HADLOW RURAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
A unique learning experience

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended
31 August 2021

Company Registration No. 07645462

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	P Morris O Reeve
Trustees	P Morris (Chairman) *#^" P Boxall (Accounting Officer) *#^" A Wickenden *# (Resigned 22/10/2020) K Richardson #^ (Resigned 02/12/2020) O Reeve *" M Algar #" K Moule *^" I Chappell #^ (Appointed 11/05/2021) H Guntrip #^ (Appointed 04/01/2021) A Harvey #^ (Appointed 01/12/2020) S Moore #^ (Appointed 01/12/2020) N Yeomans #^ (Appointed 11/05/2021)
	* members of the Finance and Resources Committee # members of the Quality and Curriculum Committee ^ members of the Strategy Committee " members of the Audit Committee
Head Teacher	P Boxall**
	** members of senior management team
Principal and Registered Office	Hadlow Rural Community School Tonbridge Road Hadlow Tonbridge Kent TN11 0AU
Company Registration Number	07645462 (England and Wales)
Independent Auditor	RSM UK Audit LLP Portland 25 High Street Crawley West Sussex RH10 1BG
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Level 27, 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
Solicitors	EMW Seebeck House 1 Seebeck Place Knowhill Milton Keynes, MR5 8FR

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates an academy for pupils aged 11 to 16 serving a catchment area in Tonbridge and Malling. It has a pupil capacity of 400 and had a roll of 381 in the school census on 21 January 2021.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust. The trustees of Hadlow Rural Community School Limited are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Hadlow Rural Community School.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy has purchased Governor's liability insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £1 million on any one claim.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Academy Trust is to provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum, satisfying the requirements of section 78 of the Education Act 2002, for children of different abilities aged 11-16. The school provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Staff governors are elected by the staff employed at the Hadlow Rural Community School. The total number of staff governors (including the Head Teacher/Principal) should not exceed one third of the total number of governors (including vacancies).

Parent Governors are elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at Hadlow Rural Community School at the time when he/she is elected. The number of Parent Governors required shall be made up by Parent Governors appointed by the Governing Body, if the number of parents standing for election is less than the number of vacancies. If appointing a Parent Governor, the Governing Body will appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at Hadlow Rural Community School, or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age.

The Governors may appoint an unlimited number of Co-opted Governors. In 'Co-opting' Governors, the Governors will be mindful of the skills and experience required to ensure Hadlow Rural Community School has sufficient experience to appropriately manage the Academy. The board is made up of appropriate representation to ensure control and effective governance.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The training and induction provided for new governors will depend on their existing experience; an Induction Pack is given to all governors. A Governor Induction Pack is provided to all new Governors; this includes the Code of Practice, Articles of Association, Governance Structure, Committee Terms of Reference, Governor Contact List and Schedule of Meetings for the academic year. Induction tends to be carried out informally and is tailored specifically to the individual.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure of Hadlow Rural Community School consists of three levels, being the Governors, the Senior Leaders, and the operational staffing team. The aim of the leadership structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, approving the School Improvement Plan, approving the school budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

The Senior Leader is the Head Teacher. He controls the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Governors and reporting back to them. The Senior Leader is responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets; the appointment of staff, through appointment boards for posts in the Leadership Team and ensuring teaching staff always contain a governor; the implementation and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan; and, alongside Governors, completing the School Self Evaluation.

The Head Teacher is the Accounting Officer. Strategic decisions are made by the Board with strong leadership of the Head Teacher. The Board through its sub committees approve all major strategic decisions.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key leadership personnel

The Academy's key leadership personnel have been identified as the trustees, the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher(s) and Assistant Headteacher(s) who form the senior leadership team. No trustee receives any pay or remuneration for their role as trustee and only those with a contract of employment receive remuneration. The Deputy and Assistant Headteacher(s) have clear performance targets, including pupil progress. If all targets are met and clear evidence is provided they receive an incremental point in line with the pay policy, authorised by the Headteacher and the board of trustees. For the Headteacher's appraisal, a panel of governors (including the chair of governors) reviews the Headteacher's evidence against agreed targets. If the targets have been met the panel will authorise the increment.

Risk management

The Governors have assessed the major risks to which the Academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities, the other operational areas of the Academy and its finances, all of which are detailed in the Risk Register. The Governors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the school faces, especially in operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured that they have adequate insurance cover. The Academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and aims
The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of Hadlow Rural Community School to provide education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 11-16. Our purpose is to ensure that all students reach and surpass their full potential.

