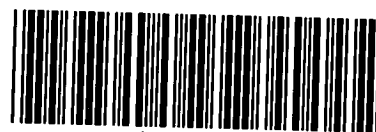


Company registration number 07401701 (England and Wales)

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

WEDNESDAY



ACWUAMI2

A13

14/02/2024

#182

COMPANIES HOUSE

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 21
Governance statement	22 - 26
Statement on regularity, propriety and compliance	27
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	28
Independent auditor's report on the accounts	29 - 31
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	32 - 33
Statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account	34 - 35
Balance sheet	36
Statement of cash flows	37
Notes to the accounts including accounting policies	38 - 59

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

Members

Graham Cottle (resigned 19/01/2023)
Pavandip Kaur Mahal
Paul Snook
George Perfect (appointed 05/07/2023)
Joseph Martin (resigned 05/07/2023)
Harry Bull
Micayla Holder (appointed 20/09/2023)

Trustees

S Ahmad
Patricia Daniels
Emma Day
Trovene Hartley
Lawrence McVeigh
Cordelia Osewa Ediae
Veenod Rama (Chair of Trustees)
Christopher Sanford
Richard Smith (Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee)
Benjamin Streets (Resigned 9 February 2023)
Barry Symons (Resigned 2 February 2023)
Paul Vandepeer
Andrew Minchin (ex officio, Accounting Officer)
John McLaren
Louisa Jones (Appointed 2 February 2023)
Malcolm Moaby (Appointed 16 October 2023)

Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer	A Minchin
- Chief Finance Officer	S Rayner
- Head Teacher	P Jackson
- Head Teacher (appointed 01 September 2023)	M Ireland
- Head Teacher	N Archer
- Head Teacher (appointed 03 July 2023)	J Tomkins
- Head Teacher	Z Mayston
- Head of People	K Steele
- Head Teacher (retired 31 August 2023)	P Sears
- Head Teacher (resigned 31 December 2022)	S Quenby

Company registration number 07401701 (England and Wales)

Principal and registered office Beyond Schools Trust
Fort Pitt Hill
Chatham
Kent
ME4 6TJ

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Academies operated

Fort Pitt Grammar School
Thomas Aveling School
Phoenix Junior School
Balfour Junior School
The Robert Napier School

Location

Chatham
Rochester
Chatham
Chatham
Gillingham

Head Teacher

N Archer
P Jackson
M Ireland
Z Mayston
J Tomkins

Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services
First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA14 5RH
United Kingdom

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
142-146 High Street
Chatham
Kent

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Academy Trust operates one Junior School, one Primary school and three Secondary Schools in the Medway Towns. Its Academies had a combined pupil capacity of 3,879 (including notional PAN for 6th forms) and had a roll of 4,005 (2022: 3,973) in the school census in May 2023, due to several years of schools taking on bulge class growth. Pupil numbers as per the October 2023 census totalled 4,042 pupils.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

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

The charitable company is known as Beyond Schools Trust (formerly Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies) (company number 07401701). Individual academies within the Multi Academy Trust operate as:

Fort Pitt Grammar School
The Thomas Aveling School
The Robert Napier School
Phoenix Primary School
Balfour Junior School

The trustees of Beyond Schools Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

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

Trustees' indemnities

Subject to the provision of the Companies Act 2006, the Trust intends to maintain Trustees' and Officers' liability insurance which gives appropriate cover for any liability incurred or legal action brought against them in connection with their acting in their capacity as Directors of the Trust – since April 2020, cover provision for Governors and Trustees of the MAT are included under the ESFA RPA scheme.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

The board identifies potential new Trustees, ensuring that the skills and experience of new Trustees complement those of the existing board. All Trustees are considered initially through a review by the nomination committee and recommendation to the full board. The board has worked hard to become fully diverse during the academic year and has achieved a very diverse board in terms of age, gender and cultural heritage. The board has been engaged in a board development programme, under the supervision of the National Governance Association and has one main target to improve succession planning, having addressed during the year the skills gaps in primary school expertise and estates development across the years.

The number of Trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum. Subject to Articles 48-49 and 53, the Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees:

- Up to 7 Trustees, appointed under Article 50; and
- A minimum of 2 Parent Trustees elected, however in Article 53 this requirement is overcome by having parent Governors to the Local Governing Bodies.
- The CEO is not a Trustee but sits as ex-officio

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Trust subscribes to "Governance Connected", "National Governance Association and its Learning Link", and "The Key for School Governors", some have access to "The Key for School Leaders". Training packages and all courses and induction programmes are available to Trustees and Governors. Certain specific training, such as Safeguarding are also provided by an external company – Sandgate systems.

Organisational structure

As a Multi-Academy Trust, the Trustees are at the head of the organisational structure but are held to account twice a year by the Members at the AGM, and in a mid-year accountability meeting. The Chair of the Trustees and Chair of Members keep each other informed as and when necessary. The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of each Local Governing Board through the nomination committee and have overall responsibility for the strategic direction, academic achievement, setting policy and the running of the Trust schools, and managing the overall resources for the delivery of the Academy Trust's aims and objectives.

Andrew Minchin, Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), who is the Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust, has overall management responsibility for the Trust and is accountable to the Trustees. The Trustees, via its Finance, Audit and Risk Committee has overall responsibility for setting the Academies' budgets and for ensuring the Trust schools are managed effectively and achieve best value. The Trustees and the CEO devolve the day-to-day management of each school to the Local Governing Board and Head Teacher. Communication between the Board of Trustees and the individual schools' Local Governing Bodies is enabled by subscription to the web-based platform, "GovernorHub", a termly Chair's forum and perusal and challenge of meeting minutes and relevant documents. Trustees and the CEO also attend several Local Governing Board meetings across the year, and the Chairs of Local Governing Bodies are invited to attend at least one Trust Board meeting a year to discuss their school.

The Head Teachers of the Trust schools are supported in the management of the school by their senior leadership teams. The Head Teachers and senior leadership teams are collectively responsible to the CEO for the overall management of the Trust schools, setting and constructing the curriculum intent, in line with the Trust Curriculum principles and taking into account the local students' needs, embedding high standards of quality of education and the planning and use of assets and financial resources. Management responsibility is further delegated to Curriculum leaders and Phase leaders for accounting to the senior leadership teams and the Head Teachers for student and teacher performance. The Executive Board (the CEO, the five Head Teachers and Trust Chief Finance Officer and Head of People) meet six times a year to coordinate and align their approach to educational provision, collaborate to support overall Trust improvement and to support and challenge each other. The Trust School Improvement Team also support the Executive Board in the process, to validate the Quality of Educational provision and support improvements.

During the year 2022/23 the Trustees and the CEO have continued to make significant progress in their desire to work collaboratively, harmonise aims, policies and procedures of the five schools whilst maintaining each schools' own "personality" with a shared ethos of One Vision, One Trust and One family of schools. The work of the Trust Improvement team has been instrumental in this process from an education perspective. Our Head of people has made significant progress during the year to help implement our Human Resources strategy and to bring a renewed emphasis around workforce resilience and talent management and retention. Recruitment has been a key area of improvement with the quality and reach of our recruitment going far and wide. The recruitment incentives have been significantly enhanced and continue to be developed to ensure our employees have a full access to a range of incentives

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The Trust has a full Performance Management Policy which clearly sets out the processes and standards to be met when reviewing the pay of all members of the Trust. At Executive Board level, challenging targets are set by the Trustees and/or the CEO, together with the Local Governing Body representative, these are monitored in March with a full review taking place in September/October of the following year. An appointed remuneration committee deal with the pay of the Executive Board. Recommendations are made to the full Board of Trustees, who make the final remuneration decision. The Local Governing Boards appoint a pay panel to oversee the Headteachers recommendations for staff in their schools. When making their decisions, they consider the circumstances of the school, the various responsibilities of the people being appraised and value for money. These are made in accordance with the Trust main pay policy. During the year, Trustees appointed external HR specialist to benchmark and facilitate the pay scale for the CEO and an Interim Executive Headteacher post to provide executive support for another school in 2022-23.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	6
Full-time equivalent employee number	6.00

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	6
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	254
Total pay bill	20,552,000
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	-

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	100%
---	------

Engagement with employees

The Trustees ensure that communication to employees is frequent and support the flow of information on matters that concern employees. The Trust has engaged its employees from all schools on its focus on school based wellbeing surveys and regular head office bulletins. The Trust is rolling out pulse surveys which will provide nationally benchmarked comparisons.

Employee engagement and employee wellbeing is high on the agenda of the Trust and is the focus for the Trust Inset day in 2023. Each School improvement plan has wellbeing and workload, has a dedicated well-being senior leader and have this as a key part of school improvement plan so is being monitored through reporting to LGBs .

Each Academy uses survey channels to ensure that specific parts of the community are feeding into the Academy level and Trust level action plans. These typically focus on the Ofsted survey but with further specific focus depending on school priorities. External surveys during 3 Ofsted inspections show exceptionally high levels of satisfaction in the Ofsted surveys.

