

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020
Company Registration Number: 07452885 (England and Wales)

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

CONTENTS	PAGES
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Directors' Report	2
Governance Statement	9
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	12
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	13
Independent Auditors' Report	14
Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating Income & Expenditure Account)	16
Balance Sheet	17
Cash Flow Statement	18
Notes to the Financial Statements	19
Independent Reporting Accountants' Assurance Report on Regularity	33

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Board of Directors	K Lynch (Chair) D Lynch J McDermott M Karaolis (resigned 7 October 2020) M Pareas (appointed 7 October 2020) C Smyth (resigned 9 March 2020) C Brazil I Gunn J Chambers C Mackinlay P Taylor
Members	D Lynch K Lynch C Smyth (appointed 9 March 2020) Education London P Ward
Company Secretary	D Lynch
Key Management Personnel	C Mackinlay – RET Chief Executive S King – Bristol Free School Headteacher S Price – King’s School Headteacher M Vassiliou – St Andrew the Apostle Headteacher M O’Sullivan – Turing House Headteacher P Frayne – RET Head of Finance & Operations
Business Address	Manor House The Crescent Leatherhead Surrey KT22 8DY
Registered Office	Manor House The Crescent Leatherhead Surrey KT22 8DY
Company Registration Number	07452885
Independent Auditor	UHY Hacker Young LLP Quadrant House 4 Thomas More Square London E1W 1YW
Bankers	Lloyds Bank Plc 1 Legg Street Chelmsford CM1 1JS
Solicitors	Brown Jacobson LLP Victoria Square House Victoria Square Birmingham B2 4BU
Schools within Multi Academy Trust	Bristol Free School King’s School, Hove St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School, Barnet Turing House School, Teddington Becket Keys Church of England School (from 1 September 2020)

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Background

The directors present their report and financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 August 2020.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and also Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and serves the purpose of both a trustees' report under charity law and a directors' report under company law.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and 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).

The company was incorporated on 26 November 2010, the principal activity since incorporation was that of establishing and running new schools.

Russell Education Trust (the 'Trust' or 'RET') became a Multi Academy Trust on 1 September 2013 when a funding agreement, and supplemental funding agreements for RET St Andrew the Apostle School and RET King's School were signed by the Trust and the Department for Education. Bristol Free School subsequently transferred into the Multi Academy Trust with effect from 1 May 2014. RET Turing House School opened on 1 September 2015 following the signature of a supplemental funding agreement in March 2015.

When all of its four schools (which were delivered under the free schools programme and therefore not all year groups are currently filled) are at capacity its academies will have a combined pupil capacity of 4,550. The total number of pupils recorded in the school census in October 2020 was 3,190.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 26 November 2010, is an exempt charity, and does not have share capital. The Charitable Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing document of the Trust. The Memorandum of Association established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

The Russell Education Trust Memorandum and Articles of Association work alongside the Funding Agreements with the Secretary of State for Education, to which the Russell Education Trust is a party.

The trustees/directors who served during the year are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

The members of the company comprise:

- Principal Sponsor – Education London Limited (CRN 04655433)
- Up to four persons appointed by the Principal Sponsor
- One person appointed by the Secretary of State for Education, (in the event that the Secretary of State appoints a person for this purpose)
- Chair of the directors
- Any person appointed by the other members, by unanimous agreement

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, such amount as may be required not exceeding £10.

Directors' Indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy trust has arranged for cover to protect directors and officers from the financial impact of claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on trust business. The financial protection is through the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA). The RPA scheme provides cover up to £10m.

Directors

The following directors have held office during the year:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|
| • K Lynch (Chair) | • C Smyth (resigned 9 March 2020) | • P Taylor |
| • D Lynch | • C Brazil | |
| • J McDermott | • I Gunn | |
| • M Karaolis (resigned 7 October 2020) | • J Chambers | |
| • M Pareas (appointed 7 October 2020) | • C Mackinlay | |

Relationship between Principal Sponsor and Charity

Education London Limited (CRN 04655433) sponsors the exempt charity, Russell Education Trust (RET). Russell Education Trust is a Multi Academy Trust. As is the case when an approved academy sponsor has services supplied by a third party, a Deed of Agreement (Tripartite Agreement) sets out the relationship between Education London, Russell Education Trust and the Secretary of State. Under this agreement, all goods and services provided by Education London to Russell Education Trust are supplied on a strictly not-for-profit ("at cost") basis. The "at cost" calculation basis is the definition used by the Department for Education. Education London ceased trading in September 2017. Therefore, whilst Education London continues to operate as Russell Education Trust's sponsor it no longer supplies consultants to the Trust.

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Method of Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

Directors serve for four years following which they are eligible for re-appointment. This time limit does not apply to the directors appointed by the Principal Sponsor.

Directors are recruited so that the following areas of expertise, experience and responsibility are represented on the Board:

- Senior local government leadership
- Management and leadership of charities
- Primary leadership in outstanding schools
- Secondary leadership in outstanding schools
- Relevant and up to date experience of the Ofsted inspection of primary and secondary schools and local authorities
- Financial management and monitoring
- Management of the sponsor, Education London
- School improvement
- Project management
- Government education policy

Directors' Induction and Training

Most directors are already familiar with the work of the company. Additionally, new directors will be given an individual induction by the Chairman of the Board which covers:

- The obligations of members of the Board
- The current financial position of the company
- Future plans and objectives

Organisational Structure

Overall responsibility for finances and for all other aspects of the Trust continues to rest with the Board of Directors. The CEO's delegated responsibilities are outlined in a scheme of delegation. The board delegates a number of functions to the local governing bodies of Turing House School, Bristol Free School, King's School and St Andrew the Apostle School, and the governing body of the RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust which is a connected trust.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The setting of pay for all staff, including key management personnel, is managed in accordance with the Trust's Pay Policy and performance management framework. Pay decisions are reviewed by either the local governing body or the RET Board to ensure external review of management decisions.

Connected Organisations, including Related Party Relationships

Russell Education Trust established RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust (08096798) as a separate trust and the relationship between the two trusts is set out in the Articles and Funding Agreement of each. Education London is RET's sponsor and makes donations to associated academies as well as providing services 'at cost' under agreement with Russell Education Trust. This relationship is governed by a Tripartite agreement between RET, Education London and the Secretary of State. As described in the Structure, Governance and Management section of this report Education London ceased trading with effect from 1 September 2017 but continues to operate as Russell Education Trust's sponsor.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trust employed more than 49 full time employees during the financial year and therefore it must disclose trade union facility time in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017. RET schools recognise the valuable support and advice trade unions provide to teaching and non-teaching staff. Many employees at the Trust's schools are trade union members with union representatives appointed, who, where necessary provide advice to union members during work hours. During the year five employees were union representatives. Total time spent by these employees in fulfilling their role as union representatives during the year was not significant. The work of these representatives is undertaken with the support of the Trust and its school. Employees are where necessary referred to their union representatives to ensure they take appropriate advice in relation to employment matters. Each of the Trust's schools provides access to its meeting facilities to enable Trade Unions to hold meetings that take place outside of the school day.

