

Company Registration No. 09741508 (England and Wales)

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Mr I G Chilvers (Director of Finance and Administration)
Mr G Christie (Staff Trustee)
Mr D J M Humphreys (Chair)
Dr P M Jones (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)
Mr I N Nash (Vice Chair)
Mr R J Chute (Appointed 25 September 2019)
Mr J W Adams
Ms E Nicholson (Resigned 2 July 2020)
Mr P Neale
Mrs S L Baker (Appointed 20 October 2020)

Members

The Reverend J K Gavigan
Mr P J Papps
Mr I N Nash
Mr H Stringer

Senior management team

- Headteacher	Dr P M Jones
- Deputy Headteacher	Mr S Hall
- Deputy Headteacher	Mrs F McCarthy
- Director of Finance	Mr I G Chilvers

Company secretary

Mr I G Chilvers

Company registration number

09741508 (England and Wales)

Principal address and registered office

Orchards Junior School
Nelson Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN12 6EN

Independent auditor

MHA Carpenter Box
Amelia House
Crescent Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1QR

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
South Street
Worthing
BN11 3AU

Solicitors

Paris Smith
Number 1
London Road
Southampton
SO15 2AE

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and independent auditor's report of the charitable company for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 7 to 11 serving a catchment area in Goring and Durrington. It has a pupil capacity of 620 and had a roll of 566 in the school census at October 2020.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The trustees of Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Sparkle 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.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust is covered under membership to the Department of Education's Risk Protection Arrangement ('RPA').

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The effectiveness of the board is fundamentally linked to the quality of the people involved. The appointment of trustees has to be agreed by the chair and the headteacher jointly. New trustees are recruited on the basis of a skills audit and if necessary an interview process will be held to ascertain which candidate will be the best appointment to take the school forward.

The process will be undertaken by the chair, headteacher and at least one other member. It can be summarised as follows:

1. Assess skills gaps on current board
2. Agree aims of recruitment
3. Agree process and specification
4. Start recruitment process
5. Informal conversations and school visits by prospective trustees
6. Formal interviews
7. Formal appointment

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The induction of new trustees is co-ordinated by the headteacher who will arrange for a meeting with the chair and a tour of the school. Training for new and existing trustees is co-ordinated through the meeting process.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Organisational structure

As a one school multi-academy trust we have members and a board of directors / trustees serving The Orchards Junior School.

In the Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust members are responsible for ultimate control over the academy trust, with the ability to appoint some of the trustees and the right to amend the trust's articles of association.

The trustees are responsible for setting the direction, holding the headteacher to account and ensuring financial probity.

Main responsibilities include to:

- Determine the aims, ethos and priorities of the school
- Delegation of power to run the school to the Headteacher
- Agree the School Improvement Plan
- Approve and monitor the budget and impact of spending
- Approve whole school policies
- Monitor teaching standards
- Approve the staffing structure, ratify the appraisal process and undertake the headteacher performance management with the support of an external adviser
- Ratify the statutory pay policy and approve teacher salaries

All other duties are delegated to the headteacher who also undertakes the role of accounting officer.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Pay and remuneration is set using the school teachers pay and conditions document and our pay policy outlines the approach undertaken by the academy trust. Headteacher pay is considered by the governing body under the recommendations from the headteacher performance management panel overseen by an accredited external adviser. Other senior staff pay awards are recommended by the headteacher to the governing body.

Trade union facility time

During the year one employee was a relevant trade union official but none of their time has been spent on trade union activities and therefore there is no associated cost or time spent during the year.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Sparkle Multi Academy trust has developed a link with two other MATs – Downview Primary and the Oak Academy Trust (Barnham Primary) to mutually develop the strengths of the schools involved. It has no impact upon operating policies. It is also a member of the West Sussex Coastal MATS led by Schoolworks.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Sparkle Multi Academy Trust has been set up to run The Orchards Junior School as an operating academy. The Orchards Junior School provides education and care for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 7 and 11. In accordance with the Articles of Association the charitable company has adopted a Funding Agreement approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Funding Agreement specifies, amongst other things:

- That the school has a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based;
- That it provides for pupils of different abilities; and
- That it provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated.

