

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Forrester Boyd  
Chartered Accountants  
26 South Saint Mary's Gate  
Grimsby  
North East Lincolnshire  
DN31 1LW

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## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

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## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

### **Reference and administrative details**

<b>Members</b>	Mr P Thompson Mrs L Norris Mr D Esmond (resigned 30 October 2022) Bishop D Court
<b>Trustees (Directors)</b>	Bishop D Court, Chair of Directors Mr D Esmond Mrs J Richardson Miss H Loft Mrs C Love (appointed 28 November 2022 and resigned 25 September 2023) Mr R Hailstones (appointed 16 March 2023) Mr M Fowle (appointed 8 December 2022) Ms H Parker (appointed 25 May 2023)
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	Mr M Adnitt, CEO Mrs J Everitt, Deputy CEO Mr A Wood, CFO Mr M Morton-Hire, Headteacher St Lawrence Academy Miss J Dowson, Interim Headteacher Signhills Infant Academy
<b>Registered Office</b>	Unit 10-12 Concorde House Kirmington Business Centre Limber Road, Kirmington North Lincolnshire DN39 6YP
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	06493485
<b>Auditors</b>	Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants 26 South Saint Mary's Gate Grimsby North East Lincolnshire DN31 1LW
<b>Bankers</b>	Virgin Money 124 High Street Scunthorpe DN15 6EJ
<b>Solicitors</b>	Wilkin Chapman LLP Cartergate House 26 Chantry Lane Grimsby North East Lincolnshire DN31 2LJ

## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023**

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates as a Trust supporting the Diocesan of Lincoln wider multi academy trust strategy. The Trust is welcoming to both Church Schools and Non Church Schools across all phases.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### ***Constitution***

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Trust. The company registration number is 06493485.

The Trustees of St Lawrence Academies Trust are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law. The Charitable Company is known as St Lawrence Academies Trust.

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

##### ***Members' liability***

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

##### ***Directors indemnities***

The Trust through its Articles has indemnified its Directors to the fullest extent permissible by law. During the period the Trust also purchased and maintained liability insurance for its Directors through the ESFA risk protection arrangement. The risk protection arrangement provides unlimited cover.

##### ***Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors***

The Directors are appointed by the members and the Board of Directors are responsible for the day to day management of the Trust, exercising all the powers of the members as stated in Article 94. The Directors who were in office on 31st August 2023 were appointed by the members and the board and served throughout the period reported. Full details relating to the appointment and removal of Directors are contained in the Articles of Association with a brief summary given below.

The Members may appoint by ordinary resolution up to 7 Directors, the total number of Directors including the Chief Executive Officer if they so choose to act as Director under Article 57 who are employees of the company shall not exceed one third of the total number of Directors. In any circumstances where the Secretary of State is entitled to serve a warning notice under the Relevant Funding Agreement or in the opinion of the Diocesan Corporate Member the standards or the ethos of any Church of England have fallen unacceptably low then the Diocesan Corporate Member may stipulate that one or more additional Directors nominated by it shall be appointed to the board of the Company. Where the Church of England academy has improved and is no longer eligible for a warning notice or is no longer ineffective following an inspection under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, the academy trust may apply to the Diocesan Corporate Member to gain their consent to remove the additional directors appointed under article 50C.

##### ***Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Directors***

The training and induction provided for new Directors will depend on their existing experience and will be differentiated based on need. Where necessary induction will provide training on charity and educational legal and financial matters. All new Directors will be given a tour of the Trust and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Directors are provided with access to copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Directors.

As there are normally only two or three new Directors a year, induction tends to be completed informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Training opportunities are available via the Diocese of Lincoln, North Lincolnshire Council's Governing Bodies Section and online training via National Governance Association and The National College.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Organisational structure*

The Trust structure now consists of three levels: the Members, the Directors and the Executive Leadership Team. The aim of the management structure is to develop responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The Directors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the director of the Trust and executive staff appointments.

The Executive Leadership Team members are currently the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer. These leaders lead the Trust at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Directors and reporting back to them. As a team, the Executive Leaders along with the Senior Leadership Team of the Academies are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and appointment of staff.

Central services of the Trust are funded through top-slice payments made by the Partner School, this enables the Trust to centralise some of its services to provide value for money and a quality service. Each academy contributes a proportion of its income to fund these core services. A percentage was set at 5%-7% across all academies and is reviewed annually by the Trust Board

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

- The St Lawrence Academy £386,255 (2022: £396,663)
- Signhills Infant Academy £13,493 (2022: N/A)

#### *Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel*

The Board of Directors recognises its responsibilities under relevant legislation including:

- Equality Act 2010
- Employment Relations Act 1999
- Part-time workers (Prevention of less favourable treatment) Regulations 2000
- Fixed-term employees (Prevention of less favourable treatment) Regulations 2002.
- Education (School Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012

The Board of Directors aims to maintain and improve the quality of education provided by having a pay policy which supports the Trust's development and seeks to ensure that all employees are valued and receive proper recognition for their work and their contribution to Trust life. The CEO/ Directors will determine the pay range for a vacancy prior to advertising it and on appointment it will determine the starting salary within that range to be offered to the successful candidate, having regard to the standards framework and pay reference tables and points adopted.

The Directors are responsible for demonstrating that decisions on pay are fair and equitable and recognise the principle of equal pay and work of equal value and will seek professional HR advice from their advisers as deemed necessary.

#### *Trade union facility time*

There are no employees at the Trust that are relevant union officials.

#### *Risk management*

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the Trust, and its finances. The Directors have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Trust faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, safeguarding and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds) and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The Trust has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the following Governance statement.

