

Company Registration No. 07344747 (England and Wales)

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members

Mrs C Farrall (Resigned 30 November 2020)
Mrs J Furber
Mr A Robinson
Mr E Forshaw
Mrs G Price (Appointed 23 June 2021)
Chester Diocesan Board of Education (Appointed 21 September 2021)

Trustees

Mrs J Furber (Chair of Trustees)
Mr T Coxhill (Resigned 29 December 2020)
Mr A Cliffe
Mrs J Disney (Resigned 14 December 2020)
Mr B Radford
Mr A Robinson
Mrs S Day (Appointed 22 April 2021)
Mr T Cutts (Appointed 23 June 2021)
Mr N Cliffe (Appointed 23 June 2021)
Mr R Middlebrook (Appointed 1 September 2021)
Mr W Clayton (Appointed 27 September 2021)

Local Governing Board

Mrs S Turner (Chair of Governors)
Mrs A Ashley
Mr D Cole
Mr T Court
Mr P Groves
Mrs M Hennessy-Jones
Dr K Jones
Mr T Maclellan
Mr T Marsden
Mrs J Thomas (Resigned 7 September 2020)
Mr M Webb
Mrs D Varley

Senior management team

- CEO/Accounting Officer	Mr A Cliffe (Resigned 31 August 2021)
- Business Manager/Finance Director	Mrs K Bradshaw
- Headteacher	Mr D Cole
- Deputy Headteacher	Mr P Whitehead
- CEO/Accounting Officer	Mr R Middlebrook (Appointed 1 September 2021)

Company registration number

07344747 (England and Wales)

Registered office

Audlem Road
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 7DY

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent auditor Afford Bond Holdings Limited
31 Wellington Road
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 7ED

Bankers Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
PO Box 1000
Andover
BX1 1LT

Solicitors Stone King Solicitors
16 St John's Lane
London
EC1M 4BS

Browne Jacobson
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Multi Academy Trust operates as one academy (Brine Leas School) for pupils aged 11-19 serving a semi-rural catchment area in Nantwich and the surrounding area. Effectively this is the catchment areas of the school's partner primary schools with exception of Nantwich Academy whose catchment is shared with another local high school. Pupils are admitted in accordance with the latest admission policy which is on the website. Brine Leas is not a selective school. Last year 26 students have been admitted on distance criteria and 13 in year transfers on distance criteria.

Brine Leas School has a student capacity of 1350 and 1429 on roll at the time of the Summer 2021 census.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Academy is a company limited by guarantee, which was incorporated on 12th August 2010, and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy.

All Trustees of Brine Multi Academy Trust are also the directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as Brine Multi Academy Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the period 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

Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place through the RPA to protect Trustees and Officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on trust business.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Trustees are appointed by the MAT members in accordance with both skills and experience they can offer to ensure the Trust has a broad base of experience. See relevant articles for more information.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The induction and training of trustees will be carried out by the CEO in conjunction with the Chair of the Trust and will cover roles and responsibilities of the trustees, the organisation and workings of the board of trustees. The board of trustees subscribes to The Key for Governors and the NGA. Trustees and Governors also attend joint training with the Chimney House Group. Whole board of trustees training at the school is arranged for specific areas.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Brine Leas School is part of the Nantwich Education Partnership which helps to ensure smooth transition from primary schools to secondary school and allows collaborative working. The school is part of the Chimney House Alliance and the Chimney House Teaching School Foundation. This is a group of secondary schools largely from South Cheshire. The Training School has a focus on ITT as well as ongoing CPD and school to school support. The collaboration enables the Trust to further its objects.

Organisational structure

Trustees are responsible for creating, or delegating the creation, of Model Policies in all statutory areas. The audit committee has met on a regular basis during this academic year. Over the course of the next 12 months it is envisaged that the Trust will grow and structures will be modified accordingly. The Organisational Group, consisting of the CEO, Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Chair of Trustees, meets to consider agenda items and issues to raise with the Trust Board.

The Trust has devolved responsibility for the day to day management of the Academy to the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team. The CEO is the Accounting Officer. Policy issues are addressed by trustees with specific responsibilities. Currently, given there is as yet only one school in the MAT, the LGB of Brine Leas has three sub-committees which meet at least once a term. The sub-committees are a) Business; b) Students and c) Curriculum and Assessment. The sub-committees are chaired by a Governor and have clear Terms of Reference and delegated powers which are reviewed annually. Decisions made by these committees are passed to the full board of trustees for ratification and approval.

Roles and responsibilities for Trustees are clearly defined in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation.

- Setting general policy
- Adopting an annual plan and budget
- Monitoring the trust by the use of financial management information
- Making strategic decisions about the direction of the trust
- Making strategic decisions about capital expenditure
- Making senior appointments
- Approving the Annual Report and Statements
- Approving the Statutory Accounts Return

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Board of Trustees annually agree the teachers' pay policy, the LGB implement the policy. This policy states that all teachers pay will be set in line with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document. (STPCD).

Trustees together with the LGB, approve the Leadership Structure and set pay scales, which are reviewed against the market and any changes in role. Targets are set for the Headteacher by the HTPM Panel comprising of members of the LGB and Trustees with interim and annual reviews of progress towards targets. Pay progression is awarded when targets are successfully met. An external School Improvement Partner has been employed to quality assure this process. Targets are also set for all members of the Leadership Team and these broadly follow the Headteacher's Performance Management Standards and the teaching appraisal cycle. Recommendations are made to the LGB by the Head. Salary decisions are made in part 2 of the GB meetings and by the LGB Pay Committee.