Aims:

The aims of the school are best summed up as 'Being the best we can be'. In summary the trust's aims are to:

- Make The Orchards the best place for the children to attend
- Make The Orchards the best place for people to work so that:
 - All pupils are making progress
 - The school achieves above average attainment across the range of areas
 - The school is full of happy, confident people

Our distinctive ethos is driven by our unique 'SPARKLE' approach

Smile Pay Attention Ask Questions React Positively Keep Trying Love Learning Enjoy School

Objectives, strategies and activities

- To provide consistently good or better teaching and learning opportunities for all children that are inspirational, imaginative and engaging
- The leadership team are strategic and relentless in securing effective teaching, learning and challenge for all learners modelling best practice and developing staff
- Performance management and development process to be an integrating feature of high levels of pupil progress and high achievement
- All children will enjoy their learning and make expected or better progress in all areas including reading, writing and mathematics.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Strategic report

Achievements this year have to be considered against the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in schools being closed to pupils other than those children of key workers from 22 March 2020. On 1 June 2020 the majority of Year 6 pupils returned but all other children were educated remotely. Up until March the school was making good progress towards the achievement of its objectives from the 2019/2020 school improvement plan notably:

- All children received consistently good quality learning experiences as evidenced by evaluation processes with 95% of teaching to be judged in line with expectations or better. This was augmented by the remote learning offer.
- Physical Education and Sports outcomes excellent
- Improvements in assessment process
- Gold award for teacher training provision from the University of Brighton
- New Intent, Implementation and Impact (3i) Curriculum Process introduced
- Improved behaviour outcomes

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Key performance indicators

In March 2020, the school closed to most children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the cancellation of statutory testing, there is no results data for the academic year, which would usually be the trust's main key performance indicator. The following are other performance indicators that have been used in the absence of results data:

- The Ofsted inspection dashboard shows the school needs to improve the performance of reasoning in maths.
- Pupil attendance data up to March 2020 was 94.3% - just below the national average. From 23 March 2020 onwards attendance was limited to key workers' children and vulnerable. From 1 June 2020 year 6 pupils also returned.
- Pupil recruitment is positive with 30% of the school roll from outside the catchment area.
- Financial and investment performance measures including monitoring staff costs which are currently at 85% of total income, and monitoring levels of surplus funds.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the board of trustees continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the statement of accounting policies.

Financial review

The principal source of funding for the academy trust is the general annual grant (GAG) obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The expenditure in the year of which a large part related to salary costs, has been used to advance the education of children. Expenditure has effectively supported the key objectives of the academy trust.

The grants received during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities (SOFA).

During the year ended 31 August 2020 the main expenditure item was salary costs. Restricted and unrestricted fund income for educational operations amounts to £2,813,417 during the period. Expenditure on educational operations (excluding pension reserve) amounted to £2,795,776. The in-year surplus position of general funds (excluding pensions reserve) was £125,286. The balance of general funds (excluding pensions reserve) at the year end was £361,159.

The future financial position of the academy trust is likely to be affected by the impact of COVID-19 on supply costs, and the rising staff costs in line with the government recommended pay increases.

As reported in the SOFA the value of the pension fund and its resultant deficit continue to have a negative impact on the financial reserves of the academy trust.

The restricted fixed asset fund primarily arose from the introduction of the leasehold buildings and land at fair value on conversion of the school to academy status, together with capitalised costs incurred during the year. The fund is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the children of the academy trust.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the academy trust on a regular basis. The review includes the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of any reserves. The trustees believe that the funding received in any one year should be used to support the children on roll at the time unless there is a specific project which will require the accumulation of funding over more than one year. The trustees also wish to ensure the stability of our organisational operations and so, reserve levels should enable the school to react quickly to changes in financial circumstances, for example, large unplanned expenditure. The long term aim, considered prudent is to ensure that there is always enough reserve cash to finance one month's salary plus £50,000, giving a target level of reserves of approx. £250k.