The Trust continues to invest in strategies to seek application from a wider and more diverse population. Equal opportunities have been big focus in our recruitment practices and career development. New policies have been put in place related to Equality and diversity as well as a full suite of staff friendly policies. Notable focus has been on training managing staff with menopause and training on unconscious bias for all staff.

Disabled employees

The Trust's Accessibility Policy supports the aims to ensure provision for disabled students and staff. Ramps and disabled toilets are installed, and door widths are adequate to enable wheelchair access to all ground floor areas of the Trust buildings. Recent major capital investments have taken into account improved accessibility for all visitors, staff or students to the schools.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the academy trust

The Trustees take an active interest in the development and outcomes of the students within the individual schools of the Trust and, through delegated responsibility to Local Governing Boards, actively seek through regular site visits to promote engagement with students as the key customers of this service. Link Trustees and have taken the opportunity to visit schools, as well as receiving engagement reports via the Head Teachers. Each school has also undertaken parental satisfaction surveys to review the feedback educational provision, which has on the whole been extremely favourable.

Effective relationships with suppliers have been at the forefront of the work of the CEO, the Chief Finance Officer, Head Teachers, and the Finance Team, as part of the provision of services to the Trust. The Trustee Board, through the Finance Audit and Risk Committee, have oversight of these areas in regular report and committee meetings. The improvement to our Estates continues to require extensive relationship development with contractors underway on a major £1.5m project at Fort Pitt Grammar School. The Trust hold regular engagement and progress meetings with these major building contractors to support progress, value for money and transparency over project deliverables. The Trust continue to review and promote its lettings provision to ensure that each letting is financially viable and supports our overall aim of improving our educational provision.

Trustees continue to encourage Executives to take a proactive involvement in building relationships that support the core purpose of the business. Growth has been a key element of the strategic objectives and so developing business relationships has been a priority to the CEO. Improved relationships with Medway Local Authority and the Regional Directors office and, through the work of the CEO, there have been strong relationships developed with local Multi-Academy Trusts. The CEO continues to be chair of the Medway and North Kent MAT Alliance and its on the Child Friendly Medway Strategic board.

The Trust had started discussion with the Skills for Life Trust in 2022 over possible merger. Beyond were then asked by the DfE to support Walderslade Girls School who were placed into special measures by Ofsted in February 2023. The Skills for Life Trust Board subsequently asked the Trust to provide support in the form of an Acting CEO, so Andrew Minchin CEO has been providing this support during the financial year.

Additional relationships are being developed with other schools who are looking to academise. The Trust has been in discussion with Dover Grammar School for Girls for 18 months and has recently signed a partnership agreement to work toward them joining our Trust once the outcome or embedded of the Skills for life merger is complete.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

Primary schools within the Academy Trust have parent/teacher associations. These organise events and provide refreshments at school events to raise funds to provide facilities for the pupils of those schools.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Beyond Schools Trust (the 'Trust') aims as set out in the governing document are specifically restricted to the following: "to advance education for the public benefit in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the Trust schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum". The aim of the Academy Trust is to strive to provide outstanding educational opportunities to prepare students' readiness for the world beyond our doors. The Academy Trust currently includes one Junior Academy school which caters for ages 7 to 11, one Primary Academy school which cater for ages 5 to 11 and three Secondary Academy schools which cater for ages 11 to 19.

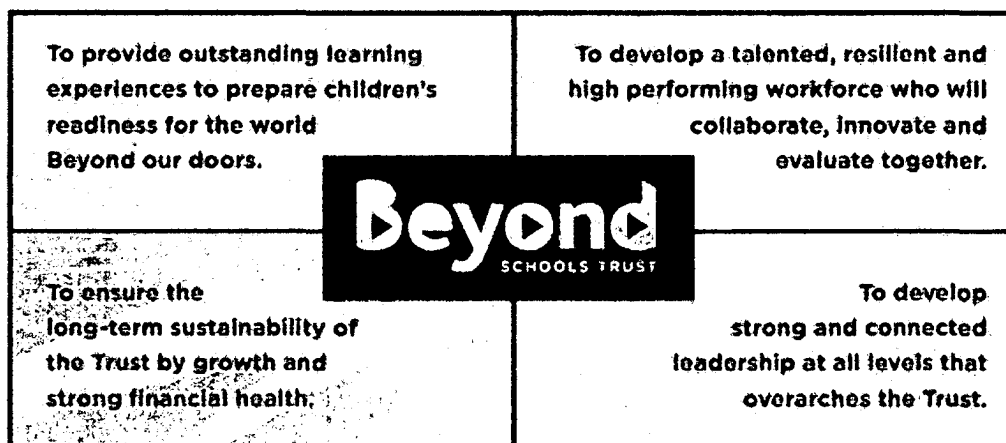
BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Objectives, strategies and activities

The following strategic objectives have been in place for the 2022/23 accounting period as follow:



These 4 broad objectives are the focus of the CEO and Head Teachers performance management and form the basis of the Trust Improvement Plan, which specifies actions required to achieve these objectives and the process of monitoring their implementation. Each school develops its own Improvement Plan linked to the Trust Strategic Priorities, in addition to its own priorities. The Local Governing Bodies (LGB) and Trustees regularly review the progress of these plans, with overall responsibility for day-to-day management being undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer who meets regularly with the Head Teachers and takes part in Quality Assurance in each school with the Trust Improvement Team. The following is a brief summary of the major activities and progress against the strategic objectives.

The Vision for the Trust has been set out in a strategic plan:

To be the most respected family of schools - trusted to provide the highest quality of educational experiences in our communities.

Core Values of the Trust

Everyone in our Trust has a part to play in bringing the ethos and culture of our values alive. We are committed to ensuring everyone knows why we should value each other and how we should value each other, so we can create a community where we all aspire to succeed. Our values are not the static states of play but things we are always striving to develop and uphold as part of our culture. This year we have brought out value into focus through our newsletters and through our Trust inset day focusing on equality, diversity and inclusion.

A full copy of the Strategic Plan is available on the Trust website - www.beyondschoools.co.uk.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

We have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

The public benefit of Beyond Schools Trust is the advancement of education within the local community.

Social investments

The Trustees recognise that equal opportunities are an integral part of good practice within the workplace. The Trust aims to establish equality of opportunity in all areas of its activities, including the creation of a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all people are fully valued

The Trust supports the involvement of the wider community within the school community by establishing strong links with neighbours, local churches, clubs and organisations. Lettings has been a major way that the Trust connects with local community groups (including various cultural heritage groups) but the work of the CEO and the wider Executive Board also extends beyond this, including representation on the Medway Stakeholder Skills Board and the Child Friendly Medway Strategic Board.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

MAT LEADERSHIP

Executive structure remains the same but there are plans in place to increase this to build the strategic leadership capacity to oversee ten or more schools.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Progress against our Strategic Objectives

To provide outstanding learning experience to prepare children ready for the world beyond our doors.

- The Trust has made rapid progress and in the same financial year last year achieving the following Ofsted inspection outcomes:

School	Inspection Date	Outcome
Thomas Aveling School	October 2022	Good (Short)
Fort Pitt Grammar School	October 2022	Outstanding
Phoenix primary School	July 2023	Good

- These three Ofsted inspection outcomes are positive evidence of our impact on the quality of education that our pupils experience. Two schools with the most deprived catchment still need greater focus moving forward to help bridge the disadvantaged gap but our latest provisional data suggest that this is happening. The Trust set the school target of gaining the Character Education kite mark to evidence is all-round focus on developing pupil character – the remaining three schools will be working towards assessment. Phoenix Primary has also been re-awarded the Centre of excellence for Inclusion. A key area of focus across the year and into 2022-23 has been improving behaviour and outcomes at The Robert Napier School and supporting the transition between senior leaders with a significant change in leadership across the year.
- The support for Walderslade Girls School and increasingly the whole of the Skills for Life Trust has been a major part of the Trust's work

To develop a talented, resilient and high performance workforce that will collaborate and innovate together.

- Our Trust Quality Assurance process is fully embedded trust-wide summary reports presented to the board including curriculum based reports providing valuable information to schools – the team undertook over 30 peer reviews across the 2022-23 academic year. This common language and cross collaboration is maximising the way our staff work together and share resources.
- Secondments for senior leaders have supported school in need and given leaders opportunities to develop and gain new skills.
- A significant enhancement to our range of staff incentives has been made with staff now able to receive medical insurance, discounted members to gyms, tennis centres and employee assistant support package.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

To ensure long-term sustainability of the Trust through growth and strong financial health.

- The Trust has submitted a merger application and a tender application to take in the Skills for Life Trust and School. This is subject to DfE approval in November 2023. While there is a significant amount of work to undertake, both operationally and financially this growth will support the longer term financial health of the Trust.
- All Beyond schools have operated efficiently and show positive benchmarked Key Performance indicators. All schools have a positive reserves position. See below for further details on the financial performance.
- Growth has continue to come from internal growth with the total number now well over 4,000 students. Several school shave taken bulge classes and Robert Napier has agreed to move to a PAN of 210 and will receive capital investment from the local Authority for new build block in Science and PE.
- There is a clear focus on Value for Money with monthly contracts review undertaken by Deputy Finance Director and Estate Development manager. Centralisation of contracts have increased with better value for money around the quality of services have been achieved.
- The Trust has undertaken a significant volume of capital works to improve the estates and are half way through a major project on a listed building at Fort Pitt Grammar School.