Trade Union Facility Time (see the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017)

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publications Requirements) Regulations 2017, where an Academy Trust has more than 49 full time equivalent employees through any seven months within the reporting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the regulations. The information to be published consists of four tables covering:

Relevant Union Officials	
Number of employees who were related union officials during the relevant period	0
Employee numbers	183
Full time equivalent employees	144.48

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0%	183
1%-50%	0
51%-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time	
Provide the total cost of facility time	0
Provide the total pay bill	0
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time divided by total pay bill) x 100	0
Paid trade union activities	
Time spent on trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility hours	0

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Articles of Association set out the full aims and objectives of the Academy. The main objectives of the trust during the year ending 31 August 2021 are summarised below:

- To support and protect all staff, students and families through the Covid pandemic. This includes health and safety measures, emotional support and financial support if needed.
- To grow / expand the MAT in line with Brine Multi Academy Trust's 'growth strategy'.
- To manage the major national changes at GCSE and A level in terms of new specifications and assessment criteria.
- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all pupils in the trust
- To ensure that every child aged 4-19 enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and learning.
- To improve the effectiveness of the trust and schools involved by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To conduct the trust business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.
- To effectively manage major capital projects funded via the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF).
- To plan for financially challenging future years, in light of uncertainty over the levels of Government funding and the additional uncertainty over the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated costs and risks associated with it.
- To plan financially for other schools joining the MAT.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Objectives, strategies and activities

Brine Leas School was last inspected in April 2017 and received a report that was good with outstanding features. The Sixth Form was rated as Outstanding. BL6 has been promoted as the destination of choice and its visions and values were reviewed. Planning for curriculum and assessment change has been a high priority.

A general maintenance programme has been linked to an audit of need and priority given to improving key areas of the school and especially the external environment.

Brine Leas School was successful with two Condition Improvement Fund bids to replace the mobile classrooms with a modular building and to continue with the roofing replacement programme. The roofing project was completed on time and under budget however the Modular building start date was delayed and exceeded budget. The building was completed by 31st August 2021.

At the same time the House system at Brine Leas School with its emphasis on participation and positive aspects of student life has been restructured and all students, prior to the COVID pandemic, continued to take part in House activities.

There is a huge emphasis on improving teaching and learning as well as providing challenge to all students.

The continued development of the Management Information system is allowing greater participation for families in the education of their children as well as improving tracking and monitoring. Out of necessity the pace of change, and improvements had to quicken, due to COVID, and planned changes for the next 18 months became condensed into the Spring and Summer term. These changes will be consolidated over the Autumn term.

Brine Leas School has been in discussion with the Local Authority concerning future demand for places and possible school expansion. A further feasibility study will be undertaken to consider the future curriculum and site needs for the next ten years and for the school to expand to provide places for 240 in each Year group. A broad and balanced curriculum offering challenge to students continues to be offered although COVID has presented some obstacles to the normal curriculum experience with particular regards to practical lessons.

As part of a Trust activity, Brine Leas School is currently supporting five primaries with their IT provision, Brine Leas has developed a purchasing and licensing solution for the schools that are supported, this has become a constant income stream. These schools have also taken an Internet service, filtering and firewall package through Brine Leas School. It is anticipated that during next year they will start to use the Brine Leas' data centre and our connectivity solutions, which is producing cost savings for all parties.

The Trust is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum within budgeting constraints.

A balanced budget has been set for the next three years. This is despite the pressure on our funding stream.

The trust's main strategy is to develop and maintain a culture of excellence and provide enriching opportunities for all the children aged 4-19.

The trust is an organisation that provides opportunities for staff and students alike but always embraces the local community so as to ensure that the academy is at the centre.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trust's approach to the strategy includes:

- Teaching and learning opportunities for all students to attain appropriate academic qualifications
- To give all pupils the best possible start to their educational experience.
- A programme of after school activities for all students.
- A career advisory service to help students access the best pathway post 16 and post 18, be that employment, apprenticeship or higher education.
- A wide range of enrichment opportunities.
- High quality professional learning opportunities for all trust employees.
- A process of continual monitoring and review of teaching and learning together with rigorous data analysis of individual pupil achievement.
- Develop and agreeing the MAT growth strategy.

Public benefit

The trustees of the Academy have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The public benefit is in the provision of a quality secondary education for the pupils of Nantwich and the surrounding area.

The school normally opens many of its facilities to the local community. There was a growing programme of evening classes running three nights each week and significant use of our sports facilities. The school has a philosophy of encouraging new ventures by looking at imaginative funding routes such as subsidising room or equipment hire etc. However this has not been possible since March due to the COVID pandemic. In turn this has adversely affected income as well as being detrimental to the local community.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The DfE is not reporting on examination results this year as the students did not actually sit them. The results achieved by students were based on Teacher assessed grades (TAGs). In line with the DfE's decision the Trust has chosen not to publish any further detail on grades achieved.

Key Stage 4 Performance Measures	2018	2019	2020 (best of)	2021
Progress 8 Score	+0.35	-0.01	N/A	N/A
Attainment 8 Score	54.4	52.3	N/A	N/A
Students achieving Grade 4 or above in English & Mathematics GCSEs	81%	78%	N/A	N/A
Students achieving Grade 5 or above in English & Mathematics GCSEs	57%	60%	N/A	N/A
Students achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)	31%	28%	N/A	N/A
Key Stage 5 Performance Measures	2018	2019	2020 (best of)	2021
Progress (L3VA)	0.01	+0.2	N/A	N/A
A-level A* - E	97%	99%	N/A	N/A
A-level A* - C	74%	79%	N/A	N/A

Staff have become very efficient when it comes to teaching remotely.

Successfully supporting all children, families and staff in the face of a pandemic and school closures. This includes the provision of free school meals, devices and successfully moving to remote learning for all.

Two CIF projects have been completed successfully despite the delays caused by the pandemic.

Ensuring a healthy budget forecast for Brine MAT, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Key performance indicators

The Trustees believe that Brine Leas School would have performed very well in final examinations this year. Teacher Assessed Grades were in line with our high expectations.

The school is fully and appropriately staffed and curriculum planning is preparing the school for any future changes that may be required. We have carried out two consultations to date on curriculum and staffing matters, looking to make considerable savings in our spending, and have made agreed changes to ways of working. Changes have been made to make savings whilst keeping the curriculum as broad and balanced as we can manage. The number of groups have been reduced and some subjects in the sixth form are taught in combined year groups.

The destinations of students are appropriate and examination results remain good.

Attendance data for this period cannot be reported on due to the national lockdown during the COVID pandemic.

Brine Leas is oversubscribed in the main school.