The academy has £73,390 in the unrestricted fund as at 31 August 2020. This reserve has been generated over a number of years. The fund is freely available for its general purposes and has been held as an accumulating fund to cover unexpected expenditure or future deficits. As at 31 August 2020 there was £287,769 of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) available to carry forward, giving total available general funds (excluding pension reserves) of £361,159. The trustees recognise that this level of reserves is difficult to maintain in the current economic climate. The level of reserves held at the current year end is above target as there are a number of capital projects due to be undertaken and as a buffer given the tough economic environment. The trustees understand the need to manage within a budget and are keen to retain as much of a surplus as possible without detrimentally affecting the education of the children. This is achieved by regular monitoring of the bank account, monthly salary costs and ensuring best value when making purchases of school resources.

The academy trust's non teaching staff are entitled to enter the local government pension scheme (LGPS). The academy trust's share of the scheme assets is currently assessed to be less than its share of the scheme liabilities and consequently the academy trust's balance sheet shows a significant liability in this respect. However, the deficit does not mean that an immediate liability is about to manifest. The contribution rate to reduce this deficit is calculated by an independent actuary and will be paid over a period of time via additional pension contributions as part of a longer term deficit reduction plan.

Investment policy

There are no material investments held by the academy trust. Cash balances are invested in such a way that the cash is readily accessible whilst a small return has been generated by way of interest earned. The trustees are satisfied with the interest earned on the cash balances in the year.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Principal risks and uncertainties

Our three key approaches

1. A leadership team that anticipates change and challenge
2. Awareness that risk exists and is a key factor in accountability
3. Quality systems that calculate risks and mitigates them

Present Risks:

Risk	Risk level	Mitigation
Effects of long term loss of schooling for majority of pupils in Summer 2020	High	Clear strategic planning and thorough risk assessment undertaken. The development of the COBRA team The experiences gained in Summer 2020
External economic and political factors including significant changes to the academy agenda	Medium	Monitor the political climate Engage in networking with other academies Maintain FLOW group
Outcomes fall below expectations	Medium / High	Regular review of progress and attainment each half term across the school with interventions based on analysis. Use of catch up fund to increase number of interventions delivered Adapted curriculum to meet specific issues / learning loss
Pupil numbers do not meet predictions	High	The re-organisation of schools in Worthing has placed this high on the agenda but patterns of pupils joining are strong. Staffing structures have been developed with flexibility built in and budgets set accordingly to manage the school over the uncertainty of the next 2/3 years. As we were unable to host our annual open evening for prospective parents, the school produced a promotional video giving a virtual tour of key areas and celebrating the many achievements of the children. The film has been promoted via our own website along with other online platforms.
Budget reduction	High	The effective budget management means we can staff at excellent levels and will also support us through the unknown future of the next 2/3 years in relation to school funding Flexibility in staffing allows us to manage the main costs Reserves in place to allow for oscillation of factors
Capital building budget demands	Low	The continued upkeep of the school by the premises team, an annual condition review and a focus on continually improving the learning environment protect us against any large unknown costs occurring.
School is deemed to require improvement	Low	Continued focus on ensuring standard of provision by the school is at least good – referenced to the changing requirements of Ofsted
Succession planning	Medium	Each role in the organization has a member or role identified as potential replacement. This is reviewed with the Chair, Business Manager and Headteacher at least annually
Recruitment & retention	Low	The school has developed its ITT approach to ensure a steady stream of well trained teachers. Retention levels are exceptionally high and this is due to the reward & recognition process that motivates staff.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Long term absence of staff	Low	In line with the succession planning, the staffing structure has been developed to ensure there is cover immediately available for all key roles and the capacity to recruit is developed through in house training and work placements for potential candidates.
Public image	Low	The school marketing momentum team is proactive in celebrating the strengths of the school and the transparency of its processes contributes towards a mitigation of this risk.

Fundraising

Fundraising undertaken by the academy trust is done so in accordance with the Charities (Protection and Social Investments) Act 2016 and by following the guidance as issued in The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do (CC3) published by The Charity Commission.

The main points being:

- Acting in the best interests of your charity
- Managing your charity's resources responsibly, which includes protecting and safeguarding its reputation
- Acting with reasonable care and skill.

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

At present the trust does not embark upon any fundraising to augment school funds. We do not have a PTA and have received no fundraising complaints.

Volunteers

The academy trust does not enlist the help of any volunteers.