#### *Connected organisations, including related party relationships*

The Trust is sponsored by the Diocese of Lincoln. The Diocese provided a permanent endowment to the value of £535,000. The current value of the endowment is £466,035 and the funds are currently invested to provide an income for the benefit of the Trust. The Trust purchased a service level agreement from the Diocese as well as training for staff and Directors at an annual cost of £8,063.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Objectives and activities

##### *Objects and aims*

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of St Lawrence Academies Trust to provide education for students of different abilities across all phases. In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Government" approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Scheme of Government specifies, amongst other things, the basis for admitting students to the Trust, the catchment area from which the students are drawn, and that the curriculum should comply with the substance of the National Curriculum.

##### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

The main objectives of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- the personal, professional, moral, cultural and spiritual development of our staff and children is key to the potential success of our Trust;
- to allow schools to become stronger by working together;
- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all students;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Trust by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements;
- to maintain close links with industry and commerce; and
- to conduct the Trust's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

The Trust's main strategy is encompassed in its mission statement "Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow". The aim of our Trust is to allow schools to become stronger by working together. We are advocates of collaborative working to share expertise, ideas, talents and skills across schools. The personal, professional, moral, cultural and spiritual development of our staff and children is key to the potential success of our Trust, of our partner academies and of the individual people who work or learn in our Trust.

Our Trust prides itself on prioritising children and centralising business services so that resources can be freed to best support the needs and development of children. The centralisation of business services enables us to achieve economies of scale and free funds to be spent strategically on better educational provision. Whilst longer term we are committed to a growth strategy, the current phase is one of building capacity, consistency and sustainability to best support all children, staff and schools within the Trust.

In June 2023 Signhills Infant Academy joined the Trust following a pause in the legal process. The central team had previously supported them with a Service Level Agreement. In addition to the Service Level Agreement the Trust Accountant supported with their financial reporting and audit in preparation for them joining.

##### *Public benefit*

The Trust welcomes children and staff from both church schools and non-church schools, across both the primary and secondary age range. We are very keen to support and work with schools to help provide an even stronger quality of education provision across our local areas. We aim to achieve this by supporting schools with the business and operations aspects of running schools. The St Lawrence Academies Trust will also provide a school improvement service and support or lead collaborative working across schools. Bespoke support packages are brokered as required and identified to support development and improvement plans.

The Trust has given a high priority to providing public benefit to a cross section of the community, but perhaps the greatest benefit that the Trust can offer is the provision of an education that maximises each student's potential to develop principled, informed, open minded and confident citizens who respect the beliefs of others and who are determined to make a positive contribution to society.

The aforementioned objectives, activities, achievements and performance further serve to emphasise the benefit the Trust brings to the public.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Strategic Report

##### Achievements and performance

##### *Key non-financial performance indicators*

The St Lawrence Academy	TSLA 2023	National 2023	TSLA 2022	National 2022
Attainment 8	41.10	46.20	45.50	48.70
Progress 8	- 0.17	- 0.00	- 0.09	- 0.03
Students Achieving 9-4 in English & Mathematics	60%	61%	68.6%	65%
Students Achieving 9-5 in English & Mathematics	34%	45%	39%	50%
<b>Signhills Infant Academy</b>	<b>SIA 2023</b>	<b>National 2023</b>	<b>SIA 2022</b>	<b>National 2022</b>
EYFS % GLD	85.00	-	84.00	65.00
Phonics Yr1	94.00	79	92.00	75
KS1%				
Reading Expected %	88	68	78	67
Reading GDS %	45	-	22	-
Writing Expected %	88	60	71	58
Writing GDS %	15	-	8	-
Maths Expected %	86	70	73	68
Maths GDS %	22	-	17	-

##### *Key financial performance indicators*

	Unit	2023	2022
Pay Expenditure to Total Income	%	76.00	75.00
Teaching/ Leadership Pay to Total Income	%	50.00	58.00
Spend per student staffing	£	4,152.00	5,323.51
Spend per student non pay expenditure	£	1,296.00	1,547.00

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the DfE in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the period ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

##### *Going concern*

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

##### **Inspections**

The Trust recognises the role that Ofsted and SIAMS play in monitoring standards the current status of our schools follows.

The St Lawrence Academy was inspected by Ofsted in March 2020 was rated as requiring improvement. The St Lawrence Academy is currently rated outstanding from its previous SIAMS inspection. Signhills Infant Academy was inspected in June 2022 prior to joining the Trust in June 2023 and remains a good school in line with previous inspections.

## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### **Financial review**

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund.

The restricted fixed assets fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the period ended 31 August 2023 total expenditure of £6,751,887 was more than covered by the recurrent grant funding from the DfE together with other incoming resources and brought forward reserves. The in year surplus on restricted and unrestricted funds for the year was £217,857.

At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £22,240,781 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the students of the Trust.

The total amount of funds held is £23,874,959 (2022: £21,796,154). Of this £22,240,781 (2022: £20,114,338) can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets and it also includes the pension surplus of £92,000 (2022: £334,000).

The Trust's associate staff are entitled to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Trust's share of the Scheme's assets is currently assessed to be more than its liabilities in the Scheme, and consequently the Trust balance sheet shows a net asset of £92,000, which has decreased from £334,000 in 2022.

The total amount of free reserves available for the Trust to spend in the future is £1,076,143 (2022: £858,286), this is made up of £522,175 unrestricted funds (2022: £707,371) and £553,968 of restricted funds (2022: £150,915).



## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)**

#### ***Reserves policy***

The St Lawrence Academies Trust has in place the following reserves policy and the Directors review the reserve levels regularly and this policy at least annually.

The purpose of the reserves policy for St Lawrence Academies Trust is to ensure the stability of the Trust's operations, to protect it so that it has the ability to adjust quickly to financial circumstances, such as large unplanned expenditure, cyclical maintenance and working capital requirements.

Whilst it is not mandatory to hold reserves, it is generally considered good business practice to do so St Lawrence Academies Trust holds reserves in order to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grant income, to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance or long-term sickness where unforeseen costs are incurred and to build up funding for planned future capital projects and planned IT refresh.

The Directors have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves (total funds less amounts held in fixed asset and restricted funds) should be around 12 % (+/- 0.5%) of total funding. In relation to this year the appropriate level of free reserves would be £727,838 and the total carry forward of free reserves is above this level at £1,076,143.

This level of reserves is intended to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The Directors and Executive Leadership Team will identify the need for access to reserve funds and confirm that the use is consistent with the purpose of the reserve as described in this policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for any shortfall, the availability of any other sources of funds before using reserves and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be required and replenished.

Authorisation to use reserves of any kind will be made by the Finance & Audit Committee and/or the Board of Directors depending on the amount in question in line with their financial delegation and approval should be noted in the minutes.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the funds are maintained and are used only as described in this policy. The Finance & Audit Committee regularly monitors the progress of the reserves.

As part of its Reserves Policy, Directors give careful consideration to the cash flow implications that arise from increased or decreased contributions to its defined benefit pension scheme under FRS102. Where contributions can be met from future projected income without significant impact on the levels of activity then Directors will not designate any of their existing funds to meet future pension commitments. Where contribution increases cause uncertainty or would result in a curtailment of activities, Directors would seek actuarial and legal advice and prudently create a designation of existing funds.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### *Investment policy*

The investment objectives of St Lawrence Academies Trust are to:

Achieve a long-term real rate of return, net of inflation which would provide a source of capital to meet beneficiary and operational needs without subjecting the fund to large disinvestment that could impact the ability of the fund to meet future long-term financial commitments;

Provide an income to the charity to help maintain its operational effectiveness in the short term.

However, a total return approach will take precedence, allowing the Trust to focus on investments providing optimal performance in terms of overall return rather than investments which would provide the right balance of capital and income return. The protection of present and future beneficiaries will be a key responsibility of St Lawrence Academies Trust.

#### Investment & Counterparty Risk:

The St Lawrence Academies Trust acknowledges that in order to achieve an optimal rate of return investments will be subject to a level of risk (Risk Return Relationship). The St Lawrence Academies Trust will seek to adopt a prudent appetite towards risk by:

Investing in markets where financial services are closely regulated, and compensation schemes are in place;

Adopting a suitably diversified portfolio and utilising hedged products to limit the impact of systematic and unsystematic risk;

Avoiding speculative forms of investment;

Investing in common investment and/or unitised funds.

Professional investment advice will be sought about the most suitable investments for St Lawrence Academies Trust and investments will be placed with suitably qualified investment managing agents.

#### Ethical Investment:

The St Lawrence Academies Trust is underpinned and supported by Christian values. However, the Trust is mindful of its underlying principle to further the purpose of the charitable trust (provision of education), and that purpose will ordinarily be best served by seeking the maximum return consistent with commercial prudence. Therefore, the Trust will seek to use a combination of positive and negative criteria to influence the investment decision making process.

#### Positive Criteria:

Responsible employment practices;

Best corporate Governance practice;

Conscientiousness with regard to human rights;

Sustainable environmental practice;

Sensitivity towards the communities in which business operate.

The Trust has given due consideration to the guidance issued by the Charities Commission and has recommended against any direct investment in the following types of organisation:

1. Any organisation that is directly involved in indiscriminate weaponry;
2. Any organisation that produces pornography;
3. Any organisation where their principal business activity or focus is tobacco, alcoholic drink, gambling and weekly collected home credit.

The Directors agree to all investments made by the Trust. The Trust Endowment fund is currently invested with M & G Investments with a value of £466,035 across their Charifund and Charibond investment funds.

## Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties which the trust faces over the next few years are as follows

- Recruitment and retention of staff across the trust
- Sustainable growth and capacity of the central team and services provided
- Reputational risk of a school rated as Requires Improvement by Ofsted
- Reputational risk of a school rated Inadequate by Ofsted
- Financial and Reputational risk of the trust not sustaining robust finances
- Financial and Reputational risk of the trust not keeping the estate dry, safe and secure
- The ability to deliver high quality school improvement to all schools within the trust

Recruitment has continued for Directors across multiple sectors to ensure there is appropriate expertise and skills across the Board of Directors. This work continues as the board grows and sub committees work expands.

A live and working Trust risk register has been developed. It is updated by the Executive Leadership team on a regular basis and the update is presented at each Finance and Audit committee meeting. The top 5 risks are below.

Category	Sub category	Specific	Responsibility	Usefulness	Impact	Transfer, Treat, Tolerate, Terminate	Control procedures	Monitoring/Possible Actions	Residual Risk
Human Resources	Staff risk	Recruitment and selection of staff for the various units and departments. Recruitment and selection of staff to the various units and departments.	Self-Directors	Low			HR Policies Recruitment Strategy and TES Officers recruitment strategy. All staff to be recruited under Social Media	Appoint staff to the various units and departments. Monitor staff performance and conduct regular reviews.	
Expenditure Risk	Fraud risk	Financial fraud, mismanagement of funds.	CFO & Audit and Finance Committee/CFO/Directors	Low			CFO/ESFA & Accounting/Finance Manuals Auditors Report/Finance Committee	Approved by the CFO/Auditor/Finance Committee. All expenditure must be approved by the CFO/Auditor/Finance Committee. All expenditure must be approved by the CFO/Auditor/Finance Committee.	
Income Risk	Funding Risk	OF/ESFA funding, non-funding, non-funding.	CFO & Audit and Finance Committee/CFO/Directors	Medium		Tolerate	Update Income Forecasting process methodology. If the methodology is published.	OF/ESFA funding, non-funding, non-funding. OF/ESFA funding, non-funding, non-funding. OF/ESFA funding, non-funding, non-funding.	
Human Resources	Directors & LGB	Directors, do not have necessary expertise to carry out and hold the necessary duties.	Directors & governance professionals	Medium		Tolerate	Training/development procedures/Training	Build up the necessary expertise. Build up the necessary expertise. Build up the necessary expertise.	Medium
Delivery Risk	Provision & Student Outcome	Student Outcome & Delivery Outcome	Director/CFO/ESFA	Medium		Tolerate	Review the delivery of the provision. Review the delivery of the provision. Review the delivery of the provision.	Review the delivery of the provision. Review the delivery of the provision. Review the delivery of the provision.	Medium

The Risk register is reviewed on a regular basis by the central team and updates are shared with the Directors via the sub committees and Full board throughout the year.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### Fundraising

The Trust only held small fundraising events during the year which included events for local charities. The Trust does not work with professional fundraisers or companies who carry out fundraising on its behalf. During the year no complaints or issues have arisen as a result of the fundraising events.

#### Plans for future periods

The Trust currently includes The St Lawrence Academy and Signhills Infant Academy however there are plans for other schools to join in the current academic year as part of the Trust growth plan. Humberston Church of England Primary School has an academy order to join the school and subject to issues around land will join in the near future as progress has been made. The Trust is close to completing due diligence on two schools within North East Lincolnshire and is working closely with others across the Diocese to improve financial and educational outcomes.

The Trust will continue to work towards their Academies educational targets and focus as defined in their individual development plans to further the educational achievement of their children. The Trust will work closely with the LA's in relation to their place planning strategy that includes the potential for future expansion and development.

#### Auditor

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

#### Reappointment of auditor

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution for the re-appointment of Forrester Boyd as auditors of the company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' Annual Report, incorporating a the Directors Report and Strategic Report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as company directors, on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

*Bishop David Court*

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Bishop D Court, Chair of Directors

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Governance statement

#### Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to M Adnitt, 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 St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Annual Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 6 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Bishop D Court	5	6
Mrs J Richardson	4	6
Mr D Esmond	5	6
Miss H Loft	6	6
Mrs C Love (appointed 28 November 2022 and resigned 25 September 2023)	3	5
Mr M Fowle (appointed 8 December 2022)	3	3
Mr R Hailstones (appointed 16 March 2023)	2	2
Ms H Parker (appointed 25 May 2023)	1	2

#### Conflicts of Interest

A register of interest's schedule is kept by the Trust which details any of the director's declarations made when a Director is first appointed onto the Board. This is an agenda item at each meeting to ensure the document is maintained and up to date, the document is kept on the Trust's website. Procedures for dealing with any transactions with these interests are detailed in the Trust Finance Manual which ensures all of these types of transactions are either at cost or on commercial terms.

#### Governance reviews

St Lawrence Academies Trust's governance structures and practices are under constant review by the Governance Professional, central Trust team, and the Board of Directors. The Trust is under a period of growth, both in terms of its member schools and its Board of Directors. Therefore, the team is continually flexing to that growth and assessing how effective governance is on a regular basis. It is recommended a full governance review would be completed once the current incoming schools are embedded into the Trust and the Board of Directors have implemented the full suite of planned committees.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Governance statement (continued)

The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor closely the financial performance of the Trust.

The Committee also assesses internal review and external audit reports and reports to the governing body. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

<b>Director</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Mrs J Richardson	3	3
Bishop D Court	3	5
Miss H Loft	5	5
Mr D Esmond	1	3
Mrs C Love	3	3
Mr M Fowle	0	1
Mr R Hailstones	0	2

The curriculum and standards committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to monitor closely the academic performance of the Trust. Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

<b>Director</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Mr M Fowle	1	1
Mrs J Richardson	1	1
Mr D Esmond	1	1

## **St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

### **Governance statement (continued)**

#### **Review of value for money**

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

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

- Used the opportunity created by changes in staffing to maximise outputs for children and provide financial efficiencies. These have included the appointment of newly/recently qualified teachers for the academic year 2022/23, consideration of part time staffing requests, curriculum changes and reallocation of teaching loads.
- Changed the curriculum model so that it is fit for purpose and flexible for the future.
- Procured multi-year agreements when possible to maximise savings and reduce the impact of future price rises.
- Making use of the Service Level Agreements with North Lincolnshire Council to gain best value through their elemental partnering procurement.
- Reviewed contracts for value for money and consolidated communication platforms to reduce future fixed costs.
- Refreshed essential IT infrastructure and equipment only.
- Updated boiler plant to maximise efficiencies regarding the hot water system
- Installed additional solar panels at Signhills Infant School.
- Commenced tendering for cleaning and catering contracts at St Lawrence Academy
- Used CPC and crown commercial services to procure equipment and services across the Trust.

All of the above has enabled the Trust budget to be constantly updated and maintained reflecting the key objectives and mission for the forthcoming year with a further 2 year projection, which allows for short and medium term planning decisions within the funding envelope. Budgets are monitored on a monthly basis and management accounts are issued monthly to allow for regular monitoring by the Executive Leadership of the Trust and the Directors, this ensures for a timely challenge and value for money.

#### **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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

#### **Capacity to handle risk**

The Directors have reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Directors are of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Directors.

#### **The risk and control framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Directors;
- regular reviews by the Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Governance statement (continued)

- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- not to appoint an internal auditor. However the Directors have appointed Smailes Goldie as Internal Scrutineer.

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

- Due diligence and onboarding process for Academies joining the Trust: a review of the due diligence procedures for potential new Academy joiners and a review of the due diligence work that the Trust has undertaken for new joiner Academies in the period under review.
- Onboarding process: a review of the Trust's onboarding procedures and a review of the onboarding process that has taken place for new joiner Academies.
- Forecasting process - budgets: a review of the arrangements in place for budget setting, a review of the processes in place for budget monitoring and a review of the three to five year budget plans and evaluating the assumptions used to prepare them.
- Forecasting process - cash flow: understand the assumptions behind the cash flow forecasts, a review of management accounts and a review of the cash flow forecasts for accuracy.
- Consolidation process - understand and evaluate the consolidation process and review a sample of monthly consolidated management accounts.
- Review of points noted in prior year and conclusion on management action taken.

The Internal Scrutineer reports to the Directors on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Directors financial responsibilities.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Internal Scrutineer to date.