To develop strong and connect leadership that overarches the Trust

- The three Ofsted inspection during the year show the Trust and local governance has a strong oversight and know their schools well.
- The Trust board and the CEO continues to monitor governance and leadership capacity. External review of governance continue to be a focus with the NGA reviewing the Robert Napier School local governing body during the year.
- There have been two senior leader changes during the year with Jenny Tomkins becoming the headteacher of the Robert Napier School and Melissa Ireland becoming headteacher of Phoenix Primary. The latter provides strong evidence of leadership progression within our organisation.

Impact of COVID-19

The impact of the Covid were most felt the most at The Robert Napier School and Phoenix Primary School which also impacted their performance. This progress lag is still apparent and when looking at the contextual data analysis they are performing closer to similar schools . There is still an impact on these school and others from delays in SEND identification and appropriate funded support being put in place. Behaviour is still more of challengepost covid than prior to it.

Schools Performance

KS5 Headline attainment and progress

	Fort Pitt Grammar School	The Robert Napier School	The Thomas Aveling School
A*-A	24%	6%	18%
A*-B	58%	13%	37%
A*-C	83%	42%	72%

The Key Stage 5 performance across the schools showed a resilient performance in two schools. Fort Pitt and Thomas Aveling's outcomes remained strong and The Robert Napier School dropped slightly in Academic score and improved outcomes in the Applied and Technical qualifications.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key Stage 4 performance

	Fort Pitt Grammar School	The Robert Napier School	The Thomas Aveling School
No of Students	118	184	195
Attendance	94%	86%	92%
Grade 4+ En & Ma	97%	36%	62%
Grade 5+ En & Ma	84%	11%	39%
Progress 8 Score	+0.55	-0.67	+0.27

* Progress 8 score are provisional.

The key stage 4 performance was an improvement for all schools. Fort Pitt continues to produce a very high progress 8 score. The Thomas Aveling School achieving a strong performance in comparison to other non-selective schools in Kent and Medway and a much improved performance from The Robert Napier School. While the latter showed improvement there is still much to do move the school back to where it needs to be. The new headteacher and the Trust team continue to target areas for improvement.

KS2 Performance (Provisional)

		Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined
Phoenix Primary School (57)	Expected	40%	53%	40%	34%
	GD	9%	7%	2%	2%
	Progress	-3.7	-1.6	-3.9	
Balfour Juniors (118)	Expected	68%	61%	65%	50%
	GD	34%	12%	22%	7%
		-1.2	-1.5	-1.4	
National Average - Expected		74%	69%	71%	59%

At primary level there is further work to be done to improve outcomes but the curriculum flowing through both schools are now very strong and we expect a sizeable improvement in the next academic year based on lower years progression data.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key performance indicators

	31.08.23	31.08.22
Total expenditure on operations per pupil enrolled	£7,269	£6,559
Teaching and educational support staff costs as a percentage of DFE/ESFA revenue	85.5%	79%

Total staff costs (excluding supply) per pupil enrolled	£5,519	£5,099
Teaching and educational support staff costs as a percentage of total revenue	78%	66%
LGPS deficit per pupil	£nil	£657

Key Priorities for 2023-24

- To focus resources as necessary to support change management and reduce in-Trust variation in performance – with a particular focus on The Robert Napier School and Phoenix and a Trust-wide focus on Reading.
- To continue to develop opportunities for the growth of the Trust and implement integration changes as necessary to support long term needs and future stability of the schools within the Trust
- To address infrastructure requirements and support site development to meet the future needs of the schools and the trust strategic objectives
- To continue to implement the new HR strategy
- To further develop and embed key benchmarks across all service areas of the Trust (including HR, IT and ICFP)

Going concern

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

Protecting the success of the academy trust

All schools in the Trust have strong communication platforms in which to promote successes of the schools and they take every opportunity to communicate to key stakeholder through newsletters and social media. The Trustees have supported the CEO in ensuring that the interests of employees are promoted with significant improvements around internal HR policies and guidance in line with our attempt to an employer of choice. The focus on the Brand and the way we interact on social media with parents and potential employees have been a significant focus for the year.

The Trustees oversee and challenge the Executive group in their decision making on strategies to reduced carbon footprint through its capital investments assessment framework which weights environmental investments. The Trust has bid for a major carbon reduction grant in the year but were unfortunately unsuccessful. The Trustees will be ensuring that these opportunities are accessed.

Trustees have careful regard to equality in all that they do and ensure that these policies are in place and promoted across the schools. The executive board and Trust board have set very clear quality objectives to ensure we provide and safe and inclusive environment all people coming to our schools. This starts from the make-up of the Trust Board which is fully diverse. The school within the trust proudly support an environment in which students and staff from all backgrounds feel fully supported and safe. Trustees are confident that the operations of the business have maintained high standards through the progression outcomes, examination outcomes, high attendance, and positivepraise from stakeholders for the staff.

Complaints about the conduct of the trust are very rare and usually managed at a local level without the need for escalation, however, if this became necessary, the matter would be referred to Trustee level for further investigation and response as appropriate. During the year we have updated our compliant process so that it is more user friendly to parents.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

All schools set a balanced budget in the year to August 2023 which all five achieved and generated combined additional revenue surplus of £342k. This will be employed to support the school needs and uncertainties of what is expected to be a continued difficult economic climate during the forthcoming year. Additionally this will be utilised to provide funds as necessary to support future needs. Phoenix Primary School has been through a further period of change and staffing has been a challenge throughout the year culminating with the retirement and successful recruitment of a new headteacher. This has placed burden on budgets with agency costs and higher than usual support staff overtime costs. However, this now seems to have settled and recruitment plans are in place to replace remaining staff vacancies which will relieve further pressure on staffing budgets. The financial health of both Fort Pitt and Robert Napier schools continued to improve during the year despite challenges with replacing headteacher mid-way through the year and associated costs incurred in the placement of an interim head teacher and subsequent recruitment cost of the substantive headteacher which was successful and has enabled the school to start the year with a more solid footing. Balfour ended the year in line with budgets and Thomas Aveling was able to utilise funds during the year to fund development needs at the site as well as providing additional revenue and capital reserves to support future needs so all schools finished the financial year to August 2023 with a cumulative surplus.

The cumulative consolidated financial position of the Trust remains in surplus at the end of the year 2022/23. Some surpluses for the year link directly to unspent additional grants paid in the year which are funds for 2023/24 and the Trust Board and Executive team will be building these into revised forecast for 2023-24.

The Trust central funding formula is now embedded into the operational ethos of the schools and provides capacity for high quality central services. The impact that the head office services have made has been substantial across the trust schools. This includes the impact on school improvement as demonstrated by its three Ofsted reports together with the significant improvements in HR provision, IT facilities and Estate development. The focus for 2023-24 will be to ensure these services are tailored to areas of specific need and are fully benchmarked and reported to Trustees.

Last year the Trust and Fort Pitt Grammar School entered into discussion with the Local Authority and two other local grammar schools about major change with a proposal to change to a co-educational intake. The Local authority undertook a public consultation with no real objections and full educational community support. After putting forward a business case to the Regional Director in January 2023 all three schools and the Local Authority were advised to consult more widely. This process is underway and we expect the change to be authorised for first intake in September 2025 and with all major building works required for this change will be met by the Local Authority.

Exploring growth opportunities is a key component of the work of the CEO, with a view to growing our Trust to a more sustainable size. This work has been considerable during the financial year and the CEO has been seconded to the Skills for Life Trust to work 50% of his time supporting that Trust while we seek approval to transfer and merge into Beyond School Trust. A full due diligence has been undertaken and appraised by the Trust Board. Agreement from Trust Board was obtained on 17 November 2023. This growth has been carefully considered against our ethos and values and it is in line with our growth strategy. It will create a Trust of 10 schools (5 secondary and 5 primary) all within an 8 mile radius. This close proximity maximises the impact of our school improvement strategies.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trust has continued to work to create tangible operational and financial benefits of centrally negotiated procurement opportunities and estates compliance and management strategies and these reviews occur on a regular basis in advance of contract renewals.

This includes staff recruitment and advertising, Software Licencing and IT support, compliance H&S support, Boiler Maintenance, Emergency lighting inspection, Landscape services, Management information systems.

The reserves held by the MAT at the end of the year are currently intended for use against potential Trust-wide liabilities arising in the short term, and to provide capacity funds for growth opportunities. The situation will be monitored and regularly reviewed by Trustees and any unutilised or surplus-to-needs funds will be distributed back to the schools on an equitable basis at an appropriate time, as determined by the perceived risks and needs of the Trust prevailing at the time. At the end of the year 2022/23 the surplus revenue reserve funds of £2,154k carried forward by the Trust included amounts totaling £616k that were received by Academy schools during the year relating to Supplementary Grant and trips incomes that are intended to be employed to support initiatives and commitments in 2023/24

At the end of 2022/23 all schools were in revenue surplus. Together with SCA funds additional funds were c/f in capital surplus as part of the capital fund to support necessary estates development during 2023/24 and consequently the cumulative financial reserves across the Trust remain very healthy.