Plans for future periods

The trustees of the Sparkle Multi Academy Trust after a successful fifth year with Orchards Junior School are now keen to share their skills and experience in order to improve the education of children at schools who would benefit from their guidance and leadership. As well as facilitating the improvement of educational outcomes for pupils at other schools the trustees also believe that it would be beneficial to the continued development of the leaders and potential leaders at Orchards Junior School.

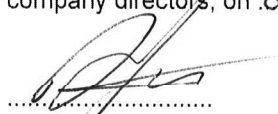
Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that MHA Carpenter Box be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 09/11/2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D J M Humphreys
Chair

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Scope of responsibility

As trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Sparkle 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 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 Sparkle 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.

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 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr I G Chilvers (Director of Finance and Administration)	4	4
Mr G Christie (Staff Trustee)	4	4
Mr D J M Humphreys (Chair)	4	4
Dr P M Jones (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)	4	4
Mr I N Nash (Vice Chair)	4	4
Mr R J Chute (Appointed 25 September 2019)	4	4
Mr J W Adams	3	4
Ms E Nicholson (Resigned 2 July 2020)	1	4
Mr P Neale	3	4
Mrs S L Baker (Appointed 20 October 2020)	0	0

Despite not meeting 6 times, in addition to the 4 formal business meetings, governors attend an in school review day where the business is conducted against a backdrop of a school tour providing practical examples of our provision. The finances are presented and discussed during this day. To ensure financial regularity governors are also provided with detailed financial reports and given the opportunity to feed back on the information given at least termly to augment the termly meetings

At a governing body meeting it was decided to adopt a more efficient process of governance. It was agreed that the school would not operate a subcommittee process but instead establish links with the key areas of the school's operations including finance, educational outcomes, vision and ethos, pupil premium, PE and school sport, behaviour and attendance, safeguarding and special needs.

Any issues arising are then taken to the formal governing body meetings unless it is a matter of urgency when all Governors will be contacted to review the situation. The outcomes of the school's total quality management processes are reported to Governors at each formal meeting.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

We have successfully maintained a strong board of nine that has a range of skills and an extensive stake in the school. Mr Humphreys has proved to be an erudite and efficient Chairman. The governing body has worked effectively across the year to discharge its statutory duties and to continually improve its range of knowledge. The board has been reflective across the year and in addition to the formal meetings have engaged in a range of in school activities such as the governors' in-school day and strategic planning meetings. The school provides a range of data for governors to assess performance against and this has allowed them to gain an accurate view of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. In line with previous targets, the governing body has improved its questioning of school data.

The governing body have also been prevalent in their support of school events such as performances, presentations and sporting tournaments.

Leadership and management has been viewed as good by external reviews with the following comments made about the performance of the governors:

- Leaders and governors ensure that pupils' progress is tracked with increasing rigour.
- Leaders and governors have a strong vision and know the school well.
- Leaders and governors have created a very rich curriculum with a broad range of first-hand experiences. Pupils make good progress in a wide range of subjects, including physical education, music and art.

The key development point was that governors should continue to refine their skills of holding the school to account in order to accelerate the rise in standards further which we have been developing through increased questioning.

The strategic development of the governing body is an agenda item at each meeting and ensures a continuous review of practice. The trust carries out a review of governance against national benchmarking and guidance each academic year.

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Structuring the staffing framework to enable low pupil:teacher ratio whilst staying within budgetary guidelines
- Delivering an exceptional PE and School Sports programme through dedicated use of PE funding
- Ensuring the allocation of Pupil Premium funds has been effective in bringing about improvements in opportunities for this group of pupils

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- Regular reviews by the board of trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However the trustees have appointed a Business Manager of an LA maintained school to carry out a peer review programme of internal checks.