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The objects of the company are to advance, for the public benefit, education in the United Kingdom, by sponsoring, establishing, developing and maintaining academy schools.

Objectives and Aims

Russell Education Trust works to establish and disseminate best practice and support the establishment of free schools and academies. In particular:

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. RET's approach is based on best practice in schools; in which each child's needs and aspirations are met in a stimulating and safe environment. We understand that excellent discipline and the security of each student to both express individuality and take responsibility at school are fundamental to personal, social and academic success.
2. In RET's schools, students will be taught exceptionally well, and trained and encouraged to progress to the jobs, training and higher education most suited to their talents and abilities, irrespective of their social or economic circumstances.
3. RET works with proposing groups to envision, propose and then plan free schools. We work with parents, communities and diocesan authorities to set up and run new free schools. RET will only support free schools when a new school is needed in the proposed locality and its establishment significantly extends parental choice (for example establishing a secondary or primary school where there is none; or opening a Church school for which there is very strong parental demand and diocesan support; or opening a coeducational non-faith school for which there is very strong parental demand). These schools are inclusive comprehensives with the highest possible academic standards, serving their locality and working as part of their local family of schools. Both RET and the founding groups with whom it works are firmly resolved that these free schools will all be judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted and their communities within two years of opening.
4. RET aims to contribute to the development of training for teachers and head teachers.
5. RET aimed to have five secondary free schools open by 2015 (including Becket Keys school which is part of a connected trust), which was achieved with the opening of Turing House School in September 2015.
6. RET aims to improve the life chances of children from the most economically and socially disadvantaged groups, through improved teaching and extended extra-curricular opportunities.

Public Benefit

The directors confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charitable company's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for the year. The directors consider that the charitable company's aims are demonstrably for the public benefit.

Strategic Report

A. Achievements and Performance

Like all schools across the country, RET schools were heavily impacted upon by Coronavirus and the virus control measures that were introduced by the UK government. During the first lockdown in spring 2020 RET schools continued to provide teaching and learning to students from deprived backgrounds, and key workers' children. In addition, the Trust developed an approach to online learning for all students with the rapid implementation of IT solutions to enable this. With the return of all students in June 2020 the Trust developed a comprehensive suite of risk assessments and supporting guidance documents that underpinned a safe approach to teaching and learning in all RET schools; these arrangements ensure all employees and students are protected as far as is practicably possible. In spite of the pressures of the lockdown and the revised ways of working the Trust made significant progress in a number of areas with the Trust's financial system overhauled, RET Becket Keys was incorporated into the MAT immediately after 31 August, the damage to King's building was remedied due to the intervention of the Trust, and progress has been made on the new build projects for Turing House and St Andrew the Apostle.

There have been a number of minor changes to the key management personnel of the Trust. Mr O'Sullivan was appointed as the permanent headteacher of Turing House School in October 2020, having fulfilled the role on a temporary basis since September 2019. Mrs Indra Warwick has been appointed as the permanent headteacher of St Andrew the Apostle School and will take up her post on 1 January 2021.

Overview of RET School Activities

Like all schools, due to the Coronavirus no formal exams were sat at GCSE or A Level by students at RET schools. Therefore, the most up-to-date formal results to report on are those which were included in last year's report.

Bristol Free School

The school has been consistently oversubscribed since it opened in 2011. Recruitment to the 6th form has been challenging due to competition within the local 6th form sector, and the school's leadership team is working hard in 2020-21 to increase recruitment to the 6th form for September 2021.

Ofsted visited the school in 2018 and its judgement was that the school should be categorised as 'Requires Improvement'. The school, together with the Trust, had already started taking steps to address the challenges the school faced and it is confident of a positive outcome at the next Ofsted inspection.

The success of the measures taken by the Trust and school was reflected in the summer 2019 results. The school's results in terms of progress (using the national Progress 8 figure) placed the school on a par with the city's Good and Outstanding schools. The core subjects of English, mathematics and science were among the many success stories. In mathematics 80.3% of students achieved grades 9-4 (equivalent to the old grades A* - C), 80.9% of students achieved 9-4 grades in English and more than 72.9% of separate science grades were graded at 9-4. The provisional Progress 8 score for the school was 0.27 which was a marked improvement on the 2018 results and is a reflection of the hard work of the school's staff and students. The school's A-Level results also improved significantly with the valued added / progress score increasing from -0.18 to +0.39, average points per entry increasing from 25.66 to 33.16, and the overall number of students receiving 3 or more A levels at A* to C increasing from 19.6% to 38.5%.

Becket Keys Church of England School

Becket Keys was part of a connected trust which transferred into Russell Education Trust on 1 September 2020. High standards have been achieved at Becket Keys and the school has been oversubscribed every year since 2013. The exceptional standards

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

achieved were validated by the Ofsted inspection report in May 2014 which identified the school as Outstanding in all areas. The high standards at the school are reflected in the school's admissions: the school is oversubscribed at year 7 and recruitment to the school's 6th form is very strong.

The school received its third set of GCSE results in August 2019, and these were very strong. The school's Progress 8 Score placed Becket Keys in the top 10-15% of schools in the country. Furthermore, Attainment 8 Score for the entire cohort was 56.3 (top 5% in the country). 80% of students achieved at least 5 A*-C/9-4, including English and Mathematics. The school received its first set of A-Level results in August 2019, and these were strong. 87 students sat A-Level exams with 37% achieving grade A*-B, 59% A*-C and 96% being awarded A*-E.

St Andrew the Apostle School

After working with the Classical Education Trust and the office of the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain RET opened St Andrew the Apostle in September 2013. This was the country's first, and is still the only, Greek Orthodox secondary school. The high standards achieved by the school were recognised in the school's latest Ofsted inspection in 2018 which identified the school as Good. 2019-20 was a particularly challenging year for the school with the passing away of Mr Yiannis Pareas, who was the school's Chair of Governors. Mr Pareas' was a key member of the group that led the development and opening of the school, he had been the school's Chair of Governors since the school was opened, and his loss is still felt acutely by the school community and the Trust.

The school's summer 2019 results were exceptional. 49% of all Year 11 students achieved the gold standard EBACC measure and the school's English results were equally outstanding with 84% achieving a grade 4 or higher in English Language and 63% achieving a grade 5 or higher. 72% of the school's students achieved a grade 4 in maths and 60% a grade 5. 69% of students achieved a grade 4 and 51% in double award science.

The school's excellent results also need to be placed in the context of a challenging site. The school has a permanent site agreed and the procurement of a contractor for the new school building has commenced with the building due to be completed in 2023.

King's School

RET worked with local parents to open King's School in September 2013. The school had its first Ofsted inspection in May 2015 and the hard work of the staff and students was rewarded with an excellent Ofsted inspection outcome of Good with outstanding features. The school is anticipating an Ofsted visit in 2020-21 and the school is anticipating a positive outcome.