The School has high expectations of student behaviour and conduct, high quality care and guidance, and a relentless pursuit of excellence through outstanding teaching. Ensuring that these elements are embedded in our culture provides support for all students in becoming successful, confident and fully rounded individuals, prepared for the challenges of an ever changing society.

To achieve this, the School will provide an environment that promotes:
- High aspirations and outstanding progress;
- Excellent teaching and learning;
- Innovative, stimulating and enjoyable learning experiences;
- Respect, self-discipline and independence;
- A value of knowledge and a lifelong love of learning; and
- Community and empathy for others.

Objectives, strategies and activities
The objectives and strategies in the Academy's School Improvement Plan for the year ended 31 August 2021 can be summarised as:

Achievement
- Attainment of all groups is in line with, or exceeds, the equivalent averages;
- Gaps in underperformance are minimal and are closing rapidly;
- Students making, or exceeding, expected progress are high compared to national equivalent figures;
- Rapid and sustained progress across all year groups, and in all subjects; and
- Progress of defined groups is exceptional.

Teaching & Learning
- Teaching over time is Highly Effective;
- Almost all pupils make rapid and sustained progress that leads to outstanding achievement;
- All teachers have consistently high expectations and high levels of student engagement;
- Teaching is well planned and enables pupils to learn exceptionally well;
- Reading, writing, communication and maths is effectively taught across the curriculum;
- Student understanding is systematically and effectively checked throughout every lesson;
- Teachers and other adults authoritatively impart knowledge to ensure that pupils are engaged in learning and generate high levels of commitment to learning across the school; and
- High quality marking and feedback ensures that pupils make significant and sustained gains in their learning.

Behaviour & Safety
- Pupils consistently display a thirst for knowledge and understanding and a love of learning;
- Pupils' attitudes to learning are of an equally high standard across subjects, years and classes and with different staff. Incidences of low-level disruption in lessons are extremely rare;
- Stakeholder voice is unreservedly positive about behaviour and safety;
- Pupil's conduct is impeccable, both in and outside of lessons;
- Students are fully aware of different forms of bullying and incidents of bullying are isolated and dealt with highly effectively;
- Pupils' excellent conduct and behaviour reflects the school's effective strategies to promote high standards;
- Behaviour management is skilfully and consistently applied, promoting a positive environment and leading to excellent levels of improvement over time;
- All groups of students feel safe and understand how to keep themselves safe; and

- Teaching strategies are well-judged and are matched to student needs.

Leadership & Management

- All leaders and managers pursue excellence, and model professional standards;
- Effective self-evaluation and monitoring procedures are employed;
- Excellent policies underpin practice and ensure excellent progress in literacy;
- There is a relentless focus on improving Teaching and Learning with a focus on CPD for all staff and its links with appraisal;
- The curriculum promotes a thirst for knowledge and a love for learning; providing academic, technical and sporting opportunities supporting the development of the student as a whole;
- Achievement of disadvantaged students is rising rapidly in English and Maths;
- All leaders and managers demonstrate the capacity for improvement;
- Effective governance of the School, ensuring financial stability and efficient management of financial resources;
- Parents effectively engage with the School;
- External partnerships are effective and successful in improving the School; and
- Safeguarding procedures are rigorous, efficient and effective.

The review of the 2020-21 School Development Plan shows the following:

Achievement
Many students are making better than expected progress particularly when considering their starting points. Performance in Core subjects has shown sustained progress and external results support the strong progress made by all students.

When considering starting points for students, school outcomes represent a substantial value added for students both in regard to academic performance and progression.

Teaching & Learning
Teaching is consistently strong and students make very good progress over time. This includes disadvantaged students and the least and most able students. Planning is high quality and well matched to student need. Learning opportunities are challenging and stretch students.

Behaviour & Safety
Behaviour of students at the School is excellent, judgements of which are supported by external moderators (DfE Advisor, Ofsted). Attitudes to learning are very good and support a positive learning environment. Students are courteous and respectful to adults and each other and demonstrate high levels of engagement in lessons. Incidents of low level behaviour are dealt with efficiently and school strategies to improve behaviour are highly effective.

Students have a clear understanding that bullying will not be tolerated within the School. They are clear on the different forms of bullying and have a good understanding on how to deal with this effectively. Similarly, they have a good understanding of safety and what constitutes risk.

Leadership & Management
The leadership of the School provides a clear and ambitious vision for the School. Procedures and policies implemented have demonstrated continued rapid and sustained improvements across the School.

Opportunities for developing leadership and ensuring succession management are strong with 80% of leadership positions appointed through internal progression/promotion.