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

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of purchase systems
- Testing of control account / bank reconciliations

On a termly basis, the peer reviewer reports to the board of trustees, through the finance manager on the operations of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

Review of effectiveness

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

- The work of the peer reviewer
- The work of the external auditor
- The oversight of the Board of Trustees
- The work of the Director of Finance within the academy trust who has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

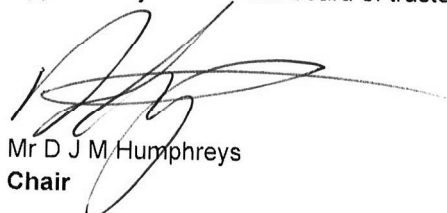
SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 9.12.20 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr D J M. Humphreys
Chair



Dr P M Jones
Headteacher and Accounting Officer

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As accounting officer of Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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.



Dr P M Jones
Accounting Officer

9.12.20
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SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees (who are also the directors of Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

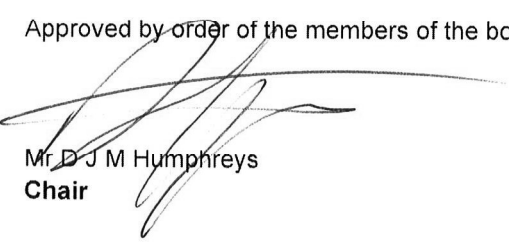
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 9/12/20 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr. D. J. M. Humphreys
Chair

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (CONTINUED)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

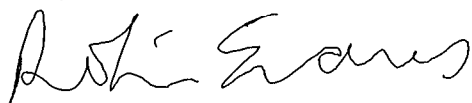
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

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



Robin Evans BA FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of MHA Carpenter Box
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Worthing

14/12/2020

MHA Carpenter Box is a trading name of Carpenter Box Limited

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 November 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Sparkle 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 the Sparkle 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 Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Sparkle Multi-Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 September 2015 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration of the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statements on regularity, propriety, and compliance;
- Review of procedures and controls ensuring their adequacy, compliance and appropriateness;
- Analytical procedures on the general activities of the academy trust;
- Planning of assurance procedures including identifying key risk areas;
- Further testing and review of the areas identified through the risk assessment including the testing and identification of control processes and examination of supporting evidence as well as additional verification and substantive testing on individual transactions.
- A review of minutes of committees and board meetings which may be relevant to regularity;
- Consideration of discussions with key personnel including the accounting officer and governing body.

Conclusion

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

MHA Carpenter Box

Reporting Accountant

MHA Carpenter Box
Amelia House
Crescent Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1QR

Dated: 14/12/2020

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	-	10,446	10,446	11,757
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	43,913	2,769,504	-	2,813,417	2,454,103
Other trading activities	6	-	57,611	-	57,611	111,096
Investments	5	179	-	-	179	216
Total income and endowments		<u>44,092</u>	<u>2,827,115</u>	<u>10,446</u>	<u>2,881,653</u>	<u>2,577,172</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	-	9,540	-	9,540	12,517
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	7	41,997	2,808,289	59,490	2,909,776	2,778,446
Total expenditure	8	<u>41,997</u>	<u>2,817,829</u>	<u>59,490</u>	<u>2,919,316</u>	<u>2,790,963</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		2,095	9,286	(49,044)	(37,663)	(213,791)
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		-	116,000	-	116,000	(69,000)
Net movement in funds		2,095	125,286	(49,044)	78,337	(282,791)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		71,295	(402,517)	4,987,654	4,656,432	4,939,223
Total funds carried forward		<u>73,390</u>	<u>(277,231)</u>	<u>4,938,610</u>	<u>4,734,769</u>	<u>4,656,432</u>

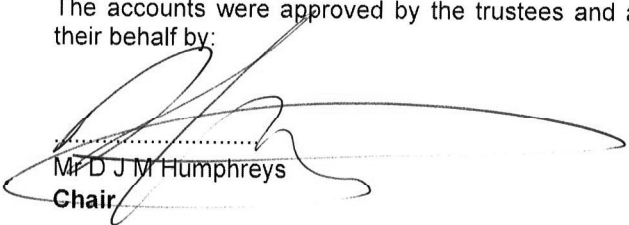
SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		4,981,708		4,985,834
Current assets					
Debtors	13	207,732		158,857	
Cash at bank and in hand		321,392		277,999	
		529,124		436,856	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(211,063)		(199,258)	
Net current assets			318,061		237,598
Total assets less current liabilities			5,299,769		5,223,432
Net assets excluding pension liability			5,299,769		5,223,432
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	17		(565,000)		(567,000)
Net assets			4,734,769		4,656,432
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	16				
- Fixed asset funds			4,938,610		4,987,654
- Restricted income funds			287,769		164,483
- Pension reserve			(565,000)		(567,000)
Total restricted funds			4,661,379		4,585,137
Unrestricted income funds	16		73,390		71,295
Total funds			4,734,769		4,656,432