Curriculum Developments

Brine Leas School continues to offer a wide range of courses at all key stages linked to the ability and aptitude of our cohorts. At Key Stage 4 the English Baccalaureate has not been made compulsory however many students have chosen to take option subjects which will allow them to gain this qualification. Modern Languages remains a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4, although the entry pattern is being adjusted in line with prior attainment to provide better outcomes for students. Experience of the workplace is delivered in line with the Gatsby benchmarks with meaningful engagement at KS5. At Key Stage 5 the curriculum offer has been specifically linked to demand and in some subjects additional groups had to be put on to cater for demand. The Prevent Agenda is being addressed through the normal curriculum as well as PSHE/RSE and assemblies.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the next financial year. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies note of the financial statements. The SRMA dashboard document was reviewed during this period and the report has been shared with our accountants, recommendations have been reviewed and changes made to our three year budget.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial review

The trustees consider that the level of surplus maintained in the period and the principal risks and uncertainties that are present have been managed satisfactorily. The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities. The revenue surplus at the year end was £316,758, which comprises restricted general funds excluding the pension reserve plus the unrestricted funds. The trustees continue to closely monitor expenditure and follow best value principles whilst seeking successful impact on student outcomes.

Most of the Trust income is obtained from the ESFA in the form of a General Annual Grant and Post 16 allocation. The academy's principle source of funding is the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA in the year ending 31 August 2021 and associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The trust also previously received other grants from the ESFA and other organisations, notably £771,879 from the ESFA for two successful Condition Improvement Fund application and £29,492 in capital funding from Cheshire East Council to complete the 19-20 project to meet capacity needs. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

Additional funding is received for SEN from the Local Authority and from school generated activities such as lettings and community education although this has been very limited this year due to the restrictions in place.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of trustees to spend as much as possible of the budget on the current cohort of students whilst at the same time having sensible and appropriate reserves. Within current reserves forecasts no account has been taken for opportunities to save money, with additional schools joining the Trust, through economies of scale in the future.

The reserves are held to allow the academy to function on both a day to day and long term basis. The trustees consider that the level of reserves at present are low but rising; however, the funding is expected to increase and the student numbers are stable and set to increase which will allow a more satisfactory level of reserves to be kept in future.

Over the next two years an increase in funding is forecast due to the implementation of the National Funding Formula; in addition numbers on roll should continue to be at least stable and likely to rise. The teaching staff will become more expensive through incremental drift as well as the cost of funding any future recommended pay awards in a school with a lot of able, young staff. The reserves held will be required to maintain a balanced budget up to 2024-25. Over the next three years it is expected that the overall carry forward will be positive, although currently it is predicted that 2021-23 both have a shortfall that will be made up out of reserves. This does assume an increase in spend on educational resources and there is opportunity to make further cost savings in year if required.

The level of each reserve is detailed in note 18 'Funds'. In keeping with a dynamic environment the reserves policy will be reviewed as needed, to cope with changes within the academy. However, as a minimum the reserves and investment policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the trustees' intention over the next 3-5 years to adopt a prudent approach to reserves and aim to build a reserve of designated funds of at least 2-3% of annual income to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, capital improvements or developments, late ESFA payments, emergencies and other catastrophes. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received within the trust.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Investment policy

The Trustees authorise The Finance Director to invest funds surplus to cash flow within our bankers Lloyds TSB Long Term Deposit Scheme or a 32 day deposit account, these are no risk, high interest deposit investment strategies that do not put the Academies investment at risk through the Stock Market. As at the 31st August 2021, £50,000 was on long term deposit and £104.46 was earned in interest during this accounting period.

Principal risks and uncertainties

An assessment of the risks facing the Academy is carried out regularly and procedures have been established to manage the risks. The Risk Management documents are reviewed annually by the Leadership Team. The Academy subscribes to the Cheshire East Environmental Health Annual Audit and other services such as EVOLVE and PRIME to record accidents and check Educational Visits Risk Assessments.

The internal control systems and the exposure to risks are considered on a regular basis by the Audit and Finance Committee. The school carries out risk assessments covering all aspects of the operation of the school and of the physical environment. An independent whole school fire risk assessment was carried out and reviewed in 2019 and will continue to be reviewed regularly. Insurance requirements are reviewed annually and regulations such as sprinkler maintenance and engineering equipment surveys, PAT testing and 5 year electrical testing etc. are carried out routinely. Assessment of external risk factors (e.g. changes in Government or Local Authority legislation) which may have a significant bearing on the future of the school are incorporated when updating the school Self Evaluation Form; which in turn informs school development planning.

The principal risks to the trust are documented and managed using a Risk Register which is regularly reviewed by Trustees.

The main risks are seen as the continuing uncertainty of school funding levels with Cheshire East remaining as one of the lowest funded Local Authorities. The delayed implementation of the National Funding Formula means the CE funding formula remains.

The financial impact of COVID caused significant uncertainty during this financial period and was monitored through monthly account reporting.

Key controls:

- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels.
- Documented terms of reference of the committees of the trust.
- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting key areas of financial risk.
- External benchmarking
- Additional Trustee Audit Committee meetings
- Monthly reporting of accounts to Audit Committee
- Formal written and published policies for employees
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable
- Robust due diligence procedures for new contracts and commissions

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The trustees regularly review the risks that the Academy faces through our policies and internal procedures such as Independent Fire Risk Assessment, Business Continuity Plan, annual health and safety audit by the Facilities Manager and our Scheme of Financial Delegation and Best Value Principles and Value for Money Statement and Reserves and Investment Policy.

Our Critical Incident Plan and policy is regularly updated and various scenarios practised at Leadership meetings.

The major risk facing the academy is the defined benefit pension scheme liability and although it is not considered material in the context of the accounts, trustees monitor the deficit annually. For additional detail refer to note 20 'Pension and Similar Obligations'. The pension liability for the Local Government Pension Scheme has increased significantly within the accounting period. This will continue to be reviewed regularly and consideration will be given to increasing our contribution rates taking guidance from the Fund Managers at our annual update meeting.

There are also financial risks relating to per pupil funding. The trust resides in Cheshire East which is one of the lowest funded authorities; as such the trust's overall funding is considerably lower than almost all other local authorities. Notwithstanding the grant made available to those in the lowest funded authorities in the year ending 31 August 2021, pupil funding rates continue to be lower than some of our closest neighbours and therefore remains the trust's most significant risk. The Government's announcements regarding the implementation of the National Funding Formula continue to cause concern and uncertainty, the implementation has been delayed again meaning funding for 2021-22 will continue to be allocated to local authorities first, allowing them to set their own funding formula.