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

The trustees consider that the company's aims are demonstrably for the public benefit. We support other schools through sharing of practise and knowledge to ultimately benefit the wider community.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Total pupils on roll in the year ended 31 August 2021 totalled 369 and were split between the year groups as follows:
Year 7 – 74
Year 8 – 76
Year 9 – 69
Year 10 – 83
Year 11 – 67

Progress and achievement in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 match or exceeds national equivalent expectations.

Year 11 external results (Centre Assessed Grades) were in keeping with the attainment range of the cohort and outcomes were in line with national equivalents. The overall outcomes for this cohort provided an overall Progress 8 score of +0.05, which was in keeping with school forecasts and expectations for the cohort.

The inclusion of Land-Based courses changes this outcome significantly with Progress increasing to +0.15. When considering similar or like for like schools in Kent, the performance of students at HRCS outperforms other schools by +0.4 to +0.5 within 2019.

The School experienced its first Ofsted inspection in June 2015, this was followed up with a further inspection in February 2019. The outcome of both inspections were extremely positive and acknowledged the rapid and continued improvements the School had experienced.

The inspections highlighted the leadership and governance of the School as a key strength in developing a clear vision and highly positive ethos. The innovative curriculum, combining land-based with academic studies, was also confirmed as a significant strength of the School.

Safeguarding, the promotion of British values and Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development was also deemed a strong aspect of the School.

Financial Review

Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes to support the objects of Hadlow Rural Community School. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2021 £2,633,000 (2020: £2,223,000) and the associated expenditure £2,589,000 (2020: £2,160,000) are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities

The Academy also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA of £118,000 (2020: £nil). In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP FRS 102), such grants are shown in the statement of financial activities as restricted income in the restricted fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned. During the year ended 31 August 2021 total expenditure was covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources. The excess of expenditure over income for the year (excluding restricted fixed asset funds and pension deficit) was £6k. At 31 August 2021 the net book value of fixed assets was £8,288k and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 9 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Academy. The principal financial management policies adopted in the year are detailed in

the Statement of Accounting Policies. The Academy has also adopted the Academies Financial Handbook.

At 31 August 2021 the Academy had net current assets of £364,000 (2020: £235,000).

The Academy has been impacted by Covid-19 both operationally and financially. Unrestricted income was the most effected as the Academy had to restrict its catering and school bus service offerings due to lockdowns and the requirement of social distancing and classroom bubbles. While the costs associated with these offerings lowered they were not proportional to the loss of income and both services only truly resumed from March 2021. To enable social distancing additional fixed asset expenditure occurred on items such as marquees which were met within the fixed asset budget. While some other costs, such as heating, increased these were managed within the Restricted General Fund.

The Academy received the following funding relating to Covid-19:

- Catch-up premium. The premium has been used for its intended purpose of supporting students to catch up on missed learning. Items bought using the fund have included additional online resources and revision books to support remote learning. Additional tuition was offered to students during some of the holiday periods and staff were paid for their time from the funding.
- Testing programme. The Academy purchased extra items and equipment in order to conduct the testing within the school hall and utilised its existing staff rather than agency. The funding was applied against these items and overtime for the staff involved.

Though not strictly funding, the Academy was in receipt of several devices donated by the DfE to support remote learning during lockdown periods. The Academy would not have been able to meet the demand from students for devices otherwise.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Academy Trust has only basic financial instruments, as described in section 11 of FRS 102, in the form of bank balances, cash and trade creditors, consequently it has selected to apply only the provisions of section 11 and not section 12 of FRS 102.

Hadlow Rural Community School has a pension deficit of £668,000 relating to the LGPS defined benefit pension scheme. This deficit is subject to triennial actuarial reviews that will determine appropriate employer pension contributions. The next actuarial review will be carried out as at 31 March 2022 affecting employer contributions from April 2023.

Reserves policy

The governors review the Academy's reserves annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitment and the nature of reserves. The school has limited reserves at 31 August 2021, restricted general funds of £460,000 and a deficit of unrestricted funds of £31,000. These are considered to be the Academy's free reserves.

Key performance indicators

The trustees have monitored the income and expenditure of the Academy against the budgets agreed at the beginning of the financial year. The trustees have also set the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Whilst not limiting the recruitment and retention policies and processes of the Academy, staff costs as a percentage of income should be below 80%. The staff costs as a percentage of total revenue income for the year ended 31 August 2021 was within the target at 77%.
- The level of unrestricted reserves to not exceed 10% of income. The level of free cash reserves at 31 August 2021 was a deficit of £31,000 due to the impact of Covid-19 on the school's catering and bus service provisions.

- Pupil Premium funding to be effectively used for all eligible pupils and its impact assessed. The school received £110,890 that was used to support 92 pupils.
- Capital projects to come in on time and within budget. There were no capital projects in the year to 31 August 2021.
- A positive cash flow to be maintained at all times. A positive cash position was maintained throughout the year.

Plans for Future Years

- To further increase the support for continuing professional development of all staff, leading to the delivery of cutting edge practice and the highest quality of teaching and provision for all students.
- To ensure all pupils have every opportunity to achieve accelerated progress in all subject areas, with a specific emphasis on reading, writing and numeracy
- To promote the School as an outward facing educational establishment and one that is at the centre of the local, national and global community, providing effective School to School support within the Tonbridge and Malling locality.
- To provide an innovative curriculum that meets the needs of all students, and one that inspires and challenges all learners, whilst also preparing students for future employability and life in modern Britain.
- To further promote a culture of high expectations, high aspirations and working collaboratively in enabling all stakeholders to reach their potential.
- To provide more extensive enrichment opportunities focused on developing the child as a whole and supporting the continuing social, moral, spiritual and cultural education of every child.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Academy has a Risk Register that is reviewed regularly by the trustees. The principal risks, come under the headings of Education, Business (Financial) and Reputational. Due to the controls in place, the majority of risks were regarded as medium and low probability, with the exception of those related to legacy debts which have now been resolved.

Going concern
The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

In arriving at this conclusion, the trustees have taken account of current and anticipated financial performance in the current economic conditions, and the Academy's reserves position. The Trust has received confirmation of its GAG funding through to August 2022. The Trustees have considered projections for the years ended 2022, 2023 and 2024, which were prepared to stress test the financial resilience of the Academy. The budgeted surplus for the next financial year, being just under double of that of the current year, has assured the Trustees that there are funds in place if the Covid-19 pandemic continues to have economic impacts.

Auditors
RSM UK Audit LLP has indicated its willingness to continue in office.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditor
The trustees have confirmed that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditor is unaware. Each of the trustees have confirmed that they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Board of Trustees and the Strategic Report (included therein) is approved by the Board of Trustees in their capacity as the directors at a meeting on 16 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

P Morris
Chair of Trustees

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Hadlow Rural Community School has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DFE's Governance Handbook and Competency framework for governance.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Headteacher as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the Funding Agreement between Hadlow Rural Community School And the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

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

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Morris (Chairman)	3	3
M Algar	2	3
O Reeve	3	3
K Moule	3	3
H Guntrip	2	2
A Harvey	3	3
S Moore	3	3
I Chappells	1	1
N Yeomans	1	1
P Boxall (Headteacher and Accounting Officer)	3	3

Governance reviews
Governance is routinely reviewed as part of the annual cycle of school business. The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to ensure sound management of the Academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity.

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assist the decision making of the Governing Body, by enabling more detailed consideration to ensure sound management of the academy's finances and resources, including proper planning, monitoring and probity. The Finance and Resources Committee met three times during the year. Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Morris	3	3
K Moule	3	3
O Reeve	3	3
P Boxall	3	3
Others in attendance		
L Shott (Former CFO)	1	1
N McGuinness (CFO)	3	3

The Quality and Curriculum Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to monitor the quality of the school provision including pupil progress, curriculum development and staff performance. The Quality and Curriculum Committee met three times during the year. Attendance at meetings in the year is as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Morris	2	2
K Richardson	1	1
M Algar	1	3
A Harvey	2	2
S Moore	2	2
H Guntrip	1	2
I Chappell	1	1
N Yeomans	0	1
K Richardson	1	1
P Boxall	3	3
Others in attendance		
K Moule	1	1
O Reeve	1	1

The Strategy Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to give the overall direction of the school and establish its ethos and values. The Strategy Committee intended to meet three times during the year, however one meeting was cancelled. Attendance at meetings in the year is as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Morris (Chair)	2	2
K Richardson	1	1
K Moule	2	2
A Harvey	1	1
S Moore	1	2
H Guntrip	1	1
I Chappell	1	1
N Yeomans	0	1
P Boxall	2	2

The Audit Committee is also a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to assess the adequacy of the school's internal control framework as well as direct a programme of internal scrutiny while also considering the results and quality of external audit. The Audit Committee met three times during the year. Attendance at meetings in the year is as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of possible
P Morris	3	3
M Algar	3	3
K Moule	3	3
O Reeve	3	3
P Boxall	3	3
Others in attendance		
L Shott (Former CFO)	1	1
N McGuinness (CFO)	3	3

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

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

- Strengthening the budget setting process with the use of more detailed analysis of costs and use of benchmarking to identify where savings can be made
- Review of Senior Staffing Structure
- Use of Business Assistant to support procurement to identify savings and to support the school in the proper use of procurement techniques to ensure value for money
- Charging for the public to use school facilities outside of school hours.
- Using solar power to reduce electricity costs.

The purpose of the system of internal control
The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Hadlow Rural Community School for the year ended 31 August 2021 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board have created an audit committee as a subcommittee of the main board during the year and Williams Giles were appointed as the School's internal auditors on 3 December 2020.

The internal auditor's (IA) role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. During the year the IA's focused on reviewing the Academy's risk register, its governance and its financial processes relating to income and expenditure, payroll, banking and cash, and budget monitoring. The IA's work and findings have been separately detailed within a separate report.

Review of effectiveness
As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the relevant subcommittees and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by: -

P Morris
Chair of Trustees

P Boxall
Accounting Officer

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Hadlow Rural Community School I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with ESFA terms and conditions of funding, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2020-21.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2020-21.

I confirm that no instances of material irregular, 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.

P Boxall
Accounting Officer

Date: 16 December 2021

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Hadlow Rural Community School Limited for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with the Annual Accounts Direction 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 16 December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

P Morris
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF HADLOW RURAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hadlow Rural Community School (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report or the Strategic Report[3] included within the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 14, the trustees (who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the charitable company are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Education and Skills Funding Agency's Academies Financial Handbook and Annual Accounts Direction. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education Act 2005 (as amended), Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates.

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

Use of our report

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

Dominic Blythe

DOMINIC BLYTHE (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Portland
25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BG

Date: 17/12/21

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	1	-	-	118	118	-
Charitable activities:						
Funding for academy Trust's educational operations	2	57	2,633	-	2,690	2,223
Other trading activities	3	44	-	-	44	70
Total		**101**	**2,633**	**118**	**2,852**	**2,293**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities:						
Academy Trust's educational operations	5	151	2,589	232	2,972	2,431
Total resources expended	4	**151**	**2,589**	**232**	**2,972**	**2,431**
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		**(50)**	**44**	**(114)**	**(120)**	**(138)**
Transfers between Funds	12	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Remeasurement of net defined benefit obligations	16	-	(73)	-	(73)	(220)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(50)**	**(29)**	**(114)**	**(193)**	**(358)**
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		19	(179)	8,337	8,177	8,535
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	12	**(31)**	**(208)**	**8,223**	**7,984**	**8,177**

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	31 August 2021 £'000	31 August 2021 £'000	31 August 2020 £'000	31 August 2020 £'000
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		8,288		8,401
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	129		139	
Cash at bank and in hand		462		313	
		591		452	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(227)		(217)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			364		235
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**8,652**		**8,636**
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due greater than one year			-		-
NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			8,652		8,636
Pension scheme liability	16		(668)		(459)
NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY			**7,984**		**8,177**
FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY TRUST:					
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Fixed asset fund	12		8,223		8,337
General fund	12		460		280
Restricted funds excluding pension reserve			8,683		8,617
Pension reserve	12		(668)		(459)
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS			8,015		8,158
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	12		(31)		19
TOTAL FUNDS			**7,984**		**8,177**

The financial statements on pages 18 to 38 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 16 December 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2021

P Morris
Chair of Trustees

Hadlow Rural Community School Limited
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash (used in) operating activities	14	166	261
Cash flows from investing activities		-	-
Capital grants from DfE Group		118	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	9	(135)	(43)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		**149**	**218**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 AUGUST 2020		**313**	**95**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 AUGUST 2021		**462**	**313**
Relating to:			
Bank balances included in "cash at bank and in hand"		**462**	**313**

General information
Hadlow Rural Community School is a charitable company. The address of the Trust's principal place of business is given on page 1. The nature of the Academy Trust's operations are set out in the Trustees' Report.

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

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Financial Statements to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the Academy Trust.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

Going Concern
The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The trustees have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

In arriving at this conclusion, the trustees have taken account of current and anticipated financial performance in the current economic conditions, and the Academy's reserves position. The Trust has received confirmation of its GAG funding through to August 2022. The Trustees have considered projections for the years ended 2022, 2023 and 2024, which were prepared to stress test the financial resilience of the Academy.

Income
All incoming resources are recognised when the Academy Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

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

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

Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement, when performance-related conditions have been met, and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended. Unspent amounts of capital grant are reflected in the balance in the restricted fixed asset fund.

Other income
Other income, including hire of facilities, is recognised at fair value of the consideration received or receivable in the period it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or the services.

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 academy trust's educational operations to further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, 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.

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

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

Restricted General funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by funders or donors, and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

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

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:

Leasehold buildings	50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	5-10 years
IT equipment	3-10 years
Office equipment	5 years
Motor Vehicles	10 years

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the reporting date, after estimated costs of disposal, for the asset as if it were at the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

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.

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 required the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the reporting 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 as a financing cost in the period it arises in the statement of financial activities and is allocated to the appropriate expenditure heading.

Financial Instruments

The Academy Trust has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities
Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Trust becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Taxation
The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 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'), which are multi-employer 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 Academy Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quinquennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently there is insufficient information to use defined benefit accounting, it is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately. 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 reporting date. The amounts charged to net income are the current service costs and the cost 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 as other comprehensive income.

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

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 16 will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

1 DONATIONS AND CAPITAL GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
DfE/ESFA capital grant	-	-	118	118	-
	-	-	118	118	-

The income from donations and capital grants was £118,000 (2020: £nil) of which £nil (2020: £nil) was unrestricted, £118,000 (2020: £nil) was restricted fixed asset funds and £nil (2020: £nil) was restricted general funds.

2 FUNDING FOR ACADEMY TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
DfE/ESFA REVENUE GRANTS				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	2,078	2,078	1,802
Other DfE/EFA grants:				
Year 7 Catchup Grant	-	-	-	9
Pupil Premium	-	111	111	119
Teachers Pay Grant	-	26	26	32
Teachers Pension Grant	-	74	74	71
Rates Reclaim	-	28	28	0
Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	-	10	10	10
FSM Supplementary Grant	-	4	4	4
Others	-	100	100	8
	-	2,431	2,431	2,055
Local Authority Grants	5	193	198	168
Other Grants	26	2	28	-
COVID-19 additional funding (DFE/ESFA):				
Catchup Premium	-			
Other DFE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	7	7	-
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DFE/ESFA):				
COVID-19 Mass testing funding	26	-	26	-
Other COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	57	2,633	2,690	2,223

The income from activities for generating funds was £2,690,000 (2020: £2,223,000) of which £57,000 (2020: £nil) was unrestricted, £nil (2020: £nil) was restricted fixed asset funds and £2,633,000 (2020: £2,223,000) was restricted general funds.

3 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	2021 Total £'000	2020 Total £'000
Catering income	12	-	-	12	58
Income from facilities	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	32	-	-	32	12
	44	-	-	44	70

The income from other trading activities was £44,000 (2020: £70,000) of which £44,000 (2020: £70,000) was unrestricted, £nil (2020: £nil) was restricted fixed asset funds and £nil (2020: £nil) was restricted general funds.

4 EXPENDITURE

		Non pay expenditure			
	Staff costs £'000	Premises £'000	Other costs £'000	Total 2021 £'000	Total 2020 £'000
Academy Trust's educational Operations					
Direct costs	1,883	-	112	1,995	1,676
Allocated support costs	280	185	512	977	755
Total Support Costs	2,163	185	624	2,972	2,431

Net expenditure for the year includes:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Net Interest on defined pension liability (note17)	7	2
Depreciation	248	227
Fees payable to RSM UK Audit LLP and its associates for:		
- audit	26	20

Expenditure on Academy Trust's educational operations was £2,972,000 (2020: £2,431,000) of which £151,000 (2020: £55,000) was unrestricted, £232,000 (2020: £216,000) was restricted fixed asset funds and £2,589,000 (2020: £2,160,000) was restricted general funds.

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
5 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – ACADEMY'S EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS		
DIRECT COSTS		
Teaching and educational support staff costs	1,883	1,622
Educational supplies	49	43
Other Direct Costs	63	11
	1,995	**1,676**
ALLOCATED SUPPORT COSTS		
Support staff costs	280	278
Maintenance of premises and equipment	58	12
Utilities	62	22
Transport	44	7
Cleaning	7	24
Insurance	14	9
Depreciation	248	227
Catering	54	70
Bank Interest and Charges	2	1
Legal and professional fees	164	78
Audit of the financial statements	26	20
Provision for Bad Debts	-	-
Other Support Costs	11	5
Pension finance cost	7	2
	977	755
	2,972	**2,431**

6 STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	1,456	1,304
Social security costs	135	122
Pension costs	458	361
	2,049	1,787
Supply staff costs	114	113
	2,163	**1,900**

Staff numbers
The average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Educational operations		
Teachers	26	25
Administration and support	27	20
Management	1	1
	54	**46**

Expressed as full time equivalents staff numbers during the year were:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Teachers	24	23
Administration and support	22	16
Management	1	1
	47	**40**

Higher paid staff

The Principal P Boxall received remuneration of £99,681 (2020: £94,669) and pension contributions paid by the Academy Trust of £23,604 (2020: £22,418) in the year. One (2020: none) other employee received remuneration over £60,000 in the year of £61,166 and pension contributions paid by the Academy Trust of £14,484.

Thirty one (2020: 31) of the above employees participated in the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The remainder of the employees participated in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Both pension schemes are defined benefit schemes.

6 STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS continued

Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions, and including employer national insurance) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £135,826 (2020: £128,951).

7 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Principal and other staff trustees only received remuneration in respect of services they provided undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees were not paid any remuneration nor received any other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust.

P Boxall, the Principal, received remuneration of £99,681 in 2021 (2020: £94,669) and is accruing retirement benefits under the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The contributions paid in the year amounted to £23,604 (2020: £22,418). A Harvey (staff trustee) received remuneration in the band £40,001 - £50,000 (2020: £40,001 - £50,000). Employer pension contributions paid £10,001 - £15,000 (2020: £5,001 - £10,000). S Moore (staff trustee) received remuneration in the band £10,001 - £20,000 (2020: £10,001 - £20,000). Employer pension contributions paid £1 - £5,000 (2020: £1 - £5,000).

During the year ended 31 August 2021, no trustees received reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses (2020: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 17.

8 TRUSTEES' AND OFFICERS' INSURANCE

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2021 is included in the total insurance cost.

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold land & buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures fittings & equipment £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost:					
1 September 2020	8,818	236	237	16	9,307
Reclassification	-	30	(30)	-	-
Additions	3	120	10	2	135
31 August 2021	8,821	386	217	18	9,442
Depreciation					
1 September 2020	611	180	114	1	906
Reclassification	-	14	(14)	-	-
Charged in the year	177	44	25	2	248
31 August 2021	788	238	125	3	1,154
Net book value					
31 August 2021	**8,033**	**148**	**92**	**15**	**8,288**
31 August 2020	**8,207**	**56**	**123**	**15**	**8,401**

The Academy changed its accounting package at the start of the year and adopted the academies chart of accounts. As part of the data transfer from the old package reclassifications of the fixed asset register took place to more accurately represent assets within the newly adopted chart.

10 DEBTORS

	31 August 2021 £'000	31 August 2020 £'000
Trade Debtors	13	-
Prepayments	54	74
HMRC VAT	54	58
Other debtors	8	7
	129	139

11 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	31 August 2021 £'000	31 August 2020 £'000
Trade creditors	79	71
Other creditors	47	64
Accruals and deferred income	69	51
Other tax and social security	32	31
	227	217

12 FUNDS

	At 1 September 2020 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	At 31 August 2021 £'000
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS					
General Annual Grant (GAG) (excluding pension reserve)	280	2,078	(1,898)	-	460
Pension reserve	(459)	-	(136)	(73)	(668)
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(179)	2,078	(2,034)	(73)	(208)
Other DFE/EFSA grants:					
Year 7 Catchup Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	111	(111)	-	-
Teachers Pay Grant	-	26	(26)	-	-
Teachers Pension Grant	-	74	(74)	-	-
Rates Reclaim	-	28	(28)	-	-
Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	-	10	(10)	-	-
FSM Supplementary Grant	-	4	(4)	-	-
Others	-	100	(100)	-	-
Local Authority Grants	-	193	(193)	-	-
Other Grants	-	2	(2)	-	-
COVID-19 additional funding (DFE/ESFA):					
Catchup Premium	-	7	(7)	-	-
Other DFE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	-	-
	(179)	2,633	(2,589)	(73)	(208)
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	7,580	118	(232)	-	7,466
Donation from Hadlow College	757	-	-	-	757
	8,337	118	(232)	-	8,223
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	8,158	2,751	(2,821)	(73)	8,015
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	19	75	(125)	-	(31)
COVID-19 additional funding (non-DFE/ESFA):					
COVID-19 Mass testing funding	-	26	(26)	-	-
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	19	101	(151)	-	(31)
TOTAL FUNDS	8,177	2,852	(2,972)	(73)	7,984

12 FUNDS PRIOR YEAR

	At 1 September 2019 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Resources expended £'000	Gains, losses & transfers £'000	At 31 August 2020 £'000
RESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS					
General Annual Grant (GAG) (excluding pension reserve)	147	1,802	(1,669)	-	280
Pension reserve	(169)	-	(70)	(220)	(459)
General Annual Grant (GAG)	(22)	1,802	(1,739)	(220)	(179)
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	421	(421)	-	-
	(22)	2,223	(2,160)	(220)	(179)
RESTRICTED FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	7,796	-	(216)	-	7,580
Donation from Hadlow College	757	-	-	-	757
	8,553	-	(216)	-	8,337
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	8,531	2,223	(2,376)	(220)	8,158
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	4	70	(55)	-	19
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	4	70	(55)	-	19
TOTAL FUNDS	8,535	2,293	(2,431)	(220)	8,177

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

Restricted General Funds – This fund is for income and expenses relating to the running of the school.

Restricted Fixed Asset Fund – This fund relates to the income which is contributed towards the purchase of any assets, and any relating expenses.

Unrestricted Fund – This fund is for any income and expenditure not relating to either of the two funds.

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

13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	65	8,223	8,288
Current assets	-	591	-	591
Current liabilities	(31)	(196)	-	(227)
Pension scheme liability	-	(668)	-	(668)
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31 AUGUST 2021	(31)	(208)	8,223	7,984

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS – PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted general funds £'000	Restricted fixed asset funds £'000	Total funds £'000
Tangible fixed assets	-	64	8,337	8,401
Current assets	19	433	-	452
Current liabilities	-	(217)	-	(217)
Pension scheme liability	-	(459)	-	(459)
TOTAL NET ASSETS AT 31 AUGUST 2020	19	(179)	8,337	8,177

14 RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31 August 2021 £'000	31 August 2020 £'000
Net income for the year	(120)	(138)
Depreciation (note 9)	248	227
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(118)	-
Defined benefit pension cost less contributions payable (note 16)	129	68
Defined benefit pension finance expenditure (note 16)	7	2
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	10	92
(Increase)/Decrease in creditors	12	10
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	166	261

15 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

In a previous period Hadlow Rural Community School received a statutory demand for £438,130 relating to alleged unpaid invoices from a supplier. No provision for this amount was made in the financial statements as the Trust had full confidence, including based on legal advice, that it was not liable and had provided details of when the invoices were paid.

The Trust received further communication from the same supplier in June 2021 with a revised demand for £810,760 relating to alleged unpaid invoices. The Trust once again provided details of when the invoices were paid and in conjunction with the ESFA have submitted a counterclaim. The trust has full confidence, including based on legal advice, that it is not liable. No provision for this amount has been made in the financial statements.

16 PENSION AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019. There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

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

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £240,926 (2020: £231,421).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.
Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2021 was £113,720 (2020: £79,474), of which employer's contributions totalled £88,362 (2020: £61,689) and employees' contributions totalled £25,358 (2020: £17,784). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.0 per cent for employers and range from 5.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent for employees.

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

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.85	3.25
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	2.85	2.25
Discount rate	1.70	1.65
Inflation (CPI)	2.85	2.25
Inflation (RPI)	3.10	3.05
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.0	50.0

The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	2021 years	2020 years
Retiring today:		
Males	21.6	21.8
Females	23.6	23.8
Retiring in 20 years:		
Males	22.9	23.2
Females	25.1	25.2

The Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair value at 31 August 2021 £'000	Fair value at 31 August 2020 £'000
Equities	414	292
Other bonds	88	58
Property	65	50
Cash	18	14
Gilts	4	3
Target return portfolios	44	34
TOTAL FAIR VALUE OF ASSETS	633	451

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Current service cost	215	128
Net interest cost	7	2
Total operating charge	222	130

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
At 1 September 2020	910	376
Current service cost	215	128
Interest cost	15	7
Employee contributions	24	17
Actuarial (gain)/loss	137	382
Benefits paid net of transfers in	-	-
At 31 August 2021	**1,301**	**910**

Changes in the fair value of Academy Trust's share of scheme assets:	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
At 1 September 2020	451	207
Return on plan assets	64	14
Benefits paid net of transfers in	-	-
Interest income	8	5
Actuarial (gain)/loss	-	148
Employer contributions	86	60
Employee contributions	24	17
At 31 August 2021	**633**	**451**

17 RELATED PARTIES

Between 1 September 2019 to 14 August 2020 of the previous period, the Academy Trust was under the control of Hadlow College, a Further Education college registered in England and Wales through the college's ability to appoint or remove the majority of trustees. Hadlow College had no control over the Academy Trust during the current period and is therefore no longer considered a related party. Transactions totalling £405,013 took place last year.

18 MEMBERS LIABILITY

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO HADLOW RURAL COMMUNINTY SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 September 2020 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA') as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Hadlow Rural Community School during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts. We are independent of Hadlow Rural Community School in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of Hadlow Rural Community School's accounting officer and trustees

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Hadlow Rural Community School's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 8 September 2020 and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of Hadlow Rural Community School and appointment of the accounting officer.

Reporting Accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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 extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, the Academies Financial Handbook 2020 published by the Education and Skills Funding

Agency and high level financial control areas where we identified a risk of material irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, based on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise, or potential impropriety where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts.

This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to Hadlow Rural Community School and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 September 2020. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Hadlow Rural Community School 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 Hadlow Rural Community School and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Dominic Blythe

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Date: 17/12/21