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 09/12/2020 and are signed on their behalf by:


Mr D J M Humphreys
Chair

Company Number 09741508

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	19		88,132		(41,333)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Interest from investments		179		216	
Capital grants from DfE and EFA		10,446		9,895	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(55,364)		(8,075)	
			(44,739)		2,036
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			43,393		(39,297)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2019			277,999		317,296
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2020			321,392		277,999

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown measures have had an impact on the academy trust's operations. However, the UK government considers the ongoing provision of education throughout the pandemic as a key priority and ongoing funding, and the ongoing operation of schools, appears to be assured. In addition the trustees have reviewed the trust's academies budget forecast return three year which demonstrates the trust's ongoing viability over that period. Within this context the trustees have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

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

Grants receivable

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

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

Capital grants

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.

Capital grants are received for capital purposes and must be spent in line with the terms and conditions of the grant.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Leasehold land and buildings	125 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10 years

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost, as detailed in note 13. 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 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

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

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Pensions benefits

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

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

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

1.11 Fund accounting

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

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

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 17, 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 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Capital grants	-	10,446	10,446	9,895
Other donations	-	-	-	1,862
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,446</u>	<u>10,446</u>	<u>11,757</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £10,446 (2019: £11,757) of which £nil was unrestricted (2019: £1,862), £nil was restricted (2019: £nil) and £10,446 was restricted fixed assets (2019: £9,895).

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,199,374	2,199,374	1,990,392
Other DfE group grants	-	310,935	310,935	290,942
	-	2,510,309	2,510,309	2,281,334
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	232,533	232,533	124,389
Other funding				
Other incoming resources	43,913	15,190	59,103	48,380
Exceptional government funding				
Coronavirus exceptional support	-	11,472	11,472	-
	-	11,472	11,472	-
Total funding	43,913	2,769,504	2,813,417	2,454,103

The income from funding for educational operations was £2,813,417 (2019: £2,454,103) of which £43,913 (2019: £33,408) was unrestricted and £2,769,504 (2019: £2,420,695) was restricted.

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Short term deposits	179	-	179	216

All income from investments in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

6 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Parental contributions	-	57,611	57,611	111,096

All income from other trading activities in the current and prior year was restricted.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Direct costs				
Educational operations	12,357	2,186,101	2,198,458	2,082,888
Support costs				
Educational operations	29,640	681,678	711,318	695,558
	<u>41,997</u>	<u>2,867,779</u>	<u>2,909,776</u>	<u>2,778,446</u>
			2020 £	2019 £
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs			344,811	301,859
Depreciation			59,490	59,237
Technology costs			-	1,000
Premises costs			154,968	177,339
Legal costs			47,289	35,372
Other support costs			92,994	108,273
Governance costs			11,766	12,478
			<u>711,318</u>	<u>695,558</u>

The expenditure on educational operations was £2,909,776 (2019: £2,776,446) of which £41,997 was unrestricted (2019: £29,749) £2,867,779 was restricted (2019: £2,746,697) and £nil was restricted fixed assets (2019: £nil).

8 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	9,540	9,540	12,517
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	2,041,117	-	157,341	2,198,458	2,082,888
- Allocated support costs	344,811	214,458	152,049	711,318	695,558
	<u>2,385,928</u>	<u>214,458</u>	<u>318,930</u>	<u>2,919,316</u>	<u>2,790,963</u>

The expenditure on raising funds was £9,540 (2019: £12,517) of which £9,540 (2019: £12,517) was restricted.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8 Expenditure

(Continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:	2020	2019
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	7,000	6,460
- Other services	3,350	2,845
- Taxation	260	250
- Teachers' pension audit	870	705
Operating lease rentals	18,035	18,035
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	59,490	59,237
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	12,000	12,000

9 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The headteacher and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of headteacher and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as trustees.