Costs of resources and supplies have continued to increase across 2022/23 due to economic and inflationary factors including continued pressure on utilities and energy pricing. The trust remained partially insulated against the effects of these during the year due to its fixed contracts in place however it recognizes that the implications of these will materialize as the fixed terms of the contracts end over the next few years. Staff recruitment and retention have continued to be a concern and issues over the course of the last year due to high wage demands and increasing scarcity of appropriately qualified staff. This in turn has placed further upwards pressure on staffing recruitment costs and wage expectations. These are expected to continue into the foreseeable future as the high levels of inflation remain. These have been built into the budgets in so far as possible with consequent effect that the year is expected to be challenging to manage around the balance revenue expectation for each school.

Pay rises for salary point grades for teaching staff have been agreed for 2023/24 and the excess of cost above 4% will be met by the DfE by way of additional grants in order to relieve budgetary pressure in this respect from 2023/24 with the intent that in future it will become incorporated within the main GAG calculations.

Expectations and eventual outcomes from ongoing salary negotiations with support staff may have consequence and the trust has endeavoured to build as prudent a view as possible into the budget with the anticipation that any collective central agreement above this will be additionally funded in the same manner by supplementary grants as for Teaching staff.

Principal funding sources

During the year, the Trust income was primarily obtained in the form of the General Annual Grant (GAG) from the ESFA together with incorporated pre-16 grant funds, post-16 grants and pupil premium funding. In addition, the Trust received SEN funding, supplementary grants, mainstream additional grant, recovery premium and pension and pay grant income related to changes in the Teachers' pension rate, as well as other specific grants for targeted use, including the Summer School grant, which was funded on a cost reclaim basis including school led tutoring grant income. These are restricted funds as noted in the SOFA detail and intended to support specific activities of the Trust.

Reserves policy

The levels of reserves of the Academy Trust and individual Academies are reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis, in accordance with the Trust Reserves policy and with regard to the current economic climate. The review incorporates a critical analysis to ensure that income is matched to expenditure commitments in so far as possible in mind of FRS102 considerations around control of funds and associated risk, and that the nature of reserves held are commensurate with future commitments. The available reserve levels that are permissible to be held have been determined by the Trustees, as necessary, in order to provide sufficient working capital to manage delays in income and receipt of grants, payments of salary commitments and to provide a contingency to manage unexpected emergencies such as urgent repairs and maintenance. In this regard a combined restricted and unrestricted reserves balance of 7.5%-8.5% (£1,975,000 - £2,240,000) of annual income is determined by the Trustees to be of sufficient level at this time to manage risk against future uncertainties that may arise.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Academy Trust held fund balances at 31 August 2023 of £57,689k (2022: £54,554k) comprising £56,794k (2022: £53,785k) of restricted funds and £895k (2022: £769k) of unrestricted general funds, the unrestricted funds being the Academy Trust's free reserves. The restricted funds include a pension reserve deficit of £nil (2022: £2,578k). It should be noted however that this deficit will not crystallise within the foreseeable future and that the Academy Trust follows the advice of the pension scheme actuary and makes employer contributions in accordance with the rates advised which have been taken into account when preparing the Trusts budgets (employer contribution rates to the LGPS are due for review by scheme administrators next year). Of the total restricted funds, £54,507k (2022: £54,011k) relates to the restricted fixed asset funds primarily consisting of the land and property of the trust, and £1,028k (2022: £1,309k) relates to unspent capital funds. The combined balance of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds at 31 August 2023 was £2,154k (2022: £1,812k). The Academy Trust continues to set budgets with a view to maintaining the target level of reserves whilst maximising the benefit to current pupils.

Current cumulative levels of reserves, held by the Trust, are deemed sufficient to cover the contingent needs of the combined aggregate of one month net salary of the schools within the Trust as a minimum, in accordance with the Trust Reserves policy. During the year further improvement was made to the financial positions of the two secondary schools that had previously been in deficit and as at 31st August 2023 all schools within the trust held surplus revenue reserves and consequently all schools were contributing towards the appropriate aggregate level of reserves determined as appropriate to cover current economic and financial risks to the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

This presents further improvement towards a more balanced position of reserves across the trust and has enabled other schools to facilitate development projects from their revenue reserves in order to enhance the facilities on their sites and address needs determined under their school improvement plans and support necessary improvements and the continued strategic growth of the trust.

Investment policy

During 2023/24, the Trustees will review the investment policy in mind of increasing interest rates in order to best endeavour to optimise investment income by earning interest on the Trust's bank deposits overnight whilst maintaining instant access to funds. This has presented a more attractive proposition as interest rates have continued to rise across the course of the year. Current rates appear to have levelled out however future rates remain difficult to predict and are dependent upon the economic outlook for the UK and are largely dependent upon the market perception of UK economic growth, unemployment, and inflation. The current high rate is the culmination of a number of elements resultant from the effects of conflict outside of the UK and the impact on utilities prices in particular which remain high. Further significant implications are the continued effects of wage driven inflation fuelling further increases in inflation and interest rates. Therefore, in accord, the investment policy remains, to carefully manage available fund balances without taking undue risks.

Interest income during the year was consequently minimal and consisted mainly of small sums from balances held on interest bearing current accounts.

The new Lloyds bank accounts are now the principal accounts held by the Trust and returns consequently remain minimal without locking the sums into inaccessible deposit accounts for longer periods of time. The realisable net gain from this is marginal.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees are responsible for identifying risks faced by the charitable company, establishing procedures to mitigate these risks, and ensuring that employees are aware of these procedures and of the implications of failing to implement them. They are satisfied that these procedures are consistent with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The major strategic risks to which the Beyond Schools Trust is exposed are as follows:

- Unfunded staffing pay rises which account for a significant proportion of the budget resulting in the need to cut back the quality of provision to balance budgets
- Changes in the local and national SEND funding formula calculations coming in the future
- Reputational risk could arise from an Ofsted in one of the 3 schools still to be inspected
- Cyber-attack or major disaster resulting in system and information loss
- Local authority changes to funding formula
- Inflation rises in expenditure lines such energy prices
- The risk to the Schools' future viability from market forces (pupils, competitors, staff)
- A fall in the roll of the Academies
- Changes in management, affecting strategic direction
- Major fraud, both internally and externally
- Policy changes introduced by the DfE
- Further reduction in 6th Form funding will jeopardise the viability of many Secondary school 6th Forms

Academy Trusts face a number of inherent risks in management of their estates portfolio which may vary relative to the age of the sites. These encompass safeguarding, health and safety compliance requirements as well as security and capacity needs. The Estates development plans for the trust are overseen by a trust Estates Manager who works closely with central trust management, Headteachers and local site teams to ensure compliance to H&S and resource development needs at each of the sites. The Trust further engages external H&S consultants who provide professional advice and guidance and to regularly undertake site H&S and fire safety audits visits, reporting on the progress and development of estates H&S requirements. Estates management and development plans, including compliance are regularly reported to the Trust board and scrutinised by the Trustees. Projects are funded through a number of sources including School Condition Allocation funding from the Government, Devolved Formula capital funds, local School reserves and external funding grants where available. Priorities for development are set according to the H&S needs and beneficial opportunities of the project in conjunction with the longer term development strategies for the estates. Value for money is achieved by a means of comparative quotes, framework comparatives and tender bids in accord with the Trust procurement policy and supported by a business case for approval in accordance with the Trust scheme of delegation as appropriate.

The current principal risks the Trust faces are as follows::

- Pupil outcomes and engagement in some communities means that progress gaps remains difficult to close. Trust schools have worked hard to access and develop tuition and intervention strategies that pupil and parents will engage with but with funding requiring a 60% contribution from the school this providing difficult to achieve.
- The significant change of leadership in one school combined with the impact of the behaviour has resulted in a high turnover of teaching staff. The Trust has managed this risk with decisive leadership intervention and with addition support and leadership secondments from other schools. This has put pressure on the school budgets. The School is returning to stable staffing positions with much improved leadership.
- Staff recruitment and retention is a risk to the Trust and across the profession. The Trust are endeavoring to mitigate these with a strong well-being and incentive package and efficient recruitment processes with wide ranging marketing of the roles needing to be filled.
- The risk from the merger is a significant risk and this has been managed by having the CEO working as the Acting CEO within the target Trust which has allow risk to be identified early and where possible mitigated before merger. A significant amount of work has been undertaken in the areas of finance to turn around the Trust financial position. A full due diligence has been undertaken and appraised by the board.
- Financial capital budgets adversely impacted by the rising inflationary pressure brought on by the post-pandemic economy slow down and inflation on material costs.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The Trustees regularly review the Trust risk register and a copy of this has been provided to each school within the MAT. Each Academy keeps its own risk register, which is additionally referenced to the Trust risk register and is reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and Local Governing Body.