The second cohort of students achieved an excellent set of GCSE results with 76% of the cohort achieving 9-4 grades in English and Maths. Student's results across the core subjects were especially strong, with 87% in English and 83% in Maths at grade 4 or above. The average grade for the school's students per exam was above a grade 5; 25% of all grades were the prestigious top grades 7, 8 and 9. Students at all levels of prior attainment made very good progress across the curriculum and once again King's students made progress in excess of national averages.

The school had to deal with the significant challenges posed by the failure of its school building in February 2020. The works were contracted by the ESFA and the Trust has expressed its dissatisfaction, and regret, that the Trust had forewarned the ESFA of the risks that its contracting and monitoring arrangements created. The remedial works were largely completed by 31 August 2020.

Turing House School

Turing House School opened on 1 September 2015 following close co-operation between the Trust and parent proposers. The school has made a very successful start on a temporary site in Teddington and in September 2018 it opened a second temporary site in Hampton which is approximately 2 miles from the existing temporary site. The Trust and school are working closely with the contractor and ESFA to ensure that the new school building is completed on schedule and passed to the school in 2021.

The school's founding pupils have made a successful start, and this was reflected in the Ofsted judgement in 2018 which rated the school as Good, with outstanding features. The school's founding year group commenced their first year of GCSE studies in September 2018 and, following exceptional outcomes in their GCSE Religious Studies taken in 2019, the Trust and school were expecting a strong set of first GCSE results in summer 2020, and it is with regret that that external validation of the school's progress since opening will be delayed until summer 2021.

Risk Management

The directors hold responsibility for the management of the risks faced by the company. In light of the Corporate Governance guidance contained within the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS102, they have considered the major risks to which the company is exposed and continue to review regularly the financial and compliance controls necessary to mitigate those risks.

A key risk faced by the Trust concerns the acquisition of permanent sites and the associated capital works at St Andrew the Apostle School and Turing House School. In April 2016 the Trust was notified by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) that new arrangements for new build projects were to be introduced with immediate effect. Henceforth the capital works for new build projects were to be managed by the ESFA and its appointed technical advisers on the Trust's behalf with limited input from the Trust and School. The Trust made representations to the ESFA that it did not believe that these new arrangements are compliant with the Academies Financial Handbook because decisions made during the design process, to which the Trust and its schools may or may not be involved, will have long term implications for school revenue budgets. The Academies Financial Handbook precludes trusts from entering into arrangements for which the associated financial liabilities are unknown. The Trust's concerns are also in the context of its experience working with the ESFA across a range of capital projects. Regrettably, the Trust's concerns were borne out in 2019-20 with a significant failure of the King's building. The costs of the remedial works do not impact upon the Trust although the operational impact upon the school and its staff and students in

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

particular was significant. The remedial works were largely complete by 31 August 2020 with almost all of the school site passed back to the school.

Given the failure of the King's building, the Trust continues to have concerns regarding the capacity of the ESFA to effectively manage capital projects to time and to budget. Regrettably, the Trust regularly has had to step in where the performance of the ESFA and its advisers do not meet the reasonable expectations of the Trust. The Trust bears the financial burden of shadow managing the ESFA's project managers and technical advisers to protect the interests of both the Trust and the taxpayer. The Trust's risk register includes several risks that Trustees rated as 'High' in terms of probability and impact; these risks relate to the ESFA's management of capital works.

The key risk facing the school in 2020 and that it had to manage in the 2020-21 financial year is the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. The lockdown, and operating environment had a limited impact upon the financial position of the Trust. The Trust has been fortunate that the impact upon the health of its employees did not materially affect Trust operations during 2019-20. However, the impact of the lock down upon the education to the school's students has been significant. The Trust has put in place an array of changes to its operating arrangements to ensure that staff and students are safe and to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 within the Trust's school. Whilst these measures impact upon the means by which teaching is provided, the Trust continues to provide a curriculum for all students on the same basis as was provided before the outbreak. The Trust has also put a Covid-19 catch up plan in place to ensure that the needs of students who fell behind during the lockdown are addressed.

Risk and Control Framework

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

- Trust Financial Procedures;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties in each associated academy's financial procedures;
- Directors' review of projected new schools' costs;
- Directors' review of proposed and actual procurement (e.g. ICT provider);
- Identification and management of other risks through the use of risk registers; and
- Internal audit arrangements.

The Trust has a risk register in place for each school that identifies the risks being managed by each school, categorises the risks according to their likelihood and impact, and identifies the mitigating actions being taken. The schools' management teams review the risk registers and they are also reviewed by local governing bodies and the RET board. There is also a strategic risk register that identifies those risks being managed corporately by the Trust.

The RET Board considered the need for a specific internal audit function and took the decision in December 2019 to procure an external provider to deliver this service with the scope of work was set by the RET Finance and Buildings Committee. Regrettably, the procurement process was delayed by the Coronavirus lockdown. A provider was appointed in June 2020 with work starting in summer 2020 and reports to be provided to the RET Board in 2020-21.

Key Performance Indicators

As described in the Overview and Activities section above, due to the Coronavirus no formal exams were sat at GCSE or A Level by students at RET schools. Therefore, the most up-to-date formal results to report on are those which were included in last year's report. All the Trust's schools obtained a strong set of GCSE results in Summer 2019, and A-Level results for Bristol Free School and Becket Keys School.

Pupil recruitment is extremely strong at the Trust's schools. All RET schools except St Andrew the Apostle are likely to be oversubscribed for year 7 in September 2020 and initial indications are that all those schools will be oversubscribed in 2020-21; some schools significantly so. The recruitment of 6th form students at all RET schools has been very challenging for 2020-21 due to Coronavirus in addition to site related issues affecting St Andrew the Apostle School and Turing House School. The Trust is working with its schools to identify how 6th form recruitment for 2021-22 can be strengthened.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board has 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 Accounting Policies in note 1 to the financial statements.

Whilst the Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact upon the school's operations, it does not affect the governing body's view with regard to the preparation of these financial statements on a going concern basis. The school is primarily funded on the basis of pupil numbers, and therefore the schools' income position is generally unaffected. Whilst there have been additional costs of operating arising out of the Coronavirus pandemic, particularly during the lockdown, these had no bearing on the governing body's judgement regarding going concern.

B. Financial Review

The Trust's income is mainly derived from Department for Education grants. Total income (excluding Fixed Asset Funds and the Pension Reserve) of £20,315k were partially offset by expenditure (excluding Fixed Asset Funds and the Pension Reserve) of £19,788k creating an in-year surplus of £529k on the Restricted and Unrestricted Funds (excluding the Pension Reserve). The Coronavirus pandemic did not have a materially detrimental impact upon the Trust's financial position. The Trust worked hard to limit the financial impact of actions required to reduce the risk of transmission amongst staff and students. The school did not furlough any staff members because Trust operations continued during the lockdown.