During the year, expenses totalling £161 (2019: £293) were reimbursed to 2 trustees (2019: 3 trustees).

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

Dr P Jones (Headteacher)
Remuneration: £95,000 - £100,000 (2019: £95,000 - £100,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £20,000 - £25,000 (2019: £15,000 - £20,000)

Mr I Chilvers (Staff)
Remuneration: £50,000 - £55,000 (2019: £50,000 - £55,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £10,000 - £15,000 (2019: £5,000 - £10,000)

Mr G Christie (Staff)
Remuneration: £40,000 - £45,000 (2019: £35,000 - £40,000)
Employer's pension contributions: £10,000 - £15,000 (2019: £5,000 - £10,000)

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 22.

10 Insurance for trustees and officers

The 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.

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	1,749,838	1,637,854
Social security costs	162,444	151,446
Pension costs	473,646	342,920
Total staff expenditure	<u>2,385,928</u>	<u>2,132,220</u>

Staff numbers

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Teachers	32	30
Administration and support	33	32
Management	3	4
	<u>68</u>	<u>66</u>

Higher paid staff

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

	2020 Number	2019 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contribution) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £447,221 (2019: £414,243).

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 September 2019	5,072,000	56,677	100,420	5,229,097
Additions	-	47,274	8,090	55,364
At 31 August 2020	5,072,000	103,951	108,510	5,284,461
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2019	158,920	46,495	37,848	243,263
Charge for the year	40,576	8,947	9,967	59,490
At 31 August 2020	199,496	55,442	47,815	302,753
Net book value				
At 31 August 2020	4,872,504	48,509	60,695	4,981,708
At 31 August 2019	4,913,080	10,182	62,572	4,985,834

13 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
VAT recoverable	33,860	17,944
Other debtors	80,467	79,793
Prepayments and accrued income	93,405	61,120
	207,732	158,857

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	68,994	46,219
Other taxation and social security	40,017	38,411
Other creditors	42,426	34,725
Accruals and deferred income	59,626	79,903
	211,063	199,258

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

15 Deferred income

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	47,544	68,534
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	68,534	49,076
Released from previous years	(68,534)	(49,076)
Resources deferred in the year	47,544	68,534
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	47,544	68,534

At the balance sheet date the Academy Trust was holding funds received in advance for Special Educational Needs funding which relate to the 2020/21 academic year.

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	110,323	2,199,374	(2,111,521)	-	198,176
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	322,407	(288,346)	-	34,061
Other government grants	29,581	232,533	(241,709)	-	20,405
Other restricted funds	24,579	72,801	(62,253)	-	35,127
Pension reserve	(567,000)	-	(114,000)	116,000	(565,000)
	<u>(402,517)</u>	<u>2,827,115</u>	<u>(2,817,829)</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>(277,231)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	4,939,084	-	(45,240)	-	4,893,844
DfE group capital grants	24,501	10,446	(9,205)	-	25,742
Capital expenditure from GAG	24,069	-	(5,045)	-	19,024
	<u>4,987,654</u>	<u>10,446</u>	<u>(59,490)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,938,610</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,585,137</u>	<u>2,837,561</u>	<u>(2,877,319)</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>4,661,379</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>71,295</u>	<u>44,092</u>	<u>(41,997)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,390</u>
Total funds	<u>4,656,432</u>	<u>2,881,653</u>	<u>(2,919,316)</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>4,734,769</u>

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

16 Funds

(Continued)

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

- GAG funds are restricted to providing education
- Other DfE / EFA grants relate to reimbursement for specific services
- Other government grants are in relation to the growth funding and local authority SEN funding received
- Other restricted funds are held to provide trips and other activities for students and the provision of education
- Capital grants are received for capital purchases and must be spent in line with the terms and conditions of the grant.