The above risks, together with H&S risk, risk of critical damage and urgent maintenance requirements of buildings within the Academy Trust have been reviewed by the Trustees and procedures are being put in place for managing the risks.

Demands on education provision within the local authority in part due to new housing developments, NHS recruitment and increase in pupil numbers together have continued to put pressure on available places within the authority at secondary level and more recently at primary level. The Robert Napier School continues to receive bulge year students with additional income and capital investment. A bulge year group intake will be required in 2023/24 and essential expansion at school level to accommodate this is currently being tendered.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust takes a responsible view of its fundraising activities and is dedicated to supporting the educational development of young people attending the Trust schools and the local community in general. To help guarantee the availability of ongoing funds to pay for this and to target specific development needs of the Trust schools, the Trust aims to maintain a targeted base of different sources of fundraising and incorporating PTA groups at Junior and Primary schools.

We will actively seek opportunities to work together with external organisations and individuals to achieve shared objectives in accordance with guidance issued by the DfE and Charity Commission, and to support the aims and vision of the Trust. It is vital however that the independence of the Trust is maintained and no external partnership is allowed to bring the name of Beyond Schools Trust into disrepute.

The Trust will accept financial support and work with ethical companies and individuals on the following conditions:

- It shares the same vision and goals for the benefit, the healthy living, and wellbeing of young persons within the Trust schools and wider community.
- It provides resources to broaden and promote the educational development of its students and local community.
- It provides for services to support the emotional and physical wellbeing of its students and wider community.

Bodies considered to be appropriate include Sport England and registered national and local charities e.g., Watts Alms houses.

The fundraising activities of the schools are monitored by the Local Governing Bodies to ensure that they conform to recognised and approved standards and an overview is maintained by the Board of Trustees.

Fundraising activities will be monitored to ensure that they do not prejudice members of the general public, vulnerable groups and do not create undue pressure to donate.

Beyond Schools Trust will not accept financial support or partnerships involved in illegal or potentially harmful activities or those that do not support the vision and goals of the Trust.

Any complaints with regards to the fundraising activities of the schools within the Trust will be reviewed independently by members of the Board of Trustees. No complaints have been received to date

The Academy Trust did not work with any commercial participators/professional fundraisers during the year. In its fundraising activities the Trust has due regard to the Charity Commission guidance 'Charity Fundraising; a guide to Trustee duties (CC20)' and meets the requirements of the 'Fundraising Code of Practice' set by the Fundraising Regulator.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	2023 kWh	2022 kWh
<i>Energy consumption</i>		
Aggregate of energy consumption in the year		
- Gas combustion	2,662,224	3,220,708
- Fuel consumed for transport	24,779	15,786
- Electricity purchased	1,772,810	1,941,170
	4,459,813	5,177,664
	2023 metric tonnes	2022 metric tonnes
<i>Emissions of CO2 equivalent</i>		
Scope 1 - direct emissions		
- Gas combustion	487.00	587.90
- Fuel consumed for owned transport	5.60	3.50
	492.60	591.40
Scope 2 - indirect emissions		
- Electricity purchased	356.70	375.40
Scope 3 - other indirect emissions		
- Fuel consumed for transport not owned by the academy trust	0.30	0.30
	849.60	967.10
Total gross emissions		
	0.21	0.25
<i>Intensity ratio</i>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil		

Quantification and reporting methodology

The 2019 UK Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition) were followed. The 2021 UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting were used in emission calculations. The report has been reviewed independently by Briar Consulting Engineers Limited.

The electricity, gas and oil data were all compiled from invoice records. Mileage claims were used to calculate energy use and emissions associated with grey fleet. Minibus mileage has been minimal this year due to the pandemic and considered immaterial. Generally gross calorific values were used except for grey fleet mileage energy calculations as per Government GHG Conversion Factors.

The associated emissions are mandatory according to the 2018 Regulations, then further divided into the direct combustion of fuels and the operation of facilities (scope 1), Indirect emissions from purchased electricity (scope 2) and further in direct emissions that occur as a consequence of Trust activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation (scope 3).

Intensity measurement

Two intensity ratios are reported showing emissions (tCO2e) per pupil and per square meter floor area. Emissions per pupil is the recommended ratio for the sector for consistency and comparability and pupil numbers are based on the Autumn 2021 Census. Emissions per square meter floor area is reported to reflect the energy efficiency of the buildings, which are the source of the majority of emissions.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

The Trust is committed to reducing emissions and this year has seen the implementation of the following energy efficiency measures:

- Thomas Aveling School, achieved a significant milestone by completing the entire site's conversion to LED lighting during the year. This transition marks a commendable step toward energy efficiency, reducing both environmental impact and operational costs.
- Fort Pitt Grammar School's initiative included replacing emergency lighting with LED fittings.
- The Robert Napier School's upgrade from an old analogue CCTV system, where each camera had its power source, to a modern setup powered by network switches.
- Phoenix Primary School implemented energy-efficient measures by replacing lighting in their hall and library with LED lights.

The Beyond School Trust is currently advancing future site developments, but at present, the anticipated energy savings from this project haven't been assessed or calculated:

- An additional 100mm of insulation has been included in the West Wing's roof space and all the lights in the new wing are set to be LED.
- During recent October half term break full LED lighting surveys have been carried out by a commercial sustainability company called "WN1 Sustainability"
- Phoenix will be fully LED in 2024.
- The Robert Napier New build is being designed to be as close to net zero in operation as funds will allow.
- Contractors are being asked for prices for, new windows, main Boiler replacement and additional insulation at Fort Pitt.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

The Trust has continued to develop relations with other schools and Academy trusts in the local geographical area during the course of the year working both collaboratively and in a more key support at senior level. This has allowed the trust to both develop its ability to support other schools experiencing challenging circumstances but has also enabled the Trust to develop its school improvement staff and key skills in identifying and making positive change.

In support of this the Trust also continues to develop its brand image and the underlying strategic objective to promote key trust values and deliver quality education to provide the best opportunities for its students beyond constraints and limitations and to support local community needs.

The Trust has strategic aspirations to grow in size but in accordance with its key objectives this is on a considered basis with other like-minded schools and Trusts and will be able to participate and share mutually beneficial cross trust development initiatives.

The trust will continue to explore and develop internal growth opportunities and where appropriate to increase the PAN to support a wider school population. In this respect continued investments in resources and infrastructure to improve and enhance teaching and learning facilities are key to support developments at the school sites including the critical need for shortage of spaces within the local authority as well as the longer-term strategic plans for the Trust. This incorporates both the primary and secondary schools where opportunities arise.

During the year, the Trust continued to develop the central support services including a School Improvement Team and Estates Manager with the intent to maximise the potential of the Trust sites, establish a consistency of practice and to deliver high level quality curriculum support modelling best practice techniques across the Trust to bring improvement where required to identify and plan short, medium and long term strategies. In this respect the future development plans of the trust include review of Inclusion, Science laboratories and sports facilities at Robert Napier School. Further potential development will be considered in consultation with the local Authority to support current and future growth needs. Dependent on the availability of funds, specific site development includes the conclusion of refurbishment and development of the West Wing at Fort Pitt Grammar and decarbonisation programme to include a full review of the site with a view to the replacement of fossil fuel boilers with more energy efficient heating,

Following recent investment in the early years facilities at the newly expanded Phoenix Primary School, further development of both the Primary and the Junior school will be considered dependent on needs identified including reception and site entrance.

At the heart of its organisation the Trust recognizes the importance of its staff and the development of skilled staff to deliver quality education across the trust but with high regard to support the well-being and health of its staff particularly in the current difficult climate. Critical to the success of the Trust is a well-balanced, trained and supported staff and it is therefore continually exploring opportunities and ways to provide access to support resources for personal development and professional advice in a range of areas as needed. Integral to this development is the head of people and this role is now established and providing valuable input in support of the continued investment in staffing to meet development needs.

Alongside this the trust recognizes that the necessary infrastructure needs to be in place to facilitate expected growth opportunities and the engagement of the Trust estates manager during the year was key in this and the further refinement of the Trust estates development plan over the coming year to meet these needs and objectives over the next five years. This will incorporate further development of sites to accommodate phased changes in intake at Fort Pitt from a single sex to a co-educational site, as well as essential investment in the fabric of the site to accommodate curriculum needs and will undertake site reviews across the trust estates in order to deliver necessary improvement and reduction in carbon footprint covering key risk areas including critical replacement programme for boilers and roofing, with a continued focus on green and renewable energy options.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accord with the delivery of the above key central services, the Trust currently top-slices 9.25% of income from the school GAG that contributes towards the central head office running costs. This incorporates recharges for centrally procured resources including procurement of ICT resources and equipment which the Trust will continue to develop to enhance potential economies of scale savings. Central function provides a range of services to the school which it will continue to enhance, including Finance, HR, payroll, ICT networks services and Estates management. In addition to this the Trust head office provision includes a trust improvement team to deliver focused support to schools in areas of the Trust in particular need and to support development of the Trust as necessary and will continue to review and enhance the provisions as opportunity arises.