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

There is a cumulative surplus on the Unrestricted and Restricted Funds (excluding Fixed Assets and Pension Reserve) of £688k. At the end of the year under review the reserves balances for the Trust were as follows:

	Restricted Funds exc. Pension Reserve £000	Unrestricted General Funds £000	Total Free Reserves £000	Pension Reserve £000	Fixed Asset Reserve £000	Total Reserves £000
Reserves at 1 September 2019	(1,092)	803	(289)	(1,716)	13,603	11,598
Net movement in funds 2019-20	614	365	979	(962)	169	186
Reserves at 31 August 2020	(478)	1,168	690	(2,678)	13,772	11,784

Restricted fixed asset income for the year is £1,268k and total fixed asset additions during the year is £550k. The Trust made a successful application to receive Schools Capital Allocation funding in 2019-20 and has put in place arrangements to prioritise the application of this capital funding to school projects.

Net pension liabilities at 31 August 2020 are £2,678k. Whilst the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) liabilities are recognised as a significant deficit within the Trust's restricted funds, there is not an immediate liability for the total amount, but rather the liability reflects the potential for increases in employer pension contributions in later years.

Reserves Policy

The General Unrestricted Fund reserve more than offsets the balance on General Annual Grant, and the Trust will keep the situation under review and transfer funds if it deems this necessary.

With the opening of King's School's new site in September 2019, planning approval by Richmond Council for Turing House's new site and the repayment of outstanding PNAs relating to the ESFA's mis-management of the opening works for King's School and St Andrew the Apostle School the Trust is moving towards a new phase in its development. In this context, and with regard to the risks facing the Trust and its schools, the Trust's Board has reviewed its reserves position and has set the following targets for the Trust's schools:

- **St Andrew the Apostle School:** Balanced position on reserves by 31 August 2021 and 3.5% of gross income held as reserves by 31 August 2024
- **King's School:** Maintain balanced position on reserves to 31 August 2021 and 3.5% of gross income held as reserves by 31 August 2024
- **RET central services:** £100k of reserves by 31 August 2021
- **Turing House School:** balanced position on reserves by 31 August 2022
- **Bristol Free School:** 3.5% of gross income by 31 August 2022

The Trust had put appropriate measures in place during the Coronavirus pandemic to protect its financial position, including the continuation of all financial monitoring arrangements to ensure the same robust level of financial control remains. The pandemic has not therefore led to a deterioration in the Trust's financial reserves and the Trust and its schools remain committed to its reserves targets.

Investment Policy

In the short-term cash balances are adequate and it looks like these balances will grow. The Board has approved an investment policy with the focus upon minimising risk. Investments are restricted to accounts and investments held with UK banking institutions.

Fundraising Activities

RET schools raise a limited amount of funds to support their operating activities and enhancements to the school environments. The funds are raised through direct appeals to parents and occasional small-scale events that also serve to encourage the growth and development of the school communities. The Trust is mindful of the need not to pressurise parents and therefore avoids unreasonably intrusive or persistent fundraising approaches. Furthermore, requests for contributions always emphasise that any parental or community donations are voluntary. The Trust's Charging and Remissions Policy and Gifts and Hospitality Policy set a framework for the management of fundraising activities.

Plans for Future Periods

All the Trust's schools have a robust School Development Plan that are formulated in conjunction with Russell Education Trust's central advisory team. These plans draw upon the strength of the Trust's school improvement experience. The Trust's key priority for this academic year is to manage the impact of Covid-19, and to do so the school will follow the RET Trust wide priorities of:

- Curriculum Modification for year 10 to 13;
- Developing the digital curriculum;
- Reducing the gap for disadvantaged pupils i.e. digitally, socio-economically, SEND, year 7; and
- Emotional and mental health support for students and staff.

Subsequent Events

From 1 September 2020, RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust has transferred all of its assets, liabilities, reserves and operations to Russell Education Trust. RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust, which was a connected Trust, is therefore no longer an active Academy Trust and that company will cease to operate in due course.

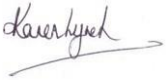
**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
DIRECTORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Provision of Information to Auditors

In so far as all of the directors are aware:

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

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



K Lynch

Chair

15 December 2020

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Scope of Responsibility

As directors, we acknowledge that we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Russell Education 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.

Mr Colin Mackinlay is the Trust's CEO and Accounting Officer. The Board has delegated the day to day responsibility to the CEO 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 agreements between Russell Education Trust and the DfE with regard to King's School, St Andrew the Apostle, Turing House School, and Bristol Free School, and in the financial handbooks of each of RET's associated academies. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The board of directors/trustees has formally met three times during the year to 31 August 2020. Attendance during the year at meetings of the current Board members was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Karen Lynch	3	4
Danny Lynch	3	4
Colin Mackinlay	4	4
Iain Gunn	2	4
Christine Smyth (resigned 9 March 2020)	-	1
Patricia Taylor	4	4
John McDermott	3	4
Mary Karaolis	3	4
Clive Brazil	4	4
John Chambers	4	4

The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the main board and its purposes are to:

General

- To consider the MAT's indicative funding, notified annually by the ESFA, and to assess its implications for the MAT;
- To consider and recommend acceptance/non-acceptance of the MAT's budget including staffing levels, at the start of each financial year;
- To receive and make recommendations on the broad budget headings and areas of expenditure to be adopted each year, including the level and use of any contingency fund or balances, ensuring the compatibility of all such proposals with the MAT's priorities set out in the strategic plan;
- To review the regular budget monitoring reports from each school and approve the necessary action, up to and including removal of financial delegation;
- To review the MAT's list of preferred suppliers and oversee procurement arrangements;
- To consider policies;
- To advise the Board on the appointment, re-appointment, dismissal and remuneration of the financial statements auditor;
- To review the Trust's annual external financial statements and reports, and ensure they can be recommended to the Trust's Board for final approval; and
- To monitor the Trust's risk management arrangements and advise the Board on their adequacy and effectiveness.

Audit

- To consider and advise the Board regarding internal and external assessments of financial and corporate governance;
- To consider and advise the Board about any alleged fraud and irregularity reported by the Accounting Officer in accordance with the RET Anti-Fraud and Whistleblowing policies. The Committee is responsible for and ensuring that all such allegations of fraud and irregularity are properly investigated, and appropriate action taken;
- To ensure that the Trust's internal control systems meet, or exceed, the standards specified in the Academies Financial Handbook and complies in all other respects with these guidelines;
- To keep under review, the internal financial control of the Trust and establish a programme of work to address identified risks, the statement of internal control, and so far as is possible, provide assurance to external auditors;
- To determine the scope and objectives of the work of the internal audit service;
- To consider internal audit reports and the arrangements for their implementation and recommend to the Board actions as appropriate to respond to findings;
- To monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations relating to internal audit reports;
- To ensure the Trust is independently audited by an approved registered auditor;
- To monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations relating to the financial statements auditor's management letter; and
- To consider and advise the Board on the Trust's annual and long-term audit programme.

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Attendance at Finance Committee meetings in the year was as follows:

Governor	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Karen Lynch	2	2
Danny Lynch	2	2
Colin Mackinlay	2	2
Iain Gunn	1	1
Patricia Taylor	1	1
John McDermott	1	1
Mary Karaolis	2	2
Clive Brazil	1	2
John Chambers	1	1

Review of Value for Money

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

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

- Sharing expertise, experience and data within the Trust, as well as accessing economies of scale when undertaking shared purchases. Cost savings from vendors include the retendering of software services across the MAT resulting in tailored solutions for individual schools, facilitating significant long-term cost reductions;
- Automating processes to eliminate paperwork and administration overheads;
- Switching to cloud-based document storage and servers to eliminate the costs of on premises servers and to integrate with the Trust's ICT infrastructure;
- Adopting Microsoft Teams to support the response to Covid but to take the Trust to alternative ways of working that are more efficient and less costly;
- Enhancing the budget monitoring process through the development of improvements to the budget setting and monitoring processes. This has contributed to the Trust's culture of rigorous expenditure management; and
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of each school's administrative functions through detailed reviews of support staff functions.

As described elsewhere in this document, the Board and Accounting Officer has serious concerns regarding the capacity of the ESFA's capital team. These concerns include the failure to achieve value for money when acquiring sites and managing the associated capital works which in turn impacts on the Trust's revenue budget either through unfunded budget pressures from operating from temporary sites, some of which are also split sites, and the necessity of shadow managing the ESFA's capital team to ensure projects are managed to a level the Trust regards as a generally accepted standard.

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 Trust's 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 current system of internal control has been in place since September 2012 and for the year ended 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The board of directors has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to manage those risks. The board of directors is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

Risk and Control Framework

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

- Trust's Financial Procedures;
- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties in each associated academy's Financial Procedures;
- Director review of projected new schools' costs;
- Director review of proposed and actual procurement (e.g. ICT provider);

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

- Identification and management of other risks through the use of risk registers. Additional detail is provided in the Risk and Control Framework section of the Directors' Report;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance; and
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to put in place an internal audit function. The service is delivered by qualified accountants from across Russell Education Trust's schools. The internal audit function reports directly to the trustees, who also set an annual scope of work for internal audit.

Internal audit's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included bank reconciliations and VAT.


The internal audit function reports to the board of trustees on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

Review of Effectiveness

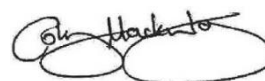
Review of the effectiveness of the Trust's system of internal control is the responsibility of the CEO. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal audit function;
- the work of the Finance Committee;
- the work of the external auditor; and
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

Approved by order of the Board on 15 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs K Lynch
Chair



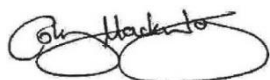
C Mackinlay
Accounting Officer

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

As Accounting Officer of Russell Education Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust governing body and the Education and Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the Funding Agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. 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 governing body 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.



C Mackinlay
Accounting Officer

15 December 2020

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The directors (who act as trustees for charitable activities of Russell Education Trust and are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Requirements issued 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 directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the directors 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 directors 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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business.

The directors 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 directors 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 the ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The directors 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 on 15 December 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



K Lynch
Chair

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Opinion

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

In our opinion, Russell Education Trust financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- 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 financial statements' 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 financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements 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 financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

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

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 Directors' Report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report, including the incorporated 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 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 Directors' 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Responsibilities of directors

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

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the academies 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 directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

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 company's members, as a body, in accordance with part 3 of Chapter 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.



Colin Wright (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young LLP, Chartered Accountants

UHY Hacker Young LLP
Quadrant House
4 Thomas More Square
London
E1W 1YW

Statutory Auditor

16 December 2020

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	-	49	1,267	1,316	385
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for the academy trust's education operations	4	-	18,073	-	18,073	15,684
Other trading activities	5	521	405	-	926	1,259
Total		521	18,527	1,267	20,315	17,328
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
- Academy trust's education operations	6, 7	156	18,533	1,098	19,787	19,005
Total		156	18,533	1,098	19,788	19,005
Net income / (expenditure)		365	(6)	169	528	(1,677)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		365	(6)	169	528	(1,677)
Other recognised gains and losses:						
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension scheme	25	-	(342)	-	(342)	(657)
Net movement in funds		365	(348)	169	186	(2,334)
Total funds brought forward	15	803	(2,808)	13,603	11,598	13,932
Total funds carried forward	15	1,168	(3,156)	13,772	11,784	11,598

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements for an Income and Expenditure Account under the Companies Act 2006.

All of the academy's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

A comparative Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2020 is shown in note 2 to the financial statements.

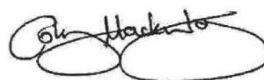
RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £000	2020 £000	2019 £000	2019 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		13,023		13,574
Current assets					
Debtors	12	792		717	
Cash at bank and in hand	22	<u>2,680</u>		<u>1,175</u>	
		3,472		1,892	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,033)</u>		<u>(1,972)</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			1,439		(80)
Total assets less current liabilities			14,462		13,494
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		<u>-</u>		<u>(180)</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			14,462		13,314
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	25		<u>(2,678)</u>		<u>(1,716)</u>
Net assets			<u>11,784</u>		<u>11,598</u>
Funds of the Trust:					
Restricted funds					
- Fixed asset fund	15		13,772		13,603
- General fund	15		(478)		(1,092)
- Pension reserve			<u>(2,678)</u>		<u>(1,716)</u>
Total restricted funds			<u>10,616</u>		<u>10,795</u>
Unrestricted income funds					
- General fund	15		<u>1,168</u>		<u>803</u>
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,168</u>		<u>803</u>
Total funds			<u>11,784</u>		<u>11,598</u>

The financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 15 December 2020 and are signed on their behalf by:



K Lynch
Chair



C Mackinlay
Accounting Officer

Company Number: 07452885

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £000	2019 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash from/(used in) from operating activities	19	786	(400)
Cash flows from investing activities	20	719	106
Cash flows from financing activities	21	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,505	(294)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2019		1,175	1,469
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2020	22	2,680	1,175

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. Russell Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions, including the current and future impact of COVID-19, that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the trust to continue as a going concern.

The directors make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. It is difficult to determine the full impact of COVID-19 to the trust, however after due considerations the directors have concluded that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the trust's ability to continue its operational activities and continue as a going concern. The directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

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 entitlement of receipt its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

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

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

The academy trust is benefiting from the ESFA's Free School programme. The funding for the programme is not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement from costs being incurred, and the development occurring on a site where the academy trust controls (through ownership, lease or licence) the site where the development is occurring. The expenditure is capitalised in assets under construction until the project is complete.

Sponsorship Income

Sponsorship income provided to the trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably. There was no sponsorship income received during the period.