The Trustees and Leadership Team are not complacent about the current position, marketing strategies are considered and the improvement of other local schools' academic performance are carefully monitored, encouraged and welcomed.

The Trustees aim to increase reserve levels and expenditure has been increased in accordance to the SRMA visit curriculum offers are being assessed for future years. In addition, whilst not yet factored into forecasts it is envisaged that future financial savings can be made when other schools join the MAT. Opportunities to raise money through fund raising and charity grants are limited due to Covid restrictions. The success of the CIF bids will significantly reduce the amount of budget spent on general maintenance and energy costs will reduce future budgets.

The Academy remains focused solely on its principal activity of providing education to children aged 4 to 19. Future performance is dependent upon adapting to a rapidly changing educational environment. Trustees believe that the numbers of children available in the local area are more than sufficient to allow an academy of this size to continue to operate successfully. Growth in student numbers locally will likely lead to the need for another high school in the Nantwich area or considerable expansion of local schools. Families continue to move into our catchment area to guarantee a place at the school, this is largely due to the schools' academic success and rich diet of extra-curricular activities. This is reviewed regularly.

With these risks and uncertainties in mind, we are aware that any plans for the future development of the academy may be subject to unforeseen future events outside of our control.

Impact of Covid-19

Unexpected costs relating to Covid such as hygiene and additional cleaning supplies, together with the loss of income with the uncertainty of what costs were going to be reimbursed.

The expectation to pay for services such as examination fees despite them not taking place.

The additional costs of supply to remain open during the period of national lock down.

The physical changes to the environment at considerable expense such as barriers, screens, additional catering equipment for separate dining venues.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Plans for future periods

To ensure that statutory duties under COVID legislation are fully met. In particular, that remote learning is fully ready and fit for purpose to meet future partial or full closures.

To improve the current standard of academic performance as measured by external public examination, Attainment 8 and particularly Progress 8. To further develop the collaborative links with other local schools to benefit educational outcomes.

To develop staff to deliver more effective lessons to increase the rate of progress especially for disadvantaged students.

To maintain a school that is popular oversubscribed (this also applies to BL6)

To further challenge all students.

To ensure the smooth transition of Audlem St. James Church of England Primary School into the trust.

MAT growth will enhance the collaboration with our feeder primary schools. It will require development to our finance and HR departments and there will be significant changes to the Governing Body's constitution and to the role of the Clerk.

To continue to offer IT services to primary schools.

To implement a new and improved IT Managed Service successfully.

As previously mentioned The Local authority has postponed Phase 2 of the school's expansion through the growth fund. The trust intends to pursue this during the next twelve months.

The success of a Fire Safety Bid with funding of £674,631 will see fire alarm, doors, emergency light improvements throughout A block and the Sports hall.

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

To build, where possible, adequate financial reserves to help stabilise as far as possible, the uncertainty of revenue funding before and once the National Funding Formula is established, to fund building and other investment needs.

Excellent standards of behaviour will be maintained to create a well-ordered community with learning and the support of students at the heart. The curriculum will be broad, balanced and relevant in all key stages, allowing all students to achieve success.

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

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

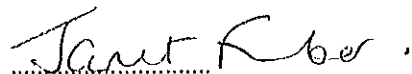
Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

A resolution proposing that Afford Bond Holdings Limited be reappointed as auditor of the charitable company will be put to the members.

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 6-12-21 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Furber
Chair of Trustees

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, 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 Brine Multi Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mrs J Furber (Chair of Trustees)	7	7
Mr T Coxhill (Resigned 29 December 2020)	0	2
Mr A Cliffe	7	7
Mrs J Disney (Resigned 14 December 2020)	1	2
Mr B Radford	6	7
Mr A Robinson	7	7
Mrs S Day (Appointed 22 April 2021)	3	3
Mr T Cutts (Appointed 23 June 2021)	2	2
Mr N Cliffe (Appointed 23 June 2021)	2	2
Mr R Middlebrook (Appointed 1 September 2021)	0	0
Mr W Clayton (Appointed 27 September 2021)	0	0

The Board recognised the need to widen its areas of expertise in financial and primary education knowledge and skills following a retirement and resignation and made two new appointments.

Early this year Tony Coxhill retired from the Board of Trustees due to ill health. Tony had been a Director of the MAT since its inception and brought valuable business experience to the Board. At the same time Julie Disney resigned from the Board due to increased work commitments. Julie had considerable legal experience.

This reduced the number of Directors to four. Mindful of the fact that a local Primary school was planning to join us we searched for new Directors with Primary educational experience as well as those willing to provide faith representation on the Board. We are pleased that we were able to appoint Sue Day who joined the Board in April 21 and has experience of governance at a Primary faith school, closely followed by Nigel Cliffe with business experience and Thomas Cutts, a local Primary Headteacher.

As our CEO announced his retirement at the end of this academic and financial year we spent some time considering the best way to proceed and agreed to appoint an interim CEO for the next year.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Our main focus as a Board of Trustees during the past year has been on mitigating the effect of the Covid pandemic, including ensuring quality on-line learning was available to all students and assessing the programme for Teacher Assessed Grades this summer. We have also focussed on MAT expansion as a local Primary school worked towards joining us. We have also been in discussion with other local Primary and Secondary schools. To help prepare for this our CEO and Chair of Trustees joined a number of online seminars related to MAT expansion.

We assess our own effectiveness through a programme of discussing items from the Competency Framework, and the NGA 21 Questions for Trustees to ask themselves, at each meeting. This year we focussed on the Seven Key Principles of Public life, a review of Trust structures and practice, Risk, Financial Management Systems and Accountability and Performance Data.

We were satisfied that Financial Management Systems are robust and compliant. The CEO and Chair scrutinise the Management Accounts and Balance sheet on a monthly basis and these are all presented to Trustees and the Audit committee at each meeting.

The Trust evaluated and measured its Scheme of Delegation and manual of internal financial procedures.

It was agreed that as from the 1st September 2021 the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee would be widened to include finance and audit. In addition the Risk Register was finalised and regular reviews of this will be built into the Governance model.

We also agreed a structure for carrying out the Trustees Annual review and this successfully was carried out early in the spring term.

We spent some time discussing Performance data and all agree that Trustees have historically been satisfied that Brine Leas school has a robust approach to assessment and it was a strength of the school, but with the lack of National data for the past two years this has been more difficult to assess. However; we were confident with the approach the school planned to the preparation of Centre Assessed grades in 2020 and Teacher Assessed grades in 2021. A key indicator Trustees noted was that attendance and engagement with online learning has been very good.

The Trusts committees and sub-committees responded quickly to the pandemic and chose to meet remotely during the closure period and has continued to meet in this way since. This has proven to have the advantage of higher attendance yet the disadvantage of the Chair needing to ensure that all Trustees have the opportunity to contribute to discussions.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Review of value for money

As accounting officer the CEO 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 delegates the responsibility to consider how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year to the Headteacher, who 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 through the best value principles set out below:

Cost should never be the sole factor by which a decision is made regarding what goods or services to order, e.g. lower maintenance costs and a longer life span for a product can mean that money is saved in the medium to long term. After sales service and supplier reliability are benefits that are significant factors to consider over cost. To establish whether a price is competitive quotes are obtained in line with our Scheme of Delegation limits.

During this financial year, the Trust has tried to ensure good value for money however working through this pandemic has raised many unprecedented challenges. The Procurement note (PPN) 04/20 supported by DfE guidance, set out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of schools' suppliers to ensure continuity during the pandemic. The Trust has worked and will continue to do so in partnership with our suppliers to ensure contracts are relevant and sustainable and can deliver value for money over the medium to long term. The contracts in question are extensive but examples include examination boards, catering and refuse collections. We will continue to support all suppliers during the pandemic by paying invoices promptly.

During the pandemic catering has proven to be particularly difficult to manage, the unpredictability of numbers of pupils in schools in 20-21 has inevitably had an adverse impact on value for money. The need to keep year group "bubbles" protected meant that normal levels of catering income was not achievable. There is an external contract in place and the financial impact of staffing, food waste, providing free school meal parcels and other overheads has meant a loss of self-generated income for this period; despite staff being eligible for the Furlough scheme. The contractor continued to provide a catering service to staff, vulnerable and Key worker children throughout the closure periods at a cost to the school.

When looking at the provision of goods and services to the school, the Academy Trust and in turn Governing Body follows the principles of the 4 C's.

- **Consult** students, staff and the wider community on the direction of the school and what resources are required to deliver the vision. This is done through surveys and meetings.
- **Compare** performance with that of others providing a similar service. Effectively this means benchmarking data and this is provided to the Governors annually. We check trade journals, catalogues and magazines; we consult LA supplies catalogues and contact other schools. The Chimney House Group share contacts and procurement methods to obtain best value by group purchasing. We fully utilise the Internet and undertake extensive research. We consult DfE benchmarking website and also commissioned (renewed in 2014) a commercial benchmarking report. We strive to ensure that offers of discounts are taken up if appropriate.
- **Challenge** why and how a service is being provided. This is done on different levels. Firstly when writing the School Development Plan, secondly when planning the budget to deliver the School Development Plan and thirdly by Governors when setting and approving the budget. We also regularly see different providers of services to ensure that we are following the best advice and test against the current market.
- **Compete** as a means of securing efficient and effective service. We seek several quotations or formal tenders. (see section on financial limits within the Scheme of Financial Delegation Policy). We often collate orders from several departments in order to procure discounts. Different payment methods are used in order to obtain the best terms and conditions available.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Procurement will also take into consideration the use of local suppliers and tradesmen wherever possible providing it does not compromise the value or quality of the product or service.

These principles will be applied by the Governors and School Managers when making decisions in relation to:

- The allocation of resources in order to promote the aims and principles of the school.
- The targeting of resources in order to improve standards and the quality of provision.
- The use of resources in order to support the educational needs of all our students.

This will be achieved by ensuring the following action is taken:

- Comparisons to be made against other similar schools by using data provided by the LA/Government e.g. benchmarking and through networking with local colleagues.
- Proposals are challenged to ensure effectiveness and efficiency e.g. Contract review and negotiation.
- Suppliers are to compete on grounds of cost, quality and suitability of product or service, also considering after sales service or support e.g. ICT services.

Governors and School Managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching and learning, pupil/teacher ratio and curriculum management. (This will vary from year to year based on demand for courses and the aptitude of a particular Year group). The costs of supply cover during this period and for the foreseeable future are high due to the levels of absence due to Covid-19 and the lack of staff available locally means agency staff are having to be utilised.

The quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching will be reviewed regularly.

The quality of student's learning, which enables them to achieve the national expected progress, will be reviewed.

The school environment and ethos will be reviewed in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

The allocation and use of teaching, support and communal areas will be considered in order to provide the best environment for teaching and learning.

Procedures are in place to access the need for resources. Goods and services will be obtained which provide the 'best value' in terms of suitability, efficiency and time.

The quality of the school environment and equipment will be reviewed in accordance with Health and Safety by carrying out risk assessments in order to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and visitors.

The pursuit of minor improvements is not considered to be cost effective if the administration involves substantial time on research.

Monitoring and evaluation of the above principles and practices will be achieved by:

- In house monitoring of classroom practice and work samples.
- Target setting meetings
- Annual performance management
- Benchmarking data
- Annual budget planning
- Monthly financial reporting and reviewing
- Analysis of student's performance data
- Use of external reports ongoing SIP visits
- Analysis of ESFA and LA financial data
- Ofsted Inspection reports
- External Awards

Future developments and best value will be achieved by:

- Producing a costed three year School Development Plan incorporating the annual SDP.
- Staffing reviews undertaken to match the three-year plan.
- Matching buildings development to the three-year plan.
- Reviewing this 'Best Value' statement on an annual basis

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

Capacity to handle risk

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

The risk and control framework

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

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

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and appointed Hallidays Group Limited to perform Internal Scrutiny reports on the Manual of internal financial procedures and this will be sent to the ESFA with the Accounts Return.

The external accountant's role includes giving advice on financial matters and producing the statutory accounts and this programme of works has gone ahead as planned however this has been completed remotely rather than on site, this has not proven to be problematic at all.

On a regular basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees through the Business Sub-Committee as well as the Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the financial responsibilities of the board of trustees. No issues have arisen during the year.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

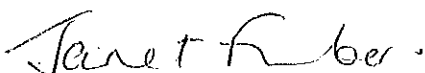
Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer the CEO 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 Audit and Risk Committee;
- 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 Business committee and Audit and Risk Committee and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 6.12.21... and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Furber
Chair of Trustees

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

As accounting officer of Brine Multi Academy Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with 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.

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

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA.

Mr R Middlebrook
Accounting Officer



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BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees (who are also the directors of Brine Multi Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

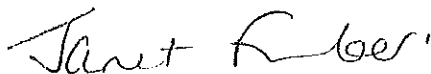
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6.12.21 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J Furber
Chair of Trustees

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinion

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

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Our procedures are developed based on risks identified from our knowledge of the entity, its environment, the significant laws and regulations governing its activities and of the related parties and service organisations connected with it. We also consider how the systems and controls the entity has put in place over its activities might mitigate risks identified.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Audit response to risks identified

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

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

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

Use of our report

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



Paul Edwards FCCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Afford Bond Holdings Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

15 December 2021

31 Wellington Road
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 7ED

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 16 November 2017 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Brine Multi Academy Trust during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Brine Multi Academy Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Brine Multi Academy Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Brine Multi Academy Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

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

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Brine Multi Academy Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 25 August 2010 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2020, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2020 to 2021. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of sample expenditure to ensure appropriate use of academy funds
- Review of controls and procedures in place to ensure sufficient and working effectively
- Review of journal entries to ensure appropriate
- Review of terms in relation to revenue and capital funds received to ensure used as intended and no breach of terms

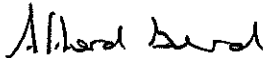
BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Conclusion

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



Reporting Accountant
Afford Bond Holdings Limited

Dated: *15 December 2021*

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General Fixed asset £ £		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	12,261	-	1,255,599	1,267,860	90,147
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	8,124,425	-	8,124,425	7,307,566
Other trading activities	5	152,478	-	-	152,478	398,249
Investments	6	104	-	-	104	3,087
Total		164,843	8,124,425	1,255,599	9,544,867	7,799,049
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	6,246	-	6,246	2,897
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	8	1,611	8,347,990	178,064	8,527,665	8,121,654
Total	7	1,611	8,354,236	178,064	8,533,911	8,124,551
Net income/(expenditure)		163,232	(229,811)	1,077,535	1,010,956	(325,502)
Transfers between funds	18	(28,106)	(137,776)	165,882	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(1,091,000)	-	(1,091,000)	(247,000)
Net movement in funds		135,126	(1,458,587)	1,243,417	(80,044)	(572,502)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		162,219	(2,564,000)	29,797,085	27,395,304	27,967,806
Total funds carried forward		297,345	(4,022,587)	31,040,502	27,315,260	27,395,304

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2020	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General	Fixed asset £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	7,482	-	82,665	90,147
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	-	7,307,566	-	7,307,566
Other trading activities	5	398,249	-	-	398,249
Investments	6	3,087	-	-	3,087
Total		408,818	7,307,566	82,665	7,799,049
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	-	2,897	-	2,897
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	8	123,142	7,825,293	173,219	8,121,654
Total	7	123,142	7,828,190	173,219	8,124,551
Net income/(expenditure)		285,676	(520,624)	(90,554)	(325,502)
Transfers between funds	18	(212,651)	212,624	27	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	(247,000)	-	(247,000)
Net movement in funds		73,025	(555,000)	(90,527)	(572,502)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		89,194	(2,009,000)	29,887,612	27,967,806
Total funds carried forward		162,219	(2,564,000)	29,797,085	27,395,304

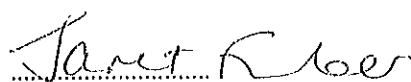
BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	31,175,543	29,841,584
Current assets			
Stocks	13	4,865	5,200
Debtors	14	417,123	194,955
Cash at bank and in hand		729,202	682,669
		<u>1,151,190</u>	<u>882,824</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(852,901)	(726,962)
Net current assets		<u>298,289</u>	<u>155,862</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>31,473,832</u>	<u>29,997,446</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(116,572)	(38,142)
Net assets before defined benefit pension scheme liability		<u>31,357,260</u>	<u>29,959,304</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	(4,042,000)	(2,564,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>27,315,260</u></u>	<u><u>27,395,304</u></u>
Funds of the academy trust:			
Restricted funds	18		
- Fixed asset funds		31,040,502	29,797,085
- Restricted income funds		19,413	-
- Pension reserve		(4,042,000)	(2,564,000)
Total restricted funds		<u>27,017,915</u>	<u>27,233,085</u>
Unrestricted income funds	18	<u>297,345</u>	<u>162,219</u>
Total funds		<u><u>27,315,260</u></u>	<u><u>27,395,304</u></u>

The accounts on pages 29 to 50 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 6.12.21 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mrs J Furber
Chair of Trustees

Company Number 07344747

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash provided by operating activities	21		212,310		335,697
Cash flows from investing activities					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		104		3,087	
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,227,325		57,012	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		28,274		25,653	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,512,023)		(127,191)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(256,320)		(41,439)
Cash flows from financing activities					
New other loan		96,900		50,856	
Repayment of other loan		(6,357)		(6,357)	
Net cash provided by financing activities			90,543		44,499
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			46,533		338,757
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year			682,669		343,912
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year			729,202		682,669

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

Brine Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

Brine Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donations

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

Other income

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

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. 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 such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Land and buildings	0 to 20 year straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.3% per annum straight line basis
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	15% per annum reducing balance

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provisions are made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

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

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

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2021. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees do not believe there to be any areas of judgement critical to the academy trust's financial statements.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Capital grants	-	1,255,599	1,255,599	78,665
Other donations	12,261	-	12,261	11,482
	<u>12,261</u>	<u>1,255,599</u>	<u>1,267,860</u>	<u>90,147</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,267,860 (2020: £90,147) of which £12,261 was unrestricted (2020: £7,482), £nil was restricted (2020: £nil) and £1,255,599 was restricted fixed assets (2020: £82,665).

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
DfE / ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	7,566,587	7,566,587	6,899,903
Other DfE / ESFA grants:				
Pupil premium	-	153,460	153,460	147,985
Start up grants	-	25,000	25,000	-
Others	-	77,422	77,422	33,076
	-	7,822,469	7,822,469	7,080,964
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	301,956	301,956	226,602
Total funding	-	8,124,425	8,124,425	7,307,566

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Hire of facilities	8,602	-	8,602	20,796
Catering income	-	-	-	47,587
Recharged expense income	-	-	-	25,468
Parental contributions	36	-	36	118,734
Other income	143,840	-	143,840	185,664
	152,478	-	152,478	398,249

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Short term deposits	104	-	104	3,087

Investment income was £104 (2020: £3,087) of which £104 was unrestricted (2020: £3,087).

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non-pay expenditure		Total	Total
	£	Premises	Other	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	6,246	6,246	2,897
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	5,660,867	-	532,210	6,193,077	6,037,517
- Allocated support costs	1,425,497	638,575	270,516	2,334,588	2,084,137
	<u>7,086,364</u>	<u>638,575</u>	<u>808,972</u>	<u>8,533,911</u>	<u>8,124,551</u>

Expenditure for the year was £8,533,911 (2020 : £8,124,551) of which £7,086,364 were staff costs (2020 : £6,494,684), £638,575 were premises and equipment costs (2020 : £714,607) and £808,972 were other costs (2020 : £915,260).

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	6,500	6,100
- Other services	1,790	1,635
Operating lease rentals	12,788	14,280
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	178,064	173,219
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	46,000	41,000

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Educational operations	1,611	6,191,466	6,193,077	6,037,517
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	2,334,588	2,334,588	2,084,137
	<u>1,611</u>	<u>8,526,054</u>	<u>8,527,665</u>	<u>8,121,654</u>

	2021	2020
	£	£
Analysis of support costs		
Support staff costs	1,441,731	1,144,679
Depreciation	178,064	173,219
Technology costs	9,557	9,412
Premises costs	460,511	541,388
Other support costs	189,304	174,563
Governance costs	55,421	40,876
	<u>2,334,588</u>	<u>2,084,137</u>

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	4,918,009	4,605,013
Social security costs	468,811	446,299
Pension costs	1,434,273	1,310,999
Staff costs - employees	6,821,093	6,362,311
Agency staff costs	265,271	132,373
	7,086,364	6,494,684
Staff development and other staff costs	16,304	14,316
Total staff expenditure	7,102,668	6,509,000

Agency staff costs have risen from £132,373 to £265,271. This is due to the school remaining open to vulnerable students and students of key workers during the closure periods, allowing Brine Leas staff to provide remote learning.

Staff numbers

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Teachers	86	82
Administration and support	91	85
Management	8	9
	185	176

Higher paid staff

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

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,001-£70,000	2	1
£80,001-£90,000	-	1
£90,001-£100,000	1	-

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Staff

(Continued)

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £289,120 (2020: £276,518)

10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

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

Mr A Cliffe (CEO and trustee):

Remuneration: £20,000 - £25,000 (2020: £20,000 - £25,000)

Employer pension contributions: £0 - £5,000 (2020: £0 - £5,000)

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Computer equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	29,238,554	462,892	3,237,562	32,939,008
Additions	1,391,445	80,634	39,944	1,512,023
At 31 August 2021	30,629,999	543,526	3,277,506	34,451,031
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	109,924	443,003	2,544,497	3,097,424
Charge for the year	29,399	39,629	109,036	178,064
At 31 August 2021	139,323	482,632	2,653,533	3,275,488
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	30,490,676	60,894	623,973	31,175,543
At 31 August 2020	29,128,630	19,889	693,065	29,841,584

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

12 Tangible fixed assets

(Continued)

Transactions relating to land and buildings during the year include:

- £26,854 for the D Block expansion project,
- £554,634 for the Roof refurbishment project,
- £761,967 for the Block replacement works,
- £47,990 for the Fire safety project.

On 2 September 2010 the Academy acquired the freehold land and school buildings from the Governing Body of the former Foundation School (the Academy's predecessor entity).

Freehold land and buildings were included within the financial statements at a valuation of £24,100,000. This was based upon the rebuilding cost as valued by an external surveyor for the purposes of the Academy's insurance policy as at 31 August 2011.

Other tangible fixed assets acquired upon conversion were included within the financial statements at a valuation of £3,000,000. This was based upon the valuation given by an external surveyor for the purposes of the Academy's insurance policy as at 31 August 2011.

13 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
School uniform	4,865	5,200

14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	25,271	44,315
VAT recoverable	69,551	36,238
Prepayments and accrued income	322,301	114,402
	417,123	194,955

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other loans	18,470	6,357
Trade creditors	473,226	228,077
Other taxation and social security	122,063	105,658
Other creditors	125,039	115,258
Accruals and deferred income	114,103	271,612
	852,901	726,962

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other loans	116,572	38,142
	<u>116,572</u>	<u>38,142</u>
Analysis of loans	2021 £	2020 £
Wholly repayable within five years	135,042	44,499
Less: included in current liabilities	(18,470)	(6,357)
	<u>116,572</u>	<u>38,142</u>
Amounts included above	<u>116,572</u>	<u>38,142</u>
Loan maturity		
Debt due in one year or less	18,470	6,357
Due in more than one year but not more than two years	18,470	6,357
Due in more than two years but not more than five years	55,408	19,071
Due in more than five years	42,694	12,714
	<u>135,042</u>	<u>44,499</u>

Other loans represent amounts from Salix & CIF to help fund property development projects. The loans are interest free and are repayable over a term of 8 years.

17 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	42,221	216,291
	<u>42,221</u>	<u>216,291</u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2020	216,291	36,705
Released from previous years	(216,291)	(36,705)
Resources deferred in the year	42,221	216,291
	<u>42,221</u>	<u>216,291</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2021	<u>42,221</u>	<u>216,291</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds of £42,221 received in advance for the autumn term.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,566,587	(7,428,811)	(137,776)	-
Start up grants	-	25,000	(5,587)	-	19,413
Pupil premium	-	153,460	(153,460)	-	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	77,422	(77,422)	-	-
Other government grants	-	301,956	(301,956)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,564,000)	-	(387,000)	(1,091,000)	(4,042,000)
	<u>(2,564,000)</u>	<u>8,124,425</u>	<u>(8,354,236)</u>	<u>(1,228,776)</u>	<u>(4,022,587)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Inherited on conversion	24,690,621	-	(88,593)	-	24,602,028
DfE group capital grants	2,527,924	1,255,599	(22,579)	165,882	3,926,826
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,450,590	-	(65,775)	-	2,384,815
Private sector capital sponsorship	127,950	-	(1,117)	-	126,833
	<u>29,797,085</u>	<u>1,255,599</u>	<u>(178,064)</u>	<u>165,882</u>	<u>31,040,502</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>27,233,085</u>	<u>9,380,024</u>	<u>(8,532,300)</u>	<u>(1,062,894)</u>	<u>27,017,915</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>162,219</u>	<u>164,843</u>	<u>(1,611)</u>	<u>(28,106)</u>	<u>297,345</u>
Total funds	<u>27,395,304</u>	<u>9,544,867</u>	<u>(8,533,911)</u>	<u>(1,091,000)</u>	<u>27,315,260</u>

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

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the Education Funding Agency/Department for Education/sponsor/other funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

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

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	6,899,903	(7,112,527)	212,624	-
Other DfE / ESFA grants	-	181,061	(181,061)	-	-
Other government grants	-	226,602	(226,602)	-	-
Pension reserve	(2,009,000)	-	(308,000)	(247,000)	(2,564,000)
	<u>(2,009,000)</u>	<u>7,307,566</u>	<u>(7,828,190)</u>	<u>(34,376)</u>	<u>(2,564,000)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
Transfer on conversion	24,794,849	-	(104,228)	-	24,690,621
DfE group capital grants	2,471,810	78,665	(22,578)	27	2,527,924
Capital expenditure from GAG	2,495,689	-	(45,099)	-	2,450,590
Private sector capital sponsorship	125,264	4,000	(1,314)	-	127,950
	<u>29,887,612</u>	<u>82,665</u>	<u>(173,219)</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>29,797,085</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>27,878,612</u>	<u>7,390,231</u>	<u>(8,001,409)</u>	<u>(34,349)</u>	<u>27,233,085</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>89,194</u>	<u>408,818</u>	<u>(123,142)</u>	<u>(212,651)</u>	<u>162,219</u>
Total funds	<u>27,967,806</u>	<u>7,799,049</u>	<u>(8,124,551)</u>	<u>(247,000)</u>	<u>27,395,304</u>

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	31,175,543	31,175,543
Current assets	297,345	512,484	341,361	1,151,190
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(493,071)	(359,830)	(852,901)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(116,572)	(116,572)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(4,042,000)	-	(4,042,000)
Total net assets	<u>297,345</u>	<u>(4,022,587)</u>	<u>31,040,502</u>	<u>27,315,260</u>

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	29,841,584	29,841,584
Current assets	162,219	443,215	277,390	882,824
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(443,215)	(283,747)	(726,962)
Creditors falling due after one year	-	-	(38,142)	(38,142)
Defined benefit pension liability	-	(2,564,000)	-	(2,564,000)
Total net assets	162,219	(2,564,000)	29,797,085	27,395,304

20 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 Cheshire West and Chester Council. Both are defined-benefit schemes.

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

Contributions amounting to £125,039 (2020: £115,258) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2021 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies and, from 1 January 2007, automatic for teachers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract, although they are able to opt out.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis - these contributions along with those made by employers 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.

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

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

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £835,566 (2020: £807,120).

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 scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.65% for employers and 5.5 to 11.4% for employees. The estimated value of employer contributions for the forthcoming year is £243,000.

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

Total contributions made	2021 £	2020 £
Employer's contributions	255,000	236,000
Employees' contributions	76,000	65,000
Total contributions	331,000	301,000
Principal actuarial assumptions	2021 %	2020 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6	2.9
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.9	2.2
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.65	1.7

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2021 Years	2020 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.4	21.2
- Females	24.0	23.6
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.4	21.9
- Females	25.7	25.0

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below:

Change in assumptions at 31 August 2021

0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate = 3% or £229,000 increase in employer liability
 1 year increase in member life expectancy = 4% or £348,000 increase in employer liability
 0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate = 0% or £21,000 increase in employer liability
 0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate = 2% or £204,000 increase in employer liability

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

	2021 Fair value £	2020 Fair value £
Equities	2,138,000	1,726,000
Bonds	1,952,000	1,573,000
Property	465,000	384,000
Other assets	93,000	153,000
Total market value of assets	4,648,000	3,836,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £522,000 (2020: £4,000).

Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Current service cost	596,000	503,000
Interest income	(68,000)	(70,000)
Interest cost	114,000	111,000
Total operating charge	642,000	544,000

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September 2020	6,400,000	5,579,000
Current service cost	596,000	503,000
Interest cost	114,000	111,000
Employee contributions	76,000	65,000
Actuarial loss	1,545,000	181,000
Benefits paid	(41,000)	(39,000)
At 31 August 2021	8,690,000	6,400,000

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

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 September 2020	3,836,000	3,570,000
Interest income	68,000	70,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	454,000	(66,000)
Employer contributions	255,000	236,000
Employee contributions	76,000	65,000
Benefits paid	(41,000)	(39,000)
At 31 August 2021	4,648,000	3,836,000

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,010,956	(325,502)
Adjusted for:		
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,255,599)	(82,665)
Investment income receivable	(104)	(3,087)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	341,000	267,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	46,000	41,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	178,064	173,219
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	335	(2,292)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(222,168)	278,567
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	113,826	(10,543)
Net cash provided by operating activities	212,310	335,697

BRINE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2020 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2021 £
Cash	682,669	46,533	729,202
Loans falling due within one year	(6,357)	(12,113)	(18,470)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(38,142)	(78,430)	(116,572)
	<u>638,170</u>	<u>(44,010)</u>	<u>594,160</u>

23 Related party transactions

No related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

24 Members' liability

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