The Trust continues to explore opportunities with the Local Authority and DfE to support the need for pupilplacement under bulge year arrangements and supported developments on selected sites within the Trust. Further potential development will be considered to support current and expected future growth needs together with continued organic growth through sixth form provision at both Fort Pitt and The Thomas Aveling school following recent investment in the facility during 2022/23. Potential changes to the Trust structure and scale including increases in pupil numbers and PAN noted above are expected during the course of the year with consequent focus on meeting the consequent demands for integration needs of prospective schools and trusts into the broader Trust entity.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Veenod Rama
Chair of Trustees

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, 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 Beyond Schools Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 7 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S Ahmad	5	7
Patricia Daniels	7	7
Emma Day	6	7
Trovene Hartley	6	7
Lawrence McVeigh	7	7
Cordelia Osewa Ediae	5	7
Veenod Rama (Chair of Trustees)	7	7
Christopher Sanford	4	7
Richard Smith (Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee)	5	7
Benjamin Streets (Resigned 9 February 2023)	1	3
Barry Symons (Resigned 2 February 2023)	0	2
Paul Vandepeer	7	7
Andrew Minchin (ex officio, Accounting Officer)	7	7
John McLaren	7	7
Louisa Jones (Appointed 2 February 2023)	5	5
Malcolm Moaby (Appointed 16 October 2023)	0	0

Steve Rayner the Chief Financial Officer was also present at 6 out of the 7 meetings

During the 2022/23 accounting year, there were two resignations from the Trust Board – Barry Symons and Ben Streets. They have been replaced on the board of Trustees as Directors by Louisa Jones (February 2023) and Malcolm Moaby (October 2023). In our Members, we have had two resignations Joe Martin (July 2023) and Graham Cottle (January 20223) and they have been replaced by George Perfect (July 2023) and Micayla Holder (September 2023).

During the year, the Board has continued to seek to recruit members who will not only be independent but have a diversity of skills to support the Board in its role. The board membership includes qualified and experienced finance professionals who provide rigour to the financial challenges presented. The Board and its' sub-committees meet regularly to discuss all aspects of the academy trust and consider both financial and non-financial data. Their analysis of this data is key to the sustainability and continued future of the academy trust.

The Chair of Trustees has continued to seek new recruits to ensure that there is diversity of skills and competences in existence across the Board. During the year, two new members were recruited, who will bring a range of additional skills to the Members board to ensure the Trust board are held to account.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Development of the Board has continued during the year at both Trust and local governing body level in accordance with NGA guidance and best practice. The Trust continues to act upon the development programme and recommendations identified following the NGA performance review in the preceding year. A new Trustee was recruited onto the board during the latter stages of 2021/22 with a view to progression planning the Chair of Trustees. This Trustee is now in the role of Vice Chair and is shadowing the Chair.

Further development of the Board included a further review of the scheme of delegation and structure and Terms of Reference of the dedicated Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) committee to ensure sufficient skills and ongoing robust review.

Conflicts of interest

Trustees of Beyond Schools Trust are required to ensure that they act only in the best interest of the Trust and must not put themselves in any position where their duties as a trustee may conflict with any personal interest they may have. The trust recognises that on occasion matters may be encountered whereby a potential conflict of interest arises. The Trust manages the potential for such conflicts of interest in a number of ways in order to both avoid any potential bias and in order to maintain a clear and transparent process of Governance.

- i. The Trust maintains a central register of business interests which Governors, Trustees and senior members of staff in positions of influence are required to review regularly, advise any changes in personal or associated business interests outside of the trust and to update the register fully at least annually. The register consists of both direct and indirect business interests including those of immediate relations and other parties closely connected with the Trustee and is reviewed and maintained by the clerk to Trustees on the Governor-hub website.
- ii. At each meeting held during the course of the year attendees are required to declare at the start of the meeting any potential interests that may conflict with their impartiality relative to the agenda, discussions or decisions at hand. These are then consequently recorded as part of the meeting minutes.
- iii. Where any conflicts of interest are declared, the parties involved are required to withdraw from the meeting where appropriate and from the decision making process in accord with the Trust policy.

Governance reviews

Beyond Schools Trust Trustees are continuing to develop Governance structures across the Trust and its schools and are continuing to review the harmonisation of policies and procedures. The Board of Trustees have continued to appoint independent Trustees that are unattached to school LGB's where possible, to ensure independence of review, scrutiny and accountability between tiers of Governance and to develop core Trust strategies.

The finance, audit and risk committee (FAR) and Remunerations committee (REMCOT) are sub-committees of the main board of trustees.

The Trust FAR committee met four times during the year and has been structured to fulfil the internal audit and risk role including oversight on Fraud and to provide a more focused scrutiny of the financial affairs of the Trust, reporting back to the main board of Trustees. The Trustees are very aware that the Trust schools receive in excess of £26m income, the main source being the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In accounting for this income, the Directors are fully committed to their responsibilities for ensuring this money is invested in the students' learning, development and well-being.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
S Ahmad	5	5
Veenod Rama (Chair of Trustees)	2	3
Christopher Sanford	3	5
Richard Smith (Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee)	5	5
Paul Vandepeer	4	5
Andrew Minchin (ex officio, Accounting Officer)	5	5
John McLaren	3	3

Steve Rayner (Chief Financial Officer) was in attendance at 5 out of the 5 meetings

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

The Accounting Officer has, as part of delivering improved value for money during the year, continued to review facilities and services across the Trust and has implemented a process of integrated curriculum financial planning to help the schools within the Trust to plan the best curriculum for their pupils, within the funding available to them. This process consequently also highlights resources available for other essential services and areas of responsibility and potential development. This is additionally modelled using key financial forecasting software across all the Trust schools that is designed to provide effective budgetary forecasting and modelling of future Trust development opportunities. The Trust has continued to explore potential improvements in value for money through economies of scale and review of its contractual arrangements in site services and facilities management, HR and H&S and has negotiated centralised contracts where viable. The Trust has further benefited from continued joint purchasing strategies in ICT resources including software, licences, consultant services and hardware procurement.

Academy Trusts face a variety of risks in management of estates to ensure that they cater for the resource needs of the students and to provide safe environments for staff, pupils and visitors in order to deliver a high quality of education. These encompass health and safety requirements as well as security and capacity needs. The Trust engages an Estates manager to oversee the estates development across the trust and to provide advice and support to the local schools in the management of their estates needs. This is further supported through an external professional H&S consultancy business who review compliance H&S procedures and practices and undertake annual site H&S and fire audits.

During the course of the year the trust has undertaken RAAC and asbestos surveys and has invested both capital reserves and in-year revenue funds in delivering improvements across the estates. These include access and security at Balfour Junior school installing new access control gates; replaced site lighting (including emergency lighting) with LED lighting, re-developed science teaching and 6th form facilities at the Thomas Aveling school, upgraded site cctv monitoring facilities and refurbished toilet facilities at Robert Napier School and are undertaking major refurbishments at Fort Pitt Grammar. Future works at Trust sites extend to considerable investment in new teaching block facilities at the Robert Napier school and Toilet facilities at Fort Pitt school

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Beyond Schools Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance, audit and 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 incorporating ICFP and budgetary modelling.
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks including regular updates and review of the risk register.

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function via the Finance Audit and Risk committee and in accordance with the accounts direction and handbook engaged an independent internal controls audit partner UHY Hacker Young from 2020/21. The internal controls review programme for 2021/22 was delivered in consultation with the Finance Audit and Risk committee, with the intent to determine and manage any potential areas of risk and identify areas for potential improvement in internal processes and controls. The programme for 2022/23 will be determined by the Finance Audit and Risk committee in accord with the AFH and determined risk.

During the year, the Trust appointed an independent external auditor (UHY Hacker Young) to provide additional internal controls checks in accordance with an agreed programme and to provide further assurance to the board in respect to potential risk and the integrity of the internal operation and controls in place. The Trust internal controls scrutiny role in the year included giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the internal scrutiny and statutory audit checks carried out in the current period included the testing and review of:

- Risk and Cyber security
- Fraud theft and bribery review
- Procurement
- Revenue Income
- Follow up review to previous internal scrutiny

The Chief Finance Officer reports to the Board of Trustees concerning the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. The Board of Trustees confirms that the internal scrutiny review function has been delivered in line with the ESFA's requirements and that no material internal control issues were identified during those visits. The focus of each review for the forthcoming year will be discussed and set according to the Trust priorities and risks determined at the time at the designated meeting of the Trust Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Board of Trustees confirm the internal auditor has delivered their schedule of work as planned, and no significant control issues arose as a result of the internal auditor's work.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer 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 auditor;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Veenod Rama
Chair of Trustees



Andrew Minchin
ex officio, Accounting Officer

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of Beyond Schools Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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



Andrew Minchin
Accounting Officer

14 December 2023

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of Beyond Schools Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Veenod Rama
Chair of Trustees

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Beyond Schools Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

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

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

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

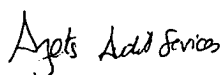
- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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. This 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 of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

Use of our report

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



Catherine Cooper FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

18 December 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

First Floor
River House
1 Maidstone Road
Sidcup
Kent
United Kingdom
DA14 5RH

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 26 June 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 Beyond Schools Trust 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 Beyond Schools Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Beyond Schools Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Beyond Schools Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Beyond Schools Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Beyond Schools Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 December 2016 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 period 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.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including high level financial control areas and areas assessed of presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity, where such controls, policies and procedures apply to classes of transactions. This work was integrated with our audit on the financial statements to the extent evidence from the conduct of that audit supports the regularity conclusion as well as additional testing based on our assessment of risk of material irregularity.