Donations

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

Other Income

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

Donated Services and Gifts in Kind

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

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

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Expenditure

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

Expenditure on Raising Funds

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

Charitable Activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

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

- Long leasehold land & buildings - life of lease
- Fixtures & equipment - 20% straight line
- Computer equipment & software - 20% straight line
- Motor vehicles - 20% straight line

Assets or buildings in the course of construction are included at cost, based on the value certified or other direct costs incurred to 31 August. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use.

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

Liabilities

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

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the academy trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

Leased Assets

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

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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 12. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

Cash at bank

This is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. None are included in this model but if relevant the suggested disclosure could be as follows, with valuation in line with SORP 2015.

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 13 and 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. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Pensions Benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in note 24, the TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use define benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received and include grants from the Education and Skills Funding Agency or the Department for Education.

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. 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.

Critical assumptions for LGPS

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 24, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2. Comparative SoFA

In accordance with the requirement under SORP 2019 the Trust must disclose the comparative information for all amounts presented in the SoFA. The trust's SoFA for 2018-19 is provided below to allow comparisons with the 2019-20 SoFA.

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2019 £000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	44	-	341	385
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for the academy trust's education operations	4	-	15,684	-	15,684
Other trading activities	5	833	426	-	1,259
Total		877	16,110	341	17,328
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities:					
- Academy trust's education operations	6, 7	415	17,188	1,402	19,005
Total		415	17,188	1,402	19,005
Net income / (expenditure)		462	(1,078)	(1,061)	(1,677)
Transfers between funds		-	79	(79)	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		462	(999)	(1,140)	(1,677)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	25	-	(657)	-	(657)
Net movement in funds		462	(1,656)	(1,140)	(2,334)
Total funds brought forward	15	341	(1,152)	14,743	13,932
Total funds carried forward	15	803	(2,808)	13,603	11,598

3. Donations and Capital Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Capital grants	-	-	1,261	1,261	341
Donations	-	49	6	55	44
	-	49	1,267	1,316	385

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,317k (2019: £385k) of which £nil was unrestricted (2019: £44k), £49k restricted (2019: £nil) and £1,261k restricted fixed assets (2019: £341k).

4. Funding for Trust's Educational Operations

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted General Funds £000	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
General Annual Grant (GAG)				
DfE / ESFA revenue Grants				
- General Annual Grant	-	15,285	15,285	13,548
- Start Up Grants	-	225	225	256
- Pupil Premium	-	545	545	514
- Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	803	803	125
	-	16,858	16,858	14,443
Other Government Grants				
- SEN Grant	-	272	272	169
- VASIS grants	-	934	934	1,072
	-	1,206	1,206	1,241
Exceptional Government Funding				
- Coronavirus exceptional support	-	9	9	-
	-	9	9	-
Total	-	18,073	18,073	15,684

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Funding for the Trust's educational operations was £18,073k (2019: £15,684k) of which £nil was unrestricted (2019: £nil) and £18,073k restricted (2019: £15,684k). The Academy Trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in year from government support schemes in response to the Coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under exceptional government funding. The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £9k of reclaimed costs relating to hygiene services and supplies. These costs are included in notes 6 and 7 below as appropriate

5. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted General Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Hire of Facilities	5	-	5	13
Trip and Club Income	157	405	562	497
Other Income	359	-	359	748
	521	405	926	1,258

Income from other trading activities was £926k (2019: £1,258k) of which £521k was unrestricted (2019: £832k) and £405k restricted (2019: £426k).

6. Expenditure

	Staff Costs	Premises	Other	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trust's education operations:					
- Direct costs	11,956	656	783	13,395	12,131
- Allocated support costs	2,826	2,104	1,462	6,392	6,874
	14,782	2,760	2,245	19,787	19,005

Net income / (expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Depreciation	1,098	1,401
Fees payable to auditor - audit	30	31

7. Charitable activities – Educational Operations

	Total 2020 £000	Total 2019 £000
Direct costs – educational operations:	13,395	12,131
Support costs – educational operations	6,392	6,874
	19,787	19,005

Analysis of Support Costs

Support staff costs	2,826	2,766
Depreciation	442	437
Technology costs	357	358
Premises costs	1,662	1,845
Other support costs	1,048	1,433
Governance costs	57	35
Total Support Costs	6,392	6,874

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8. Staff

a. Staff Costs

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	10,424	9,574
Social security costs	1,065	963
Pension costs	2,869	1,950
Apprenticeship levy	33	30
	14,391	12,507
Supply staff costs	391	509
Staff restructuring costs	-	29
	14,782	13,055

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Severance payments	-	29

b. Non-statutory/non contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £nil (2019: £14,985).

c. Staff Numbers

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	224	175
Administration and support	124	102
Management	6	6
	354	283

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	7	4
£70,001 - £80,000	3	2
£80,001 - £90,000	3	5
£90,001 - £100,000	4	2
£100,001 - £110,000	-	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1

d. 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) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £683,816 (2019: £614,742).

9. Related Party Transactions - Directors' Remuneration and Expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration with the academy trust. RET's current and former Chief Executive only received remuneration in respect of this role, and not in respect of services provided as a trustee. Other trustees did not receive any remuneration in respect of their services as trustees. The value of the trustee's remuneration was as follows:

C Mackinlay (RET Chief Executive and Trustee):
 Remuneration £135,001 - £140,000 (2019: £135,001 - £140,000)
 Pension costs of £29,893

During the period ended 31 August 2020, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £2,714 (2019: £5,397) were paid to 1 trustee (2019: 3 trustees).

10. Governors' and Officers' Financial Liabilities

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the academy has arranged for cover through the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) to protect governors and officers from the financial impact of claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The arrangement provides cover up to £10m. The membership cost for the scheme is £20 per pupil per annum and the Governors and Officers cover is included within this cost. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers' indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold land & buildings £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Computer equipment £000	Motor Vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost					
At 1 September 2019	19,110	1,368	2,539	76	23,093
Additions	216	66	265	-	547
Disposals	(1,253)	-	-	-	(1,253)
At 31 August 2020	18,073	1,434	2,804	76	22,387
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2019	6,368	1,038	2,037	76	9,519
Charged in year	656	144	298	-	1,098
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation on disposals	(1,253)	-	-	-	(1,253)
At 31 August 2020	5,771	1,182	2,335	76	9,364
Net book values					
At 31 August 2020	12,302	252	469	-	13,023
At 1 September 2019	12,742	330	502	-	13,574

12. Debtors

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Trade debtors	11	40
VAT recoverable	123	123
Other debtor	6	19
Prepayments and accrued income	652	535
	792	717

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Trade creditors	696	508
Other taxation and social security	266	237
Pensions	230	260
Other creditors	362	544
Accruals and deferred income	479	423
	2,033	1,972

The balance of £362k for 'Other creditors' includes an ESFA creditor of £180k as a result of 2013-14 and 2014-15 Pupil Number Adjustments repayable to the ESFA in 2019-20. The repayment is in accordance with a repayment plan agreed by the Trust with the ESFA. Further details are shown in note 14 below.

	2020 £000
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	280
Resources deferred in the year	325
Amounts released from previous years	(280)
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	325

Deferred income represents funds received in advance for school trips, and grants for business rates.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
ESFA creditor	-	180

The 2020-21 repayment of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 PNAs amounts to £180k and is included in the Creditors due within one-year section of this report. A repayment of £202k relating to these PNAs was also made by the Trust in 2019-20. The ESFA creditor balance of £180k solely relates to 2013-14 and 2014-15 Pupil Number Adjustments for St Andrew the Apostle School (£112k) and King's School (£68k). As set out in the Financial Review section of the Trustees' Report these repayments relates to the lower than anticipated pupil numbers at the two schools in the two years after opening. Ineffective project management by the ESFA led to parental concerns regarding progress on the sites during summer 2013 and 2014 with confidence in the likelihood of the schools opening falling away. The ESFA acknowledged there had been failures in their management of the building works but maintained that site issues have no bearing on parental confidence in whether a Free School will open. The ESFA forced the schools to repay the full amount of the pupil number adjustments which totalled £725k, with an agreement reached by the Trust and the ESFA on the repayment profile.

15. Funds

15.1 Analysis of Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £000	Incoming resources £000	Resources expended £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2020 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(879)	15,285	(14,576)	-	(138)
Start-up Grant	-	225	(225)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	545	(545)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	(167)	803	(930)	-	(294)
DfE Exceptional Covid Funding	-	9	(9)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,716)	-	(620)	(342)	(2,678)
Activities for generating funds	(46)	373	(373)	-	(46)
Local authority grant	-	272	(272)	-	-
Donations	-	49	(49)	-	-
Other government grant	-	934	(934)	-	-
	(2,808)	18,527	(18,533)	(342)	(3,156)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE / ESFA building grants	8,615	1,189	(918)	-	8,886
DfE/ESFA capital grants	323	61	-	-	384
Capital expenditure from GAG	-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds	(10)	8	(19)	-	(21)
Voluntary Income	4,675	9	(161)	-	4,523
	13,603	1,267	(1,098)	-	13,772
Total restricted funds	10,795	19,794	(19,631)	(342)	10,616
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	803	521	(156)	-	1,168
Total unrestricted funds	803	521	(156)	-	1,168
Total funds	11,598	20,315	(19,787)	(342)	11,784

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £000	Incoming resources £000	Resources expended £000	Gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 31 August 2019 £000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(389)	13,548	(14,117)	79	(879)
Start-up Grant	-	256	(256)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	514	(514)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	(41)	125	(251)	-	(167)
Pension reserve	(676)	-	(383)	(657)	(1,716)
Activities for generating funds	(46)	426	(426)	-	(46)
Local authority grant	-	169	(169)	-	-
Other government grant	-	1,072	(1,072)	-	-
	(1,152)	16,110	(17,188)	(578)	(2,808)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE / ESFA building grants	9,663	180	(1,228)	-	8,615
DfE/ESFA capital grants	162	161	-	-	323
Capital expenditure from GAG	79	-	-	(79)	-
Activities for generating funds	3	-	(13)	-	(10)
Voluntary Income	4,836	-	(161)	-	4,675
	14,743	341	(1,402)	(79)	13,603
Total restricted funds	13,591	16,451	(18,590)	(657)	10,795
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	341	877	(415)	-	803
Total unrestricted funds	341	877	(415)	-	803
Total funds	13,932	17,328	(19,005)	(657)	11,598

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

General Annual Grant: must be used for the normal running costs of the Academy including salary costs, overheads, premises costs and curriculum costs. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

Other DfE/ESFA and government grants: include funding received from the DfE and Local Education Authorities for specific purposes.

Fixed asset fund: includes grants received from the DfE and other sources to finance the purchase of tangible fixed assets.

Pension reserve: the element of the local government pension fund liability attributable to the Academy (note 24).

Transfer between funds: a transfer from unrestricted funds to the restricted fixed asset fund was necessary to fund capital expenditure carried out during the year.

15.2 Analysis of Academies by Fund Balance

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were as follows:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
RET Schools Central	41	(55)
Allocated reserve	278	-
Bristol Free School	53	1
St Andrew the Apostle School	187	(210)
King's School	131	20
Turing House School	-	(45)
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	690	(289)
Restricted fixed asset fund	13,772	13,603
Pension reserve	(2,678)	(1,716)
Total	11,784	11,598

All RET schools and the central service function now have surpluses on reserves. This positive position is despite the Trust having repaid all Pupil Number Adjustments relating to St Andrew the Apostle and King's School. These totalled £725k and related to the clawback of funding by the ESFA for pupils that withdrew from joining the two schools in September 2013 and September 2014 because they were deterred by the ESFA's ineffective management of the capital works. The Trust is now in a far more secure financial position albeit the Board has set reserves targets for all of its schools that will ensure that all schools are able to mitigate a broad range of financial challenges.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

15.3 Analysis of Academies by Cost

	Teaching & education support £000	Other support staff costs £000	Education supplies £000	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £000	TOTAL £000
Bristol Free School	3,622	798	269	733	5,422
RET Schools Central	856	371	1	295	1,523
St Andrew the Apostle	2,866	612	132	1,158	4,768
King's School	2,229	609	137	397	3,372
Turing House School	2,382	436	114	516	3,448
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	11,955	2,826	653	3,099	18,533

16. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted general funds £000	Restricted fixed asset funds £000	2020 Total funds £000	2019 Total funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,023	13,023	13,574
Current assets	1,168	1,555	749	3,472	1,892
Current liabilities	-	(2,033)	-	(2,033)	(1,972)
Non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-	(180)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,678)	-	(2,678)	(1,716)
Total net assets	1,168	(3,206)	13,772	11,784	11,598

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

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted general funds £000	Restricted fixed asset funds £000	2019 Total funds £000	2018 Total funds £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	13,574	13,574	14,740
Current assets	803	1,060	29	1,892	2,863
Current liabilities	-	(1,972)	-	(1,972)	(2,650)
Non-current liabilities	-	(180)	-	(180)	(345)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,716)	-	(1,716)	(676)
Total net assets	803	(2,808)	13,603	11,598	13,932

17. Capital Commitments

There are no capital commitments not provided for in the financial statements.