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

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	145,499	1,990,392	(2,025,568)	-	110,323
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	290,942	(307,754)	16,812	-
Other government grants	53,259	124,389	(148,067)	-	29,581
Other restricted funds	22,124	126,068	(123,613)	-	24,579
Pension reserve	(418,000)	-	(80,000)	(69,000)	(567,000)
	<u>(197,118)</u>	<u>2,531,791</u>	<u>(2,685,002)</u>	<u>(52,188)</u>	<u>(402,517)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	4,984,324	-	(45,240)	-	4,939,084
DfE group capital grants	21,993	9,895	(7,387)	-	24,501
Capital expenditure from GAG	30,679	-	(6,610)	-	24,069
	<u>5,036,996</u>	<u>9,895</u>	<u>(59,237)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,987,654</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>4,839,878</u>	<u>2,541,686</u>	<u>(2,744,239)</u>	<u>(52,188)</u>	<u>4,585,137</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	99,345	35,486	(46,724)	(16,812)	71,295
Total funds	<u>4,939,223</u>	<u>2,577,172</u>	<u>(2,790,963)</u>	<u>(69,000)</u>	<u>4,656,432</u>

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by West Sussex 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £40,158 (2019: £31,994) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £283,209 (2019: £186,327)

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

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

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £105,664 (2019: 93,141), of which employer's contributions totalled £81,524 (2019: £70,371) and employees' contributions totalled £24,140 (2019: £22,770). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

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

The estimated pension liabilities at the 31 August 2020 include an allowance for the impact of the McCloud judgement.

Principal actuarial assumptions	2020 %	2019 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.8	3.0
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.3	2.3
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7	1.8

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

	2020 Years	2019 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.2	21.8
- Females	24.2	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	23.3	23
- Females	25.9	25.5

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

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(43.8)	(37)
Discount rate - 0.1%	43.8	37
Mortality assumption + 1 year	2.6	4
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(2.6)	(4)
CPI rate + 0.1%	40.6	33
CPI rate - 0.1%	(40.6)	(33)

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2020 Fair value £	2019 Fair value £
Equities		
Bonds	795,420	632,000
Cash	500,820	467,680
Property	73,650	63,200
	103,110	101,120
Total market value of assets	<u>1,473,000</u>	<u>1,264,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £138,000 (2019: £95,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost		
Past service cost	209,000	137,000
Interest income	-	19,000
Interest cost	(23,000)	(32,000)
Benefit changes, curtailments and settlements gains or losses	35,000	44,000
	-	(1,000)
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>221,000</u>	<u>167,000</u>

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September 2019		
Current service cost	1,831,000	1,507,000
Interest cost	209,000	135,000
Employee contributions	35,000	44,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	27,000	23,000
Benefits paid	(1,000)	133,000
Past service cost	(63,000)	(30,000)
	-	19,000
At 31 August 2020	<u>2,038,000</u>	<u>1,831,000</u>

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

17 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September 2019		
Interest income	1,264,000	1,089,000
Actuarial gain	23,000	32,000
Employer contributions	115,000	63,000
Employee contributions	107,000	87,000
Benefits paid	27,000	23,000
	(63,000)	(30,000)
At 31 August 2020	1,473,000	1,264,000

Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability) at 31 August 2020

(565,000)	(567,000)
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18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,981,708	4,981,708
Current assets	73,399	498,823	(43,098)	529,124
Creditors falling due within one year	(9)	(211,054)	-	(211,063)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(565,000)	-	(565,000)
Total net assets	73,390	(277,231)	4,938,610	4,734,769

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	4,985,834	4,985,834
Current assets	71,295	363,741	1,820	436,856
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(199,258)	-	(199,258)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(567,000)	-	(567,000)
Total net assets	71,295	(402,517)	4,987,654	4,656,432

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(37,663)	(213,791)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(10,446)	(9,895)
Investment income receivable	(179)	(216)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	102,000	68,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	12,000	12,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	59,490	59,237
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(48,875)	4,495
Increase in creditors	11,805	38,837
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	88,132	(41,333)

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2020 £
Cash	277,999	43,393	321,392

21 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts due within one year	26,157	18,035
Amounts due in two and five years	16,056	26,834
	42,213	44,869

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

22 Related party transactions

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

Simon McCarthy Electrical, (a company in which Mrs F McCarthy's (Deputy Headteacher) close family member, is the owner), undertook various electrical repairs on behalf of the trust totalling £300 (2019: £240) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2020 (2019: £nil)

23 Members' liability

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