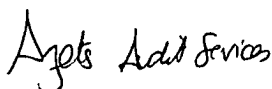
BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 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.



Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

First Floor

River House

1 Maidstone Road

Sidcup

Kent

DA14 5RH

United Kingdom

Dated: 18 December 2023

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	3	31	-	1,081	1,112	1,212
Charitable activities:						
- Funding for educational operations	4	1,274	26,654	-	27,928	25,680
Other trading activities	5	188	-	-	188	106
Investments	6	1	-	-	1	-
Total		1,494	26,654	1,081	29,229	26,998
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	4	-	-	4	3
Charitable activities:						
- Educational operations	9	1,364	26,227	1,519	29,110	28,105
Total	7	1,368	26,227	1,519	29,114	28,108
Net income/(expenditure)		126	427	(438)	115	(1,110)
Transfers between funds	18	-	(653)	653	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	3,020	-	3,020	13,963
Net movement in funds		126	2,794	215	3,135	12,853
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		769	(1,535)	55,320	54,554	41,701
Total funds carried forward		895	1,259	55,535	57,689	54,554

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds:		Total 2022
	Notes	£'000	General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	£'000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	3	3	100	1,109	1,212
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	1,011	24,669	-	25,680
Other trading activities	5	106	-	-	106
Total		1,120	24,769	1,109	26,998
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	-	3	-	3
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	1,036	25,448	1,621	28,105
Total	7	1,036	25,451	1,621	28,108
Net income/(expenditure)		84	(682)	(512)	(1,110)
Transfers between funds	18	(23)	(664)	687	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	13,963	-	13,963
Net movement in funds		61	12,617	175	12,853
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		708	(14,152)	55,145	41,701
Total funds carried forward		769	(1,535)	55,320	54,554

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		54,507		54,011
Current assets					
Stock	14	3		4	
Debtors	15	1,021		719	
Cash at bank and in hand		4,333		4,381	
		5,357		5,104	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(2,175)		(1,983)	
Net current assets			3,182		3,121
Net assets excluding pension liability			57,689		57,132
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		-		(2,578)
Total net assets			57,689		54,554
Funds of the academy trust:					
Restricted funds	18				
- Fixed asset funds			55,535		55,320
- Restricted income funds			1,259		1,043
- Pension reserve			-		(2,578)
Total restricted funds			56,794		53,785
Unrestricted income funds	18		895		769
Total funds			57,689		54,554

The accounts on pages 34 to 59 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Veenod Rama
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 07401701 (England and Wales)

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	886	1,276
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1	-	-
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,079	1,082
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	2	-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,015)	(1,492)
Net cash used in investing activities		(933)	(410)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of other loan		(1)	(2)
Net cash used in financing activities		(1)	(2)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(48)	864
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,381	3,517
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		4,333	4,381

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation

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

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Income

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

Grants

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

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

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

Sponsorship income

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

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.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Donated goods, facilities and services

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

Donated fixed assets

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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

Freehold land and buildings	straight line over 50 years with some elements over 25 years
Leasehold land and buildings	straight line over 50 years with some elements over 25 years (land depreciated over term of lease)
Assets under construct'n	Not depreciated
Computer equipment	straight line over 3 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	straight line over 5 years

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

1.6 Liabilities

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

1.7 Leased assets

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

Financial assets

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

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

1.9 Stock

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

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 Pensions benefits

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

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

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

1.12 Fund accounting

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

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by 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.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(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 or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 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.

The pension value also includes an asset ceiling adjustment and the assumptions used to calculate this are:

- The scheme is open to new entrants;
- There is a minimum funding requirement in relation to the LGPS;
- There is the ability to recover a surplus through the ability to reduce future contributions (not refund)
- In calculating the surplus, the present value of current and past service costs is offset against the future contributions over the future period;
- The present value in the above calculations are calculated using an annuity representing participation into perpetuity.

The net book value fixed assets is based on assumptions in relation to the useful life of assets and the residual value of these assets. The element of freehold property which relates to land is deemed not to have a finite life and is not depreciated. The element of freehold property which does not relate to land is depreciated on a straight line basis of 50 years, being the estimated useful economic life and it is assumed that the asset has no residual value on the basis of its specialised nature. Any changes in these assumptions will have an impact on the carrying amount of fixed assets.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider there to be any critical areas of judgement, other than those relating to estimations above, which have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Donated fixed assets	-	-	-	27
Capital grants	-	1,079	1,079	1,082
Other donations	31	2	33	103
	<u>31</u>	<u>1,081</u>	<u>1,112</u>	<u>1,212</u>

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
DfE/ESFA grants				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	22,794	22,794	21,791
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	22	22	19
- Pupil premium	-	1,278	1,278	1,162
- Teachers' Pay Grant	-	-	-	41
- Rates funding	-	117	117	110
- Supplementary grant	-	616	616	258
- PE / Sports funding	-	39	39	39
- Mainstream schools additional funding	-	314	314	-
- Recovery premium	-	276	276	154
- Tutoring premium	-	58	58	157
- Others	-	181	181	187
	-	25,695	25,695	23,918
Other government grants				
Local authority grants	-	561	561	445
COVID-19 additional funding				
DfE/ESFA				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	-	-	47
Other incoming resources	1,274	398	1,672	1,270
Total funding	1,274	26,654	27,928	25,680

Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding above represents Mass Testing funding of £nil (2022: £42k) and Vaccination Funding of £5k. Catch up premium funding of £nil (2022: £nil) is also included in funding above.

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Hire of facilities	101	-	101	106
Other income	87	-	87	-
	188	-	188	106

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Short term deposits	1	-	1	-

7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £'000	Non-pay expenditure Premises £'000	Other £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds					
- Direct costs	-	-	4	4	3
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	18,344	1,215	1,754	21,313	19,521
- Allocated support costs	3,677	1,605	2,515	7,797	8,584
	22,021	2,820	4,273	29,114	28,108

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating lease rentals	42	43
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,519	1,620
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	1
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	28	19
- Other services	4	9
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	86	237

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Central services

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

Include list of services, such as:

- human resources;
- financial services;
- legal services;
- educational support services;
- ICT services; and
- others as arising.

All schools were recharged 8.8 % of their GAG income plus for the secondaries we charged 8.8 % of their 16-19 allocation consisting of the following:

Approx 6.22% Central Staffing Services

Approx 2.58% Centrally procured contracts & Capital ICT - e.g. Insurances / IT Equip & Software / Various Licenses / Staff CPD & Training / Professional Services / Governance etc.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Fort Pitt Grammar School	430	372
Thomas Aveling School	627	549
Phoenix Junior School	157	372
Balfour Junior School	178	156
The Robert Napier School	598	526
	<u>1,990</u>	<u>1,975</u>

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Direct costs				
Educational operations	1,364	19,949	21,313	19,521
Support costs				
Educational operations	-	7,797	7,797	8,584
	1,364	27,746	29,110	28,105
			2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Analysis of support costs				
Support staff costs			3,677	4,494
Depreciation			304	356
Technology costs			26	32
Premises costs			1,301	1,289
Legal costs			13	5
Other support costs			2,412	2,358
Governance costs			64	50
			7,797	8,584

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff

Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	15,875	14,869
Social security costs	1,569	1,475
Pension costs	3,907	4,704
Staff costs - employees	21,351	21,048
Agency staff costs	614	542
Staff restructuring costs	56	2
	22,021	21,592
Staff development and other staff costs	84	50
Total staff expenditure	22,105	21,642

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	25	2
Other restructuring costs	31	-
	56	2

Severance payments

The academy trust paid 1 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

£0 - £25,000	1
--------------	---

Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	219	228
Administration and support	314	309
Management	33	31
	566	568

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 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:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	15	9
£70,001 - £80,000	7	5
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	3	2
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-

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 employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £984k (2022: £921k).

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees have been paid remuneration or received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The Chief Executive Officer remuneration noted below is disclosed as they are an ex-officio governor by virtue of the position held within the trust.