18. 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:

Land and Buildings	2020 £000	2019 £000
Amounts due within one year	577	565
Amounts due between one and five years	1,650	719
Amounts due after five years	-	-
TOTAL	2,227	1,284

£1,974k of the commitments under operating leases relate to the additional temporary accommodation at St Andrew the Apostle School that was negotiated by, and is fully funded by, the ESFA. Therefore, there is no financial commitment in relation to this lease upon the Trust.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19. Reconciliation of Net Income / (Expenditure) to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure)	528	(1,677)
Depreciation	1,098	1,401
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,268)	(341)
Defined benefit pension scheme costs less contributions payable	585	365
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	35	18
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	75	677
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(119)	(843)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	784	(400)

20. Cash Flows from Investing Activities

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	547	235
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA	(1,251)	(341)
Other capital grants	(8)	-
Voluntary capital income	(9)	-
Net cash from / (used in) financing activities	(721)	(106)

21. Cash Flows from Financing Activities

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Interest received	-	-
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment	-	-

22. Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Cash in hand and at bank	2,680	1,175
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,680	1,175

23. Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At		Acquisition /	New finance	Other non-	At 31
	1 September	Cash flows	disposal of	leases	cash charges	August
	£000	£000	subsidiaries	£000	£000	2020
			£000			£000
Cash	1,175	1,505	-	-	-	2,680
Cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,175	1,505	-	-	-	2,680
Loans falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans falling due after more than one year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,175	1,505	-	-	-	2,680

24. Members' Liabilities

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.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

25. Pension and Similar Obligations

Overview

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes which are both defined-benefit schemes:

1. Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and
2. Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff which is managed by Essex Pension Fund.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £229k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2020 (2019: £260k) and are included within creditors.

A. Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS or scheme) is a statutory, unfunded, defined benefit occupational scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academies. Teachers and lecturers are able 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 with these contributions 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 four 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 costs 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 pass 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, 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 1st of April 2023. A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the teachers pensions website.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £2,468,054 (2019: £1,818,699).

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

B. Local Government Pension Scheme

Each Local Government Pension Scheme is a multi-employer funded defined-benefit scheme with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The Trust is currently part of five different funds:

- London Borough of Barnet Pension Fund (St Andrew the Apostle School);
- Avon Pension Fund (Bristol Free School);
- East Sussex Pension Fund (King's School);
- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Pension Fund (Turing House School); and
- Surrey County Council Pension Fund (Russell Education Trust central staff).

The total contributions made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £625,334 (2019: £504,287) of which employee's contributions totalled £164,422 (2019: £147,083) and employer's contributions totalled £460,912 (2019: £357,204). The agreed contribution rates for future years are between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees and between 13.7% and 23.8% for employers.

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.

25A.1 Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	2020 Range		2019 Range	
	From	To	From	To
Rate of increase in salaries - employer specific	2.2%	3.8%	2.6%	3.6%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.2%	2.3%	2.0%	2.3%

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

25A.2 Mortality Expectations

The current mortality assumptions included sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 averaged across the funds are:

		2020 Range		2019 Range	
		From	To	From	To
Retiring today	Males	21.6	23.2	21.0	23.7
	Females	23.9	25.3	23.3	26.2
Retiring in 20 years	Males	22.5	24.7	22.1	26.3
	Females	25.3	27.3	24.9	29.0

25A.3 Estimated Share of Assets and Expected Rates of Return

The estimated share of assets in the schemes attributable to the Trust and the average expected rates of return across the schemes were:

	2020 Fair Value £000	2019 Fair Value £000
Gilts	1,534	1,017
Equities	349	203
Other Bonds	106	121
Property	218	102
Alternative Assets	451	319
Cash	117	56
Total Market Value of Assets	2,776	1,818
Present value of scheme liabilities funded	(5,454)	(3,534)
Deficit in the scheme	2,678	(1,716)

25A.4 Amounts Recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Net interest cost	73	34
Current service cost	994	
		636
Past service cost	-	-
Administrative expenses	4	3
Net cost	1,071	673

25A.5 Movements in Present Benefit Obligations during the Year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
At 1 September	3,534	1,841
Current service cost	994	636
Employee contributions	134	110
Actuarial loss / (gain)	724	721
Benefits paid	(5)	115
Past service cost	-	52
Interest on pension liabilities	73	59
At 31 August	5,454	3,534

25A.6 Movements in the Present Value of Defined Benefit Assets

	2020 £000	2019 £000
At 1 September	1,818	1,165
Administrative expenses	(4)	(3)
Expected return on assets	80	79
Actuarial gain	340	26
Employer contributions	413	326
Employee contributions	134	110
Benefits paid	(5)	115
At 31 August	2,776	1,818

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

26. Related Party Transactions

During the current year financial services to the value of £25,000 (2019: £25,000); core services of £107,852 (2019: £111,300), general support of £173,500 (2019: £179,049), and specific curriculum support services of £30,000 (2019: £30,000) were provided by RET to Becket Keys School which is a connected trust. Additional curriculum support of £22,540 in 2018-19 was procured by RET on behalf of Becket Keys but no such services were procured in 2019-20.

During the year the trust repaid creditor balances amounting to £118,000 to Education London, a company connected by common directors.

27. Central Services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies (including Becket Keys which is in a related trust) during the year:

- Corporate governance in line with the obligations imposed by company and charity law as well as by the DfE / ESFA
- School improvement
- Payroll support and training
- Governor support including clerking
- Premises project management
- ICT coordination and support
- Others as arising
- Finance and accounting
- Human resources

The Trust charges for these services using a flat percentage rate of 6.5% of the school's total budget in its first year of operations, which reduces by 0.5% per annum during the lifetime of the school to a minimum of 3.5%. The Trust also charges using a flat rate for finance, operations and bursarial services of £25k per annum and £30k per annum for specific curriculum support. All charges are subject to review by the governing bodies of the Trust's schools. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

RET School	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Bristol Free School	400	454
St Andrew the Apostle School	397	368
King's School	238	173
Becket Keys School (related trust)	336	368
Turing House School	246	169
Total	1,617	1,532

28. Ultimate Controlling Party

The directors consider there to be no ultimate controlling party.

29. Post Balance Sheet Events

From 1 September 2020, RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust has transferred all of its assets, liabilities, reserves and operations to Russell Education Trust. RET Becket Keys Church of England Free School Trust, which is connected to the Trust, is therefore no longer an active Academy Trust and Becket Keys will cease to operate in due course.

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST
INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS' ASSURANCE REPORTS ON REGULARITY TO
RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 12 June 2015 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 Russell Education 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 Russell Education Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Russell Education Trust and the 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 Russell Education Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective Responsibilities of Russell Education Trust Accounting Officer and the Reporting Accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Russell Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education 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 2018 to 2019. 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 the 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.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- Evaluation of the general control environment and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures;
- Confirmation that the internal delegations have been approved by the governing body, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education;
- Review of the declaration of interests to ensure completeness;
- Review of minutes for evidence of declaration of interest;
- A sample of payments has been reviewed to confirm that each item has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities;
- A sample of cash payments were reviewed for unusual transactions;
- A sample of expenditure items were reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement; and
- Formal representations have been obtained from the governing body and the Accounting Officer acknowledging their responsibilities for matters relating to regularity and propriety.

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 year 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.



UHY Hacker Young LLP
Quadrant House
4 Thomas More Square
London
E1W 1YW

UHY Hacker Young LLP
Chartered Accountants
Reporting Accountant

16 December 2020