#### Review of effectiveness

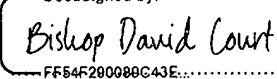
As Accounting Officer, M Adnitt has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal scrutineer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self assessment process;
- the work of the executive managers within the 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 Resources Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:



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Bishop D Court, Chair of Directors



## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

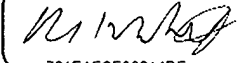
### Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd 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 terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement 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 Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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 Directors and ESFA.

DocuSigned by:



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M Adnitt

Accounting Officer

13 December 2023

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

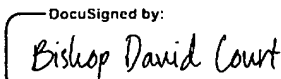
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
 FF54F290089C43E.....  
 Bishop D Court, Chair of Directors

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023, Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd (continued)

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report, included within the Trustees' Report.

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

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

#### Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 16], the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Academy Trust for the purpose of Company Law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

#### Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance held.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made within significant accounting estimates and judgements such as depreciation and the local government pension scheme liability.
- Testing of income, bank, purchases and payroll, systems and controls and providing conclusions on the regularity of samples chosen.
- Identification of key laws and regulations central to the academies operations and review of compliance with such laws including a review of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022 and correspondence with solicitors to identify any on-going litigation.
- Testing of journal entries and potential override of systems.

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

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

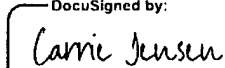
### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd (continued)

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of Report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:



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Carrie Anne Jensen, ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd, Statutory Auditor

26 South Saint Mary's Gate  
Grimsby  
North East Lincolnshire  
DN31 1LW

13 December 2023

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 1 December 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 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 St Lawrence Academies Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to St Lawrence Academies Trust and the ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than St Lawrence Academies Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of St Lawrence Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of St Lawrence Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 26 August 2021 and the Academy Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2022, 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 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 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:

- Evaluating the systems and control environment
- Assessing the risk of irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance
- Ensuring that all the activities of the Academy Trust are in keeping with the academy's framework and the charitable objectives
- Obtaining representations from the Accounting Officer and Key Management Personnel

**St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

**Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity (continued)**

**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

*Carrie Jensen*

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Carrie Anne Jensen, ACA (Reporting Accountant)  
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd

26 South Saint Mary's Gate  
Grimsby  
North East Lincolnshire  
DN31 1LW

13 December 2023

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and capital grants	2	150,648	(21,047)	2,616,758	-	2,746,359	16,580
Other trading activities	4	90,959	-	-	-	90,959	80,357
Investments	5	44,745	22,207	-	-	66,952	25,093
<i>Charitable activities:</i>							
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>600</u>	<u>6,065,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,065,917</u>	<u>5,246,194</u>
Total		286,952	6,066,477	2,616,758	-	8,970,187	5,368,224
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<i>Charitable activities:</i>							
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>472,148</u>	<u>5,679,383</u>	<u>600,356</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,751,887</u>	<u>6,074,638</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		(185,196)	387,094	2,016,402	-	2,218,300	(706,414)
Transfers between funds		-	(110,041)	110,041	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>							
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(116,000)	-	-	(116,000)	3,630,000
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,495)</u>	<u>(23,495)</u>	<u>(39,499)</u>
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(185,196)	161,053	2,126,443	(23,495)	2,078,805	2,884,087
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		<u>707,371</u>	<u>484,915</u>	<u>20,114,338</u>	<u>489,530</u>	<u>21,796,154</u>	<u>18,912,067</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>522,175</u>	<u>645,968</u>	<u>22,240,781</u>	<u>466,035</u>	<u>23,874,959</u>	<u>21,796,154</u>

Comparative figures are stated on page 24.



# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

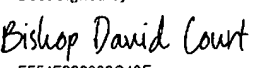
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	16,580	-	16,580
Other trading activities	4	70,157	10,200	-	-	80,357
Investments	5	3,876	21,217	-	-	25,093
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	2,016	5,244,178	-	-	5,246,194
Total		76,049	5,275,595	16,580	-	5,368,224
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	43,140	5,474,083	557,415	-	6,074,638
Losses on investment assets		-	-	-	(39,499)	(39,499)
Net income/(expenditure)		32,909	(198,488)	(540,835)	(39,499)	(745,913)
Transfers between funds		-	(181,478)	181,478	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Actuarial gains / (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	3,630,000	-	-	3,630,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		32,909	3,250,034	(359,357)	(39,499)	2,884,087
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021		674,462	(2,765,119)	20,473,695	529,029	18,912,067
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2022		707,371	484,915	20,114,338	489,530	21,796,154

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

(Registration number: 06493485)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	22,240,781	20,114,338
Investments	13	<u>466,035</u>	<u>489,530</u>
		<u>22,706,816</u>	<u>20,603,868</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	14	4,730	5,194
Debtors	15	188,569	179,514
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,534,817</u>	<u>1,121,919</u>
		<u>1,728,116</u>	<u>1,306,627</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(651,973)</u>	<u>(448,341)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,076,143</u>	<u>858,286</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>23,782,959</u>	<u>21,462,154</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		23,782,959	21,462,154
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	25	<u>92,000</u>	<u>334,000</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>23,874,959</u></u>	<u><u>21,796,154</u></u>
<b>Funds of the Academy:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund		553,968	150,915
Restricted fixed asset fund		22,240,781	20,114,338
Pension reserve		92,000	334,000
Other restricted fund		<u>466,035</u>	<u>489,530</u>
		<u>23,352,784</u>	<u>21,088,783</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund		<u>522,175</u>	<u>707,371</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	17	<u><u>23,874,959</u></u>	<u><u>21,796,154</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 22 to 47 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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 Bishop D Court, Chair of Directors

**St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd****Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	459,305	319,033
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(43,089)	(156,384)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	<u>(3,318)</u>	<u>(7,013)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		412,898	155,636
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>1,121,919</u>	<u>966,283</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	23	<u><u>1,534,817</u></u>	<u><u>1,121,919</u></u>

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### General information

The academy trust is a public benefit entity set up as a private company, limited by guarantee and incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The address of its registered office is:

Unit 10-12 Concorde House  
Kirmington Business Centre  
Limver Road  
Kirmington  
North Lincolnshire  
DN39 6YP

These financial statements were authorised for issues by the Board on 13 December 2023.

##### Statement of accounting policies

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

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company and have been rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements cover the individual entity St Lawrence Academies Trust.

The St Lawrence Academies Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

##### Going concern

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

##### 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.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Grants*

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

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

Capital grants are recognised 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.

##### *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.

##### *Transfer of existing academies into the trust*

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

##### *Expenditure*

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

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.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset as per the table below.

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and computer equipment	33%
Leasehold Land	125 years
Leasehold Buildings	45 years

##### 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.

##### Concessionary loans

Concessionary loans include those payable to a third party which are interest free or below market interest rates and are made to advance charitable purposes. All loans are measured at cost, less impairment.

##### Leased assets

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

Long term leasehold properties:

The land and buildings are held on a 125 year lease with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. They were recognised as an asset on conversion and are being depreciated accordingly.

##### 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 transaction price less any provision for impairment. 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 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.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### Investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the year of disposal. Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

##### 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.

##### Pension benefits

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. 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 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/(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.

##### Fund accounting

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

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

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### *Critical accounting estimates and assumptions*

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. 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.

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Capital grants	-	-	254,883	254,883	16,580
Transfer from academy trust on conversion	150,648	(21,047)	2,361,875	2,491,476	-
	<u>150,648</u>	<u>(21,047)</u>	<u>2,616,758</u>	<u>2,746,359</u>	<u>16,580</u>



# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 3 Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Educational operations</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	5,121,388	5,121,388	4,669,676
Pupil Premium	-	314,042	314,042	285,499
Other DfE Group Grants	-	55,923	55,923	103,842
Supplementary Grant	-	149,021	149,021	62,092
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	80,469	80,469	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	83,490	83,490	-
	-	5,804,333	5,804,333	5,121,109
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local Authority Funding	-	177,909	177,909	61,546
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>				
Other Income From Academy Trust's Educational Operations	600	-	600	3,866
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Catch-up Premium	-	83,075	83,075	43,065
Other DfE/ ESFA Covid-19 Funding	-	-	-	16,608
	-	83,075	83,075	59,673
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>6,065,317</b>	<b>6,065,917</b>	<b>5,246,194</b>

### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	26,716	26,716	29,033
Recharges and reimbursements	48,960	48,960	38,572
Other sales	15,283	15,283	12,752
	90,959	90,959	80,357

### 5 Investment income

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 5 Investment income (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Dividend income	-	22,207	22,207	21,217
Interest received	44,745	-	44,745	3,876
	<u>44,745</u>	<u>22,207</u>	<u>66,952</u>	<u>25,093</u>

### 6 Expenditure

	Non Pay Expenditure			2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £		
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	4,000,885	-	509,329	4,510,214	3,926,224
Allocated support costs	<u>716,987</u>	<u>1,161,671</u>	<u>363,015</u>	<u>2,241,673</u>	<u>2,148,414</u>
	<u>4,717,872</u>	<u>1,161,671</u>	<u>872,344</u>	<u>6,751,887</u>	<u>6,074,638</u>

#### Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating leases - other leases	6,861	4,307
Fees payable to auditor - audit	9,750	8,500
Fees payable to auditor - other services	725	400
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,057	-
Depreciation	<u>597,299</u>	<u>557,415</u>

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 7 Charitable activities

		2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Direct costs - educational operations		4,510,214	3,926,224
Support costs - educational operations		2,241,673	2,148,414
		<u>6,751,887</u>	<u>6,074,638</u>
	<b>Educational operations £</b>	<b>2022/23 Total £</b>	<b>2021/22 Total £</b>
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	716,987	716,987	876,998
Depreciation	597,299	597,299	557,415
Technology costs	83,622	83,622	84,430
Premises costs	564,372	564,372	352,773
Legal costs - other	43,921	43,921	7,910
Other support costs	226,497	226,497	259,747
Governance costs	8,975	8,975	9,141
Total support costs	<u>2,241,673</u>	<u>2,241,673</u>	<u>2,148,414</u>

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 8 Staff

#### Staff costs

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	3,443,024	2,924,528
Social security costs	350,361	301,599
Pension costs	830,328	948,587
	<u>4,623,713</u>	<u>4,174,714</u>
Supply teacher costs	94,159	131,045
Staff restructuring costs	-	1,550
	<u>4,717,872</u>	<u>4,307,309</u>
	2022/23 £	2021/22 £

#### Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	-	1,550
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#### Severance payments

The Academy Trust trust paid - severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
0 - £25,000	-	1

#### Staff numbers

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

	2023 No	2022 No
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Teachers	53	38
Administration and support	63	45
Management	4	8
	<u>120</u>	<u>91</u>

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 8 Staff (continued)

##### Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	2
£70,001 - £80,000	2	2
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

##### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £747,349 (2022: £733,855).

#### 9 Central services

The academy trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Human Resources
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Education Support Services
- Others as arising

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

Initially the trust is top slicing funding at 7% and as the trust grows and becomes more established this will reduce to 5%. Costs will be divided equally across the schools with the view to reduce top slicing and reinvesting savings back to the schools.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
St Lawrence Academy	386,255	396,663
Signhills Infants Academy	13,493	-
	<u>399,748</u>	<u>396,663</u>

#### 10 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have been paid remuneration or received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £Nil (2022 - £454) were reimbursed or paid directly to trustees (2022 - 1).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 26.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 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 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

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	2022/23 Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 September 2022	23,067,748	100,817	618,231	23,786,796
Additions	121,638	133,325	109,961	364,924
Disposals	-	(17,851)	(222,365)	(240,216)
Transfers	2,117,774	236,143	7,958	2,361,875
At 31 August 2023	<u>25,307,160</u>	<u>452,434</u>	<u>513,785</u>	<u>26,273,379</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 September 2022	3,165,715	45,814	460,929	3,672,458
Charge for the year	481,852	17,967	97,480	597,299
Eliminated on disposals	-	(15,321)	(221,838)	(237,159)
At 31 August 2023	<u>3,647,567</u>	<u>48,460</u>	<u>336,571</u>	<u>4,032,598</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 August 2023	<u>21,659,593</u>	<u>403,974</u>	<u>177,214</u>	<u>22,240,781</u>
At 31 August 2022	<u>19,902,033</u>	<u>55,003</u>	<u>157,302</u>	<u>20,114,338</u>

Included within leasehold land and buildings is £21,659,593 (2022: £19,902,033) relating to long leasehold land and buildings.

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 13 Investments

	M & G Investments £
<b>Fair value</b>	
At 1 September 2022	489,530
Revaluation	<u>(23,495)</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>466,035</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 August 2023	<u>466,035</u>

The investment is being managed by M & G Investments. The portfolio is currently being held in the following investments:

- Charibond Charities Fixed Int Common Invest Fund Inc Shares
- Charifund - Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Income)

### 14 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Books and stationery	<u>4,730</u>	<u>5,194</u>

### 15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	18,497	7,306
Prepayments	41,415	68,914
Accrued grant and other income	77,598	47,589
VAT recoverable	<u>51,059</u>	<u>55,705</u>
	<u>188,569</u>	<u>179,514</u>

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	273,200	218,495
Other taxation and social security	109,501	61,484
Pension scheme creditor	100,413	70,934
Concessionary loan	3,694	7,012
Accruals	<u>165,165</u>	<u>90,416</u>
	<u>651,973</u>	<u>448,341</u>

Included within concessionary loans is a loan of £3,694 from Salix which is provided on the following terms: two interest free loans which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 7 and 8 years respectively. The repayments will be paid out of the annual savings made from the improved lighting and drainage system.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

## 17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant	111,630	5,121,388	(4,569,009)	(110,041)	553,968
Tutoring Grant	39,285	-	(39,285)	-	-
LA Funding	-	177,909	(177,909)	-	-
Supplementary Grant	-	149,021	(149,021)	-	-
Investment Income	-	22,207	(22,207)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	314,042	(314,042)	-	-
Other DfE/ ESFA Covid-19 Funding	-	83,075	(83,075)	-	-
Other ESFA funding	-	55,923	(55,923)	-	-
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	80,469	(80,469)	-	-
Universal Infant Free School Meals	-	83,490	(83,490)	-	-
Transfer of Signhills Infants Academy	-	21,953	(21,953)	-	-
<b>Total restricted general funds</b>	<b>150,915</b>	<b>6,109,477</b>	<b>(5,596,383)</b>	<b>(110,041)</b>	<b>553,968</b>
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DFC	408,595	56,030	(161,307)	-	303,318
3 G Pitch Sinking Funds	28,623	-	-	-	28,623
Gifted assets	18,507,288	-	-	-	18,507,288
Capital Expenditure from GAG	1,169,832	-	(412,049)	110,041	867,824
Transfer on Conversion	-	2,361,875	(21,318)	-	2,340,557
LA Capital Funding	-	175,000	(5,483)	-	169,517
Other Capital Funding	-	23,853	(199)	-	23,654
<b>Total restricted fixed asset funds</b>	<b>20,114,338</b>	<b>2,616,758</b>	<b>(600,356)</b>	<b>110,041</b>	<b>22,240,781</b>
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Restricted Pension Fund	334,000	(43,000)	(83,000)	(116,000)	92,000
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Endowment Fund	489,530	-	-	(23,495)	466,035
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>21,088,783</b>	<b>8,683,235</b>	<b>(6,279,739)</b>	<b>(139,495)</b>	<b>23,352,784</b>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted Funds	707,371	286,952	(472,148)	-	522,175
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>21,796,154</b>	<b>8,970,187</b>	<b>(6,751,887)</b>	<b>(139,495)</b>	<b>23,874,959</b>



# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 17 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant	112,131	4,669,676	(4,488,699)	(181,478)	111,630
Tutoring Grant	-	45,968	(6,683)	-	39,285
LA Funding	-	71,746	(71,746)	-	-
Investment Income	-	21,217	(21,217)	-	-
Pupil Premium	47,750	285,499	(333,249)	-	-
Covid-19 Catch-up Premium	-	43,065	(43,065)	-	-
Other DfE/ ESFA Covid-19 Funding	-	16,608	(16,608)	-	-
Other ESFA funding	-	119,966	(119,966)	-	-
Non Government Grants	-	1,850	(1,850)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	159,881	5,275,595	(5,103,083)	(181,478)	150,915
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DFC	392,015	16,580	-	-	408,595
3 G Pitch Sinking Funds	28,623	-	-	-	28,623
Gifted assets	19,064,703	-	(557,415)	-	18,507,288
Capital Expenditure from GAG	988,354	-	-	181,478	1,169,832
Total restricted fixed asset funds	20,473,695	16,580	(557,415)	181,478	20,114,338
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Restricted Pension Fund	(2,925,000)	-	(371,000)	3,630,000	334,000
<i>Other restricted funds</i>					
Endowment Fund	529,029	-	-	(39,499)	489,530
Total restricted funds	18,237,605	5,292,175	(6,031,498)	3,590,501	21,088,783
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted Funds	674,462	76,049	(43,140)	-	707,371
Total unrestricted funds	674,462	76,049	(43,140)	-	707,371
Total funds	18,912,067	5,368,224	(6,074,638)	3,590,501	21,796,154

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 17 Funds (continued)

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

Restricted General Funds are made up of various grants which are defrayed throughout the year on specific educational needs.

The Endowment Fund represents the capital provided by the sponsor. During 2016 £535,000 was invested in shares.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds represent reserves of the charity that are specifically designated for capital.

Restricted Pension funds represents the LGPS pension deficit.

#### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
St Lawrence Academy	906,176	1,343,956
Signhills Infants Academy	208,316	-
Central services	427,686	3,860
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,542,178	1,347,816
Restricted fixed asset fund	22,240,781	20,114,338
Pension reserve	92,000	334,000
Total	23,874,959	21,796,154

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
St Lawrence Academy	3,519,748	383,628	348,945	875,575	5,127,896	4,678,044
Signhills Infants Academy	232,650	39,524	5,219	39,899	317,292	-
Central services	248,487	200,835	712	176,366	626,400	468,177
Academy Trust	4,000,885	623,987	354,876	1,091,840	6,071,588	5,146,221

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	22,240,781	-	22,240,781
Investments	-	-	-	466,035	466,035
Current assets	522,175	1,202,247	3,694	-	1,728,116
Current liabilities	-	(648,279)	(3,694)	-	(651,973)
Pension scheme liability	-	92,000	-	-	92,000
Total net assets	<u>522,175</u>	<u>645,968</u>	<u>22,240,781</u>	<u>466,035</u>	<u>23,874,959</u>

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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	20,114,338	-	20,114,338
Investments	-	-	-	489,530	489,530
Current assets	707,371	599,256	-	-	1,306,627
Current liabilities	-	(448,341)	-	-	(448,341)
Pension scheme liability	-	334,000	-	-	334,000
Total net assets	<u>707,371</u>	<u>484,915</u>	<u>20,114,338</u>	<u>489,530</u>	<u>21,796,154</u>

### 19 Financial commitments

#### Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the Academy Trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	6,861	6,861
Amounts due between one and five years	<u>6,289</u>	<u>13,150</u>
	<u>13,150</u>	<u>20,011</u>

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure)	2,218,300	(706,414)
Depreciation	597,299	557,414
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(254,883)	(16,580)
Interest and dividends receivable	(66,952)	(25,093)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	43,000	-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	93,000	320,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(10,000)	51,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	464	(5,194)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(9,055)	40,353
Increase in creditors	206,950	103,547
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3,057	-
Fixed assets transferred on conversion into Trust	(2,361,875)	-
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>459,305</u>	<u>319,033</u>

#### 21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Repayments of borrowing	(7,012)	(7,013)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	<u>3,694</u>	-
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(3,318)</u>	<u>(7,013)</u>

#### 22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	66,952	25,093
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(364,924)	(198,057)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	<u>254,883</u>	<u>16,580</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(43,089)</u>	<u>(156,384)</u>

#### 23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>1,534,817</u>	<u>1,121,919</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,534,817</u>	<u>1,121,919</u>

#### 24 Member 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 cease to be a member.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 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 East Riding Pension Fund. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £100,413 (2022 - £70,934) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

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

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 30 October 2023. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million
- the SCAPE discount rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 1.7% above the rate of CPI, and is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for long-term GDP growth.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £558,838 (2022: £474,771).

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

Under the definitions set out in Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), the TPS is a 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.

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £291,000 (2022 - £205,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £231,000 (2022 - £151,000) and employees' contributions totalled £60,000 (2022 - £54,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 16.2% & 19.8% per cent for employers and 5-7 per cent for employees.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

	At 31 August 2023 %	At 31 August 2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.00	4.00
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.00	3.10
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.20</u>	<u>4.30</u>

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

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2022
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	21.10	20.80
Females retiring today	24.00	23.50
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.90	22.00
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.50</u>	<u>25.30</u>

A sensitivity analysis for the principal assumptions used to measure scheme liabilities is set out below:

##### Sensitivity analysis

	2023 £	2022 £
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	221,000	193,000
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	121,000	113,000
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	16,000	16,000
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	<u>109,000</u>	<u>98,000</u>

# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Equities	4,681,000	3,865,000
Other bonds	1,105,000	721,000
Property	585,000	515,000
Cash and other liquid assets	130,000	52,000
Total market value of assets	<u>6,501,000</u>	<u>5,153,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £7,000 (2022 - (£79,000)).

### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Current service cost	(264,000)	(471,000)
Interest income	232,000	85,000
Interest cost	<u>(222,000)</u>	<u>(136,000)</u>
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	<u>(254,000)</u>	<u>(522,000)</u>

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
At start of period	4,819,000	8,023,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	1,002,000	-
Current service cost	264,000	471,000
Interest cost	222,000	136,000
Employee contributions	60,000	54,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(784,000)	(3,794,000)
Benefits paid	<u>(67,000)</u>	<u>(71,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>5,516,000</u>	<u>4,819,000</u>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 September	5,153,000	5,098,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	959,000	-
Interest income	232,000	85,000
Actuarial losses	(7,000)	(164,000)
Employer contributions	171,000	151,000
Employee contributions	60,000	54,000
Benefits paid	(67,000)	(71,000)
Asset ceiling restriction	<u>(893,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August	<u>5,608,000</u>	<u>5,153,000</u>

## St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

#### 26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

##### Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

##### Diocese of Lincoln

(Related through trusteeship)

Contributions for services during the year amounting to £Nil (2022: £5,060).

##### Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education

(Academy Trust Sponsor)

Contributions for services during the year amounting to £8,063 (2022: £Nil).

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

##### Income related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

##### Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education

(Academy Trust Sponsor)

During the year The St Lawrence Academies Trust recharged Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education for annual school visits. There were no amounts owed to the Academy Trust at the year end..

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.



# St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

### 27 Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust

#### Signhills Infant Academy

	Value reported by transferring academy trust £	Transfer in recognised £
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Leasehold land and buildings	2,117,774	2,117,774
Furniture and equipment	236,143	236,143
Computer equipment	7,958	7,958
	<u>2,361,875</u>	<u>2,361,875</u>
<b>Other assets</b>		
Debtors due after one year	21,340	21,340
Cash in bank and in hand	217,387	217,387
	<u>238,727</u>	<u>238,727</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors due in less than one year	(66,126)	(66,126)
<b>Pensions</b>		
Pensions – pension scheme liabilities	<u>(43,000)</u>	<u>(43,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>2,491,476</u>	<u>2,491,476</u>