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

Mr A Minchin (Chief Executive Officer):

- Remuneration £140,000 - £145,000 (2022: £115,000 - £120,000)
- Employer's pension contributions £30,000 - £35,000 (2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year, reimbursed payments to trustees amounted to £nil (2022: £nil).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out within the related parties note.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Leasehold land and buildings £'000	Assets under construct'n £'000	Computer equipment £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Total £'000
Cost							
At 1 September 2022	54,730	6,446	90	1,345	2,305	20	64,936
Additions	-	490	905	224	396	-	2,015
At 31 August 2023	54,730	6,936	995	1,569	2,701	20	66,951
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2022	8,182	542	-	1,035	1,153	13	10,925
Charge for the year	934	78	-	301	206	-	1,519
At 31 August 2023	9,116	620	-	1,336	1,359	13	12,444
Net book value							
At 31 August 2023	45,614	6,316	995	233	1,342	7	54,507
At 31 August 2022	46,548	5,904	90	310	1,152	7	54,011

Included in freehold land and buildings is land of £6,220,087 (2022: £6,220,087) which is not depreciated.

Leasehold land and buildings additions in the year relate to:

- Tennis Courts and Fort Wall at Fort Pitt Grammar School of £16k;
- Car park works at Balfour Junior School of £18k;
- 6th form and science project works, plus other smaller external works at Thomas Aveling School of £456k.

Asset under construction additions in the year relate to:

- West Wing project works at Fort Pitt Grammar School of £905k.

14 Stock

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Goods for resale	3	4

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Debtors

2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trade debtors	257
VAT recoverable	189
Prepayments and accrued income	575
1,021	719

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Government loans	-
Trade creditors	420
Other taxation and social security	400
Other creditors	582
Accruals and deferred income	773
2,175	1,983

17 Deferred income

2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Deferred income is included within:	
Creditors due within one year	125
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	88
Released from previous years	(88)
Resources deferred in the year	125
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	125

The academy trust received trip income of £64k (2022: £76k) and various other smaller income amounts of £61k (2022: £12k) which relates to the period after 31 August 2023.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	342	22,794	(21,445)	(653)	1,038
UIFSM	-	22	(22)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,278	(1,278)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	334	1,601	(1,935)	-	-
Other government grants	133	561	(693)	-	1
Other restricted funds	234	398	(412)	-	220
Pension reserve	(2,578)	-	(442)	3,020	-
	<u>(1,535)</u>	<u>26,654</u>	<u>(26,227)</u>	<u>2,367</u>	<u>1,259</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	1,309	1,079	-	(1,360)	1,028
Fixed assets	54,011	2	(1,519)	2,013	54,507
	<u>55,320</u>	<u>1,081</u>	<u>(1,519)</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>55,535</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>53,785</u>	<u>27,735</u>	<u>(27,746)</u>	<u>3,020</u>	<u>56,794</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>769</u>	<u>1,494</u>	<u>(1,368)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895</u>
Total funds	<u>54,554</u>	<u>29,229</u>	<u>(29,114)</u>	<u>3,020</u>	<u>57,689</u>

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

General Annual Grant: Income received from the ESFA to cover the normal running costs of the trust.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Pupil Premium and UIFSM: Income received from the ESFA as described.

Other DfE/ESFA grants: This relates to national tutoring funding, supplementary grant, Teachers pension employer contribution grant, PE/Sports Funding, Rates funding, recovery premium, MSAG and other smaller grants.

Other government grants: This includes SEN funding and other smaller grants.

Other restricted funds relate to trip income and music classes.

Capital income represents SCA and DfC received by the trust.

The transfers between funds represent fixed assets acquired in the current year.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Gains, losses and transfers £'000	Balance at 31 August 2022 £'000
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	335	21,791	(21,120)	(664)	342
UIFSM	-	19	(19)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	1,162	(1,162)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	11	47	(58)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	96	946	(708)	-	334
Other government grants	85	445	(397)	-	133
Other restricted funds	160	359	(285)	-	234
Pension reserve	(14,839)	-	(1,702)	13,963	(2,578)
	(14,152)	24,769	(25,451)	13,299	(1,535)
Restricted fixed asset funds					
DfE group capital grants	1,032	1,082	-	(805)	1,309
Fixed assets	54,113	27	(1,621)	1,492	54,011
	55,145	1,109	(1,621)	687	55,320
Total restricted funds	40,993	25,878	(27,072)	13,986	53,785
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	708	1,120	(1,036)	(23)	769
Total funds	41,701	26,998	(28,108)	13,963	54,554

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Fort Pitt Grammar School	177	75
Thomas Aveling School	945	868
Phoenix Junior School	364	332
Balfour Junior School	403	416
The Robert Napier School	155	28
Central services	110	93
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve	2,154	1,812
Restricted fixed asset fund	55,535	55,320
Pension reserve	-	(2,578)
Total funds	57,689	54,554

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £'000	Other support staff costs £'000	Educational supplies £'000	Other costs excluding depreciation £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Fort Pitt Grammar School	3,551	534	71	1,168	5,324	4,736
Thomas Aveling School	6,004	525	116	1,327	7,972	7,457
Phoenix Junior School	1,359	297	36	495	2,187	2,008
Balfour Junior School	1,738	209	20	356	2,323	2,134
The Robert Napier School	5,410	872	69	1,386	7,737	7,044
Central services	282	1,240	2	524	2,048	3,109
	18,344	3,677	314	5,256	27,591	26,488

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	54,507	54,507
Current assets	895	3,434	1,028	5,357
Current liabilities	-	(2,175)	-	(2,175)
Total net assets	895	1,259	55,535	57,689

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted funds: General £'000	Fixed asset £'000	Total Funds £'000
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	54,011	54,011
Current assets	769	3,026	1,309	5,104
Current liabilities	-	(1,983)	-	(1,983)
Pension scheme liability	-	(2,578)	-	(2,578)
Total net assets	769	(1,535)	55,320	54,554

20 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £404k were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £379k) 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 academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

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

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £2,427k (2022: £2,383k).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.5% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

Total contributions made	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Employer's contributions	1,124	856
Employees' contributions	300	243
Total contributions	1,424	1,099
Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	3.95
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.95
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.30	4.25

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	20.7	21.0
- Females	23.2	23.5
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.0	22.3
- Females	24.6	24.9

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	(315)	(415)
Discount rate - 0.1%	323	425
Life expectancy + 1 year	536	558
Life expectancy - 1 year	(520)	(542)
Pension rate + 0.1%	310	395
Pension rate - 0.1%	(302)	(386)
Salary rate + 0.1%	21	35
Salary rate - 0.1%	(21)	(35)

Defined benefit pension scheme net asset/(liability)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Scheme assets	18,221	16,400
Scheme obligations	(18,221)	(18,978)
Net asset/(liability)	-	(2,578)

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

	2023 Fair value £'000	2022 Fair value £'000
Equities	11,658	10,749
Gilts	108	95
Other bonds	2,536	2,169
Property	1,851	1,929
Other assets	2,204	1,458
Asset ceiling adjustment	(136)	-
Total market value of assets	18,221	16,400

The actual return on scheme assets was £551,000 (2022: £(216,000)).

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current service cost	1,470	2,321
Interest income	(727)	(270)
Interest cost	813	507
Administration expenses	10	-
Total operating charge	1,566	2,558
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
At 1 September 2022	18,978	30,905
Current service cost	1,470	2,321
Interest cost	813	507
Employee contributions	300	243
Actuarial gain	(3,332)	(14,449)
Benefits paid	(8)	(549)
At 31 August 2023	18,221	18,978
Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
At 1 September 2022	16,400	16,066
Interest income	727	270
Actuarial loss	(176)	(486)
Employer contributions	1,124	856
Employee contributions	300	243
Benefits paid	(8)	(549)
Asset ceiling adjustment	(136)	-
Administration expenses	(10)	-
At 31 August 2023	18,221	16,400

Included within the pension assets above is an "asset ceiling adjustment". The asset ceiling is the present value of the economic benefits that the employer can recover from the plan, such as reduced contributions or cash refunds. It is deemed for the Trust that the future costs expected for the employers contributions will outweigh the future service costs and therefore there is no economic benefit to the Trust and therefore the asset value is reduced to zero.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		115	(1,110)
Adjusted for:			
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(1,081)	(1,109)
Investment income receivable	6	(1)	-
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	356	1,465
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	86	237
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		1,519	1,620
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	1
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		1	(1)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(302)	464
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		193	(60)
(Decrease) in provisions		-	(231)
Net cash provided by operating activities		886	1,276

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Cash	4,381	(48)	4,333
Loans falling due within one year	(1)	1	-
	4,380	(47)	4,333

23 Long-term 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 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts due within one year	6	42
Amounts due in two and five years	4	10
	10	52

24 Capital commitments

The trust had at the year-end entered into a contract to complete the West Wing project at Fort Pitt Grammar School. The expected costs associated with this project is £800k.

BEYOND SCHOOLS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

25 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.

During the year the Trust provided CEO cover to Skills for Life Trust, of which A Minchin is a governor, amounting to £50,122 (2022: £nil). The service was provided at cost. In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

26 Members' liability

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

27 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. In the accounting year ended 31 August 2023 the trust received £47k (2022: £20k) and disbursed £27k (2022: £23k) from the fund. An amount of £86k (2022: £66k) is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA.