year	(32,647)	24,143	(8,504)
	742,358	262,701	1,005,059

26. Pension commitments

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £844,383 (2020 - £777,887).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Multi-Academy Trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Multi-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 contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £329,000 (2020 - £258,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £257,000 (2020 - £207,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 72,000 (2020 - £51,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.2 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

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

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021	2020
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.30	2.60
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.20
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.70

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	21.4	21.2
Females	24.0	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.5	22.1
Females	25.7	25.0

Sensitivity analysis

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Discount rate -0.5%	755	584
Salary increase rate +0.5%	90	78
CPI rate +0.5%	655	493

Share of scheme assets

The Multi-Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Equities	2,014,000	1,409,000
Bonds	539,000	415,000
Property	198,000	166,000
Cash and other liquid assets	85,000	83,000
Total market value of assets	2,836,000	2,073,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £454,000 (2020 - £97,000).

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

26. Pension commitments (continued)

The amounts recognised in the Statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	(469,000)	(376,000)
Interest income	38,000	35,000
Interest cost	(83,000)	(81,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of financial activities	(514,000)	(422,000)

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	4,603,000	4,050,000
Current service cost	469,000	376,000
Interest cost	83,000	81,000
Employee contributions	72,000	51,000
Actuarial losses	1,033,000	72,000
Benefits paid	(20,000)	(27,000)
At 31 August	6,240,000	4,603,000

Changes in the fair value of the Multi-Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September	2,073,000	1,745,000
Interest income	38,000	35,000
Actuarial gains	416,000	62,000
Employer contributions	257,000	207,000
Employee contributions	72,000	51,000
Benefits paid	(20,000)	(27,000)
At 31 August	2,836,000	2,073,000

Stephen Sutton Multi Academy Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 August 2021

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2021 the Multi-Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than 1 year	7,255	21,390
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	19,123
	<u>7,255</u>	<u>40,513</u>

28. Members' liability

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

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Multi-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 Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Multi-Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

No related party transactions took place in the period of account, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 13.